

Ffos Las Saturday 27th June Review

By Paul Simmons

Photos courtesy of GJ Multimedia



1st race – The Al-Nujaifi Farm Series "Midnight Lace" Maiden Stakes

The Iraqi bred Al Dahis set a decent pace from the start and had Estiqraar, **Mi Temps De Piboul (Al Sakbe x Manie De Piboul)** and A'Naser settled well in behind. As they hit the straight a determined Martin Smith – in the riding form of his life – galloped into the lead on 3/1 shot Mi Temps De Piboul and galloped into an impressive lead scorching home eight lengths clear at the line for owner/breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum and trainer Gill Duffield. Back in second was A'Naser (Newday x A'Sabooh) for the Royal Cavalry of Oman, he came with a strong run inside the final furlong but was never going to catch the winner. Whilst Estiqraar (Bengali D'Albret x Simooma) looked tapped for toe in the closing furlongs but stayed on well and stuck to his task well to hold onto third ahead of Al Dahis.

2nd race – The Royal Cavalry Of Oman "Rial" Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)

Al Mamoon set this race up nicely for his stablemate Noble Athlete, he lead the field at a strong gallop from the start, before leading into the final two furlongs, when Simon Walker swept past on **Noble Athlete (Dorwan Du Cayrou x Noble Dame)**, who battled gamely home in the final furlong to hold off the persistent and determined challenge of the Royal Cavalry of Oman's Wathiq. Speaking afterwards local winning owner, trainer Delyth Thomas said "He did that really well and is such a lovely horse to train". Wathiq (Nenuphar Al Maury x Tawam) lost nothing in defeat going down by a neck and may have got up in another furlong, he looks like one to follow. Al Mamoon (Passem Lotois x Al Hanoof) ran a superb race doing all the hard work and was trying his best at the finish to stay in contention and held on well for third.



3rd race – The Eclipse Open Race Series "Finvaress" Handicap (Series Qualifier)



Night Cap put up a typically brave challenge to make all under top weight and led the field a decent clip from the off, but **Marbaa (Peintre Celebre x Bahareeya)** had plenty of petrol in the tank and as Jo Woodham kicked him on inside the final furlong he responded gamely under pressure to win by an impressive six lengths for owner, trainer Stuart Shefras. Night Cap was all out in the final furlong but kept on well to hold onto second ahead of a staying on Son Of Sophie, whilst Chapter came in fourth.

4th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club "Peterborough" Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)

Operatic and Gazal have been mixing racing and endurance this season; last weekend they both scored Grade 1s at Cirencester. Here they proved that endurance and racing do go well together and these two gallant greys outstayed the field in determined fashion to battle out a thrilling finish. **Operatic (Vert Olive x Operetta)** was making his debut for the season and was sent off in front by a focused Steve Harrison. He



was well clear by half way and even as they hit the final furlong he still had a length up on the field and won in fine style by a length from Gazal. Speaking afterwards winning owner, trainer Angela Colledge said "He ran a fantastic race and Steve gave him a peach of a ride". Gazal (Sambist x Shout For Joy) ran a brave race under top weight and made a bold bid for victory inside the final furlong but was never going to reel back the winner. Tik Tik (The Wiking x Tamina) put in another solid performance racing prominently and trying to mount a challenge but was never going to catch the first two and was six lengths back in third.

5th race – The Late Harwood Linney Esq "30th Anniversary" Stakes

A very confident performance here from **Djarni D'Or (Djarni Des Forges x Karite)** who was given a confident boosting ride by David Turner; he soon led the field with Des'brie, Syrah Gris and Katwalk all travelling well in behind. As they reached the two furlong marker Turner quickened up the pace and never looked in any danger as he galloped clear to win by a comfortable five lengths for owner Mr SN Al Romaithi and trainer Georgina Ward. Back in second was a strong effort from Des'brie (Vadeer x Elina Des Fabries) who made her bid for victory inside the final two furlongs but never looked like getting to the winner, although she remains progressive. Two lengths back in third was stablemate Syrah Gris (Khoutoubia x Akara De Syrah), he travelled well but couldn't quicken in the closing stages and kept on for a place ahead of Katwalk.



6th race – The Shaw & Fox "Mazatir" Handicap Stakes

Another inspired ride by Martin Smith saw him gallop his rivals ragged in this staying handicap; he made all under Aljaareh and had a two length advantage inside the two furlong with Quorman Des Violettes galloping resolutely in behind. **Aljaareh (Khairouan x Bisbille)** won quite comfortably with a length and a half to spare over a brave Quorman for owner, breeder HH Shiekh Hamdan and trainer Gill Duffield. The winner has won the last two runnings of the Stayers handicap on Dubai Day and it will be a brave person to think he won't make it a treble as he is clearly one of the best Stayers in the UK. Quorman Des Violettes (Dormane x Khandela Des Vialette) was second to the winner on Dubai Day last year and may follow up this year, but on this evidence he won't reverse the placings. Whilst Taabeer (Vasilisk x Bisbille) was very disappointing back in third after fading tamely at half way and it looks as though his love affair with the game maybe over.



7th race – The Woodcraft 82 "Wyatt Aries" Open Race Handicap Stakes

An excellent result here as two of the first three home were Anglo Arabs, including impressively, the winner. The ever-game Anglo mare La Perruche led the field at a decent gallop until Finished Article took the lead inside the final three furlongs; he looked to be going to get home but the novice mare Dancing Grace was cruising in behind and as they entered the final furlong a determined Catherine Evans fought hard on this game mare to get the upper hand on Simon Walker who was all out on Finished Article. The 25/1 chance - **Anglo Arab mare - Dancing Grace (Dancing Spree x Hardtoboss)** clinched victory with a length to spare under a superb ride from Catherine Evans for a very popular local win for owner, trainer, breeder Jenny Peyton. Finished Article (TB Indian Ridge x Summer Fashion) ran well back in second and his turn looks near, whilst La Perruche (L'Estragon x Iron Bird) ran on well in the final furlong to hold onto third ahead of Golden Peacock.



8th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club "Nahoor" Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)



They went a fair clip from the start with Raihan seizing the initiative from the four furlong marker, she quickened up nicely but Unshooda and Sharka were both travelling ominously well in behind. As they hit the final furlong it was Sharka who went for victory under a strong ride from Phil Collington, but it was nip and tuck between Raihan and Unshooda all the way to the line with gutsy **Sharka (Makzan x Humarni)**, who has also been doing endurance this summer, getting home in fine style by half a length for owner, trainer Adam Newey. Unshooda (Makzan x Shunah) lost nothing in defeat for owner, trainer Delyth Thomas and she should be winning soon. Whilst Raihan (Passem Lotois x G Sustika) looks to be coming to hand and was only beaten a neck into third and is one to note for next time.