



عالم

مهرجان سمو الشيخ منصور بن زايد آل نهيان
HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Festival

WORLD



One World, 6 Continents

Abu Dhabi  The Capital



10

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Grade I, \$100,000 HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Award Stakes Espinoza wins on Paddys Day

ARCADIA, California

Just when he thought he 'had ridden them all', it was a first time experience for Triple Crown-winning jockey Victor Espinoza, thanks to the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival.

Espinoza, who became the first Triple Crown-winning jockey in 37 years when he guided Bob Baffert's American Pharoah to victory in the 2015 Belmont Stakes, contested in his first ever race on a Purebred Arabian horse and emerged victorious.

It was a pairing of two stars-Paddys Day just after winning yet another pair of US Darley Awards the previous night and the man with over 3200 wins -Espinoza. And they obliged as Espinoza and Paddys Day demolished their 11 other rivals in the Grade I, \$100,000 HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Award Stakes at Santa Anita race course on Saturday. The Scott Powell-trained Paddys Day finished ahead of Easter Man under Edwin Maldonado while in third place was Sand Victor under Hugo Herrera.

"In 20 to 30 years I thought I had ridden them all but this was my first ever experience with an Arabian horse. He did not give up just like a thoroughbred horse; it was just that the pace was a bit slower," Espinoza said.

"This horse was full of run going into the far turn; we just had to find a way through. It's an honor to be a part of this race."

It was the second running of the Grade I, \$100,000 HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Award Stakes and also a huge relief for trainer Scott Powell as Paddys Day was beaten by Thess Is Awesome in a shock win last year when the Arabian race made its debut at Santa Anita.

"We thought we could win this race last year and we finished second, so this is really sweet. He definitely put it all together today," said Scott who was named Best Trainer for 2016 in the Darley US Awards held on Friday night while Paddys Day scooped the Older Horse and Horse of the Year Award for 2016. Earlier HE Abdulla Al Subose, UAE Consul General in Los Angeles, HE Mohammed Sultan Saif Al-Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, HE Aref Al Awani representing Abu Dhabi Sports Council, Mubarak Al Nuaimi, Director of International Promotion at Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, Edward Hamod, General Manager of National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC, Sami Al Boeinain - IFAHR Chairman, ADEC Director General Adnan Sultan, Mus-sallam Al Marri of Al Jazira Stables Two, Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, Chairperson of the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA), Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees and other US racing officials gave away the trophies.

Dubai World Cup winning jockey Mike Smith hails Festival's support Bob Baffert's world champion Arrogate returned to his Santa Anita base around noon time on Saturday, looking amazingly fresh, considering he'd just come out of quarantine at Los Angeles International Airport following a roughly 20,000 mile round trip trek to Dubai, which resulted in a sensational 2 ¼ length win in last Saturday's \$10 million Dubai World Cup.

Arrogate's Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith was also present at Santa Anita race track. "This is exciting, I've been praying since the race was over to get him back home," said Smith. "He had so much turbulence in the race, he didn't need any in the air," he said in reference to the rough start Arrogate was able to overcome in Dubai.

Smith along with other top jockeys received a cheque of US \$ 150,000 on behalf of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF) from the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival and Santa Anita Park in the presence of Keith Brackpool, Chairman, Santa Anita Park.

"We greatly appreciate what the HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival is doing for PDJF," said Smith.

Later Espinoza also hailed the move. "It's an honor to ride this race today. The Arabian association and Santa Anita gave a big check (\$150,000) to the injured riders (PDJF) earlier today, so that was great," he said after winning on Paddys Day.

The County of Los Angeles presented a memento of appreciation to HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak, H.H. Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation and President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood which was received by HE Subose, HE Al Suwaidi and Ms Sawaya.

The Festival's Hat and Dress competition, being held for the second year, was a big hit with nearly 50 entries and the winners received attractive Prizes.

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8TH edition of WAHRC kicks-off in Marrakesh on Thursday
Purebred Arabian racing fraternity members
From 86 countries set for three-day conference

Marrakesh, Morocco

The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival's eight edition of the World Arabian Horse Racing Conference begins in Marrakesh, Morocco on Thursday, May 4, 2017 with 86 countries being represented as experts debate and discuss various aspects connected with racing.

Seven sessions of the WAHRC will discuss seven different topics over three days while the third and final day will also see a workshop and then on Saturday the Festival's four different races will be held as part of the 'UAE Abu Dhabi Day' meeting.

Addressing a press conference at Adam Park hotel on Wednesday, The UAE's Charge D' Affairs to Morocco HE Mohammed Al Yamahi said, " We thank HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs for bringing this great event to Morocco."

Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, Chairperson of the Int'l Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) and Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees said, "History will be made on Saturday, thanks to HH Sheikh Mansoor, when the world's latest racing venue, will see horse racing being staged in Marrakesh for the first time."

"After three days of discussions and debates in the WAHRC, the Hippodrome Marrakesh will come alive with the Festival's Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup, the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship race, the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Apprentice World Championship race and the Wathba Stud Farm Cup race," she said. Edward Hamod, General Manager of National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC, the main sponsors of the WAHRC, said, "We are delighted to be partners for the second successive year. We urge all those present to use the next three days to share their expertise and experience which will help the growth of Purebred Arabian racing."

Omar Skalli, Director General of SOREC (Moroccan Racing Society) thanks the support of HH Sheikh Mansoor and the Festival for staging races and the conference in Morocco. "This opens a new chapter for racing in our country," he said.

The PC was also attended by HE Saqr Al Raisi, UAE Ambassador to Italy, HE Mohammed Sultan Saif Al-Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and many other important officials, sponsors' representatives along with Moroccan officials.

Later the draw for the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship race, the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Apprentice World Championship was also held.

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Experts gather to mull promotion of Arabian racing

Marrakesh, Morocco

The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival's annual World Arabian Horse Racing Conference got off to a start at the Four Seasons Hotel in Marrakesh, Morocco on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

Over 400 delegates representing 86 countries are attending the three-day conference, which will be followed by the 'UAE Abu Dhabi Day' racing at the Hippodrome Marrakesh on Sunday, May 7.

Many UAE envoys and racing officials from the UAE and the world are in attendance.

The event is being held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs, who in a message welcome those attending the Conference.

"The WAHRC started in Abu Dhabi and after being held in five different countries in Europe, it is now being held in a country in which both Arab culture as well as Purebred Arabian racing is deep-rooted," he said in his message.

"The continent of Africa has great potential and Purebred Arabian racing has its presence in almost all of the countries. This WAHRC meeting could be the ideal platform to get more members into the growing fraternity of Purebred Arabian racing."

"The Marrakech Conference is also sure to throw up some new facets of the challenges facing the practice and promotion of Purebred Arabian racing on the continent and around the globe," HH Sheikh Mansoor said.

The UAE Charge d'Affaires HE Mohammed Al Yamahi welcome the delegates before the first session on Breeding started.

Mubarak Al Nuaimi of TCA Abu Dhabi said that the Festival was an important vehicle in promoting tourism and culture. "Last year we had recorded 4.4 million visitors and our target for this year is 4.9 million.

Dr. Abdulla Al Raisi of National Archives said the role of education played a huge part in the success of the Conference and stressed that education was a must for those who are young and starting to learn the process of Arabian horse racing.

Ahmed Al Hammadi of Emirates Racing Association said the experts and experienced panelists were bound to enrich the three-day event. IFAHR chief Sami Al Boueinan said, "The Festival and the conference has succeeded in bring all horse racing officials of Purebred Racing under on one stage. Today we also have the World Arabian Horse Organisation (WAHO) President Mr Peter Pond here and all this augurs well for the future of Purebred Arabian racing."

Omar Skalli, chief of Morocco's racing body SOREC said, "On Sunday we will be inaugurating our 7th race track here in Marrakesh. We stage 2000 races in Morocco and 700 are for Purebred Arabians. Ninety per cent of Arabian horses are bred here in our country."

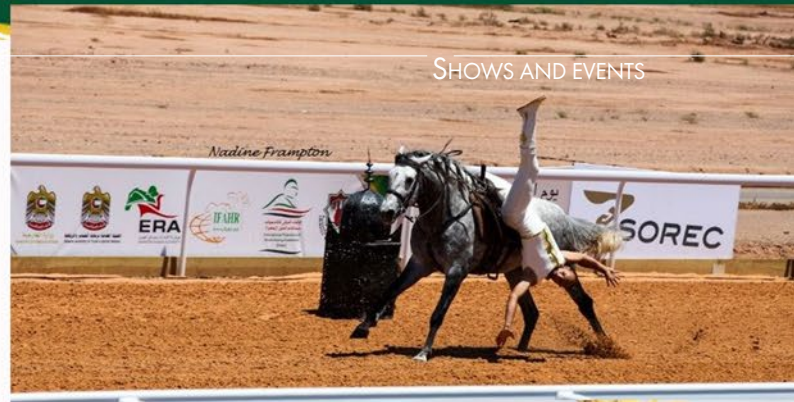
"We have around 3000 horses and a thousand owners and this latest conference and race meeting on Sunday is bound to propel the growth further," he added.

