

The President of the UAE Cup - The Curragh Racecourse, Ireland Review by Paul Simmons

A small but quality field contested this valuable addition to the UK Arabian racing calendar, and the crowd were treated to a thrilling finish as three top class Group winners fought a titanic battle to the line. In the end it was leading UK owner and breeder Jane Haddock's fantastic mare **Nokomys (Amer x KTP Mystic Flight (Wiking))** who took the spoils under a superb ride from Willie Supple, giving former Champion trainer Bill Smith his second Irish winner. Nokomys has always been a class act and arguably was unlucky not to win the Group 1 Hatta Stakes last year, but she won here in superb style putting the young pretender and former Qatar Derby winner Raqiyah firmly in her place with a devastating turn of foot inside the final furlong to secure the valuable 15,000 Euros first prize. Back in second by two lengths was Umm Qarn Farms lovely young filly Raqiyah (Amer x Sarahmina) who had every chance in the final furlong but despite David Bouland's hard driving couldn't get past the winner. She remains a classy prospect and should go on the short list for the UK Derby. Bill Smith's other runner Altobello (Kerbella x Altamar Nedji), owned by Athbah Stud Ltd and the winner of the Group 2 juvenile race on Dubai Day last year, ran a race full of credit on his first start this season, rallying well under pressure in the closing stages and holding off a sustained challenge from the German raider, Terach El Samawi.