

Hereford 28th June Racing Review

By Paul Simmons

1st race – Shaw & Fox Maiden Stakes 3yrs old and over 1 Mile 1 Furlong

They went a fair clip from the outset in this competitive maiden with odds on joint favourite Barik, Sifan and Billoube all showing good early speed, and Marsak settled comfortably in behind. Inside the final two furlongs it became a dual to the line with Billoube and Marsak, who were nip and tuck all the way to the post with Phil Collington driving HH Sheikh Hamdan's strapping Derby entered colt **Marsak** (Al Sakbe x Margau) home to win by head from the Mark Wall owned and trained Billoube. The latter lost nothing in defeat and is impressing with every run and looks more than capable of winning soon. Few and Far made some good late progress in the closing stages plugging on well for third.

2nd race – The Come Racing with ARO Handicap Stakes 0-75 over 7 Furlongs

A small field but nevertheless a really competitive handicap. Musaayar made the running and set a decent pace from the start but Muhal was cruising in behind. Muhal kicked clear in the final four furlongs with Musaayar chasing hard in behind; he was kept up to his work in the final furlong but was off the bridle in the dying strides and only galvanised his effort as Musaayar came back at him under a strong ride from Simon Walker. In the end **Muhal** (Amer x Babelia) got home by a nose for owner/breeders the Royal Cavalry of Oman and trainer Julian Smart, whilst Musaayar lost nothing in defeat. Al Mamoon ran a lifeless race and only ran past a lack lustre Remaal in the final stages to claim third.

3rd race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes 0-50 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

Bonham (Bakara x Bonnie Jet) returned to form with a vengeance under a superb ride from Sam Holdsworth for owner/trainer Chris Culleton. He had him handily placed throughout, tracking long time leader El Hamsa, and rode a powerful finish to just get up on the line by short head in battling head bobbing finish. El Hamsa was very brave in defeat and is impressing with his attitude this term and was unlucky not to hold on. Anganate Safinat did the best of the rest and took third from Dibba inside the home straight.

4th race – The Outdoor Installations Ltd Handicap over 7f Furlongs

Take The Plunge (Benny The Dip x Pealry River) was held up with a run sitting in comfortably behind leader and pace setter Fraternity under a calm well judged ride from Simon Walker. As they hit the two furlong marker Walker made his move and ran on well leaving Fraternity in his wake to win by just under two lengths. Whilst former Champion thoroughbred Fraternity made a pleasing comeback and should be winning soon. Ela Figura had no chance with the first two but ran on well to hold onto third ahead of prolific winner and favourite Megabond.

5th race – The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap 0-95 over 1 Mile 1 Furlong

A surprise result here as odds on favourite and former UAE Derby winner Zoumir was beaten. **Mustajib** (Vadeer x Mangana) ran well last season winning twice and did nothing wrong here settling well mid field under an in form Simon Walker. He brought Mustajib with a strong run inside the final furlong and showed a useful turn of foot to power clear in the final furlong and win by a length at the line for HH Sheikh Hamdan and trainer Bill Smith. Back in second was Merwah who is continuing her upward climb racing this season. Always well placed, she took up the running two furlongs out and chased the winner all the way to the line but couldn't get past. Zoumir ran well on his UK debut; settled in second till taking up the running five furlongs out, he had no answer to the first two, but stayed on well getting the better of stablemate Sakari, who also ran well. Zoumir holds an entry in the UK Derby but will have to improve significantly for the run to hold his own against the best from Europe.

6th race – The Kelanne Stud OPEN Handicap over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

A much deserved win for the excellent **Kings Cavalier** (Stormin Fever x Port Of Silver) who ran a storming race here under a well timed ride from Fred Offord. He kicked home inside the final furlong and pulled readily clear for a comfortable six length victory for the David Paton stable. Back in second was a good run from Exclusive Air who led the field a fine gallop but was vulnerable to the devastating turn of foot of the winner in the final furlong. Whilst Burnley kept on for third.

7th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap 0-60 over 7 Furlongs

A superb performance by Sue Connally's gallant handicapping mare **Raihan** (Passeem Lotois x G Sustika) who led from start to finish and battled on really well in the final furlong under a galvanised ride from Simon Walker (who was scoring a hatrick), to hold off the sustained challenge of Pinkie Tuscadero. The latter ran a great race under Phil Collington and looks capable of winning in this grade soon. Benny The Dip was always handy chasing the principles and was kept up to his work in the final stages to get home from The Way To Go.

8th race – The “Carabineer” Memorial Handicap 0-70 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

A superb racing finish in fitting tribute to the memory of the late great Arab racehorse Carabineer, who himself fought and won so many memorable battles on the UK racetrack. Debrett and Operatic set off like scalded cats from the start blazing a trail and taking it in turns to lead at various stages throughout the race. In the end it was David Turner on **Debrett** (Bengali D’Albret x Djeba El Mels) for owner Linda Cross and trainer Sam Davison who gained the upper hand inside the final furlong coming home a length too good for a very brave Operatic. The latter lost nothing in defeat and is running his heart out this term and could easily reverse the form next time out. Notid relished the step up in trip and stuck on well to snatch third off Blu By You in the final furlong.