



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million**

Following the extraordinary exploits of Stradivarius last year, we are delighted to announce that the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million (WHSM) is back for 2019 and looking to bring even more attention and excitement to the Stayers' division.

On his way to scooping the £1 Million prize in 2018, Bjorn Nielsen's son of Sea The Stars achieved something remarkable and shone the brightest of lights on the merits of the Stayers with his courage, durability and will to win.

From the outset, the key objectives for specialist insurance broker Weatherbys Hamilton has been to celebrate, support and promote the staying horse - an animal that has defined the European thoroughbred for the last three hundred years. In 2018 it achieved all of these objectives and more.

Building on the success, the 2019 WHSM has been further enhanced with the introduction of four qualifying races in Dubai, Germany, France and Ireland to supplement the four British qualifiers which remain as last year.

Consequently, this means that the WHSM will be awarded to the connections of a horse that first wins one or more of eight elite staying races staged between March and May:

- Dubai Gold Cup sponsored by Al Tayer Motors (Dubai) - March 30th
- Vintage Crop Stakes (Navan) - April 28th
- Longines Sagaro Stakes (Ascot) - May 1st
- Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes (Chester) - May 9th
- Comer Group International Oleander-Rennen (Berlin-Hoppegarten) - May 12th
- Yorkshire Cup (York) - May 17th
- Matchbook Henry II Stakes (Sandown Park) - May 23rd
- Prix Vicomtesse Vigier (ParisLongchamp) - May 26th

If one of these horses can then go on, as Stradivarius did so memorably last year, to win the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot (June 20<sup>th</sup>), the Qatar Goodwood Cup at the Qatar Goodwood Festival (July 30<sup>th</sup>) and the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup at York's

Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival (August 23<sup>rd</sup>), its connections will win the £1 million prize.

As in 2018, the £1 million will be split between the connections of the successful horse, with 70% awarded to the owner and 30% divided equally between the trainer, stable staff, breeder and jockey.

The origins of thoroughbred racing are founded on the Stayer with the original match races often taking place over extended distances. The legendary Eclipse (foaled in 1764), features in almost all the pedigrees of the modern thoroughbred and he habitually raced at distances of three to four miles.

Despite the recent trend towards breeding more precocious horses for shorter distances, it is the Stayers who remain for many the real Trojans of the turf. Their battles over nearly two miles or more have made magnificent spectacles and live long in the memory. Many feel that it is imperative for the health and diversity of the European thoroughbred that these bloodlines are perpetuated and cherished and the WHSM is already playing a key part in rekindling the fortunes of the Stayer.

The races that comprise the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million have been won by horses whose names still resonate through their heroism, their toughness and the longevity of their careers. Stradivarius' achievements in 2018 entitle him to be mentioned in the same breath as Le Moss, Double Trigger, Sagaro, Ardross, Persian Punch and Yeats to name but a few. The finish of last year's Gold Cup at Ascot when Stradivarius so memorably fought off the persistent challenges of Vazirabad and Torcedor up the home straight was one of the races of the meeting and embodied everything that is so special about the Stayers.

The introduction of the four international qualifying races is designed to promote even wider interest in the WHSM and the Stayers themselves, and the prospect of there being up to eight contenders in with a chance of embarking on the winning sequence come the Gold Cup at Ascot in June is to be savoured.

Weatherbys Hamilton is a broker that specialises in the insurance requirements of private clients. In addition to its dominant position in bloodstock, it is equally strong in the insurance of farms, estates and other high net worth property and is a dynamic force in all of these areas. At a time of growing anonymity in the insurance industry, its quality of service and the attention it devotes to its clients that increasingly differentiates Weatherbys Hamilton from its competitors.

**ENDS.**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **THE PRIZE**

The WH Stayers' Million is a prize of £1 million that will be awarded to the connections of a horse that first wins one of the following eight recognised prep races between March and May:-

Dubai Gold Cup sponsored by Al Tayer Motors (Dubai), Vintage Crop Stakes (Navan), Longines Sagaro Stakes (Ascot), Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes (Chester), Comer Group International Oleander-Rennen (Berlin-Hoppegarten), Yorkshire Cup (York), Matchbook Henry II Stakes (Sandown Park), or the Prix Vicomtesse Vigier (ParisLongchamp)

If one of these winners can then go on to win the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in June, the Qatar Goodwood Cup at the Qatar Goodwood Festival in July and the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup at York's Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival in August, it will win the £1million prize.

