

# Bahrain Turf Series prize boost!

Jamie Osborne, David O'Meara-trained horses claim £50,000 Bahrain Turf Series bonus

● European-trained horses return home with £303,800 of total £650,000 prize money on offer

TDI | Manama

Two British-trained horses have each won £25,000 after the conclusion of the second edition of the Bahrain Turf Series.

The Bahrain Turf Series, which consists of 10 races run between December and February, saw 20 European horses compete against locally trained horses for £600,000 in prize money and £50,000 of bonuses.

Of the total £650,000 prize money on offer, European-trained horses returned home with £303,800 after winning five of the 10 series races.

Following the disqualification of Hesham Al Haddad-trained racehorses from two Bahrain Turf Series racedays on December 30 and January 13, Inigo Jones has been promoted to the top of the middle distance 'Pot



Action from the Bahrain Turf Series

B', off the back of his first place finish in The Dana Cup and third place finish behind Goemon in The Vision 2030 Cup.

Inigo Jones's owner Gary Allsopp Partnership has been awarded £15,000 and his trainer Jamie Osborne £10,000. In a British clean sweep, Nomadic Empire, who won the opening sprint race of the 2022/23 Turf

Series and finished third in two further races, came out on top in 'Pot A' giving his trainer David O'Meara £10,000 and his owner Al Mohamediya Racing £15,000.

From the Bahrain Turf Series fixture on December 30, The Covex Kid, What A Welcome and Fighter Pilot had shown the presence of Harpagoside, a herbal substance prohibited on race-

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GEORGE BAKER

day, when sampled post-race during the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club's rigorous testing protocol and this was subsequently confirmed to be positive following B samples tested by LGC, Newmarket, UK.

Meanwhile, from the Bahrain Turf Series fixture on January 13, The Covex Kid and Mobaadel also were disqualified for the same prohibited substance. As a result, all five horses have been disqualified and the results of the respective races have been

## Bahrain Turf Series 2022/23 winners

(in order of race, horse, trainer, jockey)

Al Muharraq Cup, Lucander (IRE), George Baker, Pat Cosgrave

Al Manama Cup, Nomadic Empire (IRE), David O'Meara, Neil Callan

Al Riffa Cup, Dark Shadow (IRE), Osama Hashim, Hector Crouch

Al Dana Cup, Inigo Jones (GB), Jamie Osborne, Saffie Osborne

Al Adiyat Cup, Tawaareq (IRE), Hesham Al Haddad, Stephane Ladjadj

Al Wasmiya Cup, Get It (GB), George Baker, Andrea Atzeni

Anchorman Cup, King Of Conquest (GB), Charlie Appleby, Richard Mullen

Hawar Cup, Deep Intrigue (GB), Hesham Al Haddad, Anas bin Salim Al Siyabi

Al Sakhir Cup, Devaste (GB), Hesham Al Haddad, Neil Callan

Vision 2030 Cup, Goemon (GB) Haider Ebrahim, Andrea Atzeni

amended accordingly.

Lucander was the undoubted international star performer from the class of 2022/23. Bought for £60,000 in October 2022 and expertly trained by George Baker, he scooped £116,044 in prize money throughout the Bahraini season for owners Nigel Jones and Paul Bowden.

Lucander stormed to success in the opening Bahrain Turf Series race, The Muharraq Cup. He then finished fourth behind Tawaareq in The Adiyat Cup before stepping up in class to finish fourth in the Listed Crown

Prince's Cup. His final appearance of the Bahraini season was a career best as he demolished a strong field, which included last year's King's Cup winner Zagato, to win by 2 3/4-lengths and scoop a lucrative prize.

George Baker said: "The Bahrain Turf Series has been a great success once again. We will be back next year, we're committed to Bahrain. Our owners have committed to it. We've had three horses here this year, if we came back with six or seven next year that would be absolutely wonderful."

## Blow for British as Raducanu, Murray crash out in Miami

AFP | Miami

Canada's Bianca Andreescu won a first-round battle of former US Open champions, defeating Britain's Emma Raducanu 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 on Wednesday to advance to the second round of the Miami Open.

There was further bad news for Britain with two-time Miami winner Andy Murray crashing out in the first round after a 6-4, 7-5 loss to Serbia's Dusan Lajovic.

Andreescu and Raducanu,



Bianca Andreescu shakes hands at the net after her three set victory against Emma Raducanu

both born near Toronto and both of whom won the US Open as teenagers, battled for 2.5 hours in an entertaining opening to the WTA and ATP combined tournament's main draw.

Andreescu, ranked 31st in the world, struck the ball with confidence and freedom as she dominated the first set, but Ra-

ducanu regrouped and fought back in the second.

The 2021 US Open winner went 5-3 up in the set after an epic game which she secured with her seventh break point and went on to force a third set.

But Andreescu's power proved to be too much for the tiring Raducanu, who had

BETTER YOU KNOW  
Andreescu, who retired with a shoulder injury during her semi-final match at the Thailand Open in February, is still looking for her first title since the 2019 US Open

shown promising signs of an upturn in form by reaching the last 16 at Indian Wells.

"I thought it was a very good match from both sides. I think Emma played really well. I think the key for me was just sticking with it, fighting as much as I could," said Andreescu, who struck seven aces.

## World Athletics doping ban on Russia lifted, but Russians still suspended



Russian flags are seen above the podium during an athletics meet (file photo)

AFP | London

World Athletics yesterday lifted the ban on the Russian track and field federation for state-sponsored doping although its athletes remain barred from competition while Moscow's invasion of Ukraine continues.

The Russian federation (RusAF) was banned in 2015 after a damning World Anti-Doping Agency report identified "a deeply-rooted culture of doping".

For the athletics superpower to return to the fold, it had to meet a series of strict conditions including establishing a culture of zero tolerance and an effective anti-doping structure.

Just a handful of Russian athletes took part in track and field at the Tokyo Olympics, which were postponed from 2020 to 2021 because of the Covid pandemic, and they did so under a neutral flag.

A lifting of sanctions over the doping issue will have little immediate effect, however, as all Russian and Belarusian athletes have been banned from competition "for the foreseeable future" since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. That includes

YOU KNOW WHAT  
RusAF will, however, be required to comply with a set of 35 "special conditions" that are intended to ensure that RusAF's anti-doping reforms remain in place and continue to operate effectively

the option of competing as a neutral.

The decision was announced after a three-day meeting of World Athletics' decision-making Council in Monaco.

"The Council approved the Russia Taskforce's recommendation that RusAF, which has been suspended for seven years due to doping, be reinstated after meeting all the requirements of the Reinstatement plan, which has been confirmed by an independent audit," the head of the anti-doping Taskforce, Rune Andersen, said.

## Spain had 'no plan B' under ex-coach Enrique, says Aspas

AFP | Madrid

Spain striker Iago Aspas said yesterday that former coach Luis Enrique had "no plan B" which led to them being knocked out of last year's World Cup last 16.

Enrique was sacked after Spain lost on penalties to Morocco in December.

"Luis Enrique had a very clear game plan, when plan A didn't work, there was no plan B or others for the players to try and change things," Celta Vigo's Aspas told reporters.

"I was impatiently waiting for Spain to score," the 35-year-old added.



Celta Vigo's Spanish forward Iago Aspas reacts during a match (file photo)

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La Rioja, under new boss Luis de la Fuente, starts their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign on Saturday by hosting Norway.

They also face Scotland, Georgia and Cyprus in the group.