



For immediate release

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Three-way thriller in Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club UK Arabian Derby

The £50,000 Group 1 Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club UK Arabian Derby produced a thrilling three-way photo-finish at Newmarket Racecourse on Thursday, 25 September, when Nahee, trained in France by Jean-Pierre Totain, held on to score a short head victory from Najlaa with Majd Al Uraiq just half a length back in third.

Jockey Charles Nora carrying the colours of Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nayhan took up the one mile contest about three and a half furlongs from home with the early leader, Attila De Rouaisse, fading fast.

Belgian jockey Giles Braem had Majd Al Uraiq nicely placed on the rail and the pair were locked in battle when former champion Thoroughbred jockey Paul Hanagan in the familiar blue and white colours of Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum made a late almost last-to-first challenge on the wide-outside.

“We knew he was good enough”, said the trainer. “We were only worried about the other French horse.”

“In France we do not have any straight mile races so that was also a concern but he held on well and I am very pleased. We will see how he comes out of the race and the owner will decide, but the Breeders’ Cup in Toulouse would be an option for him next”, he added.

Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club General Manager Sami Al Boenain presented trophies to the connections of the winner, which were received on behalf of the winning owner and trainer by Arabian Racing Organisation Racing Manager Amanda Smith.

ENDS.

Photo captions:

1. Battle to the finish (L-R Najlaa, winner Nahee and Majd Al Uraiq)
2. Jockey Charles Nora congratulate Nahee in the Winners’ Enclosure
3. ARO Racing Manager collects the trophy on behalf of winning connections from QREC General Manager Sami Al Boenain

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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 Pure Bred Arabian horse racing events, organising Arabian horse shows and encouraging 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.