

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Listed Cup – a spectacle on the frozen lake of St. Moritz, February 17th 2013

The Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Listed Cup was the first ever held Listed PA race in Switzerland and the first ever held Listed PA race on snow.



The world famous White Turf event was a fantastic platform for our pure bred Arabians. 14'000 spectators were watching the race in a sunny and cold afternoon in St. Moritz. Around 30 delegates of the sponsor, the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, arrived directly from Abu Dhabi on Sunday morning to see the race.

Seven horses from Germany, The Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland were fighting over 1'800 meters for a prize money of € 25'000.-. Horse racing in St. Moritz has its special conditions. Not all horses like a snow track or are used to it. Racing over 1'800 meters on an altitude of 1'800 meters over sea and with temperatures below zero needs tough horses. From Switzerland our two stallions Nil Ashal, 2008 (Nil Bedouin x Nil Abiat) and Nil Karazi, 2007 (Dormane x Kahloucha) were participating.

Clear favorite was the German horse Fanal El Samawi, 2008 (Ainhwa St Faust x Octavia El Samawi) with a race record of 4 wins and a second place. Fanal El Samawi, ridden by F.X. Weissmeier took quickly the lead and was defending this position successfully against the Italian horse Logudorese and crossed the finishing line with an advantage of 1 ¼ lengths. One length behind Logudorese followed third placed horse Badjy beating Nil Ashal by a neck. The rest of the field was clearly beaten by 6 length and distance.

Nil Ashal, trained by Franziska Aeschbacher, didn't feel really at home on the rather slippery snow track. But he was fighting courageously in his first listed race to be finally placed 4th, 3 lengths behind the winner.