

Fontwell Park Sunday 14th June Racing Review

By Paul Simmons

1st race – The Eve Lodge Maiden Stakes over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Bill Smith's smart mare Yaqoot was placed in all three maidens last season and will be hard to beat but Hareer caught the eye at Huntingdon when a runner on second to Adraaj over this trip. Gill Duffield's runners can never be ignored in Maiden contests and Moshahed will certainly be worth monitoring here.

2nd race – The Eclipse Series Open Race Handicap (Series Qualifier) over 6 Furlongs

Saucepot won over this trip at Wolverhampton back in 2007 and the trainer, John Wilson, always has his horses produced to perfection. Balerno and Four Pleasure both carry automatic top weight and will be allotted handicap ratings after this event, but Anna Wallace is likely to be going all out for victory with Balerno in front of her home crowd. Fraternity was Champion thoroughbred in 2007 but has struggled to reproduce that form since. However, if he is back on song he could make a comeback here.

3rd race – The Angel Arabian Handicap Stakes 0-85 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

Few and Far looked firmly on the upgrade when galloping home to victory over ten furlongs in the Listed Jebel Ali Gold Final at the close of last season. She should stay this trip and is the one they all have to beat. Main danger comes from the classy Estival, a winner over this trip at Huntingdon last season. She also won the Jebel Gold final in 2007 and is capable of defying top weight. Deolali is game and consistent, will relish this trip, won over 9f last season and tends to go particularly well fresh.

4th race – The Al-Nujaifi Farm Series Handicap Stakes 0-65 over 6 Furlongs

This race looks effectively like a match between Whisper and Mr Ben, both of whom will relish the trip and have the best form of the runners. The tentative selection is **Whisper** who won twice last season over 8 furlongs at Huntingdon and this trip at Warwick off a mark of 60. Mr Ben is relatively lightly raced and makes his debut for Beverley Paterson. His best form is around this trip and he was third to the selection over 8 furlongs last term (his dam also did all her winning from 5-7 furlongs), he will be fighting out the finish. Star Valentina has shown plenty of speed to date (both parents won over this trip) and should snatch a place.

5th race – The Royal Cavalry Of Oman Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier) 0-100 over 7 Furlongs

A competitive event with the selection being Gill Duffield's impressive 2008 6 furlongs maiden winner **Namoos**. She was disappointing on her return at Huntingdon when 4th to Marsak but needed that run. She was travelling ominously well two furlongs out and can redeem her reputation here under her feather weight. Aberfeldy was improving with every run last season including when winning over 6f at Nottingham and over 10f at Warwick, and getting placed in Premier and Group events over 6f. Shuhood won at this track last year and always puts in a strong performance and Mutafani ran some excellent races in 2008 and will be looking to improve on that on his seasonal debut.

6th race – The GototheRaces.com Handicap Stakes 0-55(60) over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs

Floren won very nicely at Wolverhampton over this trip last week and is taken to confirm his superiority here over Affar who was 2nd that day. Kizhi ran well when third to El Hamsa over 10 furlongs at Huntingdon and will appreciate the step up in trip here and should be there in the closing stages. Kayeed beat Floren at Taunton over one mile six furlongs and will stay every yard of this trip.

7th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier) 0-75 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

An opportunity for **Adraaj** to score her second victory of the campaign before she goes on to contest better events (she holds an entry in the Group 1 Hatta Stakes on Dubai Day). Gazal ran a blinder at Taunton when chasing home Mudalal over 1m 2f and won at this track over 8 furlongs back in 2007, he will be thereabouts as should the beautifully bred Balladore (full sister to multiple Group winner Dormah De Brugere) who was a good 4th in the Jebel Ali Gold final over this trip last year and is bound to be stronger this term.

8th race – The Hope Farm Trading Open Race Handicap Stakes 0-180 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

An ideal opportunity for Golden Peacock to notch up another win after impressively scoring over 6 furlongs at Huntingdon, this race looks very weak and he should easily get home. Kings Cavalier won at Hereford last term over 1 Mile 6 furlongs may be the first to challenge Golden Peacock. Exclusive Air was second to Kings Cavalier on that occasion and should be in the shake up here.