



Ascot Racecourse Media Release

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**Ascot to invite winners of three major South American races to Royal Ascot**

Ascot Racecourse and Latin American Racing Channel (LARC) today announce that the winners of three major South American Group 1 races will be invited to participate at Royal Ascot in June 2018.

The winners of the Latin American Group 1 El Ensayo Mega at Club Hípico de Santiago (Chile), El Derby at Valparaíso Sporting Club (Chile) and The Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini at Hipódromo de San Isidro (Argentina), will be given the opportunity to participate in The Prince of Wales's Stakes (G1) on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

The winner of each race will receive a total travelling allowance of £50,000 which will be granted once the invitation to participate is accepted and confirmed.

In 2017, Sixties Song, winner of the Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano (G1) was invited to compete in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes (sponsored by QIPCO).

Horacio Esposito, Director at the Latin American Racing Channel, said:

“This is the fourth year that LARC has been in partnership with Ascot Racecourse. This time, we have decided to offer not one, but three winners the chance of competing at Royal Ascot and showing the world the power of South American thoroughbreds.”

Nick Smith, Director of Racing & Communications at Ascot Racecourse, said:

“Working with LARC to deliver a genuinely historical event in global racing last year – the participation of Sixties Song in the King George – is something we are all very proud of.

“South America is in the conscience of the European audience now and we are pleased to have played a part in that. We are delighted to be working with the racecourses in Argentina and

Chile going forward and linking their feature races with the £750,000 Prince of Wales's Stakes, the most valuable race at Royal Ascot."

Carlos Heller Solari, President of Club Hípico de Santiago, declared how important this opportunity is to promote Chile's racing industry and that of Club Hípico internationally, commenting:

"We are working together with one of the most prestigious racecourses in the world, providing all the support, logistics and marketing that this participation requires."

Pablo Kavulakian, Director at the Latin American Racing Channel, said:

"Promoting international competition is one of our main goals at LARC. Royal Ascot is one of the finest meetings in the world, with more than 300 years of history and this partnership allows us to enhance the standard of our industry."

"It is a unique opportunity for South American horses to compete at Royal Ascot and the prestige of this association is significant", added Carlo Rossi, President of Valparaíso Sporting Club."

Miguel Crotto, President of the Institution added:

"It is a great honour for the Buenos Aires Jockey Club to accept the invitation to participate at Royal Ascot with the winner of the Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini. We are aware of the difficulties to compete in a race of this stature, but we are also aware of the need to globalize our racing industry and we are very grateful for the opportunity to accomplish such a goal."

**ENDS**

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