

## Huntingdon 31<sup>st</sup> May Preview

By Paul Simmons

### **The Royal Cavalry of Oman Maiden Stakes over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs**

The Duffield stable as usual has some promising blue blooded bred youngsters in the entries and the selection is Ejaabi, an impeccably bred Prince D'Orient colt half brother to smart sprint handicapper Tash Reefat and last year's impressive Breeders Cup winner Anayid. He should be able to land this on his debut. His main dangers are the Kippen's Balladore, a full sister to multiple Group winner Dormah De Brugere, she should make the selection pull out all the stops. Secondwan ran well on his debut at Nottingham showing prominently finishing 5<sup>th</sup> to Shibl over a mile and will have come on for the run.

### **The ARO Sweepstakes Handicap 0-80 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs**

Alsharq has caught the eye on both runs to date and beat all bar stablemate Shibl when 2<sup>nd</sup> at Nottingham over 8 furlongs last time out, the step up in trip should suit and this smart Al Sakbe filly should be able to open her account for the season. Her biggest danger is the incredibly smart Estival who as well as a being a course and distance winner (won hot maiden here last season), finished the season by landing the valuable Jebel Ali Gold Final and she will take all the beating here. The Royal Cavalry of Oman's Quorman Des Violettes won in France last year and was placed twice in Group company over the winter in the UAE and looks potentially very classy.

### **The Lycetts Open (TB & AA) Handicap Stakes over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs**

Hard to see anyone lowering Night Cap's colours, this powerful performing son of Night Shift just seems to keep improving and slaughtered the opposition at Stratford where he had Champion ARO TB Fraternity well beaten. His main dangers come from Cloud Catcher who looks to be going the right way with a solid third behind Take The Plunge over 8 furlongs at Taunton. The selection's stablemate Extra Cover ran a good race when 3<sup>rd</sup> to Son Of Sophie over 1 Mile 6 furlongs and should be in the frame.

### **The Esteem Bloodstock Maiden Stakes over 6 Furlongs**

A competitive maiden but the clear selection is Dennis Batteate's beautifully bred Bengali D'Albret filly Vergali, a full sister to superb performer Bengalant who won from 5-8f in the UK and UAE; she is bred for the trip and should open her account at the first time of asking. Bill Smith's Karmah gelding Karm Ku caught the eye on his debut at Taunton when 4<sup>th</sup> over this trip to Baseerah and has strong place claims, as does Edjalie who was 2<sup>nd</sup> that day at Taunton and will appreciate the trip and track.

### **The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes 0-70 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs**

Cal Mora Pretender looked to be coming right back to her best at Taunton when a decent 2<sup>nd</sup> to Kizhi over this trip and she should be able to open her account for the season, trip and track ideal. Gazal looked to be coming back to form with a running on 2<sup>nd</sup> to the rapidly improving Merwah over this trip at Nottingham last time out, whilst Operatic has slipped down the handicap and has been placed on both starts this season over this trip and can never be discounted.

### **The Shaw & Fox Open (TB & AA) Conditions over 7 Furlongs**

Megabond looked pretty convincing when winning last time out at Nottingham over 6 furlongs (had Golden Peacock, Xeight Express and Global Achiever well beaten) and that confidence boosting run should see him assert his authority here and add to his tally. Main danger comes from L'Escalou from Bill Smith's yard, this former Champion Anglo is more than capable of holding his own against the Thoroughbreds. Golden Peacock was 2<sup>nd</sup> to the selection at Nottingham and should be in the frame again.

### **The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap Stakes 0-105 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs**

Aljaareh is a seriously classy staying handicapper and looked very impressive last term when winning the Listed Stayers Handicap over this trip on Dubai Day, he also won on his seasonal over this trip at Market Rasen and should win this. Kepassa is improving with every run and emphatically won on his seasonal debut at Taunton over 1 mile 2 furlongs; he will relish this step up in trip and could cause an upset. Deolali was 3<sup>rd</sup> to the selection on Dubai Day and chased Kepassa home at Taunton, he'll be fighting out the finish.

### **The DA Adios Handicap Stakes 0-55 over 6 Furlongs**

The Way To Go surprised many with a decent staying performance when winning over 1 mile 5 furlongs at Taunton, she is particularly effective from 6-7f and won at Hereford a few years back over 7f; and can make this the third win of her career. Plus has plenty of speed and won well over this trip last season and wasn't disgraced in hot sprint latest which should put her spot on for this race, whilst Benny The Dip can never be discounted at this level and trip.