

## Huntingdon Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August Race Preview

By Paul Simmons

### 1<sup>st</sup> Race – Maiden 3 yrs plus over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

The selection is **Yaqoot** who looks well above average. She was a decent 3<sup>rd</sup> on her racecourse debut behind Maakar over this trip, she was then narrowly headed by Petraunille over 7 furlongs last week at Hereford and can open her account here. Her main dangers are stablemate Barik who was a good 2<sup>nd</sup> Ejaabi over this course and distance on his second start and although he has disappointed since he should get placed; as should Sam Davison's smart newcomer Sakeena Sky Zayin who was 2<sup>nd</sup> on her racecourse debut to Makaar over this distance.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Race – Anglo & PBA Open Handicap over 6 Furlongs

**Hardtoback** was a former Champion Anglo and has a blinding turn of foot and can win over his preferred trip at his right level (he struggled against the Thoroughbreds on his only start this season). Oakvalley Rialto wants double this trip but has been running well in defeat this season including 2<sup>nd</sup> last time out to Curupanna over 1 Mile 4 furlongs last week, whilst La Perruche seems out of sorts this season but is a class act and she can chase them home.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Race – Jebel Ali Handicap 0-70 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

**Al Bashiq** has been running well in his maidens this term, chasing home smart maidens Ejaabi and Alsharq, although struggled latest behind Maakar when 4<sup>th</sup>, this step down in class should see him open his account. Main dangers are Benoire who is coming along nicely and was a good 2<sup>nd</sup> to Gazal over 1 Mile 4 furlongs at Hereford last week, whilst Operatic won over course and distance in June and can never be discounted at this level and should get placed.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Race – Handicap 0-50 over 6 Furlongs

**Abra** ran a big race when just beaten into 2<sup>nd</sup> by Serabitibi over 1 Mile 4 furlongs at Fontwell Park, she last won over this trip back in 2005 and has plenty of speed and can open her account for the season here. Lady Marisha won well over 9 furlongs last time out, whilst Bibi Royale looked to be returning to form when a length 2<sup>nd</sup> last week and could be thereabouts.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Race – Handicap 0-85 over 2 Miles

**Maestro Al Maury** loves these staying handicaps, he won well over 1 Mile 6 furlongs last season and should be able to score here. His main dangers are Hellow, also a decent staying handicapper who was a good 2<sup>nd</sup> to Falak over 1 Mile 4 furlongs at Fontwell Park in June, whilst Petraunille won well at Hereford last week over 7 furlongs and could be on the upgrade.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Race – Handicap 0-80 over 6 Furlongs

**Khadeer** won her maiden well over this trip at Stratford last season and wasn't disgraced when 5<sup>th</sup> of 9 to Deolali over 9 furlongs at Exeter, this is much more her trip and she can defy top weight to take this. WFA Leopard was an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> to stablemate Pepita De Carrere under top weight over 7 furlongs on Dubai Day and should be fighting out the finish, as should the Royal Cavalry of Oman's Muhal who won well over 7 furlongs at Hereford in June and seems very much on the upgrade.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Race – Open Handicap (Tbs, Aas) 0-180 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

**Ela Figura** won really at Hereford last time out over 9 furlongs and can make use of her decent handicap to win again. John Wilson's smart Extra Cover won well at Fontwell Park over this trip beating Take The Plunge but has to concede a stone to the selection, whilst Song Huntress did well on her ARO debut when 3<sup>rd</sup> to Ela Figura and should get a place.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Race – Jebel Ali Handicap 0-60 over 1 Mile

**Gazal** impressed with a seven length beating of Benoire over 1 Mile 4 furlongs last time out and he could easily follow up here. Raihan is in excellent form this season and won nicely at Hereford in June over 7 furlongs and should go close, as should the versatile Notid who won over 2 miles last week getting up from Debrett.