

Stratford 26th September Preview

By Paul Simmons

1st Race – The Geoff Howard Maiden Stakes

PA Maiden over 6 Furlongs

A small field, but Gill Duffield (winner of last two maidens with juveniles) fields two classy juvenile maidens, Juhood and Takaamul who was 3rd to Hattef over 7f at Salisbury. The jockey booking would normally suggest that Juhood is the favoured runner but 2nd and 3rd string horses from this yard have been winning all season so there may be little to choose between them. Katwalk was a decent 4th behind Djarni D'Or over 8f at Ffos Las and her dam won over this trip and she should go close.

2nd race – The Royal Cavalry Of Oman Novice Rider Series Handicap Stakes

PA 0-65 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Mushammer looked right back to his best when galloping home to victory over 13 f at Market Rasen. He looks capable of a follow up for a quick double here and will relish the trip and track. Dangers come from Barik who romped home over this trip at Huntingdon in August when beating Mushammer a neck; the form looks solid with subsequent winners Even Keener, Shereik and Bonham well beaten that day.

3rd race – The Curtis Medical For Surgeries Open Race Handicap Stakes

TB, AA & PB 0-180 over 6 Furlongs

Avery was very unlucky not to win at Salisbury, just losing out by a neck to Megabond over this trip. He can make amends here and land a well deserved victory. Balerno looks to be coming to hand and was third behind Avery at Salisbury. Both Minnie Mill and Red Myth are making their first appearances off their true handicap marks and so should be more competitive than they have been previously. Blanc Visage has been knocking on the door all season and thoroughly deserves a victory here. He has shown ability over this trip previously and may well take the honours.

4th race – The Springfield Video Handicap Stakes

PA 0-55 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

Hayley's Comet has been in fine heart this season including when beating Millennium Leap over 9 f at Hereford, and only narrowly losing out to Bonham over 2 miles at Wolverhampton last week; he should return to winning ways here. Shereik looked good when winning at Market Rasen over 10 f but was a well beaten 3rd to Bonham over 2 miles, but the step down in trip and return to turf should see her get placed. Star Valentina ran an excellent race when 2nd to Unshooda over 6 f at Salisbury (winner again since), the step up in trip should suit as both parents won over staying trips and she looks on the upgrade and should land a place.

5th race – The gototheraces.com Handicap Stakes

PA 0-90 over 6 Furlongs

Bill Smith runs a very smart American bred horse in this race; Galaavi was an unlucky neck 2nd to Ircalan DA in a Group 3 5f sprint at Bath last time out but can atone for that defeat with a victory here. Dangers come from smart Iraqi sprinter Al Harith; he won his maiden over this trip and has been placed in a Premier Handicap and 2 Group races over this distance since then. He blotted his copy book by ditching his jockey at Wolverhampton last week but it would be no surprise to see him return to winning ways here. Even Keener has won twice this season, over 7f at Wolverhampton and 6f at Salisbury, she was 2nd to Genuinely at Risk at Wolverhampton last week but may have finished closer had she not completely missed the break; she has place claims if she can remain focused.

6th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)

PA 0-80 over 1 Mile

Nasheet was 5th to Al Janoob over 9f at Wolverhampton (where he had subsequent placed horses Karlina, Des'Brie and Zayin Zeus behind him), he was then 3rd to Qattab De Faust over 7f at Hereford with subsequent dual winner Even Keener well beaten that day. He makes his handicap debut here and looks capable of scoring. Whisper has won twice this season, over 6f at Fontwell and also over 7f at Market Rasen (just beating Even Keener). This trip and track look ideal and she should make her presence felt.

7th race – The ARO Dinner Dance 31st October Handicap Stakes

PA 0-40 over 6 Furlongs

A hard race to call and the tentative selection is the ever consistent Egypt. She has been in great form this season coming 2nd to Benny The Dip over 7 f at Wolverhampton and was a solid 2nd to Shereik over 10 f at Market Rasen last time out; she has won over this trip and has plenty of speed and should return to winnings ways here. The Delyth Thomas team is bang in form (3 winners last week) and Florys Folly

was a decent 5th to Bonham over 12f at Wolverhampton in August and then 3rd to Shereik over 10f at Market Rasen. Her sire was a Group 1 sprinter and this step down in trip could see her lose her maiden tag. Tiki Tornado has slowly been coming to hand and ran a good race when 4th to Shereik that day, her stamina didn't seem to last that day so this step down in trip should suit.

8th race – The Penn Challenge Open Race Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)

TB, AA & PB 0-160 over 1 Mile

Anglo Arab Dancing Grace has been performing out of her skin against the thoroughbreds this season winning twice at Ffos Las over 14f (beating Finished Article) and over 9f at Hereford where she beat Troublemaker. She was a solid 2nd to Delorain last time out over 1m5f and will take all the beating in this grade. Azzaamm has struggled off automatic top weight on his first 2 appearances but is now running in his own grade and off a his true handicap mark so can be expected to make a good show.