



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

Presents



جائزة سمو الشيخة فاطمة بنت مبارك
H.H. Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak

First Race of “Sheikha Fatima” World Championships for Lady Jockeys in Oman

Partita la prima Corsa per donne fantini del Campionato del Mondo “Sheikha Fatima” in Oman

The Al Fulajj racecourse in Muscat saw the public start of the 2013 part of a great idea on January 17, 2013: this year’s first race of the HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak World Ladies Championship (IFAHR).

This is something completely new in the racing scene: a set of races for lady jockeys only, intended for amateurs, and originating in the allegedly women-restricting Arabian countries – and not only originating there, but receiving a lot of interest, attention, and acknowledgement in Arabian countries as well as internationally. Not even in Europe or the USA, regions where women usually have more of a chance to do be in the spotlights, does a comparable event exist.

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The lady jockeys collect points for their placings in the races in which they take part. They receive purses for the races and qualify, according to their total sum of points, for participation in a final race with an additional purse. It is a major event and the world looks upon the Arabian countries where this advanced idea originated.

The first leg of this richest ladies’ race of the world was held on the Omani Derby Cup day and carried a total purse of Euro 20.000. It deservedly attracted a big crowd at this beautiful location, to the delight of the organizers.

Australian lady jockey Nikita Makin partnered Qabas to glory in the opening round of the 1600m race, while UAE lady jockey Shathra Al Hajjaj partnered Wathiq (Nenuphar Al Maury x Tawam) to lodge her claim. Fatima Manji represented Oman, three riders were from Europe (Hana Jurankova from Austria, Olga Laznovska from Germany, and Sandrine Hagenbach from France) and one from the USA (Eilidh Grant).

“I’m truly delighted to land my first Arabian win and qualify for the final leg on the big night at the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club in November,” the winner said later.

The winning horse was Qabas, a six-year-old son of Simoun Ben Zid out of Zeenah, trained by Salim Al Hakamani on behalf of the Royal Cavalry Oman which had generously provided all the horses used in the race. In addition to Qabas and Wathiq, these were Mudalal (Darike x Rawabi), Al Batra’a (New-

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The Sport of the Kings – Supported by the HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival

The event is held under the directives of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, as part of the HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival.

The festival is organized by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority and co-ordinated by the Abu Dhabi Sports Council in association with Emirates Racing Authority, IFAHR and the Emirates Arabian Horse Society, supported by the General Authority for Youth and Sports Welfare and FEGENTRI, the International Federation of Gentleman and Lady Riders, which is the official organisation for amateur riders in Europe.

For the festival, there is Emirates Airline as the official carrier, while it is sponsored by Invest AD, Al Rashid Investment, Areej Al Ameerat Perfumes, Mauzan Fashion, Al Awani General Enterprises, Kabale Consultants, the UAE's General Women's

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Union, the HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy, the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition 2012, Dr. Nader Saab (Switzerland), Wathba Stud Farm, and the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club.

His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs, is an accomplished horse rider and has won a number of endurance racing tournaments held in the Middle East, and is chairman of the Emirates Horse Racing Authority. He is a strong supporter of Arabian Horse Racing, which is why he has thought of the Flat Racing Festival with races on 5 continents.

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1. **QABAS** (Simon Ben Zid x Zeenah)
owned by Royal Cavalry, rider Nikita McLean, Australia, trainer, Salim Al Hakmani;
2. **MUDALAL** (Darike x Rawabi)
owned by Royal Cavalry, Jockey Hana Jurankova, Austria, trainer, Said Al Badi;
3. **AL BATRA'A** (Newday x Mustabshirah)
Royal Cavalry, Olga Laznovska, Germany, trainer Salim Al Hakmani;
4. **HAJES** (Vertigo x Al Muhabah)
Royal Cav, Sandrine Hagenbach, France, Salim Al Hakmani;
5. **ANDALEEB** (Newday x Gagarka)
Eilidh Grant, USA.



