Roster Proposals

Al Khamsa Roster Proposal for Gamal El Din (TAH)
submitted by Joe Ferriss on November 1, 2019, up for second vote

Gamal El Din was first identified to westerners in the Royal Agricultural Society Stud Book Vol. 1 (1948 English version) on page 58 as the sire of *Saema RAS#50, *Saema was imported to the US in 1950 by Queen Mother Nazli Sabri (mother of King Farouk). *Saema’s dam is Bint Dalal, a 1926 grey mare bred by the RAS. Bint Dalal’s sire and dam, Hamran (BLT) and Dalal Al Zarka (APK), are already Al Khamsa horses. The RAS Stud Book states as follows: “Gamal El Din, a race-horse belonging to Ahmed Bey Abu El Fotouh.” No other information was provided about him.

We know Ahmed Bey Abu El Fotouh (aka Ahmed Effendi Abu El Fotouh) as the owner of the Al Khamsa Foundation Horse El Nasser (RAS) when that horse was in Egypt and the provider of El Nasser to the RAS. Ahmed Bey Abu El Fotouh (or Futuh) was among the top 20 principal race winning owners in Egypt during the racing season 1939–1940 according to the Egyptian Jockey Club records. He was also a racing steward at both the Heliopolis and Alexandria Racing Clubs in 1945 and hence a prominent and respected figure in the Egyptian racing scene.

It was not until 2011, during the Al Khamsa contacts with remaining Tahawi breeders in Egypt, that an interview was conducted with the very aged Shaikh Tahawi Sa’eid Mejalli al-Tahawi. This interview was conducted by Yasser Ghanim Barakat al-Tahawi and his cousins Yehia Abd al-Sattar al-Tahawi, and Mohammed Mohammad Saoud al-Tahawi. Yasser provided the summary of the meeting posted on December 6, 2011 on Edouard Al Dahdah’s Daughter of the Wind blog. His text appears below:

New information on the Egyptian stallion Gamal El Din

Posted on December 6th, 2011. As part of the working group on the horses of the Tahawi, which Edouard mentioned in a recent post, I wanted to share with you brand new information about the Egyptian stallion Gamal El Din.

The information was obtained when Yehia Abd al-Sattar al-Tahawi, Mohammad Saoud al-Tahawi, and myself, recently recorded a one hour video with one of the very old Tahawi horse breeders, Shaikh Tahawi Sa’eid Mejalli al-Tahawi, who was born around 1904, and is 107 years old today. He still has an amazing memory for his advanced age, and is one of the old Bedouin breeders, and a great horse expert, following his father Shaikh Sa’eid Mejalli al-Tahawi.

In this interview, he shared many exciting details about the old Tahawi horses such as “Dahman Abdullah Saoud” which he saw himself when he was young. “Dahman Abdullah Saoud” was the sire of the race horse Barakat (also a Dahman, but from another line), among others, and is today represented in modern Egyptian pedigrees through his great-grand-daughters Fulla, Futna, and Bint Barakat.

Shaikh Tahawi Sa’eid Mejalli al-Tahawi also spoke about lady Anne Blunt and her frequent visits to the Tahawi clan, and about the horses she bought from them. These horses are referred to by Lady Anne Blunt in her writings as “The First Attempt” at putting together a stud of Arabian horses at Sheykh Obeyd Gardens.

The old Shaikh also spoke about the several Royal Agricultural Society horses that came from the Tahawi clan, and he also confirmed what is already common knowledge, which is that the vast majority of the horses at the race track were also Tahawi horses.

He spoke about the famous Tahawi race horse Soniour, who was also by “Dahman Abdallah Saoud”, and who was hence Barakat’s half-brother. Today, Soniour is represented in the pedigree of the stallion Ibn Ghalabawi. He also talked about Renard Bleu, a son of Barakat with an unmatched racing record. There is a nice photo of Renard Bleu in the book of Ali al-Barazi, a copy of which I have with me.

The surprise came later in the interview when he mentioned that he had known and seen the race horse Gamal El Din, which was owned by Ahmed Abu al-Futuh (Futuh Bey), and he provided full details about him.

It turned out that Gamal El Din was by Barakat out of a Kuhaylah Khallawiyah, and that he was bred by Shaikh Abd al-Hamid Rageh al-Tahawi, who also bred the three Tahawi mares Fulla (Folla), Futna and Bint Barakat, which were sold to Hamdan stables. So Gamal El Din would be a close relative to the mare Futna (Ibn Barakat x a Kuhaylah Khallawiyah), who was from the same strain as him, and from the same Tahawi breeder.

Gamal El Din was used by Egypt’s Royal Agricultural Society in the 1940s. He has seven offspring in the AHA Datasource, one stallion and six mares all born in 1945, of which only one mare *Saema (x Bint Dalal) bred on in modern lines. *Saema was imported by the Queen Mother of Egypt to the USA in 1950, where she was the progenitor of a line of Egyptian horses that is increasingly successful in the show ring today.

Among her descendants is the 2001 black stallion HU Sheikh Imaan (Imaan x Niema Nile by Shaik Al Badi), a great-grandson of *Saema in the tail female, and a great-great-grand son of Gamal El Din. His lines are increasingly popular today. [Note: HU Sheikh Imaan’s pedigree also includes the ancestor *Ibn Farhan, imported by the Queen Mother, but he is not a part of this proposal as research is ongoing for him.]

Before the new information provided by Shaikh Tahawi Sa’eid Mejalli al-Tahawi surfaced, almost nothing was known.
about him, other than the mention on page 29 of the book “RAS History” that “Gamal El Din was a good racehorse, and was owned by Abu El-Fotouh Bey”. Now, thanks to the testimony of the old Tahawi Shaikh, we know the strain of Gamal El Din (K. Khallawi), his sire Barakat (for which we have a hujjah, and about which we already knew a lot), and his breeder Shaikh Abd al-Hamid Rageh al-Tahawi, one of the most respected breeders of Asil Arabians in Egypt.

After an hour of talking, Shaikh Tahawi Sa‘ied Mejalli al-Tahawi became tired, and we stopped the interview. He was also having some difficulty hearing all our questions. So the best thing we could do was to let him tell his own stories and not interrupt him, and this is how the information on Gamal El Din appeared.

Here is a photo [opposite] of the elderly Shaikh, with my cousins Yehia Abd al-Sattar al-Tahawi (in the middle) and Mohammed Mohammed Saoud al-Tahawi on the right.

Best regards, Yasser Ghanim Barakat al-Tahawi

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Based on the information provided from the interview with Shaikh Tahawi Sa‘ied Mejalli al-Tahawi and combining it with what has been learned from the Tahawi regarding the previous Hamdan Stables Tahawi mares accepted by Al Khamsa, Gamal El Din's pedigree is as follows:

In summary: This pedigree above is as close as one can get to the previously accepted Tahawi mare Futna; therefore Gamal El Din deserves to be recognized as a Foundation Horse by Al Khamsa because Gamal El Din in *Saema’s pedigree is essentially the same provenance as all the Tahawi horses already accepted by Al Khamsa. ~ Joe Ferriss, November, 2019.