On Wednesday night the guests were treated to a 'Casablanca night' at the Royal Mansour in Marrakesh.

The three sessions on the opening day were 'Breeding', 'Racing and Training' and 'Jockeys' weight control and nutrition'.

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SHOWS AND EVENTS



Last year's winner RB Burn back in fray Draw for world's richest Arabian horse race held as Abu Dhabi unveils international ponies' race

Abu Dhabi

An impressive draw ceremony kicked off what is set to be a fascinating week in Abu Dhabi as the line-ups for the world's richest race for Purebred Arabian racing, two world championships and a newly-introduced ponies race were all held at the National Archives under the banner of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival.

The 'One World, Six Continents' event which started with the draw in the UAE capital on Tuesday, November 7 is being held under the patronage of Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs.

Last year's winner RB Burn is back in contention for the Euros 1.2 million Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup Crown Jewel (Group 1) on November 10, 2017 and also drawn alongside are some fancied runners. While RB Burn, trained by Eric Lemartinel drew gate 14, another fancied runner handled by the Frenchman- Mahbooba- drew gate 15. Rmmas, owned by HH Sheikh Mansoor drew gate 9 while three-time US Triple Jewel winner in the Sheikh Zayed Cup Series-Paddys Day- will start from gate 5. The 15-strong line-up includes Muraaqib, Faucon Du Loup and Sniper Du Monlau among others.

The draw was held in style and was attended by UAE Ambassador to the Oman, HE Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, General Manager of Wathba Stallions, Chairperson of the Int'l Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) and Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR), Dr. Abdullah Al Raisi- Director General of the National Archives, Faisal Al Rahmani, President of the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFHAR), Khalid Al Hussein- representative of the Sports Authority, Nadim Lahad- Emirates Airline Representative, Musallam Al Amri- Director of Al Jazira Stables and Sheikh Al Shamsi- Representatives of the General Women's Union, as well as a number of representatives of government agencies, sponsors, owners, trainers and guests of the Festival.

Omani Lady jockey Fatma Al Manji will be riding the Jaci Wickham-trained Silk Stockings and will be joined by the winners of 13 races held all over the globe as they contest in the HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship (IFAHR) final.

Similarly the draw for the HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Apprentice World Championship (IFAHR) was also held and 12 Apprentice jockeys from around the world will be bidding to win the final on Friday, November 10. In another first of its kind, the Festival unveiled the world's first-ever ponies' race and nine young jockeys including two from the UAE will race in the HH Sheikh Lateefa Bint Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan International Pony.

Ms. Lara Sawaya said the Sheikh Lateefa Pony Race is the only one of its kind in the world and is being held in Abu Dhabi.

Apart from the two from the UAE, the young jockeys hail from Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Italy and Sweden. The UAE riders Nasser Hilal Al Alawi and Mohammad Sultan Al Ketbi, are the children of trainer Hilal Al Alawi and ex-jockey Ahmed Al Ketbi, respectively. The parents of the two boys who were present during the draw ceremony said that they were very excited to see their children set to race in Abu Dhabi.

Ms. Sawaya said the Pony Race, run over two furlongs, will feature youngsters aged from 11 to 14 years.

"The race is held under the initiatives of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to promote the new generation of riders who will one day end up as Professional jockeys."

She pointed out that the 14-year-old Belgian rider Ebbe Verhestraeten has already competed in 700 races winning 270 of them, having started his career at the tender age of seven! Another youngster to watch for will be 12-year-old Rocco James Dettori, son of ace jockey Frankie Dettori.

Ms. Sawaya said the presence of 800 people representing 88 countries from all continents of the world including experts, educators, owners, trainers and other connections of horse racing confirms the logo of the Festival, which is 'One world, 6 continents Abu Dhabi, the capital'.

The UAE envoy to Oman, HE Al Suwaidi said, "In this edition we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the this international Festival, which, with each passing year, has advanced strongly and made its presence felt on the global sporting map."

Dr. Abdullah Al Raisi hailed the support of His Highness Sheikh Mansoor and Her Highness Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and Head of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood for the success of the Festival and added that 2018 was a hugely significant year as it marks the 100th anniversary of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, ten years of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival and 50 years of the National Archives.

Faisal Al Rahmani, President of the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFHAR), said the Festival had earned a lot of respect for Purebred Arabian racing and its connections since it started in 2009. "IFAHR and the Festival will co-operate on many fronts and we at IFAHR have a lot of plans to streamline and boost Purebred Arabian racing," the UAE's Al Rahmani said.

