

Huntingdon Racing Preview Saturday 30th May

By Paul Simmons

1st race – The Shaw & Fox Maiden Stakes over 1 mile 2 furlongs

A competitive looking maiden and the selection is the Gill Duffield trained and HH Sheikh Hamdan owned Adraaj, who is full sister to Ahdaab who won an International Maiden over 8f, and Kammaryah who won her maiden over this trip. She should take this race on her debut. Main dangers come from the Royal Cavalry of Oman runners, including the smart performer Al Fairouz, who chased home Try My Best when third over 9f at Wolverhampton last season, and Tik Tik, who ran some good races last season, coming 5th in a decent maiden behind Mudalal (subsequent winner at Taunton) and 5th in a Jebel Ali Qualifier; he has place claims.

2nd race – The Come Racing At Huntingdon Again On 1st August Open Race over 6 furlongs

Golden Peacock ran well when being placed over 6 to 7f last season, including when 3rd over 7f at this track. He should be able to get his head in front here. Main dangers come from Blanc Visage, who ran some good races in defeat last season including coming 4th at Wolverhampton over 9f and 3rd in the Open Championship over 10f; this step down in trip could suit. Hardtoback has done most of his winning over these trips and won over course and distance last term.

3rd race – The Royal Cavalry Of Oman Novice Rider Race Series Handicap Stakes over 1 mile 2 furlongs

Competitive Novice Rider race and decent pace looks sure to be maintained. The selection is Floren who ran a superb race at Taunton on 16th after a year off the track when chasing home Kayeed over 13f, he has won from 8 to 12f so trip should suit and he can gain his third career win here. The main danger comes from the admirably consistent Notid, who was placed several times last season and won over 2 miles at Hereford. Shereik also has place claims after finally losing her maiden tag last season over 14f at Wolverhampton and runs well fresh (2nd at Exeter first time out over 8f).

4th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier) over 7 furlongs

An interesting looking sprint handicap with Trip To Khairo being tipped for victory after her win at this track last season over 6f beating Sharka; the trip and track are ideal. Place claims go to Abra who has won over 6f in the past and tends to front run these days and was a good third to Kayeed over 13f; this step down in trip could see a well earned victory. Lady Marisha is very speedy and in good form last season including when winning over 9f at Hereford and coming 3rd to Brigitta in the Jebel Ali Bronze final.

5th race – The Hope Farm Trading Maiden Stakes over 7 furlongs

Another maiden and another beautifully bred filly from the Duffield camp, Thimaar is a daughter of the USA based Chndaka who won 8 races including the G1 Al Nahayan Stakes, whilst her dam won over 8 furlongs. She looks capable of scoring on her first attempt. Main dangers are the Julian Smart trained and Royal Cavalry of Oman owned Andaleeb who ran a promising debut at Taunton over this trip when beaten just under a length into 4th by Al Harith, whilst Wikkara wasn't disgraced that day when 5th and is from the in form Adam Newey yard and has place claims.

6th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier) over 1 mile

The most competitive handicap of the meeting featuring the re-match of Ebraam and Al Harith who fought out a thrilling finish at Taunton, with Al Harith just getting home by a short head over 7f. Al Harith is likely to take all the beating here, although the selection is Ebraam, who may well reverse the form with the extra furlong being in his favour (as a son of UK and French derby winner Al Sakbe). However, the impeccably bred Hidalgo won a decent maiden at Wolverhampton over 7f last year, beating subsequent winner Billoube and could land this on his handicap debut en route to better events.

7th race – The Kelanne Stud Open Race Handicap over 1 mile 2 furlongs

Jayed could scarcely have been more impressive when trouncing Son Of Sophie and Reminscent at Taunton over 12 furlongs and is taken to confirm his superiority here for another victory. Son Of Sophie was champion TB last term and won all but one of his starts (2nd to Reminscent at Wolverhampton) and this trip will suit, he is capable of reversing the form and should go close. Reminscent ran an encouraging comeback race at Taunton and won over 12f last term and has strong place claims.

8th race – The Late Harwood Linney Esq Memorial Handicap Stakes over 7 furlongs

A quality field lined up here with the eye catching Namoos being recommended to follow up on her emphatic victory at Wolverhampton last year on her only start over 6f beating Yaqoot and subsequent winner Al Harith. She was only a juvenile then and is sure to be stronger this year and can take this event en route to better races. Jelvita is a class act and will make her pull out all the stops; she was in fine form last season and won on her debut at Fontwell over this trip and could cause an upset. Muhal is a smart performer and won in the UAE last winter and lost his UK maiden tag when winning over this trip at Hereford; a son of Amer so is likely to still be progressing.