

By Paul Simmons

The Pamela Linney Memorial Maiden Stakes over 1 Mile

Shibl (Al Sakbe x Bisbille) was thought good enough last season by Champion trainer Gill Duffield to be entered in the Breeders Cup, but sadly he never ran. However, this strapping son of leading sire Al Sakbe made up for lost time with a confident victory on his racecourse debut showing a useful turn of foot under Phil Collington to get home by an easy five lengths from stablemate Alsharq (Al Sakbe x Valina Des Fabries). The latter built on her debut from last season and is one to keep an eye on next time out, both are from HH Sheikh Hamdan's powerful string. Try My Best (Khairoaun x Tidjana) did as his name suggests, running well and staying on nicely in the final furlong and is going the right way.

The Eurobale Ltd Open Race (TBs and AA) over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

Champion jockey Simon Walker was seen to excellent effect on **Son Of Sophie (Band On The Run x Fair Enchantress)**, who maintained his unbeaten record landing the third win of his ARO career with a battling victory over ARO debutant Reminiscent (Kahayasi x Eliza Orzeskowa). Having just got the better of long time leader Extra Cover (Danehill Dancer x Ballycurrane) to lead inside the final furlong it was Son of Sophie who prevailed on the line, just holding off by a nose the late challenge of Reminiscent. Extra Cover, having run an excellent race from the front, weakened in the final 50 yards, but could be a serious threat next time.

The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes 0-45 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

EI Hamsa (Nasem x Myska) made a promising start to the campaign with a confident victory under Steve Harrison for the Morris family, he was kept up to his work in the final furlong and pulled clear to win by a decent three lengths from stablemate Benny The Dip (Bengali D'Albret x Duiker) who was always travelling well and fought hard inside the straight but couldn't hold off the winner. Anganate Safinat (Manganate x Astree) made another solid effort ten lengths back in third; he couldn't get to the first two but stayed on dourly ahead of the rest of the field.

The Royal Cavalry of Oman Conditions Stakes over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

An extremely disappointing race with Madid and Maestro Al Maury being declared non runners so only the awesome powerhouse **No Risk Al Maury (Kesberoy x Nectarine Al Maury)** and stablemate Taabeer (Vasilisk x Bisbille) lining up, (the latter who is a high class stayer). No Risk Al Maury (unbeaten in all 4 starts last term including the Group 1 Dubai Stakes) won in impressive fashion, storming away from Taabeer to win by ten lengths.

The ARO Sweepstakes Open Race (TBs won no more than 2 races) over 6 Furlongs

A much deserved win for **Megabond (Danehill Dancer x Apple Peeler)** here who has been so consistent throughout his ARO career (placed in all his starts bar one). He was always going well under his owner/trainer/jockey Mark Cooper and blitzed clear of the field in the final furlong in some style to win by an impressive four lengths. Golden Peacock (Forzando x Flamingo Times) impressed four lengths back in second running on strongly in the final furlong to repel the challenge posed by Cloud Catcher (Charnwood Forest x Notley Park), the latter caught the eye with a good effort here.

The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap Stakes 0-80 over 6 Furlongs

Aberfeldy (Amer x Zeinah) went down in several notebooks last season with some good efforts, but here she looked bigger and stronger and scored a confident victory to lose her maiden tag under a well judged ride from Steve Harrison, kicking clear in the final furlong to win impressively for owner Jane Haddock and in form trainer Sam Davison. Back in second Popidol Kossack (Marwan x Peseta) also impressed by showing a smart turn of foot to chase the winner all the way to the line and she is one to watch next time out. Baseerah (Djendel x Qosheeyya) wasn't disgraced back in third in her first run out of maiden company is still entitled to improve.

The Springfield Video Handicap Stakes 0-65 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Steve Harrison was clearly riding the crest of wave landing a hatrick at this track, although his final winner aboard the startlingly impressive **Merwah (Bengali D'Albret x Aksarka)** was by far his easiest. This smart mare looked to be on the upgrade last season and proved it here losing her maiden status in some style, showing the field a clean pair of heels in the final furlong to kick clear for an easy eleven length victory for owner John Elliot and trainer Helen Bona. Back in second was an improved effort from Gazal (Sambist x Shout For Joy) who ran on well in the closing stages but was never going to catch the winner, whilst Operatic (Vert Olive x Operetta) ran his usual sound race staying on for third.