The £1 million will be split as follows between the following connections: 70% to the owner, 7.50% to the trainer, 7.50% to the stable staff, 7.50% to the breeder and 7.50% to the jockey (split 1/3rd per race if there is a different jockey in the three principal races).

### **THE PRELIMINARY RACES**

The eight preliminary races all take place at intervals between March and May, and are recognised preparatory races for the UK season's feature staying races:

**i) Dubai Gold Cup sponsored by Al Tayer Motors: Meydan, Group 2, 2 miles, 3 year olds and up**

**30th March 2019**

First run in 2012 as part of Dubai World Cup night, it was initially a Group 3 race but has been run at Group 2 level since 2014. Won by some top stayers over the years, such as Opinion Poll and Brown Panther, the Aga Khan's Vazirabad has won the last three runnings.

**ii) Vintage Crop Stakes: Navan, Group 3, 1 mile 6 furlongs, 4 year olds and up**

**28th April 2019**

First run as a Listed race in 2003, it was run over a furlong shorter until 2011 and upgraded to Group 3 status in 2014. Aidan O'Brien has trained no less than seven winners of the race (Yeats (2007, 2008), Fame And Glory (2011, 2012), Leading Light (2014), Bondi Beach (2016), Order of St George (2018).

**iii) The Longines Sagaro Stakes: Ascot, Group 3, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up**

**1st May 2019**

Formerly known as the Paradise Stakes, it was renamed the Sagaro Stakes in 1978 after Sagaro, the winner of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in each of the preceding three seasons. Several winners of the Longines Sagaro Stakes have won the Gold Cup in the same season, the most recent being Estimate in 2013. In 2018 it was won by Torcedor before he went on lay down such a big challenge to Stradivarius in the Gold Cup, Good wood Cup and Lonsdale Cup.

**iv) The Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes: Chester, Group 3, 1 mile 5 furlongs, 4 year olds and up**

**9th May 2019**

The race is named after Ormonde, an unbeaten Triple Crown winner owned and bred by the Duke of Westminster at his Eaton Hall Stud in Cheshire. It is run during Chester's May meeting and is used as stepping stone for major races of 1 1/2 miles + later in the season. In recent years, it has been won by leading stayers such as Brown Panther and Dartmouth and in 2018 by Idaho.

**v) Comer Group International Oleander-Rennen: Berlin-Hoppegarten, Group 2, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up  
12th May 2019**

Named after Oleander, a successful German racehorse in the 1920s, it was established in 1972 with the first two running being won by Sarto. For a period, it held Listed status, it was promoted to Group 3 level in 1989 and Group 2 level in 2017. Andreas Wohler is the race's winning-most trainer (Camp David (1996, 1997), Altano (2012, 2013, 2014), Wasir (2016), Red Cardinal (2017)).

**vi) The Yorkshire Cup: York, Group 2, 1 mile 6 furlongs, 4 year olds and up  
15th May 2019**

First run in 1927, it takes place during York's Dante Festival and its winners include legendary horses such as Classic Cliché (Gold Cup at Royal Ascot winner), Kayf Tara (Dual Gold Cup at Royal Ascot winner) and Red Cadeaux (2nd 3 times in the Melbourne Cup). In 2017, it was won by the Queen's Dartmouth who was beaten by a nose in the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup in the same year and then of course in 2018 it formed the launch pad for Stradivarius' assault on the inaugural Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million.

**vii) The Matchbook Henry II Stakes: Sandown Park, Group 3, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up  
23rd May 2019**

First run in 1963 this race is an established trial for the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot and was won by Big Orange in 2017 on his way to victory in the Royal Ascot showpiece in June. Persian Punch, a winner of both the Goodwood Cup and Lonsdale Cup in 2001, won it three years in succession. Magic Circle won the race impressively in 2018 before being put away for an attempt on the Melbourne Cup later in the year.

**viii) Prix Vicomtesse Vigier: ParisLongchamp, Group 2, 1 mile 7 furlongs, 4 year olds and up  
26th May 2019**

Established in 1859, and named after the Viscountess Vigier, it was originally the second leg of a pair of races called the Prix Biennal. Such equine luminaries as Gold River, Royal Gait, Turgeon, Double Eclipse, Kayf Tara, Westerner, and American have landed the Group 2 over the years. The last three runnings have gone the way of the Alain de Royer-Dupre-trained Vazirabad which chased Stradivarius home so memorably in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in 2018.

