



Line-up announced for 2026 Markel Magnolia Cup, supporting Education Above All Foundation

- Line-up of remarkable women announced for 2026 Markel Magnolia Cup.
- Money raised from the race will go to global Education Above All Foundation.
- Markel Magnolia Cup will take place on Thursday 30 July during Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar.
- Tickets and hospitality available at [goodwood.com](https://www.goodwood.com).

Goodwood Racecourse is delighted to announce an inspirational line-up of riders for this year's Markel Magnolia Cup, raising money for Education Above All Foundation.

Representing a wide range of backgrounds, these women have taken on the immense challenge of preparing for a competitive horserace. Their journey has demanded early mornings riding out, rigorous jockey fitness tests, assessments at the British Racing School and months of dedicated training to ensure they are ready for race day.

This year's field includes an exceptional group of riders whose resilience extends well beyond the saddle. Among them are a breast cancer survivor, a microsurgeon specialising in reconstruction for women following cancer treatment, businesswomen, media personalities, a Riding A Dream Academy graduate and several international competitors.

Ladies' Day on Thursday 30 July will see the culmination of this remarkable journey, as the 12 amateur jockeys line-up under starter's orders and race down Goodwood's famous home straight during the Qatar Goodwood Festival.

The charity race has raised more than £3.5 million since its launch in 2011, supporting children and female focused charities, while continuing to break boundaries for women in racing.

This year, the race will raise funds for Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a global education non-profit. The foundation transforms the lives of children and young people affected by poverty, conflict and disaster through education and employment opportunities and has supported more than 18 million children and young people across 77 countries since it was established in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

The jockeys in training for the 2026 Markel Magnolia Cup:

- **Alice Hawker** - Bloodstock assistant underwriter for Markel International
- **Araminta Reed** - Motorsport content creator
- **Charlotte Littlefield** - Australian racehorse trainer and broadcaster
- **Gemma Owen** - TV presenter and dressage rider
- **Iiona Wells** – Overcame double hip resurfacing and repair for impingement and a double mastectomy, works in veterinary technology
- **Imaan Rasul-Healer (Reserve)** - Works in racing industry in Newmarket
- **Jasmine Watts** - Construction loss adjuster in London
- **Joanna Bovis** - Reconstructive microsurgeon at The Royal Marsden Hospital
- **Molly Hunter** - Sports and horseracing reporter at Press Association
- **Nermina Pieters-Mekic** - *Real Housewives of Cheshire* star, recently overcome breast cancer
- **Ruth Inman** - Riding A Dream Academy graduate
- **Victoria Wang** - Bloodstock agent based in Australia and China
- **Zoey Schorsch** - Executive for Audrain Group and creative director of ZDS Creative in US
- **Bryony Harris (Reserve)** - Partnerships manager at Worcester Cricket Club and part-time rider for Dan Skelton

The Duke of Richmond said: “We are very much looking forward to supporting Education Above All Foundation as the charity partner of this year's Markel Magnolia Cup. Over the past 15 years, the Markel Magnolia Cup has become a powerful force for real and lasting change, championing women and raising more than £3.5 million for vital causes.

“I am confident that the generosity of our partners, sponsors and racegoers, as well as the dedication and commitment of our riders, will allow us to deliver meaningful support to Education Above All Foundation. We wish this year’s riders all the best in their training and look forward to seeing them race down Goodwood’s home straight in July.”

Jo Browning, Chief People Officer at Markel International, said: “As a global specialty insurer, we believe in the power of people coming together to make a difference. For us, the Markel Magnolia Cup is a standout event because it showcases the dedication and spirit of the outstanding riders and our employees – united in support of a great cause, while connecting people and purpose across the globe. We’re proud to continue this tradition again for 2026, raising funds that will help create learning and employment opportunities for young women and girls facing barriers to education through this year’s charity, Education Above All Foundation.”

Education Above All Foundation Director of Communications and Engagement, Al Jazi Darwish, said: “The Markel Magnolia Cup is a powerful example of how sport can be harnessed to drive meaningful change. These remarkable women are not only taking on a personal challenge but also standing in solidarity with millions of children around the world who are denied access to quality education. At Education Above All Foundation, we believe education is the most effective pathway to transform lives and build more peaceful, inclusive societies. The support generated through this initiative will help us continue reaching children and young people, especially girls and women affected by poverty, conflict, and crisis, ensuring they have the opportunity to learn, thrive, and shape their own futures.”

Chairman of Qatar Tourism and the Board of Directors of Visit Qatar, HE. Saad Bin Ali Al Kharji, said: “The Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar brings together world class partnerships with a meaningful purpose and we are proud to support Qatar’s Education Above All Foundation as the chosen charity of the Markel Magnolia Cup. This partnership demonstrates Qatar’s commitment to hosting and supporting events that extend far beyond sport, creating real social impact on a global scale.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

Markel Magnolia Cup takes place on Thursday 30 July at Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar.

A total of 12 riders will take part in the race, with additional riders acting as reserves for 2026 and will be rolled over to next year’s Markel Magnolia Cup.

Tickets

Tickets, dining, and hospitality for the 2026 Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar are now available to purchase. Visit goodwood.com to find out more.

Hospitality

In addition to tickets, Goodwood’s unrivalled hospitality packages are available to book for all 19 fixtures. Whether customers are looking for a great day out with friends, entertaining clients or celebrating something special, Goodwood’s hospitality provides the ultimate setting.

Contact

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About Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar

Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar is one of the undisputed highlights of the British flat racing season. The world-famous five-day festival is a sporting and social occasion like no other, unrivalled style, superb racing, and hospitality experiences to savour mean it’s not to be missed. The 2026 Qatar Goodwood Festival takes place from Tuesday 28 July to Saturday 1 August. The week is headed by three Group 1 races, including the Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup (2m), the Visit Qatar Sussex Stakes (1m), and the Qatar Nassau Stakes (1m2f).

About the Markel Magnolia Cup

On Thursday 30 July at the Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar, 12 amateur jockeys will compete in the Markel Magnolia Cup after months of intensive training. The charity race brings together women from business, sport, fashion and media, all taking on the challenge to highlight resilience and

redefine perceptions of women in sport. Previous riders include Olympians, CEOs, journalists and presenters such as Edie Campbell, Sara Cox, Rosie Tapner and Vogue Williams. Markel International underwriter Sophie Forsyth was crowned the winner in 2025.

The event has been a force for change in racing, most notably through Khadijah Mellah's groundbreaking victory in 2019, becoming the first female Muslim in the UK to win a competitive horserace. Her success inspired the Riding A Dream Academy, supporting young people from diverse backgrounds, including jump jockey Aamilah Aswat.

About Education Above All

Education Above All Foundation is a global education non-profit established in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. EAA Foundation contributes to human, social and economic development for millions of children and youth by providing access to quality education and employment opportunities. With a particular focus on those affected by poverty, conflict and disaster, it champions the needs of the hardest-to-reach and empowers them to become active members of their communities.

To date, the Foundation has supported initiatives in 77 countries, reaching 14.7 million out-of-school children and providing over 11,000 higher education scholarships and opportunities. Its impact also extends to 3.3 million youth through employment and economic empowerment programmes, while supporting 4.5 million refugees and displaced people.

About Markel Insurance

We are Markel Insurance, a leading global specialty insurer with a truly people-first approach. As the insurance operations within the Markel Group Inc. (NYSE: MKL), we leverage a broad array of capabilities and expertise to create intelligent solutions for the most complex specialty insurance needs. However, it is our people – and the deep, valued relationships they develop with colleagues, brokers and clients – that differentiates us worldwide.