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## HH THE PRESIDENT OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ENDURANCE CUP: AL WATHBA GETS IT'S 10TH STAR

9/02/2025

The **26th edition** of **HH The President of United Arab Emirates Endurance Cup** took place on Sunday, **February 9**, 2025, at the **Emirates International Endurance Village in Al Wathba.** This prestigious **160-kilometer race**, held under the patronage of **His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, attracted **elite riders from the UAE, GCC, and other countries.** 

The event was divided into six stages, covering distances of 40 km, 28 km, 28 km, 24 km, 20 km, and 20 km, respectively. Emirati riders have historically dominated this championship, securing all top positions over its 25-year history. Notably, rider Sultan Ahmed Al Balushi has won the title three times, while riders Sharif Mohammed Abdullah, Saeed Al Muhairi, and Khalifa Al Jahouri have each claimed it twice. Al Wathba Stables holds the record for the most wins, with ten titles to their name.

The **official opening ceremony** featured a variety of performances by **heritage groups and equestrians**, along with a **documentary film about the village and the championship**. Additionally, an **operetta** comprising poetic verses **about horses and horsemanship** was presented, and partners were honored.

The **Emirates International Endurance Village** had completed all necessary preparations to organize and host the race, ensuring a successful event for all participants and attendees.



The event attracted elite riders from various countries, including the Royal Endurance Team from Bahrain, led by His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Masa Adnan Tonbakji achieved a significant milestone by winning the 26th edition of the President's Cup for Endurance. Riding LCE SACHMO for Al Wathba Stables, she completed the challenging 160-kilometer race in 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 39 seconds.

This victory adds to Masa's impressive record in endurance riding, and also to Al Wathba Stables's legacy.

### THE PRESIDENT CUP WEEK:

## INTERNATIONAL ENDURANCE FORUM

11-13/02/2025

The buildup to the President's Cup was marked by a series of conferences and seminars aimed at enriching the endurance riding community. Experts, veterinarians, trainers, and riders gathered to discuss horse welfare, advancements in endurance training, and the future of sustainable equestrian events. Key topics included:

- The Evolution of Endurance Racing: A panel featuring top trainers and former champions analyzed how the sport has grown in the UAE and internationally.
- **Veterinary Innovations in Endurance Sports**: Experts presented breakthroughs in horse recovery techniques, hydration strategies, and injury prevention.
- Sustainability in Equestrian Sports: In alignment with the UAE's vision for a greener future, a dedicated seminar explored eco-friendly event practices, including the innovative use of plastic bottles in venue construction, as seen in the new sustainable press room.

These sessions provided invaluable insights and helped reinforce the UAE's role as a leader in endurance racing.