## **THE MAIN EVENTS**

**i) Gold Cup at Royal Ascot: Ascot, Group 1, 2 miles four furlongs, 4 year olds and up  
20th June 2019**

England's most prestigious race for Stayers is the centrepiece of the Royal Meeting and was first run in 1807, sandwiched between Trafalgar and Waterloo. It has been won by owners and trainers from England, Ireland, France and Italy. Yeats won it a record four times 2006-2009.

**ii) The Qatar Goodwood Cup: Goodwood, Group 1, 2 miles, 3 year olds and up  
30th July 2019**

First run in 1808, a year after the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, it is a natural progression for the winner of that race. It takes place during the Qatar Goodwood Festival and is normally around five to six weeks after Ascot. Double Trigger won the race three times between 1995-98 - having also competed in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in three out of those four years.

### iii) **The Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup: York, Group 2, 2 miles, 3 year olds + 23rd August 2019**

Weatherbys Hamilton has sponsored the Lonsdale Cup since 2013 and it is run during the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival at the end of August. The third and final leg of the WHSM and has been won by top class stayers' such as Further Flight, Persian Punch, Celeric and Royal Rebel and is a fitting conclusion to the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million which Stradivarius won so memorably in 2018.

### **THE RECORDS**

Before Stradivarius wrote himself in to the record books in 2018 by winning the treble, the records do show a number of horses that have won both the Gold Cup and the Goodwood Cup and would presumably then have been given the chance of winning the Lonsdale Cup as well if the WHSM had been on offer. These include Le Moss (1979 & 1980), Ardross (1981), Gildoran (1984), Sadeem (1988), Double Trigger (1995) and Yeats (2006 & 2008).

In 1995 Double Trigger covered himself in further glory by also winning two of the qualifying races - the Sagaro and Henry II Stakes and finishing third in The Yorkshire Cup. He was a truly remarkable horse that embodied all the finest qualities of the Stayer.

Further Flight (1992) notched up the Goodwood Cup/Lonsdale Cup double but the horse that got closest before Stradivarius accomplished it in 2018 was Persian Punch in 2001. He was only beaten a head by Royal Rebel in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot before going on to win both the Goodwood Cup and the Lonsdale Cup.

Royal Rebel, Kayf Tara and Big Orange all won two out of three of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, Goodwood Cup and Lonsdale Cup, but not in the same year.

### **LEADING EUROPEAN STAYERS**

-leading performers from 2018 which could play a significant role in this division in 2019.

#### ***Brundtland***

Charlie Appleby / Godolphin

*Godolphin colt who has very few miles on the clock but showed he possesses talent in abundance by landing a couple of French Group 2s in the autumn. Came up slightly short in the Prix Royal-Oak but he is open to any amount of improvement and commands attention wherever he runs.*

#### ***Call The Wind***

Freddy Head / George Strawbridge

*Didn't see a racecourse until March of his four-year-old season but he quickly made up for lost time, rounding out his campaign with a hat-trick that culminated in the Group 1 Prix du Cadran. Needs to take another step forward this year, but should be capable of doing so.*

#### ***Capri***

Aidan O'Brien / Mr D. Smith, Mrs J. Magnier, Mr M. Tabor

*Numbered Stradivarius among his victims when landing a hot 2017 St Leger, but he didn't really get the opportunity to show his true colours last season when campaigned over middle distances. Very interesting if Aidan O'Brien attempts to stretch him out to staying trips.*

**Count Octave**

Andrew Balding / Qatar Racing Limited

*Made Stradivarius pull out all the stops in the 2017 Queen's Vase and while he hasn't made the same progress since, he again chased home John Gosden's superstar when last seen in the Lonsdale Cup at York. He should continue to pay his way, though for all that the very top races may be beyond him.*

**Cross Counter**

Charlie Appleby / Godolphin

*Very progressive young stayer who made history by becoming the first British-trained winner of the Melbourne Cup, giving Godolphin their first victory in the Flemington feature in the process. Capable of taking his game to an even higher level this term.*

**Cypress Creek**

Aidan O'Brien / Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith & Mrs John Magnier

