

## Huntingdon 4<sup>th</sup> August Review

By Paul Simmons

### 1<sup>st</sup> Race – The ARO Sweepstakes Handicap 0-90 over 1 Mile

Bill Smith's yard is enjoying a fine run of form this season and **Osaira** (Tidjani x Cassels Celeste) and big purchase from Goffs last autumn repaid his faith by winning in the style of even money favourite for owner HH Sheikh Mohammed, she came to lead inside the final two furlongs under a well timed ride from Simon Walker to win a shade cosily at the line by half a length to open her UK account. Back in second was a returned to form Jelvita (Njewman x Vite Amine) who took control inside the straight under a brave ride from Danny Burton, and rallied hard when headed by the winner, she lost out by half a length on the line but she is a name to remember for the mile handicap on Dubai Day. Back in third was Almutasader (Makzan x Valina Des Fabries) who had every chance two furlongs out but was never nearer than third but kept on ahead of Estival (Khairouan x Viny De Passerat).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Race – The Brunton Maiden Stakes over 1 Mile

**Anayid** (Djendel x Seglaoui) impressed here with a confident victory quickening nicely inside the final two furlongs to go clear by a comfortable two length victory at the line, she looks to have a big future. The beautifully bred Sangelak (Al Sakbe x CR Angel Kate) made an eye catching debut in second, held up with a run he came flying inside the final furlong and looks more than capable of opening his account soon. Whilst Shohrah (Al Sakbe x Volna) a 3yr old gave the older maidens something to think about with a gutsy effort on her debut, she was always travelling well and made Sangelak pull out all the stops in the home straight and went down by half a length, a name to remember for the juvenile race on Dubai Day at the end of the month.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Race – The Dawson of Stamford Ltd Handicap Stakes 0-60 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

**Yakshi** (Khairouan x Djaxy Des Forges) like her younger brother Djaxy King took full advantage of a considerate handicap mark to open her account in fine style under Simon Walker, to give Bill Smith and main patron HH Shiekh Mohammed their second winner of the day. She was held up throughout and ran on well inside the straight coming with a wet sail in the final furlong to win easily by two lengths at the line. Back in second was Notid (Tidjani x Sherrie Noreen) who relished the step up in trip, he was fighting hard inside the final furlong but the young gun Yakshi had more in reserve, his turn looks near. Mehshiv (Normativ x Mehsha) as consistent as ever was a neck back in third and is arguably the unluckiest horse in training and seems in the grip of the handicapper at present.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Race – The Dinner Dance ARO Open race over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

**Fraternity** (Grand Lodge x Catawba) seemed to work harder than most for this victory as he dumped owner/trainer/jockey Katie James on the way to post and did a full circuit of the track, he was then caught remounted and all was forgiven as he gamely made all and kept on inside the final furlong for yet another easy win. Hoofbeats Tour (Vettori x Sprite) did his best in second to reel in the winner but had to settle for second, whilst Night Cap (Night Shift x Classic Design) looks to be coming to hand and ran on well in the final furlong to take third.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Race – The ARO Sweepstakes handicap 0-40 over 6 Furlongs

**Egypt** (Marawan x Sareefa) came right back to form for a battling and deserved victory for owner/trainer/jockey Caroline De Wilde, she was held up throughout and came into contention inside the final furlong under a strong ride and was all out inside the shadow of the post to hold off Bonham to give Caroline her first jockey and training success. Bonham (Bakara x Bonnie Jet) lost nothing in defeat and was given a superb ride by Robert Flint, he fought valiantly in the closing stages and was a little unlucky not to get up, his turn looks near. Whilst another two and half lengths back in third was Plus (Djouras Tu x Sherrie Noreen) showing her first real sign on form, she led from the four furlong marker and was headed inside the last furlong when her saddle slipped, she is going the right way.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Race – The Jebel Ali Stakes 0-75 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

An impressive one two three for the Bill Smith yard who is enjoying a distinctly purple streak at present. Simon Walker once again chose the right one as **Mustajib** (Vadeer x Mangana) the 3/1 joint favourite kicked clear inside the final furlong to win easily by a length and a half from stable mate Merhy (Vadeer x Aicha Tourettes), the latter was leading into the straight and ran on well inside the final furlong but was never going to get past the winner. Back in third was Meer Class (Vadeer x Mesange Al Maury) also running his best race to date, he came with a blistering turn of foot inside the final furlong and was gaining with every stride at the line and was a neck back in third. All 3 were by Russian race sire Vadeer (Mamluk x Viola by Naftalin).

### 7<sup>th</sup> Race – Anglo The Exciting Times / Nicole Memorial Handicap Stakes 0-140 over 1 Mile

**Hardtoback** (Norton Challenger x Harem VII) has been a terrific servant to owner/breeder and trainer Jenny Peyton and this admirably gutsy gelding gained a much deserved victory here under a superb ride from Rob Woollard, he made all and really dug deep in the final furlong to hold off Marmot D'Estival (Epervier Bleu x Alrose). The latter ran his best race to date and this former winning Point to Pointer looks to be coming into

form and is one to watch. Whilst Prussian Emperor (Linwood Sweet Excalibur x Heather Gold) also ran his best race to date finishing another short head back in third ahead of La Perruche.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Race – The Jebel Ali Stakes 0-50 over 1 Mile 1 Furlong**

Helen Bona celebrated her first win of the campaign when Robert Flint rode a power packed ride to **Hayley's Comet** (Nevesti x Kapilia) up on the line, he stayed on grimly in the home straight and just got up inside the final furlong to deny the gallant Benny The Dip (Bengali D'Albret x Duiker), who was a decent three quarters of a length back in second. He in turn was clear of the 3/1 joint favourite Glastonbury Pop (Dedja Des Forges x Operetta) who kept on at the same pace from the final furlong and was never nearer but was in turn clear of the rest of the field.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Race – The Champagne Birthday OPEN race over 6 Furlongs**

The Wheelwright team denied Katie James a double with her near unstoppable team this season when **Ela Figura** (The West x Chilli Bouchier) powered into the lead a furlong from home and stuck to his task well and kept on at the line to win by a half a length. Bold Maggie (Bold Edge x Vera's First) is living up to her name and gave the winner a run for his money, she had every chance in the final furlong under the determined Katie James, and was arguably a little unlucky; she looks capable of adding to the James stable haul this season. L'Escalou (Big John x L'Escale) was settled throughout and was flying at the finish and was only a neck back in third and he should open his account for the season soon.