

Huntingdon 9th August Racing Review

By Paul Simmons

1st Race – The ARO/AHS Maiden 3 yrs plus over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Sam Davison had a strong hand in this race and her three cut out the running with Al Harith taking on Celtic Pearl to force the pace with Sakeena Sky Zayin pulling hard in behind. As they approached the straight Mudalal and Few and Far were cruising in behind with Few and Far going for home inside the two furlong marker. But the Royal Cavalry of Oman's homebred **Mudalal (Darike x Rawabi)** was finishing best of all and got home by a length. Trainer Julian Smart said afterwards "He's a nice horse and its good to get another winner on the board." Few And Far is progressing with every run and showed a likeable attitude rallying hard in the final furlong to hold off the staying on Al Harith. Bill Smith's homebred mare Tuleekah made an eye-catching debut a neck back in fourth.

2nd Race – The Dinner Dance Open Handicap Stakes over 6 Furlongs

A relatively small field with only three runners but in the end Jenny Peyton's smart homebred gelding **Hardtoback (Norton Challenger x Harem VII)** won in fine style under a superb power packed ride from Rob Woollard. Making all, he drew clear showing his legendary turn of foot to repel a one paced Oakvalley Rialto. La Perruche went down on the home bend but both horse and jockey appeared to recover unscathed.

3rd Race – Jebel Ali Handicap 0-70 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

A one- two for the Bill Smith yard with two unexposed geldings leading the field a merry dance. Secondwan led the field inside the home straight and was finishing with plenty of pace but stablemate **Prukamzan (Mazkan x Prunelle De Ghazal)**, well ridden by an in form Simon Walker, was cruising down the straight and had more in reserve, and won at the line by a length. Secondwan lost nothing in defeat just couldn't get past the winner. Roches Du Cayrou looks like he is coming back to form and kept on ahead of the ever consistent Operatic for third.

4th Race – The Kelanne Stud Handicap 0-50 over 6 Furlongs

They went a fair pace in this handicap sprint with the enigmatic Golden Dream leading the field at a fair clip into the straight before throwing her chance away by hanging left. Sharka took over the running and was flying down to the finish line under a strong ride from Phil Collington, but Rob Woollard – recording a double on the day - had more in hand on **Trip To Khairo (Khairouan x Tikis Trip)**, and he rode a superb race to just get Jenny Peyton's game filly up by head at the line. A second winner of the day for owner/trainer Jenny Peyton and this smart filly looks like she has plenty more races in her. Sharka ran the race of his life and only just failed to break his duck. His turn must be near. Rob Baily's mare Skromnani who has showed little to date, was finishing well inside the final furlong and she looks to be coming to hand.

5th Race – The Nokomys Handicap 0-85 over 2 Miles

Fedor Du Bournais cut out the running with market leaders Maestro Al Maury and Hellow settled in behind. As the hit the home straight Hellow powered into the lead and went for the finish line, but Maestro Al Maury was fighting hard in behind and the two went head to head inside the final furlong for a bobbing finish. **Maestro Al Maury (Dormane x Melusine Al Maury)** just got home under a typically strategic ride from Phil Collington for HH Sheikh Hamdan. Trainer Gill Duffield said of the winner, "He is very talented but also a little too intelligent". Hellow ran a game race in defeat and Fedor Du Bournais chased them home.

6th Race – The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap 0-80 over 6 Furlongs

Nasij cut out the running and set a scorching pace from the off, until stablemate Madid took over inside the two furlong marker and had set sail for home and confident victory under Phil Collington with Muhal running on determinedly in behind. But top weight and 5/2 favourite **Khadeer (Vadeer x Kenithra)** came with a wet sail down the stands rail and flew home for a one length victory under an enterprising ride from Simon Walker to win for HH Sheikh Ahmed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and trainer Bill Smith. Madid ran well in second and appreciated the drop in trip and class. Muhal lost too much ground at the start and did well to finish so close in the circumstances. He was finishing like a train but was never going to get there.

7th Race – The ARO Sweepstakes Open Race Handicap 0-180 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Phil Collington won as he liked on John Wilson's smart 5/4 favourite **Extra Cover (Danehill Dancer x Ballycurrane)**. He stole a march at the start and the field foolishly allowed Collington to enter the straight with six lengths to spare. He won going away by three lengths for an impressive performance. Burnley stayed on grimly in second and was well clear of the field but was never going to land a blow with the winner. Back in third was a one paced Ela Figura who had too much ground to make up and was all out to hold off David Paton's Kings Cavalier.

8th Race – Jebel Ali Handicap 0-60 over 1 Mile

Odds on favourite Raihan led the field from the start with El Hamsa and Benny The Dip close in behind. As they hit the home turn Benny The Dip, well ridden by Steve Harrison, kicked on for home with Mr Ben chasing well in his slip stream. In the final furlong it looked to be between those two. However, David Turner was stoking up a gargantuan effort from Sam Davison's maiden mare **Whisper (The Wiking x Sucha)**. She cut through the pack like a knife through butter, showing a devastating turn of foot inside the final half furlong to win by a length at the line. Speaking afterwards Sam Davison said "She goes well at home but just wasn't showing it on the track, but she's come good today". Part owner Linda Cross said "I can't believe it she came out of nowhere to win that, a superb ride from David". Back in second was another solid performance from Benny The Dip who so nearly got there. Mr Ben ran well in third and looks capable of opening his account in this grade.