



Monday 18 July, 2016

Arabians take centre stage at Newbury

The Dubai International Arabian Races one of Europe's most prestigious Arabian horseracing fixtures, returns to Newbury Racecourse for the 14th time on Sunday, 24th July with its most valuable prize money offer ever.

Staged under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, the Dubai International Arabian Races is the culmination of series of European events backed by His Highness' Shadwell Stud, one of the world's leading Arabian and Thoroughbred racing and breeding operations.

Arabian racing's championship event was first run at Kempton in 1982 and its move to Newbury in 2003 coincided with the relocation of the Arabian Racing Organisation's headquarters to the Berkshire course and a revamp of the programme.

The eight-race showcase for world-class Arabians now features four Group races, including three Group 1s, and gets underway at 2.00pm. Total prize money for the day has risen by more than 13% to £180,000 with each of the Group 1 contests receiving increases.

The Jebel Ali Racecourse Zaabeel International Stakes and the Dubai Duty Free Hatta International Stakes are now each worth £32,500 an increase of £7,500, and the featured Shadwell Dubai International Stakes is up by £5,000 to £55,000. The concluding race on the programme, the National Academy of Indian Payroll Handicap Stakes goes up from £6,000 to £8,000.

His Excellency Mirza Al Sayegh, Chairman of the raceday committee said, "His Highness Sheikh Hamdan is a passionate supporter of Arabian racing and is delighted to see this day continue to grow and inspire similar events across Europe under the banner of the Dubai International Arabian Races.

"We are very much looking forward to this year's renewal when I know we will be assured of some world-class sporting entertainment and I would like to thank our sponsors and supporters for their continued enthusiasm for this very special raceday which is very close to Sheikh Hamdan's heart.

"We look forward to welcoming a big crowd on Sunday and hope that Arabian racing followers, local families and pupils from the many schools who have taken part in activities in the lead-up to this event will have an exciting and truly memorable day."

The day will be presented by international racing personality Derek Thompson who will be accompanied in the parade ring by specialist Arabian broadcaster and commentator Gary Capewell providing a unique insight into some of the world's highest-rated Arabians from the moment gates open at 12 noon.

Domestic and international coverage of the races is assured and is delivered by Racing UK the leading satellite horseracing channel in the UK, and Dubai Racing Channel who will be broadcasting from Newbury Racecourse. All eight races will be streamed live via the Arabian Racing Organisation's website www.aroracing.co.uk.

Entertainment and education combine

The Dubai International Arabian Races is one of the highlights of the region's social calendar and in addition to offering free admission for all racegoers and free gifts for those arriving early, the day boasts wide variety of entertainment and opportunities for racegoers to engage with Arabian horses and culture.

In celebration of The Queen's 90th birthday there will be a rare chance to see two Arabian stallions presented to Her Majesty in 2013 by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain who personally selected the pair from his private family collection at the Royal Stud of Bahrain, widely regarded as one of the few establishments in the world to have preserved the original 'desert war horse'.

The two stallions, Mlolshaan Mahrous and Tuwaisaan Tha'atha'a'ta who took part in The Queen's 90th birthday pageant in May will be paraded before racing by Jenny Lees who cares for them at her Pearl Island Arabians stud in Hertfordshire.

Live falcons will be on display in the newly-created Activity Hub which will also be the venue for the Henna artists who will be offering free Henna hand art, synonymous with Middle Eastern fashion and culture.

The Activity Hub will also play host to pupils from 14 schools in West Berkshire and Hampshire who have taken part in this year's renewal of the Arabian Rainbow competition which, since its introduction in 2009, has awarded in the region of £80,000 to schools in the area and this year has received a further prize money boost.

The competition challenges pupils and teachers to paint near life-sized sculptures of Arabian horses with their own design reflecting Anglo-Arabic culture or art for a first prize of £2,500 to spend on equipment within the school to enhance education. Runners-up prizes of £2,000 and £1,500 will be awarded to the second and third placed schools respectively.

Continuing the creative theme, there will be an art workshop in the Activity Hub where children of all ages can take top tips from Elizabeth Armstrong, a member of the Society of Equestrian Artists.

For the first time this year the British Horseracing and Education Standards Trust (BHEST), which runs the popular Racing to School programme teaching national curriculum subjects in a horseracing context, will be creating a bespoke introductory session for pupils who have taken part in the Arabian Rainbow art project providing them with a behind-the-scenes look at horseracing.

Budding jockeys can also take their turn on the BHEST Equiciser, a 'mechanical horse' developed to help professional riders improve their style and fitness, and former jump Ollie McPhail will be on hand to offer help, advice and encouragement. For younger racegoers wishing to get a flavour of life in the saddle there will be pony rides available throughout the afternoon.

Competitions and prize draws

A brand new Citroen C1 Touch VTi worth almost £8,500 is the star among a glittering array of prizes on offer in a series of free-to-enter prize draws and competitions running throughout the day.

All racegoers over the age of 17 will be eligible to enter the draw to win the stunning red example of one of Europe's most popular small cars and no purchase is necessary. The winner will be chosen at random when the draw is made in the winner's enclosure after the eighth and final race and must be present to collect the keys in person.

There are holidays to the Middle East's most vibrant city to be won in free prize draws with return flights courtesy of the multi-award winning Emirates Airline and five-star accommodation at Rotana Hotels and resorts in Dubai.