The International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) will hold its General Assembly at the Anantara Eastern Mangroves Hotel on Wednesday, November 8, 2017.



Festival announces first-ever Arabian race in China, HH Sheikh Lateefa International Pony series for 2018

Abu Dhabi, UAE

The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival will be making a debut in China in 2018 with a race in the Wathba Stallions series and that will herald the first-ever Purebred Arabian race in the Asian country.

At a press conference held at the Eastern Mangroves Anantara Hotel in the UAE capital on Wednesday, November 8, Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, General Manager of Wathba Stallions, Chairperson of the Int'l Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) and Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR) said the race in China will be one of the highlights of 2018.

"The calendar year of 2018 is significant as it marks the 10th year of the Festival and 100th anniversary of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan," she said.

Commenting on the Wathba Stallions race in China, Ms. Sawaya said, "The Purebred Arabian horses have already been acquired by the Chinese and are currently based in Poland. They will move to China for the first-ever Arabian horse race.

"This is a huge success for the Festival as we want to take Purebred Arabian racing to countries that do not have them," she added.

The Festival also announced another new series in 2018 when Ms. Sawaya said 10 international pony races will be held around the world in the HH Sheikh Lateefa Bint Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan International Pony race series. "Ten races and the ten winners will come to Abu Dhabi for the final in November 2018," Ms. Sawaya said.

Aref Al Awani, General Secretary of the Abu Dhabi Sports Council hailed the success of the Festival and said, "The Festival's success is an inspiring story in sport not only in horse racing!"

Dr. Abdullah Al Raisi- Director General of the National Archives said that apart from 2018 being the 10th anniversary of the Festival and the 100th anniversary of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan but also marked 50 years of the National Archives which is documenting every achievement of the country.

Faisal Al Rahmani, President of the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFHAR) once again said the Festival had in the last ten years gained a lot of respect and progress for Purebred Arabian racing and added that he would lead IFAHR into a strong body and help boost Purebred Arabian racing.

Khalid Al Saffar, Head of Yas TV, Khalid Al Hussein- representative of the UAE Sports Authority, Nadim Lahad- Emirates Airline Representative, Abdul Karim -Director of Sales, Omeir Travel Agency, Festival's jockey ambassadors Richard Mullen and Xavier Ziani, Viola Advertising's Nabila Al Tuwal also addressed the press conference.



The gleaming gold trophies for the Euros 1.2 million Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup Crown Jewel (Group 1) to be run on Friday, November 10, 2017 were on display and all the lady jockeys and apprentice jockeys taking part in the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship and HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Apprentice World Championship respectively along with the nine pony jockeys were also present.

10 cars, cash prizes for Saturday's HH President's Cup Endurance ride

HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival announces 100 races, events in 90 countries for 2018

Abu Dhabi

Under the Directives of HH Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and the direct supervision of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs the prestigious 160-km HH The President of the UAE Endurance Cup ride will be held on Saturday, February 10 and the Group One HH President Cup flat race for Purebred Arabians will be held on Sunday, February 11 respectively.

The announcements were made at an impressive press conference held at the Anantara Eastern Mangroves Spa and Resort in Abu Dhabi and attended by Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, General Manager of Wathba Stallions, Chairperson of the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA), Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR), Adnan Sultan Al Nuaimi, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, Edward Hamod, Director of National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC, Mubarak Al Nuaimi, Director of Global Promotions- Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, Yakoob Al Saadi -Director of Abu Dhabi Sports Channel, Abdulrahman Al Rumaithi from Abu Dhabi Youth Council, Nadim Lahad of Emirates Airline and other representatives of sponsors and sports bodies.

The 160-km HH The President of the UAE Endurance Cup will be held at the Emirates International Endurance Village in Al Wathba on Saturday while the HH President Cup will be part of Sunday's flat race meeting at the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club.

Alongside the announcement of these two prestigious events, Ms. Sawaya also announced the 2018 calendar for the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival that marks its 10th year and the UAE also celebrates 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the UAE and a passionate promoter of Purebred Arabian horses. Giving details of Saturday's President's Cup endurance ride, Adnan Sultan said, "The prestigious ride has attracted 214 riders with 46 of them coming from all over the world. A total of ten cars will be given to the top rider while a cash award of Dh 100,000 will be given to each of the remaining riders who complete the ride."

"For Sunday's HH President Cup Group 1 flat race, the total prize money of offer is Dh. 2,500,000," he added.

Festival to stage 100 races/events in 90 countries in 2018

"The Festival has received tremendous support and inspiration from His Highness Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs and Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Mother of the Emirates, President of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and we thank them for that," said Ms. Sawaya.

