

## Huntingdon 1<sup>st</sup> August Race Preview

By Paul Simmons

### The Al-Nujaifi Farm Series Maiden Stakes

#### PA over 7 Furlongs

**Qariem De Faust** has been unlucky not to have lost his maiden tag yet this season having come 2<sup>nd</sup> to stablemate Al Janoob over 9f at Wolverhampton and then 2<sup>nd</sup> again to Qattab De Faust over 7f at Hereford; he looks more than capable of opening his account today. Main dangers come from the Bill Smith pair – Ambrose who was 2<sup>nd</sup> to Riko over 6f at Wolverhampton (the form looks solid as Riko followed up in a valuable mile handicap on Dubai Day) and Maxymus (a Makzan half brother to multiple Group winner Nokomys). Estiqraar could also be in the shake up having come third to Mi Temps De Piboul over 8f.

### The Eclipse Open Race Series Handicap (Series Final)

#### PBA, AA and TB Open Handicap over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

A competitive Series Final with several in with a chance, but **Marbaa** just gets the nod as he won well over this course and distance back in May beating Son Of Sophie, and impressed with his victory over Night Cap when slamming him 6 lengths at Ffos Las over this trip (Son Of Sophie was 3<sup>rd</sup> that day). Main dangers come from Reminscent who looked good when winning at Hereford recently over 12 furlongs (beating Blanc Visage, Kings Cavalier and Coffin Dodger). Night Cap has only been out once this season and would have a strong chance if back to his best, whilst Son Of Sophie seems more effective over a stiffer test of stamina.

### The Royal Cavalry Of Oman Novice Rider Series Handicap Stakes

#### PA 0-70 over 7 Furlongs

A closely weighted race and hard to call with several in with a chance. The selection is **Whisper** who has won 3 races to date including at Fontwell in June where she beat Mr Ben (subsequently neck 2<sup>nd</sup> in the opening handicap on Dubai Day), she is also a course winner when landing an 8 furlong handicap from Benny The Dip here last year. Pepita de Carrere has only been seen once this term but won the opener on Dubai Day last year over this trip and would have a good chance if back to her best, whilst WFA Leopard and Penny Black were both disappointing on Dubai Day over this trip but would have decent claims if back on song.

### The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)

#### PA 0-60 over 1 Mile 1 Furlong

Another competitive handicap with several possible winners. The selection is **El Hamsa** who won with some authority over course and distance off a mark of 54 (beating subsequent multiple winner Floren), now 2lbs higher which he looks capable of defying and will take all the beating. Dangers come from Mushammer, who is making a very belated seasonal debut; he is a former winner over this trip and was the Champion Arab back in 2007 when winning 4 times from 9-14 furlongs and could be in the shake up if on form. Raihan looked to be coming to hand when a fine third beaten less than a length over 6 furlongs at Ffos Las and she usually comes to hand this time of year (won over 7f at Hereford last year).

### The GT Exhibitions Ltd Open Race Handicap Stakes

#### PBA, AA and TB Handicap 0-160 over 6 Furlongs

Trip and track should suit **Hardtoback** and this fine Anglo can get back to winning ways; a former Champion Anglo in his heyday, he did most of his winning over this trip including at this track and can win again here for the in-form Jenny Peyton stable. Tunder Bool and Kitchen Sink were well beaten by Reminiscent over 12 furlongs, this step down in trip and class could see an improvement.

### The Royal Cavalry Of Oman Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)

#### PA 0-100 over 1 Mile 1 Furlong

**Aberfeldy** disappointed last time out behind Fryvolous in a Group 2 over a mile at Newmarket, however, she looked very impressive when trouncing a classy field over 7 furlongs at Fontwell in June; she will find this tougher but looks tough and progressive and can take this. Dangers come from impressive maiden winners Mi Temps De Piboul (won 8f at Ffos Las beating A'Naser who was placed over a mile behind Riko on Dubai Day) and Qattab De Faust. Noble Athlete is in superb form this season, winning at Ffos Las over a mile and over 1m 1f at Hereford.

### The ARO Dinner Dance 31st October Handicap Stakes

#### PA 0-85 over 1 Mile 2 Furlong

**Ebraam** put up a good effort when 2<sup>nd</sup> to Al Harith over 7f at Taunton (form franked by Al Harith's 2<sup>nd</sup> to Rabah De Carrere at Kempton and 3<sup>rd</sup> in G1 Zaabeel Stakes on Dubai Day) but was a poor 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thimaar over 7f at this track before running away in fine style over this trip at Hereford beating recent scorer Floren from a mark of 70. He has been raised 15lbs for that effort but could defy that increase

here. Estival ran well at Hereford when narrowly beaten by Nobel Athlete over 1m 1f; a course and distance winner here she remains a big danger. Whilst Qawaafil will make sure it is a true test of stamina having bolted home over 1m 6f at Fontwell, beating subsequent winner Few and Far (Alsharq 3<sup>rd</sup> and Estival 5<sup>th</sup>). He might find this a touch short but is a tough front runner who could be hard to catch.

**The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)**

**PA 0-45 over 6 Furlongs**

**Lady Marisha** last won over 1m 1f last year, but she used to be a fine sprinter in her youth and has won over this trip; she has since slipped down the handicap and was a good 3<sup>rd</sup> behind stablemate Hayleys Comet over 9f at Hereford last time out and should take this. Golden Dream has always looked to have plenty of speed and the penny looked to have dropped when she ran 4<sup>th</sup> to Hayleys Comet over 9f, this drop in trip should suit. Egypt often runs well over this course and distance for owner, trainer rider Caroline De Wilde; a winner over 6f here in 2007, it would be no surprise to see this game mare come with another late run here.