



For immediate release

April 18, 2015

## **Celebrations for H.H. Sheikh Hamdan as Dubai Duty Free sponsorship reaches milestone**

The world's largest airport retailer celebrated a 20 year association with British horseracing at the Dubai Duty Free Spring Trials Weekend at Newbury Racecourse, UK on Friday 17 and Saturday, 18 April.

Now title sponsors of four major horseracing events in Great Britain and Ireland, Dubai Duty Free made their first venture into racing in April 1996 when they gave their backing to a Group 3 fillies' trial previously supported by Gainsborough Stud, the racing and breeding operation established by the late H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Dubai Duty Free entertained more than 150 guests of over the two days of the meeting who included H.E Mirza Al Sayegh Director of the Office of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who enjoyed considerable success with five winners at the fixture, representatives of golf's PGA European Tour, racing professionals and media in a week that also saw the announcement of three more world-class additions to the line-up for the inaugural Dubai Duty Free Irish Open in May.

Executive Vice-Chairman Colm McLoughlin said, 'This year's running of the Group 3 Dubai Duty Free Stakes marks a significant milestone in our relationship with Newbury and with British racing. We like coming to Newbury and over the years we have developed a very good relationship with the team here. They understand us and provide us with some good opportunities to promote our brand and to promote Dubai.

'We took over the race from Gainsborough Stud and we are grateful to them for providing us with an opportunity to visit Newbury for the first time in 1996 and tell the story of Dubai Duty Free, and on so many occasions since.

'The Dubai Duty Free Stakes has also seen some magnificent winners including Salsabil and Shadayid who both subsequently carried the colours of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum to success at the highest level, both claiming victory in British Classic races and we have been delighted to see His Highness enjoy so much success again this year.'

Her Majesty The Queen once again graced the event and supported the race meeting with three runners, all of which were placed, but success in the track was dominated by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan

whose five winners included Intilaaq, bred by His Highness' Shadwell Stud and who holds an entry in the Epsom Derby a runaway winner of the first division of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships Maiden Stakes and a first and second in the Group 3 AON Greenham Stakes with Muhaarar and Estidhkaar.

Newbury Racecourse marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of their biggest supporters with the presentation of a framed representation of Dubai Duty Free racecard covers for the past two decades. The racing industry also paid tribute.

Chris McFadden Chairman of Great British Racing said, 'Sponsors play a crucial role in the funding and promotion of our sport, and British racing has been very fortunate to have enjoyed the enthusiastic support of Dubai Duty Free for a remarkable 20 years.'

'British horseracing's continuing prominence in Dubai Duty Free's wide ranging sponsorship portfolio is a source of great pride for many of us in the industry and I am pleased to add my own personal thanks to Executive Vice Chairman, Colm McLoughlin, and his team for their very valued contribution as we celebrate on one of the sport's most enduring partnerships.'

Dubai Duty Free's horseracing activities continue with the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at The Curragh in June and the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup at Ascot in August before returning to Newbury for the Dubai Duty Free International Weekend in September.

Ends.

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