



For immediate release
Doncaster, UK

17 September, 2014

Al Atique claims Group 1 prize for Qatar

Al Atique in the colours of owner and breeder His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani beat a field of 12 rivals to land the UK's most valuable race for pure bred Arabians, the £150,000 Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club Harwood International Stakes at Doncaster.

Ridden by Simon Walker the five-year-old who finished down the field in the inaugural running of the race last year may now head for the Qatar Arabian World Cup at Longchamp on Sunday, 5 October according to his trainer Julian Smart.

"It transpired that he had been sick when he ran in the race last year. He finished seventh beaten eight lengths by some very good horses," said Smart.

"A year on, more mature and in better health I thought he deserved his chance."

Al Atique was dominant from the early stages under the 14-time champion Arabian jockey and was ridden out strongly to finish two and a quarter lengths in front of the Royal Cavalry of Oman's Al Mouhannad with Manark, whose owner HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum won the first two thoroughbred races on the card, a further three and a quarter lengths back in third.

The event which formed part of the St Leger Festival drew a crowd of more than 30,000 and was attended by Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club Chairman, HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Faleh Al Thani, who accompanied by General Secretary Sami Al Boenain, Deputy General and Racing Manager Tariq Al-Saddiqi and Head of International Affairs Patricia Musial, hosted a lunch for owners, trainers and media.

Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club's next visit to Great Britain is for the Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club UK Derby at Newmarket on Thursday, 25th September.

ENDS.

Photo Captions:

1. Trainer Julian Smart collects the trophy from HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Faleh Al Thani
2. Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club representatives in the Parade Ring at Doncaster (L-R) Sami Al Boenain, HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Faleh Al Thani, Tariq Al Siddiqi and Patricia Musial
3. Al Atique in the Winners' Enclosure with Julian Smart and jockey Simon Walker
4. Al Atique surges ahead of the field in the Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club Hardwood International Stakes

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About Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club

The **Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club** was established in 1975 and operates under the Chairmanship of H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Faleh Al Thani. General Manager and Secretary General of the Board of Directors Sami Jassim Al Boenain is also Chairman of the International Federation of Arabian Horseracing Authorities (IFAHR).

Located in New Rayyan, Doha, it has the mission of developing thoroughbred and pure bred Arabian horse racing events, organising Arabian horse shows and encouraging owners and breeders.

Due to its state-of-the-art facilities Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club is one of the most enviable horse training centres in the world. Racing events take place every Wednesday and Thursday from October to May with over 60 race meetings held annually.

Since 2008, Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club has been the official sponsor of Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe weekend, held at Longchamp, Paris during the first weekend of October; an agreement which extends until at least 2022.