"We welcome the cooperation and partnership with the Abu Dhabi Youth Council and we will see a lot of UAE youth taking part in the Festival's events and get acquainted with heritage sport of the UAE," she added.

"The year 2018 marks the 10th year of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival and also marks the 100th birth anniversary of the Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The Festival will organize a 100-mile endurance series to mark the 100th birth anniversary and this will include five races in five world capitals - Fontaine Bleu Paris in France, followed by the second race in the Spanish capital Madrid, the third in Brussels, Belgium the fourth in Lisbon, Portugal and the final in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi- the capital of Purebred Arabian horses in the world," Ms. Sawaya said.

The Festival's 2018 calendar also includes 10 races each in the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup series, the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship series, the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Apprentice World Championship series and the HH Sheikhha Latifa Bint Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Pony Championship series.

The Wathba Stallions Cup will once again focus on the grassroots level 23 races will be held in the UAE and another 27 races outside the country in the Wathba Stallions Cup series, stated Ms. Sawaya.

"China and Romania are the two countries which will join the Festival in staging our events in 2018 while the Madrid will host the annual World Arabian Horse Racing Conference and Hollywood, Los Angeles will again be the venue for the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak International Awards and the US Darley Awards," she said.

The highlight during the Darley Awards will be the US\$ 100,000 HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Stakes race that will be run at Santa Anita race course.



The Festival will also take part in important shows and events to showcase the progress and finally the curtain will come down in November in Abu Dhabi when the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies and Apprentice finals will be held along with the world's richest race for Purebred Arabian horses – the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Crown Jewel Cup, a Group 1 race with a prize fund of Euros 1.2 million,” Ms. Sawaya said. Ms. Sawaya thanked all the sponsors while the sponsor's representatives also expressed their delight at being part of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival.

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Belgian Bertiaux, Dane Toverud win HH Sheikhha Fatima world titles
Muraaqib lands Sheikh Zayed Cup Jewel Crown

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Friday's finale of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival turned out to be an action-packed race meeting with a lot of drama and excitement at the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club racecourse.

It took a full 40 minutes after last year's winner RB Burn crossed the finish line in the world's richest race for Purebred Arabians that a Stewards verdict ruled in favour of second-placed Muraaqib.

The Eric Lemartinel –trained RB Burn under Gerald Avranche and the Francois Rohaut-trained Muraaqib under Jim Crowley battled stride for stride before the former finished first in the Euros 1.2 million Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Jewel Crown (Group 1) race. Crowley lodged a protest and a lengthy inquiry followed as the Stewards heard from Crowley and Avranche while the packed venue waited for the winner.

The Stewards' decision to reverse the top two finish meant Muraaqib, the son of Munjiz, won on his UAE debut to extend an impressive record of six Group 1 wins in his career success of 9 wins in 11 starts!

An elated Crowley said, "I was very confident going into the inquiry. I was taken off my line from the furlong mark and I received two bumps. There was no doubt it cost me the race."

Earlier HH Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the Minister of Culture, Youth, and Social Development welcomed the nearly 800 plus guests invited by the Festival from 88 countries and the large gathering of racing fans to the finale which brought the curtain down on the 2017 racing calendar of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival.

HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, HH Sheikhha Fatma Bint Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, HH Sheikhha Lateefa Bint Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to the Oman HE Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Dr. Abdulla Al Raisi, Director General of the National Archives, Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, General Manager of Wathba Stallions, Chairperson of the Int'l Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) and Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR) and ADEC Director General Adnan Sultan Al Nuaimi gave away the trophies to the winners of the five Purebred Arabian races along with other VIP guests, representatives of the Festival's sponsors, officials.

HH Sheikh Nahyan said, "We thank His Highness Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs and Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and Head of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood with whose direction this demanding event has become a wonderful tribute to the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan."

"Now entering its 10th year the Festival holds an eminent position in the world of horse racing and has taken Abu Dhabi to a global audience," he added.

Ms. Sawaya congratulated HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance on the success of Muraaqib. She also hailed the success of the race meeting and particularly that of the first ever pony international race.

The Festival's Sheikhha Lateefa Bint Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan International Pony race was the final fixture of the meeting and it was young Mia Ann Nicholls wearing the red, white and blue silks who made Britain proud with a superb win. Mia Ann Nicholls, the daughter of trainer Adrian Nicholls, racing on Silver Patch, finished ahead of the UAE's Mohammad Ahmed Al Ketbi while in third place was Ireland's Cian Shaun Murphy.

HH Sheikhha Lateefa Bint Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan gave away the trophies to the winners of this first-ever international pony race which will from next year be run as a ten-race series stopping all over the globe.

