

Top jockeys Yutaka Take and Yuichi Fukunaga to compete in upcoming Shergar Cup

Japan Racing Association, London Representative Office

This August, Japanese jockeys Yutaka Take and Yuichi Fukunaga will both be representing Japan in the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup at Ascot Racecourse.

The Shergar Cup is a unique team competition where some of the world's top jockeys battle against each other in a thrilling six-race showdown. Come see some of the best jockey's in the world take part in this fantastic event.

There will be an array of fun activities to keep the whole family entertained, and after racing there will be a concert boasting some of Britain's favourite musical acts. Racegoers can look forward to singing along to Chesney Hawkes, Bewitched, and Scouting for Girls, and more top bands.

Shergar Cup

Saturday 9th August. Ascot Racecourse

Gates Open: 11.00am First Race: TBC

The Shergar Cup was first held in 1999 at Goodwood Racecourse, but has been hosted at Ascot since 2000. Up until now 7 top Japanese jockeys have taken part in the Shergar Cup. This year will be Yutaka Take's seventh appearance and Yuichi Fukunaga will be taking part for the second time. Furthermore, this is the first year that two Japanese jockeys have been invited to compete at the same time. There will be four teams consisting of Great Britain and Ireland, Europe, the Rest of the World, and The Girls team. Both Yutaka Take and Yuichi Fukunaga will be riding for the Rest of the World team, along with S'manga Khumalo from South Africa. Each team has 3 jockeys, who will each ride in five of the six races and receive points for his/her team according to the position they finish in.

Yutaka Take

Yutaka Take made his debut in 1987 and is now a veteran with over 27 years of racing experience. During this time he has broken countless records, and is considered to be a Japanese racing legend. He often appears on national television in Japan and is well known even by those who are not familiar with racing. In the United Kingdom, in addition to winning the July Cup (G1) with Agnes World in 2000, Yutaka has had 4 successes in the Shergar Cup. As of July 13th, he has won a staggering 3,561 races including 291 Group races in the JRA to date. In addition, in September 2010 Yutaka became President of the Japan Jockey Club.



Yuichi Fukunaga

Yuichi Fukunaga debuted in 1996 and attracted attention as he is the son of 'racing genius' Yoichi Fukunaga. Yuichi's debut was also notable for him consecutively winning his first two races. Since then, he has continued to place highly and in 2011 he fulfilled his dream of becoming the top ranking jockey in Japan. Furthermore, he has given a strong performance in the big international races and has had a total of five victories in Hong Kong, the USA, and Dubai. Earlier this year, Yuichi rode Japanese horse Just A Way to a strong victory in the Dubai Duty Free, enabling the



horse to achieve a world number 1 ranking. As of July 13th, he has won 1,644 races including 105 Group races in the JRA. He also became Vice President of the Japan Jockey Club in September 2010.

Ascot Racecourse is offering admission tickets at a specially discounted price of £35 per person for Premier Admission (normally £45) and £20 per person for Grandstand Admission (normally £30).

To claim the discount, call 0844 346 3000 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday or visit <http://www.ascot.co.uk/>, quoting promotional code **JRA2014**. Tickets cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Max 4 tickets per order.

For enquiries, please contact Yuichi Goto/ Kei Fujimura at the Japan Racing Association London Representative Office:

Email: jralon@jrauk.com **Tel:** 020 7437 5053

***Yutaka Take had to withdraw from this year's Shergar Cup due to an injury which was sustained in a fall during a race in Japan on 20th July. Yuichi Fukunaga will still take part as planned. (This information was confirmed on 23rd July)**