



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Entries invited for £631,000 Scandinavian Challenge

A nine-race series for three-year-olds with prize money in excess of £630,000 has been created by the Swedish Jockey Club, in celebration of the 100th running of the Swedish Derby in July 2017, which closes on Monday, 14 March.

The prize fund for the historic 2,400m contest has doubled to more than £250,000, while supporting races in the series dubbed 'The Scandinavian Challenge' have all received significant increases.

All nine races will take place on the all-weather surface at Jagersro Racecourse in Malmo over three individual racedays, from mid-June to mid-August, with prize-money on offer topping seven million Swedish Krona (£630,000).

In addition to the traditional mile and a half Derby and Oaks contests, feature races in the series include The Voter, over an extended mile (1730m) in June, and The Hurricane, over one mile and six furlongs (2650m) on Swedish Oaks Day in August.

Svensk Galopp's Bo Gillborg said, "We are very excited about the series and hopeful that we might be able to attract entries from the UK. The revised conditions for the Swedish Derby should make it appealing to decent handicappers with a rating of 90-100."

Entry fees for races in the series have deliberately been kept low with the Derby costing just 1,000 Swedish Krona (approx. £84.00) to enter.

"We hope that owners and trainers will recognise the value that an entry in any of the feature races could add. There is no supplementary entry stage for any of the races in the series so horses with an entry may be of significant interest, particularly to Scandinavian-based owners at the sales in Autumn." added Gillborg.

The most recent UK-trained horses to run in the Swedish Derby were in 2013 when London Citizen, saddled by Elaine Burke for owner Hubert John Strecker, finished a gallant second behind Hurricane Red for Swedish trainer Lennart Reuterskiold Junior. The connections of London Citizen were also responsible for the second in the Epsom Derby the same year with Libertarian. Sir Mark Prescott, who has supported the race in the past, also ran Alcaeus who finished unplaced the same year.

ENDS.

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Notes to Editors

About the Swedish Derby

First run in 1918, open to three-year-olds only and run over a distance of 2400m on Jagersro Racecourse's all-weather surface. Prize money in 2017 is 3 million Swedish Krona (£252,000).

Most successful trainer: Wido Neuroth is the most successful trainer in the history of the race with 11 winners, the most recent coming in 2012 with Bomar, sired by Epsom Derby winner, Sir Percy.

Most successful jockey: Fredrik Johannson who rode Bomar to victory in 2012 is the most successful jockey in the history of the race with eight winners.

About Jagersro Racecourse

Jagersro Racecourse is the only combined trotting and thoroughbred racecourse in Sweden. The track was founded in 1907 and is situated in the south of Sweden located 5 kilometres east of Malmö. The track is made up of an all-weather dirt surface and is 1500m round. It is a left-handed course with the finishing straight 400m long.

The Scandinavian Challenge Races

Feature races:

	Total prize fund	Distance	Raceday
The Voter	1,000,000 SEK	1730m	mid-June
The Swedish Derby	3,000,000 SEK	2400m	mid-July
The Hurricane	1,000,000 SEK	2650m	mid-August
The Swedish Oaks	800,000 SEK	2400m	mid-August

Supporting races:

The Derby Trial	300,000 SEK	2400m	mid-June
The Sofiero	500,000 SEK	1730m	mid-July
The Derby Day Sprint	500,000 SEK	1200m	mid-July
Derby Consolation	300,000 SEK	2400m	mid-July
The Altamira (f)	300,000 SEK	1730m	mid-August