

Wolverhampton 8th June Racing Review

By Paul Simmons

1st race – Free Racing On Dubai Day Maiden 3yrs old and over 7 Furlongs

A good field of maidens went to post and they went a fair clip throughout, headed by Billoube, who was making his racecourse debut, closely pursued by Qawaafil and the 3 year old Hidalgo. As they hit the final furlong it was **Hidalgo** (Samern x Pella De La Coste) who managed to forge his way to the front to win by a length. This game young colt and at 3 the youngest in the race showed plenty of guts and resolution to win under a masterful ride from Steve Harrison for owner Julie Kelway. Winning trainer Angela Colledge has always held this powerful young colt in high regard and said afterwards "He is a very nice colt". Hidalgo is entered in the juvenile race on Dubai Day and is one for the short list based on this battling victory. Billoube ran a blinder on his debut for owner/trainer Mark Wall, staying on strongly when challenged and making the winner pull out all the stops. Qawaafil surprised many with a speedy showing, this well bred filly clearly has plenty of pace, she fought hard in the final furlong and looks a nice prospect.

2nd race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap 0-65 over 1 Mile

Delyth Thomas string is getting a fearful reputation on the all weather and her grand old servant **Pavot Al Kyle** (Pavot Al Maury x Ellaria) showed all the young guns how it should be done here with another tough battling victory under Champion Jockey Simon Walker, pulling clear at the line by a length from his better fancied stablemate Ajyaal. The latter ran well and is coming to hand, his turn is near. Raihan, another confirmed all weather lover, stayed on well having made the running, just failing to get up to take the second off Ajyaal by a short head.

3rd race – The www.aroracing.co.uk Open Conditions Race over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs

This was always going to be a fascinating contest with the renewal of rivalry between Son Of Sophie and Reminiscent, after their run at Nottingham last month. Son Of Sophie took up the running from long time leader Exclusive Air towards the end of the back straight and was still clear of Reminiscent when they rounded the home turn, the pair having gone clear of the rest of the field by that stage. Although he stayed on gamely, it was **Reminiscent** (Kahayasi x Eliza Orzeskowa) who got the better on the day under a confident ride from Steve Harrison. Always travelling well he kicked clear in the final furlong and won by a nice length and half at the line for owner/trainer Helen Bona. Although losing his unbeaten record, Son Of Sophie remains a force to be reckoned with over these trips.

4th race – The Al Ras Maiden Stakes 3yrs old and over 1 Mile 1 Furlong

A small but select field. **Try My Best** (Khairouan x Tidjana) has been doing just that with some good recent efforts on the track, Champion Jockey Simon Walker looked very confident on him and he was always cruising before pushing the button in the final furlong and pulling clear of Alsharq, who had made the running up till that point. The latter is progressing nicely but doesn't look to be quite as smart as some of its stablemates. Al Fairouz ran a creditable race in third, staying on in the final furlong but never able to reach the leaders.

5th race – The Shindgha Handicap Stakes 0-50 over 6 Furlongs

Serabitibi (Abitibi x Seralycia) has always been a likeable filly and has been progressing nicely this term however, she came of age here in style for the Malpass family. Making the running from an early stage she stayed on strongly to hold off the strong late challenge of Egypt and lose her maiden tag impressively under a well judged ride from Barry Adams. Egypt once again ran a blinder under owner/trainer/jockey Caroline De Wilde, flying home in the final furlong and again almost getting up on the line, she deserves to win soon. Lady Marisha made an excellent start to the season with a strong finish and is on a handy mark and should be winning soon

6th race – The Al Wasl FC Stakes Conditions over 6 Furlongs

Angel Picamer (Amer x Picea HT) keeps getting better and better. This is a serious filly and she showed the field her complete disdain with a power packed sprinting display giving Simon Walker his third win of the day. This game mare owned and bred by long time racing supporter Zelda Angel, won a listed handicap on Dubai Day last year and on this basis looks capable of stepping up in class for trainer Bill Smith. Zormaniana, having made the running, had no answer to the winner's turn of foot in the final furlong and was eventually beaten into third by the staying on Mutafani, who was in the rear until making progress into the home straight, although never having any chance with the winner.

7th race – The Nad Al Sheba Handicap Stakes 0-90 over 1 Mile

A very competitive handicap with several Derby hopefuls on display, but in the end it was last season leading UK juvenile **Prince Dormant** (Prince Orient x Iktidar) who threw down the gauntlet for the Derby with a superb display under a very in form Simon Walker. He was always going well and pulled clear in the manner of a serious colt to win by a decent three lengths at the line for US based owner/breeder Lisa Deymonaz and gave trainer Dennis Batteate his first winner of the season. Back in second was stablemate and useful

performer Benamer, who was chasing hard all the way and was clear of the field. Final Fling is proving that his big Kempton win last year was no fluke with another game effort here back in third.

8th race – The Come Arab Racing Open Handicap (TBs and AAs) over 6 Furlongs

There seems to be no stopping owner/trainer/jockey Mark Cooper and his smart sprinter **Megabond** (Danehill Dancer x Apple Peeler) who scorched home here for their third win on the bounce. Always travelling well this powerful gelding came home with a wet sail in the final furlong to pull well clear of smart Anglo sprinter L'Escalou, who stayed on well to snatch third from Ela Figura. The latter ran well on her first run of the season and is one to watch.