The 1600m HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship Final produced a close finish. Belgian jockey, Alice Bertiaux, a teacher by profession, landed the spoils, producing RB Inferno with a perfectly timed challenge to lead inside the final 200m.

They were never then going to be caught, running on strongly to win for Lemartinel who saddled the winner.

"I am very grateful to HH Sheikh Mansoor, HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak and everyone involved in the festival," said a delighted Bertiaux. "And of course to Monsieur Lemartinel who told me how to ride the horse. RB Inferno was in great condition to win today."

French lady jockey Ingrid Grard on Da'Areen Italian Giulia Coccia on Sanad finished second and third in the Ladies championship race.

Carrying Prestige status, the 1600m HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Apprentice Jockey Championship provided the easiest winner on the card when Denmark's Ina Toverud stormed home on AF Yatroq, representing UAE Champion Owner, Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda and completing a double for Oertel.

Oertel said, "She has ridden that race very well and has kept the horse going all the way to the line."

Russian Andrei Ivanov on Hamares and Algeria's Abderahmene Boulesbaa on AF Maher took second and third spots in the Apprentice final.



The day's opening race- the UAE Martyrs Trophy was won by the Helal Al Alawi-trained Shah Jahan De Rodaim under Pat Cosgrave.

The UAE Martyrs Cup, a 1600m conditions race and the only Thoroughbred contest on the card, was won by the Doug Watson-trained Shamaal Nibras under Pat Dobbs.



California Senate commends Year of Zayed, HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival's activities

Los Angeles, California

The highlight of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival's Darley Awards Gala Dinner held on Sunday, April 8 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel's Ballroom in Hollywood, Los Angeles was a commendation received from California State Senate.

Amidst an evening of music, dance and distribution of awards, Keith Brackpool, Chairman, of the Santa Anita Park handed a framed certificate of the California State Senate's commendation to Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, Chairperson of the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) and Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR) in the presence of HE Abdulla Al Subose, UAE Consul General in Los Angeles.

A California Senate Resolution moved by Senator Edward P. Hernandez, O.D. acknowledged and commended the efforts of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan –the Founder of the UAE and a passionate promoter of Arabian horses.

The year 2018 is being celebrated as Year of Zayed as it marks the 100th birth anniversary of the late Sheikh Zayed.

The activities of the Festival in the name of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs including the Grade I, \$100,000 HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Award Stakes for Purebred Arabian horses at Santa Anita Park, the Festival's 90-plus races around the world, its support along with Santa Anita Park for the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF) totaling \$ 275,000 over the last three years, were commended by Senate in the Members Resolution dated April 7, 2018.

The UAE envoy HE Al Subose and the Festival's Executive Director Ms. Lara Sawaya thanked the initiative by HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs and the strong support of Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and Head of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Mother of the UAE as the factors for the success of the Festival. The Gala Dinner was also the stage for the Festival to honour all the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Ladies International Award and the US Darley Award winners, representatives of the sponsors, the UAE mission in Los Angeles, the media and all those associated with the Festival.

Later Derek Thompson, the renowned horse racing commentator conducted the American Racing Cup's 28th Annual Stallion Auction of nominations of some top Arabian stallions, thanks to the donation of these breedings by their owners/stud farms.

Once again it was Munjiz topping the auction with US\$ 13,000 while the night's proceeds collected were around US\$ 40,000.

On Saturday on the sidelines of the Grade I, \$100,000 HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Award Stakes, Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and Head of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood also received a certificate of appreciation for her support to women and equestrian activities.

Apart from HE Abdulla Al Subose- UAE Consul General in California, HE Mohammed Al Suwaidi -UAE Ambassador to the Oman, Edward Hamod, Director of National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC, Mubarak Al Nuaimi, Director of Global Promotions- Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, Nadim Lahad of Emirates Airline, Khalid Al Hussein-GAYSC representative, Mohammed Abdulla of Al Massood Automobiles, Dr Stephano Daneri of Equicare Veterinary Services and American Racing Cup Stewards, US Arabian horse racing connections and over 400 guests from around the world attended the Gala Dinner.

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HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival support for disabled jockeys

ARCADIA, California

The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival and Santa Anita Park donated US \$ 50,000 to the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF) on the sidelines of the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley International Awards Stakes \$100,000 Grade 1 race which was held on Saturday, April 7 here at the Santa Anita Park racecourse in Arcadia, California. HE Abdulla Al Subose- UAE Consul General in California, HE Mohammed Al Suwaidi -UAE Ambassador to the Oman, Sheikh Hamdan Al Sharqi, Edward Hamod, Director of National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC, Mubarak Al Nuaimi, Director of Global Promotions- Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, Ahmed Al Qubeisi of Abu Dhabi Sports Council, Nadim Lahad of Emirates Airline, Mohammed Abdulla of Al Massood Automobiles, Dr Stephano Daneri of Equicare Veterinary Services, Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, General Manager of Wathba Stallions, Chairperson of the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA), Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR) were present along with the jockeys who took part in the HH Sheikhha Fatima Stakes race during the hand-over of the check to PDJF.

