

Newbury 23rd June Review
The Hawthorn Hill Arabian Racing Stakes (Group 2 PA)
Over 1m2f

By Sulekha Varma

Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum's No Risk Al Maury finished the 2008 season as Champion Purebred Arabian in the UK but was making his 2009 debut following recovery from a pelvic fracture late in 2008. His task appeared to be made tougher by the presence of some unknown quantities in Elmalak Elwahed, Dorat Nour, Jazeerat Alsadyat and Rebelle De Faust.

They all broke well except Benamer who looked to panic after the gates open and found himself well left. However, he had the speed to rejoin the pack as Simon Walker and Rebelle De Faust pulled the field along at a strong pace. Walker was closely tailed by the Rod Simpson pair of Elmalak Elwahed and Jazeerat Alsadyat.

However, No Risk Al Maury was hauling jockey Tadgh O'Shea along and he was forced to pull the 4-7 favourite out wide of the pack to avoid clipping heels. Rounding the home turn, O'Shea loosened his grip on No Risk Al Maury and the chestnut accelerated smoothly round the outside and into the lead leaving the rest of the field to try and keep up.

By the 2 furlong pole, No Risk Al Maury had the race all wrapped up with O'Shea having barely moved and the others were left to fight out for minor honours. Trainer Bill Smith and Owner Jane Haddock's homebred Nokomys looked to have second place secured by the furlong pole until a resurgent Elmalak Elwahed, who had come off the bridle by the home turn, showed incredible speed to move from the back to the front of the pack in a matter of furlongs along with Georgina Ward's Dorat Nour, which resulted in a three way photo on the line. Nokomys was awarded second by a short head over Elmalak Elwahed with Dorat Nour a further neck back in fourth.



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