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CHURCHILL DOWNS CELEBRATES 150TH KENTUCKY DERBY AT ROYAL ASCOT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, June 22, 2023) – Churchill Downs Racetrack is celebrating its upcoming 150th Kentucky Derby by highlighting the rich history of the iconic race at the five-day Royal Ascot race meet that concludes Saturday. For the first time at Ascot Racecourse, racing enthusiasts have been able to experience the legendary traditions of the Kentucky Derby through an experiential activation in the Queen Anne Enclosure. Guests have been able to enjoy signature Mint Juleps, witness the Kentucky Derby trophy on display and photograph themselves among a rose-filled backdrop.

“We are thrilled to highlight the Kentucky Derby internationally at Royal Ascot,” said Casey Ramage, Vice President of Marketing and Partnerships at Churchill Downs Racetrack. “Our storied history was inspired by English horse racing, so to begin celebrating our 150th anniversary at Ascot Racecourse is a meaningful honor.”

The Kentucky Derby’s history began in 1872 when Meriwether Lewis Clark, grandson of William Clark of the famed pair Lewis and Clark, attended the Epsom Derby in England. Inspired by his experiences, Clark returned determined to create a similar horse racing event in the United States. On May 17, 1875, the Louisville Jockey Club – now known as Churchill Downs – hosted the first Kentucky Derby with 15 horses, including winner Aristides, and more than 10,000 spectators.

Today, the Kentucky Derby is the longest continually-run annual sporting event in the United States enduring pivotal moments in history from World Wars I and II, the Great Depression and global pandemics.

The 150th Kentucky Derby will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

About the Kentucky Derby

The \$3 million Kentucky Derby takes place on the first Saturday in May at historic Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. Inaugurated in 1875, the legendary 1 ¼-mile race for 3-year-olds is the longest continually-held major sporting event in the United States and the first leg of horse racing’s Triple Crown series. Also known as “The Run for the Roses®” and “The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports®,” the Kentucky Derby is the most attended horse race in the nation. The 150th Kentucky Derby will take place on May 4, 2024. For more information, please visit www.KentuckyDerby.com.

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