



MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN RACES (DIAR) SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2017

Preparations are underway for the 2017 DIAR racing season in Europe. This international programme of Arabian racing is run under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Its aim is to educate more people about the Arabian breed, the sport of Arabian horse racing and the Arabic culture that underpins it. In 2016, DIAR proudly sponsored the first ever IFAHR recognised international stakes race for Arabians in Italy. The programme also expanded to incorporate Sweden for the first time. Those races were well supported and the efforts of all DIAR partners resulted in a record participation of international runners at the show-piece event at Newbury Racecourse (UK) in July.

Mirza Al Sayegh, spokesperson for the DIAR programme commented:

“Last year, we were very pleased to see so many people attending our flagship event at Newbury. The hard work of our committee and our partners has led to an increased number of international runners as well as a large crowd of racegoers and families who enjoyed what is now established as one of the best and most prestigious days of Arabian racing anywhere in the world.

“In 2017, this event will be held on Sunday 30th July and will feature a total of 5 Group and International level races, including 3 Gr.1 PA races as well as a Gr.2 PA race for 3 year olds.

“We are delighted to announce the renewal of the travel allowances for international runners competing in the races at Newbury on 30th July and the renewal of the DIAR bonus prize fund for 2017. The bonus fund encourages international runners to the UK by offering a prize money bonus to horses placed in DIAR races in their own country which then go on to win one of the bonus races at Newbury.

“Last year, a bonus of £2,000 was won by the Italian runner URGE DI GALLURA, trained by Mr Botti, who raced in the 3 year olds DIAR race in Rome in May and won impressively the Group 2 PA race at Newbury. We are hoping that other international runners will follow his footsteps this year.

“In 2017, DIAR will also raise the total prize money of the Group races by a total of £13,000.”

The programme will be visiting the UK, France, Holland, Italy and Sweden during the summer with a series of Prep Races from grass root to Group PA level.

END

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The Dubai International Arabian Races is an international programme of Arabian racing run under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Minister of Finance and Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

More information about DIAR can be found at www.diaraces.com

The dates of the 2017 Dubai International Arabian Races programme are listed below.

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| 14 th May 2017 | Capannelle Racecourse Rome, Italy | 2 Arabian races including 1 Listed PA race |
| 1 st June 2017 | Chelmsford City Racecourse UK | 2 International Arabian races |
| 10 th June 2017 | Chepstow Racecourse UK | 1 Arabian Race <i>UK domestic horses only</i> |
| 15 th June 2017 | Newbury Racecourse UK | 1 International Arabian race for 3yo only |
| 27 th June 2017 | Bro Park Racecourse Stockholm, Sweden | 4 Arabian races including 1 Group 3 PA race |
| 29 th June 2017 | Newbury Racecourse UK | 1 International Arabian race |
| 4 th July 2017 | La Teste de Buch Racecourse France | 3 International Arabian races including 2 Group PA races |
| 9 th July 2017 | Duindigt Racecourse The Netherlands | 4 Arabian races including 2 Listed PA races |
| 30th July 2017 | Newbury Racecourse UK | 8 Arabian Races including 3 Group 1 PA races and 1 Group 2 PA race |