"In addition to promoting the Purebred Arabian horse racing around the world the Sheikh Mansoor Festival is dedicated to celebrating jockeys as some of the finest professional athletes in any sport. It gives us great pleasure to support the PDJF," said Ms. Lara Sawaya.

"We thank His Highness Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs and Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Mother of the Emirates, President of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood for their support," she added.

The PDJF is governed by an independent board comprised of stakeholders from a broad cross-section of the horse racing industry.

The mission of the PDJF is to promote awareness of the needs of permanently disabled jockeys through public advocacy; to provide financial support to permanently disabled jockeys to help defray everyday expenses associated with living with a catastrophic injury; to provide financial support and assistance in obtaining medical coverage for permanently disabled jockeys; and to promote medical research dedicated to reducing catastrophic injuries within the horse racing industry.

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HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Grade 1 Stakes at Santa Anita Park

Quick Sand AA leads 1-2-3 for trainer Torrez

Arcadia, California

A thrilling photo-finish in the HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley International Awards Stakes \$100,000 Grade 1 race which resulted in a 1-2-3 for trainer Jerenesto Torrez capped what was one of the most exciting race meetings on Saturday, April 7 here at the Santa Anita Park racecourse in Arcadia, California.

It seemed fitting that a Grade 1 Stakes race for Purebred Arabian horses named after Her Highness Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak, Mother of the Emirates, President of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood end in a brilliant win for American lady jockey Sasha Risenhoover.

Risenhoover scored her first Grade 1 win on an Arabian horse when Quick Sand AA headed a 1-2-3 finish for trainer Torrez on a superb day of racing action at Santa Anita.

It was Easter Man under Carol Cedeno which started as the one to beat in the 12-horse race which was being held under the umbrella of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival after Friday night's Darley Awards.

Torrez, who won the US Darley Award on Friday for Best Trainer in 2017, proved his class when Quick Sand AA under Risenhoover, Easter Man under Carol Cedeno and RB Nash under Keiber Coa-yet another Darley winner on Friday after being voted Best Jockey- all finishing with hardly much to separate them.

The photo gave the verdict in favour of Quick Sand AA and it was also the 27-year-old Oklahoma-based Risenhoover's biggest win and her third since starting to ride Purebred Arabians.

"It is a great feeling to win a Grade 1 race and Quick Sand AA settled in well and once we found a gap he put his heart into the race and we managed to strike," said Risenhoover.

Trainer Torrez said all three of his horses had huge potential and the winner Quick Sand AA and second-placed Easter Man were both owned by Joseph A and Betty J Gillis.

Earlier in the meeting, the 81st running of the Grade I, US\$ One million Santa Anita Derby and the other races proved a huge success on every level, as an on-track crowd of 39,023 (an eight percent increase over last year's 36,155) turned out for world class performances.

Three-time Dubai World Cup winning trainer Bob Baffert won his record eighth Santa Anita Derby with 4-5 favorite Justify, who won by three lengths over Bolt d'Oro. Ridden by Mike Smith, Justify, a striking chestnut colt by Scat Daddy, is now undefeated in three starts and looms as the probable favorite in the Grade I Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 5.

Equally as impressive was the Bill Spawr-conditioned Midnight Bisou, who rallied into the teeth of a slow pace to win the Santa Anita Oaks by 3 ½ lengths. With Smith aboard for a Grade I double, this daughter of Midnight Lute, who is a pair of noses away from being undefeated in five career starts, could be favored in the Grade I Kentucky Oaks, to be run on Friday, May 4.

HE Abdulla Al Subose- UAE Consul General in California, HE Mohammed Al Suwaidi -UAE Ambassador to the Oman, Edward Hamod, Director of National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC, Mubarak Al Nuaimi, Director of Global Promotions- Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, Ahmed Al Qubeisi of Abu Dhabi Sports Council, Nadim Lahad of Emirates Airline, Khalid Al Hussein- GAYSC representative, Mohammed Abdulla of Al Massood Automobiles, Dr Stephano Daneri of Equicare Veterinary Services, Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, General Manager of Wathba Stallions, Chairperson of the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA), Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR), American Racing Cup Stewards Michelle Morgan, Denise Gault and Sam Vasquez among others attended the prize distribution ceremony after the HH Sheikh Fatima race.