*Won the Group 3 Loughbrown Stakes at Naas last September to prove his ability to see out two miles but he came up short in the Irish St Leger, as well as in the Long Distance Cup on Champions Day. He needs to have improved significantly during the winter to trouble the top stayers.*

**Dee Ex Bee**

Mark Johnston / Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum

*Runner-up in the Derby at Epsom last year and could develop into a smart stayer this year judged on his fourth-placed effort in the St Leger at Doncaster last September. Still has time on his side and he'll appreciate ground yielding some cut. One very much to keep an eye on.*

**Flag Of Honour**

Aidan O'Brien / Mrs John Magnier & Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith

*Showed that stamina is his forte from an early age and after justifying favouritism in the Irish St Leger, a busy campaign may have taken its toll at Ascot and Chantilly afterwards. With another year on his back to strengthen up, he is a force to be reckoned with in the staying division.*

**Ice Breeze**

Pascal Bary/ K. Abdullah

*A five-year-old who doesn't have many miles on the clock and beat the mighty Vazirabad in the 2017 Prix Royal-Oak at Saint-Cloud. His form last year wasn't as strong but he cannot be given up on as there could be more to come.*

**Idaho**

Aidan O'Brien / Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith & Mrs John Magnier

*Won well at Chester last year but struggled thereafter, finishing behind Stradivarius at Goodwood and York. Aidan O'Brien's dual Group 2 scorer isn't exposed over staying trips though, and cannot be dismissed in such races this year given his connections.*

**Kew Gardens**

Aidan O'Brien / Derrick Smith & Mrs John Magnier & Michael Tabor

*Top-flight triumphs in the Grand Prix de Paris and St Leger stamped him as one of the best of last year's Classic generation, and he was far from disgraced in the Arc on his final appearance. Very interesting addition to the staying scene.*

### **Magic Circle**

Ian Williams / Dr Marwan Koukash

*After running away with the Chester Cup, he successfully bridged the gap to Group company with an impressive display in the Henry II at Sandown. His powder was then kept dry for the Melbourne Cup, which was all too much for him, but there could still be more to come.*

### **Rekindling**

Joseph Patrick O'Brien / Mr Lloyd J. Williams

*Classy three-year-old for Joseph O'Brien, whose decision to send him Down Under for the Melbourne Cup was rewarded when he registered a memorable triumph. Off since November 2017 and kept in Australia for a while, but now sent back to Ireland and he has more in the locker.*

### **Sir Erec**

Joseph O'Brien / John P. McManus

*Progressive on the Flat for Aidan O'Brien, finishing a very creditable third behind top stayer and WH Stayers' Million winner Stradivarius in the Qipco British Champions Long Distance Cup at Ascot last October. Unexposed on the level and has since joined the Joseph O'Brien stable, for which he has won both starts over hurdles including in Grade 1 company at Leopardstown. The four-year-old is favourite for the Triumph Hurdle at this year's Cheltenham Festival.*

### **Southern France**

Aidan O'Brien / Derrick Smith & Mrs John Magnier & Michael Tabor

*Lightly-raced colt who outran odds of 20-1 to make the frame in the St Leger at Doncaster. Should have been a handicap snip off a mark of 107 in the Cesarewitch following that but he could only manage a well-beaten seventh at Newmarket. Still has time on his side though.*

### **Stradivarius**

John Gosden / Mr B. E. Nielsen

*Confirmed the promise of his excellent three-year-old campaign by rising to the top of the staying tree in 2018, going unbeaten and claiming the WH Stayers' Million in the process. Great news that he stays in training and he sets the standard they all must aspire to again.*

### **Thomas Hobson**

Willie Mullins / Mrs S. Ricci

*Has won plenty of races on the Flat and over hurdles and he gave Stradivarius most to think about in the Long Distance Cup at Ascot last October. That came after a ready success in the Group 2 Doncaster Cup Stakes and the 2017 Royal Ascot winner is versatile in regard to trip.*

### **Torcedor**

Andreas Wohler / Australian Bloodstock Stable

*Developed into a high-class stayer under the expert eye of Jessica Harrington, winning the Sagaro Stakes before honourable efforts in the Ascot Gold Cup and Goodwood Cup. Joined the Andreas Wohler team and flopped in a German Group 1 over a mile and a half, but he remains a stayer of significant quality.*

### **Vazirabad**

Alain de Royer-Dupré / H.H. Aga Khan

*Grand servant to connections over the years, with three Dubai Gold Cups, a couple of Prix Royal-Oaks and a Prix du Cadran under his belt. Found only Stradivarius too strong*

on his first visit to Britain in last year's Ascot Gold Cup and, for all that he is seven now, he could still teach the younger stayers a thing or two.

