

Simsir claims stunning victory

Locally trained four-year-old holds off competition to claim £500,000 Bahrain International Trophy at REHC

● REHC High Committee deputy chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa was in attendance at the event

● REHC High Committee member His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa lifted the Bahrain International Trophy in an awarding ceremony alongside trainer Fawzi Nass



REHC High Committee member HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa with the Bahrain International Trophy alongside Fawzi Nass

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Locally trained Simsir held off the fast-finishing Global Giant and Sovereign to claim the second-ever running of the £500,000 Bahrain International Trophy yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC).

REHC High Committee deputy chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa was in attendance.

Simsir, trained by Fawzi Nass in the stables next to the Sakhr racecourse, was ridden by Scotsman Lee Newman, and was having his first run in Bahrain after being bought out of Michael Halford's yard in the Autumn.

Global Giant under Frankie

”
I took the bull by the horns at the five-furlong pole and kicked on from there. It's a track that you can do that at if your horse is a galloper, and he is that

WINNING JOCKEY LEE NEWMAN

Debbi just came up short in his attempt to reel in the win in the last furlong, and in doing so finished as runner-up for HH Shaikh Isa and John Gosden.

2019 Irish Derby hero Sovereign (Aidan O'Brien/Ryan

Moore) also rallied late, but the triumphant son of Zoffany just held on under an inspired ride from Newman.

Nass also ran the better-fancied Port Lions, who finished fourth.

Nass was thrilled to win the high-profile event for Victorious Racing and was quick to praise his jockey.

Nass said: "To win such an amazing race is an absolute thrill. He has done it so bravely. Mick Halford always assured me that he likes it firm and he was right. For me, it was the jockey's race. I thought he committed early in the straight, but he proved me wrong."

Newman, who was Champion



Simsir claims the win by the narrowest of margins



Simsir, trained by Fawzi Nass and ridden yesterday by Scotsman Lee Newman, was having his first run in Bahrain after being bought out of Michael Halford's yard in the Autumn



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the races yesterday

Final finishing positions

- 1 Simsir, Winning time 2:00.285
- 2 Global Giant, Margin: neck
- 3 Sovereign, nose
- 4 Port Lions, 1-1/4 L
- 5 Lord Glitters, sh. head
- 6 Certain Lad, 1-1/4 L
- 7 Loxley, nose
- 8 Deirdre, head
- 9 Bangkok, 1/2 L
- 10 What A Welcome, neck
- 11 Dream Castle, 1-1/4 L
- 12 Desert Encounter, 3 L
- 13 Coolagh Forest, 1 L
- 14 Lady Wannabe, 18 L

Apprentice in the UK in 2000, had broken his back and his neck in a career that has spanned across the globe, and was very appreciative of getting the call-up from Nass.

Newman said: "I took the bull by the horns at the five-furlong pole and kicked on from there. It's a track that you can do that

at if your horse is a galloper, and he is that.

"It is down to Fawzi for putting his trust in me as he could have asked any jockey from anywhere in the world, but he asked me. I am delighted."

Deirdre, who was making her

final start under Hollie Doyle, finished eighth.

REHC High Committee member His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa lifted the Bahrain International Trophy in an awarding ceremony alongside Nass.



The participating jockeys prior to the race

Victorious-owned horses win three more cups

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Victorious had additional reasons to celebrate yesterday, aside from Simsir winning the second edition of the Bahrain International Trophy at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC).

Victorious-owned horses won three of the other six cups in the day's seven-race card, including one Bapco Cup and two Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) Cups.

Victorious' Bapco Cup was claimed in yesterday's sixth race, in which Buffer Zone took first place after running the



Action from yesterday's races at REHC

five-furlong straight in 57.771 seconds. The Hesham Al Haddad-trained five-year-old was ridden by David Egan. Koncheck came second by a length while Roman River was third.

The two Bahrain EDB Cups were claimed in the fourth and first races by Victorious-owned horses.

In race number four, Macaque was in first place after completing the eight-furlong distance in 1:35.195. Trained by Al Haddad, Macaque was ridden by Abdulla Faisal. Mushtaq and Beauchamp Bagenal were second and third, respectively.

In the first race, Tuwaisaan 1762,

trained by Yousif Taher and ridden by Abdulla Faisal, won over six furlongs in 1:23.662. Al Saqlaawy 1772 was the runner-up while Al Mloesh 1748 came third.

Elsewhere yesterday, Al Tariq was the winner in the fifth race to claim a Batelco Cup for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Al Haddad and Adrie De Vries; Alejandro was first in race three for the other Batelco Cup representing Al Adiyat Racing, Alan Smith and Andre Atzeni; and Saheel clinched yesterday's other Bapco Cup in race two for His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Abdulla Faisal.

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