



For immediate release

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French raiders dominate UK Arabian Derby entries

French raiders dominate the 10 initial entries received for the UK Arabian Derby at Newmarket Racecourse on Thursday, 25 September, sponsored for the first time by Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club.

The race's most successful trainer with a quintet of victories is French handler Jean Francois Bernard, who this year is represented by Sir Bani Yas, making his debut in the UK after a fruitful campaign in France winning the French equivalent, the Qatar Derby in Chantilly, in June.

Run this year over a mile, two furlongs shorter than its traditional distance and on Newmarket's Rowley Mile for the first time, the £50,000 contest has been hosted by some of the most prestigious racecourses in the UK and boasts a roll of honour that includes Mkeefa, the highest rated 4-year-old Pure Bred Arabian who achieved international acclaim after adding the Qatar Arabian World Cup and Qatar Oaks to her victory in 2012.

Arabian Racing Organisation Racing Manager Amanda Smith commented, "The race has held up well considering its proximity to major international events here and in France after moving from its traditional mid-summer slot.

"We are extremely grateful to Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club for agreeing to support the race and thereby ensuring that this important event is maintained for the benefit of owners, trainers and their horses. I am sure this will prove to be a valuable addition to their portfolio of international races."

Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club are an important partner of Arabian racing in the UK and are responsible for 17 races this season, including next month's £150,000 Harwood International Stakes at Doncaster, the most valuable race for Pure Bred Arabians in the UK.

Alongside their sponsorship of domestic and international races, Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club also backs the UK Arabian Breeders' Scheme, providing valuable premiums for breeders of winning and placed Purebred Arabians in domestic ARO races.

Full entries for the QREC UK Arabian Derby can be viewed at www.aroracing.co.uk. Supplementary entries will be accepted until 12 noon on Wednesday 17th September.

ENDS.

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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.