

Taunton Saturday 16th May Racing Review

By Paul Simmons

1st race – The Arabian Magazine and Zayin Arabian Stud Maiden Stakes over 7 Furlongs

This was a real international race with the first three home all being bred in different parts of the world, and thrilling finish to this season opener with a head bobbing three way finish. Taer Al Hurr was making his racecourse debut and made the running in the early stages with the field bunched up with Ebraam, Al Harith and Al Rasheeq all travelling well in behind. As they entered the straight Iraqi bred Al Harith went for home with 6/4 favourite Ebraam breathing down his neck, and Oman bred Al Rasheeq chasing. As they entered the final furlong Ebraam took the lead under a strong ride from Phil Collington, but David Turner would not be denied on **Al Harith (Asad Saif x Wadha Al-Thania)** and rode a powerful finish to drive the colt over line to win by a short head to give first season trainer Adam Newey his first winner with his first runner, and first UK win for Iraq based owner Dr Mohammad Al Nujaifi. HH Sheikh Hamdan's Ebraam (Al Sakbe x Dorswayne Du Cayrou) lost nothing in defeat and showed admirable battling qualities to reel in the winner inside the final furlong. The Royal Cavalry of Oman's Al Rasheeq (Djendel x Salam) was finishing fast and furious down the inside rail and was another short head back in third.



2nd race – The Eclipse Series Open Race for TBs & AA (Series Qualifier) over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs

There was an upset here as the almost unbeatable and odds on favourite Son Of Sophie was comprehensively beaten by ARO first timer **Jayed (Marju x Taqreem)** who was always travelling ominously well in behind and came with a powerful run inside the home straight to pull well clear of the field under a confident riding display from Matthew Stanley to win by eight lengths, giving owner trainer Jacqueline Blackwell her first ARO winner. Back in second was a solid performance from the useful Reminiscent (Kahayasi x Eliza Orzeskowa) who chased the winner all the way to the line but was never going to catch him. However, he was six lengths clear of a slightly disappointing Son Of Sophie (Band On The Run x Fair Enchantress). The latter looked one paced in the closing stages but kept up to his work inside the final furlong and is better than this.



3rd race – The Harwood Arabian Stud Handicap Stakes 0-70 over 6 Furlongs

The fantastically named **Pinkie Tuscadero (Izentespeshal x Altyv)** ran some gutsy races in defeat last season. She looked well in the paddock before the race and showed a tough and determined attitude to get up on the line under another expertly judged ride from Phil Collington to score by half a length from the speedy Edjalie. She lost her maiden tag in some style in the process and gave talented rookie trainer Adam Newey his second winner from as many runners for the Almost All Partnership. Edjalie (Bengali D'Albret x Edjara Al Garamaze) ran a superb race in second for first season trainer Nick Paterson. She led inside the final two furlongs and was all over the winner until Pinkie Tuscadero came with her run inside the final furlong to hold onto victory. Pavot Al Kyle (Pavot Al Kyle x Ellaria) cut out a decent pace in the early stages and stayed on well for third.



4th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes 0-55 over 1 Mile 5 Furlongs

It was an incredible result here and full credit to owner and trainer Jane Harris who's entire **Kayeed (Kheiralla x Joli)** lost his maiden tag in style at the grand old age of seventeen. Kayeed won and held the record for the stamina sapping Arab Horse Society Marathon in his youth and came to the racing scene late but showed he was no back number when 2nd to Brigitta in the Jebel Ali Bronze final at Warwick last season. Looking well in the parade before hand, this game stallion (bred by the late June Alexander) was always travelling well in behind under a confident Rachael Kneller. He was head to head with Floren inside the final furlong and was superbly piloted by Kneller to get up on the line and win by a neck. Floren (Bengali D'Albret x Florys de Nautiac) ran an eye catching debut after a year off the track. He led into the straight and was nip and tuck with the winner all the way to the line and just failed; his turn looks near. Abra (Dormane x Djoula) produced another game front running display and was clear for the majority of the race just tiring in the straight, but kept on in the closing stages to hold onto third.



5th race – The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap Stakes 0-95 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Gill Duffield's first jockey Phil Collington had to watch in despair from the back of Marsak as stable second string Shibl produced an awesome display to defeat a class field on only his second start under a brave ride from Martin Smith. **Shibl (Al Sakbe x Bisbille)** won his maiden at Nottingham last season and wasn't seen again until now. Here he made all and in spite of the beautifully bred Royal Cavalry of Oman runner Quorman Des Violettes stalking him throughout, Shibl had plenty of fuel left inside the final furlong to hold on gamely for victory by a neck for Champion trainer Gill Duffield and owner/breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum. Quorman Des Violettes (Dormane x Khandela Des Violette) lost nothing in defeat and looks to be still improving. He rallied hard inside the final furlong but couldn't get past the winner. Marsak (Al Sakbe x Margau) was the form horse with solid place efforts on Dubai Day and in Premier handicaps last season. He looked to be travelling well into the straight but found surprisingly little under pressure inside the final furlong.



6th race – The Robin Barwell Memorial Open Race Handicap 0-175 over 7 Furlongs

The 2/1 favourite **Ela Figura (The West x Chilli Bouchier)** started the season as she means to go on when giving the Wheelwright family an impressive win to start the season. Always travelling well, she upped the pace inside the back straight and was firmly in command as she entered the home straight to pull clear from a determined Burnley to win for her trainer/jockey by three and half lengths at the line. Burnley (Distant Music x Dance Ahead) was always chasing the winner but showed plenty of determination in trying to catch her in the final furlong, his turn looks near. Finished Article (Indian Ridge x Summer Fashion) was staying on well inside the final two furlongs and kept on to finish clear of Litigious.



7th race – The Friends of Arab Racing Handicap Stakes 0-80 over 1 Mile

A fantastic staying handicap with stablemates Debrett and Gazal ensuring it was a true test of stamina, with the rest of the field chasing in behind. As they entered the home straight the Julian Smart trained and Royal Cavalry of Oman owned **Mudalal (Darike x Rawabi)** cruised into the lead inside the final two furlongs and was all out under Mr A S Al Siyabi for victory with the gallant stayers Gazal and Debrett head to head in behind for the placings. At the line Mudalal held on to victory by a length and a half from a highly impressive Gazal (Sambist x Shout For Joy), who in turn was a neck ahead of the ever game and consistent Debrett (Bengali D'Albret x Djeba El Mels).