### **Weekender**

John Gosden / K. Abdullah

*Nothing if not consistent with his third in last year's Irish St. Leger at the Curragh a particularly strong piece of form. Struggled over 1m4f at Newbury when last sighted but he is better over further and is entitled to have improved again over the winter after a gelding operation. Needs to take another step forward this year but he is in the right hands to do just that.*

### **Young Rascal**

William Haggas/ Bernard Kantor

*Remains to be seen whether he will be campaigned over staying trips but he is unexposed and was deemed good enough to run in last year's Derby at Epsom. Entitled to have improved again from three to four years and the ground is very much the key to him, with connections keen to avoid good to firm. A likeable type representing a top yard.*

## **QUOTES**

**Charles Hamilton**, Chief Executive of Weatherbys Hamilton said:

*"From the moment that Stradivarius crossed the line in the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup at York last year, it was always our intention to continue with the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million in 2019 if we possibly could, given the phenomenally successful way in which it drew attention to the Stayers. It is very gratifying to be closely associated with a group of horses whose survival is so vital to the health and diversity of the racing and breeding industries and to witness the effect that the Million has had in promoting them. It is terrific news that Stradivarius stays in training and I can't wait for the 2019 series to unfold. The Million is undoubtedly a very stiff challenge but the sight of the magnificent Stradivarius locking horns with a new raft of challengers will hopefully prove one of the highlights of the coming season."*

**Bjorn Nielsen**, Owner of Stradivarius said:

*"We're looking forward to the challenge of the Weatherbys Hamilton Million but it'll be one race at a time again like last year. The plan, everything being right, is probably to get him started in the Yorkshire Cup and then go from there. It's an incredibly difficult feat to pull off winning the Million, and you need all the luck with health and everything else that goes with it. It'll be good to see Stradivarius back in action and we'll see if he can be as good as he was last year."*

### **Industry**

**Ruth Quinn**, Director of International Racing and Racing Development, British Horseracing Authority said:

*"It is great news that the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million is back for 2019 after such a hugely successful first year. Stradivarius' extraordinary accomplishments last season saw him become something of a poster boy for the cross-industry efforts being led by the BHA to protect and promote stayers, and anything that can be done to promote this vitally important section of the thoroughbred population should be welcomed."*

**Julian Richmond Watson**, Chairman of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association said:

*"We are delighted that Weatherbys Hamilton is running the Stayers' Million for a second consecutive year. Stradivarius was a hugely popular winner of the inaugural prize and the initiative rightly highlighted the sport's leading staying horses through the extensive*



media coverage. The opportunities in the race programme for stayers' continue to develop and we hope that in tandem with the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million, this provides an incentive to produce horses that compete at ten furlongs and beyond.

*"It is also heartening to see the expansion of qualifying races to racecourses overseas, which can only assist the racing and breeding organisations operating in those countries to protect the staying horse, the diversity of their racing programme and will encourage their best horses to take up the challenge and race here in Great Britain."*

### **Trainers**

**John Gosden** said:

*"The Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million is a very bold and imaginative initiative to support the elite staying horse in Europe. It certainly captured the imagination in its inaugural year and the inclusion this time of four international Group races in the initial stages of the challenge, can only build on the momentum that is promoting such a vital part of the racing and breeding programme. Stradivarius is happy and well and looking forward to defending his title."*

**Mark Johnston** said:

*"Stradivarius winning the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers Million in the very first year of the initiative confirmed that this is a very achievable objective for a top class horse, showed that you don't have to take a horse like that to Australia to win a seven figure sum, and hopefully ensured that the staying division will grow in strength and that these top prizes will not be left to a small handful of horses."*