“Just to have our Festival's race alongside some of America's top thoroughbred events is a huge moment for us and that has been complemented by a fantastic finish. It has been a milestone race in the Year of Zayed and as we mark our Festival's 10th anniversary,” said Ms. Sawaya.

“As part of the Festival's promotion we also had competitions for ladies in the 'Best Overall Fashion' and 'Best Overall Hat/Fascinator.' A good number of ladies took part and the winners received gift items and also air-tickets and accommodation for trips to Spain during next month's World Arabian Horse Racing Conference and also to Abu Dhabi for the November finale of the Festival,” she said.

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UAE President's Outstanding Sporting Achievement award for HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Abu Dhabi, UAE

The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival received the UAE President's award for 'Outstanding Sporting Achievement in 2017' at the annual awards ceremony held at the Emirates Palace Hotel on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs gave away the award to Ms. Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, Chairperson of the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies (IFHRA) and Chairperson of Ladies & Apprentice Racing Committees in the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR), who received it on behalf of the Festival.

The awards are part of an initiative by UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to honour the UAE's sporting achievements every year.

Also present were HH Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister for Tolerance; Ahmed Juma Al Za'abi, Deputy Minister for Presidential Affairs; Hussain Bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education; Dr. Sultan Bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State and CEO of ADNOC Group, Major General Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Commander in Chief of Abu Dhabi Police and Chairman, General Authority for Sports and a number of senior officials.

During the ceremony, HH Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister for Tolerance, was honoured as the "Sports Figure for 2017," along with 541 athletes representing 28 sports federations.

Elated after receiving the award, Ms. Sawaya said, "This is another great success for the HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival. This recognition will spur us on to achieve more and follow the instructions of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs and Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and Head of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Mother of the UAE."

"The Festival owes its success to HH Sheikh Mansoor and HH Sheikha Fatima Bin t Mubarak," she added.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi Youth Council, General Authority for Sports and sponsored by Ayadi LLC, Global United Veterinary Services LLC, Nissan Middleeast Al Massood Automobiles, Nirvana Travels and Tourism LLC, Equicare Veterinary Services, Alawal Stud, Cavalos Equine Care & Supplies, SET Sustainable Environmental Technologies, Al Awani General Enterprises, Omeir Travels, Kabale, YAS Channel, Abu Dhabi Falconers Club, Emirates Falconers Club, Mohammed Bin Zayed Falconry and Desert Physiognomy School, Racing Post, Paris Turf, Al Wathba Centre, the UAE's General Women's Union, The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy, Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition 2018, Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, Anantara Eastern Mangroves Spa and Resort.



AUSTRALASIAN ARABIAN RACING CLUB INC.

HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian
Horse Flat Racing Festival.

One World, Six Continents

Djehlbi wins Wathba Stallions Cup in Warwick, Australia

Djehlbi, one of Australia's top Purebred Arabian horses once again showed his mettle when he made a winning comeback in the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival's Wathba Stallions Cup at the Warwick race track in Queensland on the Saturday, September 16, 2017.

Eight horses started in the race and Djehlbi, sired by Dehlbi (FR) x Djelica (FR), and owned and trained by Michelle Amos, scored a smart win under jockey Isabella Teh.

Djehlbi, a horse with strength and speed, posted an official time of 1.23.42 on his return to the race track after a year off. He is reputed to be the fastest Purebred Arabian in Australia.

The battle for second and third was keenly fought with Aloha Illusional under Jill Colwell and Ausden Prince Mahal under Debra Pickford, battling hard. Aloha Illusional finally won by a head to take second over Ausden Prince Mahal.

The Warwick Turf Club was thrilled to host the Wathba Stallions Cup on the Allora Cup Day with Secretary Kristen Doyle and President Phillip Grant taking part in the presentations.

This was another race day success for Arabian race horses with AARC in Australia and the president, Mr. Jeff Ablett, noted this occurred at a time when AARC was also honored to be invited to attend the ADIHEX Exhibition in Abu Dhabi in the UAE.



كأس الوثبة ستاليونز Wathba Stallions Cup

AARC Secretary Christine Ablett has been introduced to the incredible Arabian Culture, Food, Falconry, Camels and Ponies and Christine was given the opportunity to meet and interact with other Arabian horse owners and breeders from all over the world, thanks to the HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival.

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article: Satya/Jeff - photos: Sue Crockett and Nadine Frampton
For more information on the festival please view:
www.sheikhmansoorfestival.com

