

For immediate release

21 May, 2015



## **Qatar International Stakes entry exceeds expectations**

A total of 60 nominations have been received for the £400,000 Group 1 Qatar International Stakes for Purebred Arabians, (formally listed as the Harwood International) the first leg of the inaugural Doha Triple Crown, which will be run on the final day of the Qatar Goodwood Festival on Saturday, 1 August.

Among those bidding to be the first to stake their claim on the Doha Triple Crown's \$1 million bonus are Al Mourtajez and Al Majh'hoor, who finished first and third respectively in this year's HH The Emir's Sword, which in February 2016 will form the final leg of the contest following the €1 million Qatar Arabian World Cup at Longchamp in October.

Arabian Racing Organisation Racing Manager Amanda Smith said, 'The initial entry has certainly exceeded expectations. Based on two previous runnings of the Qatar Harwood International, previously run at Doncaster for £150,000, I had hoped that we would receive a minimum of 50 nominations, so we are delighted with both the size and the quality of the entry.'

'The entries will now be submitted to the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR) Pattern and Handicapper Committee to have their ratings verified and we will see how many of them stand their ground at the Forfeit stage on 17 June.'

The Qatar International Stakes will feature alongside the Group 1 Qatar Nassau Stakes on the fifth and final day of Glorious Goodwood which begins on Tuesday, 28 July. Goodwood Managing Director Adam Waterworth said, 'We are very much looking forward to staging the UK's richest ever Arabian race.'

'The race will be a fabulous addition to the Festival and I am sure fans of all forms of racing will be fascinated by the spectacle of the Arabian horses tackling the unique undulations of the downs.'

Nasser Sherida Al Kaabi, General Manager of Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club which will stage the final leg of the Doha Triple Crown at Al Rayyan Racecourse in February 2016 said, 'It will take a superior horse to win the Doha Triple Crown and the \$1 million bonus and we hope Arabian racehorse owners will support the inaugural running of this innovative series.'

'The HH The Emir's Sword Festival in February is a magnificent showcase for equestrian excellence in the region and we hope that staging the first leg of the Doha Triple Crown at one of Europe's most prestigious venues will help focus even more international attention on racing in Qatar.'

**ENDS.**

Attached and accessed [here](#): Full entries for the Qatar International Stakes

**For further information about the Doha Triple Crown:**

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**About Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club**

The Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club was established in 1975. HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Faleh Al Thani is Chairman of the QREC Board of Directors. Mr Hamad Bin Abdulrahman Al Attiya is the Vice Chairman of the QREC Board of Directors. Mr. Nasser Sherida Al Kaabi is the General Manager of QREC. Located in New Rayyan, Doha, it has the mission of developing Thoroughbred and Purebred Arabian horse racing events, organising Arabian horse shows and providing support to 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.

**About the Doha Triple Crown**

The Doha Triple Crown is a major new race series for Purebred Arabians that was announced by the Qatar International Equestrian Committee in February 2015.

The Doha Triple Crown will feature a bonus of USD 1 million for the winner of all three of the world's most prestigious Arabian races, beginning with the inaugural running of the GBP 400,000 Qatar Harwood International Stakes on Saturday, 1 August 2015, the concluding day of the Qatar Goodwood Festival.

The second leg of the Doha Triple Crown is the Euros 1 million Qatar Arabian World Cup at Longchamp on Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe Weekend in early October, with the third and final leg being The H.H The Emir's Sword, Qatar's most valuable race worth QR 3 million providing the finale in February, 2016.