Nikita McLean



Hana Jurankova



Sandrine Hagenbach

Olga Laznovska



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Khalid Abdulla, director of Sports Affairs at the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare, conveyed the greetings of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development and Chairman of the authority Abdul Rahman Al Owais and his best wishes to the participants.

On his part, Saif Al Rawahy from the Royal Cavalry welcomed the guests and organizers and wished the riders the best of luck. The UAE ambassador to Oman, Abdul Redha Khouri, said they are honoured to host the opening leg of the competition in Muscat. "I would like to thank our brothers in the Sultanate for the generous hospitality and warm welcome. The great support for sports in the UAE comes under the directives of the wise leadership of His Highness the President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his brother His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Lt. General HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and HH Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs," he said. "I would also like to thank His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, for his great support for the equine sport and the Purebred Arabian horse breeding and racing," he added.

There is more to the Festival than just the races. What goes under the heading of "festival" has clear-cut objectives that are intended to give direction to the breeding of Arabian horses in general:

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- Continue the considerable efforts made by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in the context of the preservation of heritage and traditions. It specifically aims to preserve heritage sports, especially equestrian sport.
- Introduce to the peoples of the world, and those interested in the importance of Arabian horses, the rich depths of UAE heritage.
- Preserve the most important pure-bred Arabian horses in the Arabian Peninsula.
- Promote Arabian horses throughout the world.
- Encourage UAE citizens to breed and buy pure-bred Arabian horses, specifically the "UAE breed" which has a large fan-base after enjoying impressive victories against imported horses.

The Ultimate Combination: IFAHR Ladies' Racing and Arabian Flat Racing Festival

Lara Sawaya, director of the HH Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Racing Festival and Head of IFAHR ladies Racing, said: "It's a historical moment for Oman to host the opening leg of the HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak World Ladies Championship IFAHR which sees 12 riders competing over a mile aboard Omani Pure-bred Arabian horses. The fifth edition of the championship will witness 12 rounds in addition to the opening leg of the HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak World Ladies Championship IFAHR and Sheikh Zayed Cup. Saudi lady jockeys will also join the championship right from the upcoming round. Two more UAE lady jockeys are now ready to take part. Hanadi Al Menhali has been approved by trainer Eric Lemartinel and the popular singer Ariyam is working hard to catch up," she said. "The festival is hosting

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68 races around the globe. It has started in 2009 with four races which were increased to 17 in 2010 and 51 in 2011 and 61 in 2012. Abu Dhabi was elected the capital of the world's women horse races by the World Arabian Horse Racing Authority IFAHR. This is the first time in which a professional lady jockey lifts the title in one of the 12 rounds of the competition and qualifies for the finals, which will in turn encourage the other riders to emulate her success," she noted. "For the finals, a special heritage tent will be set within the racecourse where six ladies will be showcasing a number of popular dishes from the UAE." Meanwhile, Mubarak Al Nuaimi, director of the Foreign Promotion Department at the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, highlighted the outstanding success of the festival at the Arabian and international arenas which eventually put the Arabian horse races in the heart of the international racing calendar. The second round was held in Huston Park, Texas, while Switzerland hosted for the first time the upcoming round of the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup on the ice on February 17.

Don't miss the next events of the series:

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17-1-2013 - Al Flajj Race Course, Muscat, Oman
 9-3-2013 - Sam Houston, Texas
 12-4-2013 - Casa Anfa, Morocco
 25-4-2013 - Flemington, Melbourne, Australia
 5-5-2013 - Hoppegarten, Berlin
 18-5-2013 - Newbury, UK
 9-6-2013 - Toulouse, France
 23-6-2013 - Duindight, Holland
 6-7-2013 - Pleasanton, California
 25-8-2013 - Slusiweic, Poland
 15-9-2013 - Täby, Sweden
 10-11-2013 - Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, Abu Dhabi

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