

Al Rayyan, Doha, Qatar

25 February, 2015

Qatari success celebrated

PRESTIGIOUS awards were made on Tuesday 24 February to mark the achievements in 2014 of three outstanding Qatari-owned horses as part of the eight-day H.H The Emir 24th International Equestrian Sword Festival staged under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani.

An international audience showed their appreciation at a gala dinner held in the St Regis hotel, as Treve, the dual Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, Djainka Des Forges, the Qatar Arabian World Cup hero, and Charm Spirit, whose five wins included the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, sponsored by Qipco, at Ascot, were honoured.

Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club General Manager, Sami Jassim Al Boenain, welcomed guests who included US champion trainer Todd Pletcher, Epsom Derby winning trainers Luca Cumani, John Gosden, Sir Michael Stoute and William Haggas.

H.E Sheikh Mohammed bin Faleh Al Thani, chairman of the Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club, presented trophies to the connections of all three champions, representing Al Shaqab Racing for Treve, H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani for Djainka Des Forges and H.H Sheikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Thani for Charm Spirit.

Treve's trainer Criquette Head-Maarek, who received the trophy alongside Al Shaqab's representative Nasser Al Sherida, revealed that the mare had returned to her stable a fortnight ago, in preparation for a season in which will attempt a historic third win in the Arc.

She added: "Treve is very well. Sheikh Joann bin Hamad Al Thani made the decision to keep her in training, after talking to my father, and we will get her ready to do the triple. It has never been done before, but records are there to be beaten."

Speaking about Djainka Des Forges' win on Arc de Triomphe day, trainer Julian Smart said: "We have had a lot of great results over the years but to win at Longchamp was exceptional, because it gave massive media attention to Arabian horses."

Trainer Alban de Mieulle and jockey Olivier Peslier were on hand to receive the awards for Charm Spirit, and both praised the progress that has been made in racing in Qatar. De Mieulle said: "The difference since I came here in 1995 is fantastic."

Awards sponsored by Al Shaqab Racing were also made for the Qatar Challenge, in which owners and trainers were invited to nominate five horses to follow in 2014. The first prize worth one million riyals went to Hassan Ali Hassan Al Matwi.

The event also included the draw, which was conducted by 2013 Wimbledon Champion Marion Bartoli, for the two biggest races of the Qatar season, being run on Thursday 26 February, the HH the Emir's Trophy for thoroughbreds, worth two million riyals, and the HH the Emir's Sword for purebred Arabians, worth three million riyals.

Al Shaqab Racing's Dubday, who will be attempting to repeat last year's win in the Emir's Trophy, will start from the widest draw in stall 16. Djainka Des Forges was drawn in stall two in the Emir's Sword.

For enquiries about media accreditation during the H.H. The Emir 24th International Equestrian Sword Festival please contact the Press Office:

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To download a copy of the official event media guide click [here](#).

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Notes to Editors

About the H.H. The Emir 24th International Equestrian Sword Festival

Staged under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, the HH The Emir 24th International Equestrian Sword Festival officially launched on Thursday, 19th February.

The event is staged by the Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club and comprises five days of International Arabian Horse Shows followed by three days of high quality racing for Purebred Arabians and Thoroughbreds with a total prize money value in excess of Euros 6 million.

More than 400 international visitors will attend the HH The Emir 24th International Equestrian Sword Festival including members of the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR) and the European Conference of Arab Horse Organisations (ECHAHO).

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 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.