



For immediate release

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## **Marquand to benefit from HH Sheikh Mansoor Racing Scholarship Fund**

British Champion apprentice jockey, Tom Marquand, who rounded off a successful 2015 with a BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year nomination, will kick-start 2016 with a four-week mentorship programme in Australia funded by His Highness Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Racing Festival.

The Racing Scholarship Fund (RSF), inaugurated in November last year following the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) general assembly meeting in Abu Dhabi, is the first of its kind to help promising young talent - employed as an amateur jockey, apprentice jockey, or within the industry as a whole - benefit from the mentoring scheme aimed to stimulate career development and progression.

Marquand, who begins his scholarship this week, will be assisted with his training in Victoria by Richard Perham of the British Racing School, as well as trainer Matt Hyland and Melisa Weatherley, Racing Victoria's Athlete Development & Industry Careers Advisor. He will be the first to start the programme comprising 12 other candidates selected from a total of 19 applications representing countries including Australia, Canada, Hungary, Ireland, Korea, Poland, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States.

Ms Lara Sawaya, Chairperson of IFHRA and Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Racing Festival, thanked HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential affairs, for his innovative initiative in evolving a plan to train and fund young riders and staff.

"The IFHRA Racing Scholarship Fund is designed to benefit both students of IFHRA member racing academies and employers within the horse racing and related industries. Students will work abroad in real-world situations gaining experience and benefitting from mentorships which will be a long-

term benefit to future careers. At the same time, future employers will also benefit from students who have experienced from the IFHRA RSF and who have therefore gained training in the newest practices our industry offers,” Ms Sawaya said.

She added: “The goal is to improve the horse racing and breeding industry workforce by providing deserving racing academy students or recent graduates with the opportunity to gain new training and experience within the horse racing industry and related disciplines, while learning about new cultures and customs.”

Ryan Colley, who graduated from Doncaster’s Northern Racing College and is now assistant trainer to Ruth Carr was also one of the twelve selected and is keen to pursue a career in Racing Administration.

**ENDS.**

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#### **About The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival**

**The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival** is sustained by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority and coordinated by Abu Dhabi Sports Council, with National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC as associate sponsors, in cooperation with Emirates Racing Authority, IFAHR, Emirates Arabian Horse Society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare with The National Archives as the official partner and Emirates airline as the official carriers and sponsored by Bloom, Petromal, Rise General Trading Co. LLC, Hayatna, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), Al Awani General Enterprises, Kabale, Al Wathba Centre, the UAE's General Women's Union, The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy, Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition 2016, Dr. Nader Saab Switzerland, Al Wathba Center, Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, Eastern Mangroves Suites-Abu Dhabi by Jannah, Yas Channel, Omeir Travels, Racing Post, Paris Turf and Laboratories Fadia Karam Cosmetics.