

TBA STATISTICAL AWARDS FOR 2017

The Queen's Silver Cup -

Darley

In a year of change for Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stud, one constant was its retention of the award for the leading British-based Flat breeder for a fifth year in succession.

Earnings in GB and Ireland determine the award, and it is worth noting that horses registered in the name of Darley secured that top place with Godolphin in fourth place. In January 2016, the Sheikh's racing and breeding operations were merged under the Godolphin banner with the Darley name retained as a brand to promote his stallions.

Sheikh Mohammed's bloodstock operation is the biggest the sport has seen, and has 2,000 racehorses stabled in Britain, Ireland, the United States, Japan, Australia and Dubai. Its breeding arm includes 2,500 breeding stock, stallions on four continents, and employs 1,500 staff.

The highlight on the domestic scene in 2017 was the victory of Nezuwaah in the Group 1 Pretty Polly Stakes at the Curragh. However, that does scant justice to the global reach of the operation, which saw Darley-bred runners triumph in Group and Grade 1 races around the world.

A Breeders' Cup double at Del Mar gave the stud its most successful day of the year, Wuheida winning the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf and Talsmanic the Breeders' Cup Turf.

BBA Silver Cigar Box and Barnesyhorpe Stud Silver Cup -

Dubawi

The son of Dubai Millennium added further lustre to his outstanding record by heading both the prize-money list and individual winners list for British-based stallions. This was the fifth consecutive year he topped the prize-money list, holding off a strong late challenge from Frankel, the stallion most likely to challenge his domestic hegemony in the future.

Both belong to a small group of elite stallions who are judged by their international success at the highest level. In that respect, 2017 was another



Tweenhills Farm and Stud resident Havana Gold was the leading British first-season sire

outstanding year for Darley's flagship stallion with eight Group 1 winners, all from his northern hemisphere crops.

Highlights included Wuheida's victory at the Breeders' Cup, and first-time Group 1 wins for Zarak (Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud) and Bateel (Prix Vermelle).

With an eye to the future, perhaps the most significant addition was Wild Illusion's success in the Prix Marcel Boussac, a second successive victory in the two-year-old championship race for a daughter of Dubawi, following Wuheida's 2016 triumph.

The increasing impact of Dubawi's juveniles - 33 individual winners including four Group winners in 2017 - complements the long recognised soundness and durability he imparts, with two members of his first crop (Prince Bishop and Lucky Nine) winning Group 1 races at the age of seven.

Tattersalls' Silver Salver -

Havana Gold

Once again it was the award for the leading British-based first-season sire which prevented a Darley clean sweep. The winner this time is Havana Gold, who stands at Tweenhills Farm and Stud in the ownership of Qatar Racing.

The son of Teofilo out of the good

sprinter Jessica's Dream was a Group 3 winner at two and enjoyed his finest hour the following season when winning the Group 1 Prix Jean Prat at Chantilly.

His first crop of 104 foals combined quality with quantity, finishing the year with 24 individual winners in Europe that included two Group winners.

The best of these was Havana Grey, who in a busy first campaign took in most of the major two-year-old sprint prizes, winning the Group 3 Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood and finishing runner-up in the Group 1 Prix Morny at Deauville and the Group 2 Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster.

Treasuring, who ran in the colours of Qatar Racing, provided a second pattern success when winning the Group 3 Curragh Stakes in August, and Headway was placed twice in Group 2 company, finishing second in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot and third in the Gimcrack Stakes at York.

Unsurprisingly, after such a fast start and with his second crop of yearlings in strong demand at the sales, Havana Gold's fee for 2018 has more than doubled from £7,000 to £15,000. He stood his first three seasons at £8,500.

The awards cover the calendar year 2017 and relate to racing in Great Britain and Ireland only.