

Newbury 14th August Single Race Preview

By Paul Simmons

The Royal Cavalry Of Oman Premier Handicap Stakes (Series Final)

Open Handicap over 1 Mile

A competitive renewal with all eyes being on Gill Duffield's smart pair Shibl and Qattab De Faust and last year's Series Final winner Shuhood. Preference is for **Shibl** who has won twice this season, first at Taunton when skipping clear of subsequent winner Marsak to win over 10 furlongs and then following up over a mile at Wolverhampton beating Breeders' Cup winner Inshaad. He was a credible 7th in the Group 1 Dubai International Stakes behind Al Dahma and has the class to land this race. His main dangers are impressive Fontwell 7 furlong winner Aberfeldy who should relish the trip and track and will be there at the finish. Mutafani for the Royal Cavalry of Oman has place claims if returning to the form of his 2nd in last year's Group 1 Zaabeel. Shuhood can never be discounted in big handicaps and was 3rd to Rabah De Carrere over 6 furlongs at Kempton and 4th to Fryvolous over a mile at Newmarket in a Group 2 event, he won this race well last and will be fighting out the finish again. Noble Athlete has won twice this term over 9 furlongs but last week's race over 12 furlongs at Wolverhampton may well have taken the edge off him, although he is still capable of a place if on song.