



For immediate release

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## **Stage set for Arabian showcase**

The stage is set for the most exciting renewal yet of the Dubai International Arabian Races at Newbury Racecourse on Sunday, 26 July which boasts a day of top class Arabian racing, valuable prize giveaways, family entertainments and free admission for all.

Staged under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, the action on the track features no fewer than three Group 1 events, attracting runners from across Europe, as part of a fully sponsored eight-race programme which begins at 2.25 p.m.

Announcing plans for this year's event at a Press Conference held at Newbury Racecourse today, H.E. Mirza Al Sayegh, Director of the Office of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum said, "The Dubai International Arabian Races now extends to many countries beyond the UK but the Newbury raceday remains very special to H.H. Sheikh Hamdan. The quality of the racing is superb and it has provided the inspiration for many of the other events staged under the banner of the Dubai International Arabian Races around the world.

'His Highness Sheikh Hamdan is looking forward to supporting the event with runners in what we expect to be a competitive renewal which has attracted some of Europe's best Purebred Arabians.'

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum is well represented in both the Emirates Premier Handicap Stakes and the Rotana Hotels and Resorts Premier Handicap Stakes. The latter of the races will see previous Dubai International Arabian Races winners Aljawaaher and Azizi take each other on. However, they will have to face Kamikaze, winner of the preparatory race for this contest, who will be chasing a bonus by following his Chepstow success back in June with a win at the flagship day for Arabian racing in the UK.

After a standout performance in the Shadwell Dubai International Stakes (Gr.1 PA) from Al Hibaab last year, champion Qatar trainer Jassim Ghazali is hoping Rasi, his first Arabian horse in UK training, can hold his own as a 4 year old against older horses if he is declared for the feature race.

Julian Thick, Newbury Racecourse CEO said, 'We are looking forward to welcoming the Arabian racing community to Newbury on Sunday and we are hopeful that with good weather and the offer of free admission, there will be a strong local crowd.'

'The event has moved around our calendar in recent years, but now that it has returned to its traditional successful slot on the fourth Sunday in July, we are looking forward to building on the excitement that the fixture generates in the local area as a family event that should not be missed.'

On-course the day will be presented to by TV personality Derek Thompson who will be introducing racegoers to many of the sport's top names throughout the day and attempting to find all the winners both on and off the track and all eight races will be broadcast live by leading dedicated horseracing channel Racing UK and by Dubai TV.

### **Competitions for all ages**

There are prizes of iPad Minis up for grabs in the Best Children's Hat Competition – one each for the winners of the boys' and girls' categories, exquisite jewellery by Malabar for the winner and runners-up in the Best Dressed Lady Competition which will be guest judged by local stylist, Victoria Lochead, and racegoers can see themselves larger than life on the giant screens by entering the popular 'selfie' competition and be in with the chance of winning an iPad.

### **Family entertainments**

Entertainments for all the family will include a young artists' workshop held in the Pavilions adjacent to the pre-parade ring and led by equine artist Elizabeth Armstrong which will run in conjunction with an exhibition of works by fellow members of the Society of Equestrian Artists entitled, 'The Art of Arabian Racing'.

The creative theme continues throughout the Pavilions with face painters and Henna artists on hand to help racegoers enter into the spirit of the day.

The British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust (BHEST) will be making their 'Equiciser' available to budding jockeys, young and old, with coaching sessions on the mechanical 'horse', a training aid used by all the top professionals.

There will be the chance for younger racegoers to meet Arabian Racing Organisation Kids Club ambassador, Notid, in the pre-parade ring while Harry the Horse, the Newbury Racecourse Mascot will be looking forward to meeting young race-goers as he visits all enclosures during the day.

Also in the Pavilions, internationally renowned illusionist Marc Oberon will be performing his unique brand of magic in two live shows throughout the afternoon.

### **Arabian Rainbow Competition - community art project**

Arabian Rainbow is an exciting art project for primary schools. Promoted in conjunction with the Dubai International Arabian Races at Newbury Racecourse, the competition challenges youngsters to create and apply an original design inspired by the event using acrylic paints and lots of imagination.

At almost 2.3m in length and standing more than 2m high, the models provide plenty of scope for pupils and teachers to explore a wide variety of subjects including language, geography, sport and culture in their designs.

Since its introduction in 2009 the project has contributed more than £50,000 to supporting the education of children in West Berkshire. This year the near life-sized horse sculptures have been delivered to 14 schools in the region for pupils to paint with their own designs.

The finished sculptures will be displayed at Newbury Racecourse on the day and the winner and two runners-up, who will receive £2,000, £1,500 and £1,000 respectively.

### **Big prizes to be won**

Free-to-enter prize draws have become an established feature of the Dubai International Arabian races and racegoers can win one of three holidays drawn on the day to Dubai with flights and accommodation provided by the multi-award winning Emirates Airline and the Middle East's leading hotel group, Rotana.

Jebel Ali Racecourse, who are also responsible for the first of the day's Group 1 races the Jebel Ali Zaabeel International Stakes, have added to the prize-draw offer by providing four high-value wristwatches which will be presented throughout the day.

