

Nation's Pride eyes Bahrain glory

Champion jockey William Buick says Nation's Pride is his best chance of glory in \$1m Bahrain International Trophy

● Fourteen-horse line-up confirmed for Friday

● Godolphin's Nation's Pride heads field on ratings

TDT | Manama

The runners and riders for the 2023 Bahrain International Trophy have been confirmed and 14 horses are set to go to post in what is the strongest field yet in the race's five-year history.

The runners are headed by three-time Group 1 winner, Nation's Pride, the mount of British champion jockey William Buick, who is hoping for a change in luck in what will be his fourth attempt to win Bahrain's showpiece event.

The \$1m Bahrain International Trophy takes place this Friday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC).

The 14-runner field will be competing for a \$1m prize fund,



William Buick on Nation's Pride

and the race has attracted overseas trained horses from France, Great Britain, Ireland and the UAE, as well as two locally trained runners.

Retained as first jockey to the Godolphin operation and recently crowned British cham-

pion jockey for the second year in a row, William Buick is one of seven current or former champion jockeys from Great Britain, France or Ireland engaged to ride in the race.

In three previous attempts in the Bahrain International Tro-

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WILLIAM BUICK

phy, Buick has yet to finish closer than seventh, but he believes Nation's Pride represents his best chance yet.

Buick said: "Nation's Pride is a very good horse. He was a classy three-year-old and went into the 2021 Derby as a genuine contender but on the day he probably didn't stay. But he has always been held in high regard and he has performed really well since."

This season, Nation's Pride has won two Group 1 races, the Grosser Dallmayr-Preis-Bayerisches in July in Germany and then last month the Canadian International.

Winner

Buick added: "When he won the Group 1 in Germany, he gave me a really good feel. He beat the German Derby winner in good style. Then,

last time out in Canada, the soft ground was not to his liking, but he still won.

"He's a very straightforward horse to ride. I have not had much luck in the race previously but this fella is different, he's a mile and quarter specialist and I think he is a real good candidate.

"Nation's Pride is the best chance I have had in the Bahrain International Trophy but it is a strong line-up, a really competitive field, and on good, fast ground, you are going to need to have the margins in your favour.

"I love going to Bahrain. It is a very fair track and they do a great job with the ground and the crowd there love their racing, they're very enthusiastic. I am looking forward to it."

Charlie Appleby, trainer of Nation's Pride, also saddles Highland Avenue, while Saeed Bin Suroor's two runners, last year's Bahrain International Trophy winner Dubai Future and the Group 1 placed Real World, complete a four-strong challenge from Godolphin.

Among the horses travelling from Europe is the French Classic winning colt, Marhaba Ya Sanafi, who as well as winning a Group 1 over a mile was third in the French Derby. Representing the powerful Coolmore operation from Ireland are two horses, Point Lonsdale, trained by Aidan

O'Brien and the mount of Ryan Moore, and Above The Curve, trained by Joseph O'Brien.

The strength of the line-up combined with the quality of jockeys travelling to Bahrain for the race has delighted those who have overseen the race's development since its inception in 2019.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of REHC, said: "The Bahrain International Trophy is the showpiece event in our racing calendar. This year it is more valuable than ever and the growth of the race's stature on the world stage has been recognised with its upgrade to Group 2 status.

"The progress we have made in recent years is evident through the calibre of horses attracted and the increasing scale of international participation.

"Following an increase in the prize fund, the Bahrain International Trophy will be the first \$1million race to be run in the Kingdom and the line-up is the strongest in the race's history. We extend a warm welcome to all the connections of overseas trained horses overseas and look forward to a memorable race on Friday."

The draw to establish each runner's starting gate takes place on Wednesday evening.

Salah extends scoring streak to send Liverpool joint top of Premier League

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Liverpool moved level on points with Manchester City and Arsenal at the top of the Premier League as Mohamed Salah extended his scoring streak at Anfield with a double in a 3-0 win over Brentford yesterday.

The Egyptian took his tally for the season to 12, nine of which have come at Anfield, as Liverpool continued their perfect record at home this season.

Nine of Salah's goals have come from Darwin Nunez assists and the Uruguayan played provider to break the deadlock after being frustrated in front of goal earlier in the first half.

Twice Nunez had the ball in the net only to be ruled offside.

But his clever pass into Salah was met with a calm finish into the far corner to open the floodgates on 39 minutes.

Salah is the first player ever to score in each of Liverpool's first six home league games of a season.

Brentford had their chances as Alisson Becker was needed to make great saves to deny Ethan Pinnock and Bryan Mbeumo.

However, there was no way back for the Bees once Salah was left unmarked to head in Kostas Tsimikas' cross to the back post on the hour mark.

Diogo Jota then fired in the third 16 minutes from time as Liverpool made it nine wins and 27 goals from nine games



Liverpool's Egyptian striker #11 Mohamed Salah (C) vies with Brentford's German midfielder #27 Vitaly Janelt (R)

at Anfield in all competitions this season.

City can restore their three-point lead at the top of the table when the champions travel to Chelsea later yesterday.

Fortress Villa Park

Aston Villa made it 13 consecutive home wins in the Premier League as Unai Emery's side

eased past Fulham 3-1.

Antonee Robinson's own goal and a sweet strike from outside the box by Villa captain John McGinn put the hosts in command by half-time.

A superb counter-attack, rounded off by Ollie Watkins, secured the points midway through the second half, before Raul Jimenez pulled a goal back for Fulham.

Victory lifts Villa up to fifth and within a point of the top four.

West Ham snapped their streak of three consecutive Premier League defeats with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Nottingham Forest.

Lucas Paqueta's fine strike had given the Hammers a perfect start after three minutes, but they needed to rely on their threat from set-pieces to turn the game around in the second half.



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