



WORLD'S TOP RACES OF 2017 DOMINATED BY CHAMPIONS SERIES CONTESTS

Four QIPCO British Champions Series races were today named as being among the top ten run anywhere around the world last year with Cracksman, the emphatic winner of the QIPCO Champion Stakes on QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot in October, rated the top horse in Europe.

The announcement was made at the Longines-sponsored World's Best Racehorse and World's Best Horse Race Ceremony in London this afternoon which saw QIPCO British Champions Series races account for almost a quarter of the world's top 100 races of 2017.

The King George VI & Queen Elizabeth at Ascot in July, sponsored by QIPCO, was rated the top race in the UK and the second best race in the world in 2017, while the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot, the Juddmonte International Stakes at York, and QIPCO Champion Stakes at Ascot all also made the top ten (jointly rated 7th in the world).

Thrillingly, Cracksman, rated the world's third best racehorse courtesy of his seven-length demolition of the field in the QIPCO Champion Stakes on Britain's richest raceday, remains in training in 2018 along with his stable companion Enable (rated 5th). Her 2017 Series' triumphs included the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth (sponsored by QIPCO), the Investec Oaks and Darley Yorkshire Oaks, before landing the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and there is the exciting prospect of the pair clashing in the 2018 QIPCO British Champions Series.

In addition to the John Gosden-trained pair, a further three horses who lit up the 2017 QIPCO British Champions Series make the world's top ten, including Ulysses (rated 6th), who won the Coral-Eclipse and subsequently landed the Juddmonte International, together with the Godolphin stars of Harry Angel (rated equal 7th) and victor in the 32Red Sprint Cup and Queen Anne winner, Ribchester (equal 9th) who also make the top ten of the World's best horses.

Others to have featured prominently both in the QIPCO British Champions Series and the rankings include the Aidan O'Brien trio of Highland Reel, who landed the Prince of Wales's Stakes; the QIPCO 2000 Guineas winner, Churchill and QIPCO British Champions Day winner, Order Of St George all of whom are rated joint twelfth.

Eleven countries comprise this year's list of top 100 races, representing the foremost racing events throughout the world across 39 different racecourses.

In total, almost a quarter (24) were QIPCO British Champions Series races, followed by those run in Australia (22), United States (15), Japan (12), Hong Kong (9), France (6), Ireland (4), South Africa (3), United Arab Emirates (3), Germany (2), and Canada (1).

Notes to editors:

About QIPCO British Champions Series

The QIPCO British Champions Series is designed to throw the spotlight on Britain's best Flat races and will climax on 20 October 2018 with the richest fixture in British racing history, QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot.

The Series features 35 Flat races staged at ten of the UK's leading racecourses: Ascot, Doncaster, Epsom Downs, Goodwood, Haydock Park, Newbury, Newmarket's July Course, Newmarket's Rowley Mile, Sandown Park and York.

It encompasses the top races at British racing's key festivals, including the QIPCO Guineas Festival at Newmarket, the Investec Derby Festival at Epsom, Royal Ascot, the Newmarket July Festival, The Qatar Goodwood Festival, the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival at York and the William Hill St Leger Festival at Doncaster.

The QIPCO British Champions Series comprises five easy-to-follow champion categories - Sprint, Mile, Middle Distance, Long Distance and Fillies & Mares.