### **Racecourses**

**William Derby**, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Course at York Racecourse, said:

*"We are delighted to be twice part of the WH Stayers' Million with both the Yorkshire Cup as one of the now international preliminary races and the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup remaining as the anchor leg. Everyone who witnessed Stradivarius last year could see quite what a truly remarkable horse he was, achieving a truly remarkable feat. The prospect of a repeat performance or indeed a newly discovered top stayer coming to the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival with a live chance of collecting not only the prize fund but a £1m bonus would set up another fantastic occasion."*

**Nick Smith**, Director of Racing and Communications, Ascot Racecourse, said:

*"The Weatherbys Hamilton Million proved a great addition to the Stayers' programme in 2018 and played a big part in determining the programme for Stradivarius, who went on to land the prize in the Lonsdale. We are delighted to have the LONGINES Sagaro Stakes and the Gold Cup in the series again this year and welcome the addition of the new races around the world."*

**Richard Thomas**, Chief Executive, Chester Racecourse, said:

*We are enthusiastic supporters of the efforts to promote the programme for staying horses and it's fantastic that this initiative from Weatherbys Hamilton is being continued for 2019. The Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes is one of the key races at our May Festival and we are delighted it has once again been included in this bonus."*

**Alex Eade**, General Manager, Goodwood Racecourse, said:

*"We're delighted to be part of this excellent initiative again and grateful to Weatherbys Hamilton for supporting it. Come July, we will all be hoping to see the fantastic Stradivarius going for an unprecedented third consecutive Qatar Goodwood Cup victory."*

**Andrew Cooper**, Clerk of the Course and Head of Racing at Sandown Park, said:

*“This proved a brilliant and successful initiative in 2018, and Sandown Park is delighted that the Matchbook Henry II Stakes remains part of it for 2019. Good luck to all connections who go for it this season.”*

**John Osborne**, CEO of HRI Racecourses, said:

*“The Vintage Crop at Navan features on the CV of such legendary stayers as Yeats, Kastoria, Alandi, Fame And Glory, Voleuse de Coeurs and Order of St George. It is safe to say that any of those Group 1 winners would have been tempted by the Weatherbys Hamilton £1,000,000 bonus and it is exciting to have Navan racecourse as a starting point for that journey this year.”*

**Gerhard Schöningh**, Owner and Chairman of Berlin-Hoppegarten, said:

*“The Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers’ Million was hugely successful in shining a deserved light on racing’s staying horses last year and I am thrilled that Berlin-Hoppegarten will be hosting one of the contests qualifying races this year. It fits in well with our aims to put Hoppegarten on the map internationally and to upgrade the quality of our racing.*

*“The Group 2 Comer Group International Oleander-Rennen is Germany’s foremost staying event and has been won by some top horses over the years. Andreas Wohler has trained the winners of five out of the last seven runnings and now trains Torcedor who was a close third then second to Stradivarius in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot and Goodwood Cup last year. Perhaps he may get even closer this time around!”*

**Olivier Delloye**, Director General of France Galop, said:

*“France Galop is delighted that the Gr2 Prix Vicomtesse Vigier be part of the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers’ Million Challenge. Since the European Pattern Committee took a number of initiatives to enhance the program for the better stayers, it is great that other countries like France be involved in the Stayers’ Million which perfectly symbolises our common desire to promote the long distance races in Europe. The Prix Vicomtesse Vigier raced at ParisLongchamp produced high class stayers like Vazirabad, Americain or Westerner. We can only hope the winner of that race will manage to follow Stradivarius’ fantastic achievement!”*

**Frank Gabriel**, Executive Director of Dubai Racing Club, said:

*“We are delighted that the Dubai Gold Cup has been included as part on the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers’ Million which was such a huge success in its first year. We are fully aware of the importance of diversity in the thoroughbred which obviously has its origins in the Middle-East from centuries ago. The Dubai Gold Cup has been won by top class Stayers which have gone on to show their qualities on the international racing stage and we expect this year’s winner to be no different in playing a major part in leading staying events in Europe this year.”*

## **ABOUT WEATHERBYS HAMILTON**

Weatherbys Hamilton is an insurance broker specialising in the requirements of bloodstock owners and those of farms and estates and high net worth properties. It is a market leader in all the areas that it operates and brings a very high level of expertise to everything that it does.

Weatherbys Hamilton looks after its clients from its five offices in Newmarket, London, Wellingborough, Swindon and Penrith and provides them with an exceptional level of service. It is a partnership with Weatherbys Bank, the family owned private bank, and is led by Charles Hamilton and his partners.