Racegoers registering for free admission in advance at www.diarnewbury.co.uk can increase their chances of being among the day's winners. They will be automatically entered into an exclusive draw to win a trip for two to Dubai which will be made in the winner's enclosure after the Emirates Premier Handicap, the first race on the programme.

A further draw to win a VIP trip for two to Dubai will be made after the Dubai Duty Free Hatta International Stakes, the second of three Group 1 races on the card. This VIP 'upgrade' includes complimentary airport transfers, Business Class flights with Emirates Airline, accommodation and a spa treatment at one of Rotana's luxury hotels in Dubai and a £250 shopping voucher to spend at Dubai Duty Free, widely acclaimed as the world's best airport retailer.

The lady judged to be the best dressed on the day will also be jetting-off to Dubai with a guest for a few fun-packed days in the sun. Ladies must register to enter before the first race and the winner will be presented with her prize after the third race of the day, the Group 2 Emirates Equestrian Federation International Stakes at 3.05pm. Jebel Ali Racecourse will be providing designer watches for the runners-up.

Racegoers will also have the chance to win designer watches in free prize draws which will take place after the first of the day's Group 1 contests, the Jebel Ali Racecourse Zaabeel International Stakes.

Children can win fabulous prizes in the Best Homemade Children's Hat competition which will be judged in the Activity Hub at approximately 2.45pm after the Emirates NBD International Stakes. The most creative boy and girl will each be presented with a brand new iPad and there will be runners-up prizes in each category.

Introduced last year, the Selfie competition proved a huge success and there is an iPad to be won for the most imaginative picture tweeted to @DIA_Races. A selection of the entries will be displayed on the giant screens around the course throughout the afternoon before the winner is announced following the day's feature race, the Shadwell Dubai International Stakes.

Commercial supporters

The Dubai International Arabian Races is supported by some of the best known brands in the United Arab Emirates who join His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Shadwell Stud as sponsors of the eight-race card.

International banking group Emirates NBD, Emirates Airline and Jebel Ali Racecourse who have supported races at the event since the first running at Newbury in 2003 are all welcomed back.

National Academy of Indian Payroll will again present a cash prize of £300 to the stable responsible for the best turned out horse in each of the day's eight races in addition to backing the final race on the programme.

Rotana Hotels and Resorts, who will welcome the lucky winners of the holiday prize draws at their hotels in Dubai, return as sponsors of the 1m 4f Premier Handicap, while the Emirates Equestrian Federation is responsible for the first of the day's Group races.

Dubai Duty Free who added the Dubai International Arabian Races to their extensive sports sponsorship portfolio last year are back as sponsors of the Group 1 Dubai Duty Free Hatta International Stakes.

ENDS

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For further information about the event please visit one of the following:

Website - www.diarnewbury.co.uk **Facebook** – DIARaces **Twitter** - @DIA_Races

YouTube - https://youtu.be/CudAEqE_frQ



Dubai International Arabian Races 2016

Times & Order of Running

<u>Time</u>	<u>Races</u>	<u>Value</u>
12:00pm	Gates open	
2:00pm	Emirates Premier Handicap Stakes, 8f	£12,000
2.35pm	Emirates NBD International Stakes, 10f	£10,000
3:05pm	Emirates Equestrian Federation International Sakes (Group 2 PA), 7f	£20,000
3:40pm	Jebel Ali Racecourse Zaabeel International Stakes (Group 1 PA), 6f	£32,500
4:15pm	Dubai Duty Free Hatta International Stakes (Group 1 PA), 10f	£32,500
4:50pm	Shadwell Dubai International Stakes (Group 1 PA), 10f	£55,000
5:25pm	Rotana Hotels and Resorts Premier Handicap Stakes, 12f	£10,000
5:55pm	National Academy of Indian Payroll Handicap Stakes, 7f	£8,000
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY		£180,000

In addition to the prize money offer, NAIP will present a cash prize of £300 to the stable of the horse adjudged to be the best turned out horse in each race.



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN RACES

Schedule of events

Newbury Racecourse – Sunday, 24 July 2016

Time	Event
12:00pm	Gates Open
12:30pm	Parade of The Queen's Arabians in the parade ring
1:00pm	Parade of The Queen's Arabians in the parade ring
1:40pm	Through the card with TV personality 'Tommo' and Gary Capewell
2:00pm	Emirates Premier Handicap Stakes
	Prize draw to win a trip to Dubai for pre-registered racegoers only (winners enclosure) Pre-judging of Best Dressed Lady in the Activity Hub
2:35pm	Emirates NBD International Stakes
	Judging of the Best Children's Hat competition in the Activity Hub
3:05pm	Emirates Equestrian Federation International Stakes
	Final judging of the Best Dressed Lady competition and presentations take place in the winner's enclosure
3:40pm	Jebel Ali Racecourse Zaabeel International Stakes
	Prize draw to win designer watches courtesy of Jebel Ali Racecourse
4:15pm	Dubai Duty Free Hatta International Stakes
	Prize draw to win Business Class trip to Dubai and £250 Dubai Duty Free shopping voucher in the winner's enclosure
4:50pm	Shadwell Dubai International Stakes
	Presentation to the winner of the Selfie competition takes place in the winner's enclosure
5:25pm	Rotana Hotels and Resorts Premier Handicap Stakes
5:55pm	National Academy of Indian Payroll Handicap Stakes
	Finale draw – Presentation of the keys to a brand new Citroen C1 Touch and runners-up prizes