The day's biggest prize will be drawn after the eighth and final race at 6.30 p.m. and will see one lucky racegoer drive away in a brand new eye-catching Citroen C1 Touch Hatchback. Entries into the free prize draw will be accepted throughout the day but the holder of the winning ticket must be present to claim their prize when the draw is made.

### **Outstanding commercial support**

The Dubai International Arabian Races enjoys enthusiastic support from some of the UAEs most recognisable brands which for the first time this year include **Dubai Duty Free**, the world-leading airport retailer, also title sponsor of two thoroughbred meetings at the Berkshire course, who support the Group 1 Dubai Duty Free Hatta International Stakes.

Renowned international racing and breeding operation **Shadwell Stud**, whose horses run in the famous colours of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan, sponsors the feature race of the day the Shadwell Dubai International Stakes and the Group 1 trio is completed by the Zaabeel International Stakes which enjoys the support of **Jebel Ali Racecourse**, Dubai's 'family racecourse'.

Under the experienced guidance of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Shadwell's global Thoroughbred and Arabian racing and breeding enterprise stretches from Shadwell Estate Co. Ltd. in the UK to Shadwell Farm (USA) and Derrinstown Stud in Ireland.

Between Shadwell Stud, Derrinstown Stud (Ireland) and Shadwell Farm (USA) 12 Thoroughbred Classic winners have raced in the famous blue and white colours of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Shadwell Arabian Stallions have won numerous international Gr.1 races. Their progeny have been successful across the globe, winning in the USA, Sweden and Russia as well as the UK, United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Four Arabian stallions stand in Europe and a further 3 in the USA. In addition, over 50 horses in training race across Europe and in the UAE in the same famous blue and white colours as their Thoroughbred relatives. The Shadwell Arabian headliner of 2014 was AL HIBAAB, winner of the Shadwell Stud Dubai International Stakes (Gr.1 PA) and International IFAHR Trophy (Gr.2 PA).

**Emirates Airline** lends its backing to the opening Premier Handicap while **Rotana Hotels and Resorts** are responsible for a 13 furlongs Premier Handicap later in the programme.

**Emirates NBD**, the Dubai-based banking group with offices in major cities world-wide including London is responsible for a 10 furlongs event the third race while the first of the day's Group races, a Group 2 contest over 7 furlongs is backed by **Emirates Equestrian Federation**.

Long-standing supporters of the Dubai International Arabian Races and sponsors of the final race on the card, **The National Academy of Indian Payroll**, have once again extended their involvement to include stable staff and will present a cash prize of £200 to the stable responsible for the Best Turned Out Horse in each of the day's eight races.

Gates open at 12.00 noon and racegoers arriving early will be presented with a voucher which can be exchanged for a 'goodie bag' packed with memorabilia during the afternoon.

**ENDS**

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**For further information about the event please visit one of the following:**

**Website** - [www.diaraces.com](http://www.diaraces.com) **Facebook** – DIARaces **Twitter** - @DIA\_Races



## **DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN RACES**

**Newbury Racecourse – Sunday, 26 July 2015**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Races</u></b>	<b><u>Value</u></b>
12:00pm	Gates open	
<b>2:25pm</b>	<b>Fly Emirates Premier Handicap Stakes, 8f</b>	<b>£12,000</b>
<b>2:55pm</b>	<b>Emirates Equestrian Federation International Sakes (Group 2 PA), 7f</b>	<b>£20,000</b>
<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Emirates NBD International Stakes, 10f</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>4:05pm</b>	<b>Jebel Ali Racecourse Zaabeel International Stakes (Group 1 PA), 6f</b>	<b>£25,000</b>
<b>4:40pm</b>	<b>Dubai Duty Free Hatta International Stakes (Group 1 PA), 10f</b>	<b>£25,000</b>
<b>5:15pm</b>	<b>Shadwell Dubai International Stakes (Group 1 PA), 10f</b>	<b>£50,000</b>
<b>5:55pm</b>	<b>Rotana Hotels and Resorts Premier Handicap Stakes, 13f</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>National Academy of Indian Payroll Handicap Stakes, 7f</b>	<b>£6,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIZE MONEY</b>		<b>£158,000</b>

In addition to the prize money offer, NAIP will present a cash prize of £200 to the stable of the horse adjudged to be the best turned out horse in each race.



**DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN RACES 2015**  
**NEWBURY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT**

**HENNA ARTISTS**

Pavilion 2  
13:00 – 17:30

**MARC OBERON – MAGICIAN**

Pavilion 3  
Shows: 14:00 and 16:00  
Marc will visit sponsor's hospitality boxes between shows

**FACE PAINTING**

Pavilion 4  
13:00 – 17:00

**EXHIBITION: THE ART OF ARABIAN RACING – SOCIETY OF EQUESTRIAN ARTISTS**

Pavilions 5 & 6  
12:00 – 17:00

**SEA YOUNG ARTISTS WORKSHOP WITH ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG (SEA)**

Pavilion 7  
From 13:00

**BHEST EQUICISER**

Pavilion 8  
12:00 – 16:00

**HARRY THE HORSE AND FRIENDS**

General Racecourse  
12:00 – 16:00

**NOTID**

The ARO Kids Club Arabian Racehorse will parade in the pre-parade ring  
13:00

**THE JUNGLE BUS**

Soft Play Area for ages 2 – 10 years old  
On course and open between 12noon and 18:30