

**Dubai Day International Arabian Race Day 2010**  
**Review - Newbury 18<sup>th</sup> July**  
**by Paul Simmons**

On Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> July Newbury racecourse once again hosted one of Europe's finest and biggest Arabian racing meetings: the Dubai Day International Arabian Race Day. Races featured top class International Arabian racing performers from all over the world including: Qatar, Dubai, France, Iraq, America, the Netherlands, Belgium, Oman, Saudi Arabia and of course the UK. All were competing for a total prize fund of £130,000 spread across ultra competitive handicaps and three championship Group 1 races and a Group 2 Juvenile championship. This event once again made the thoroughbred world sit up and take notice of the Arabian horse who's beauty is famed throughout the world, but who's performance abilities are rarely acknowledged. Over 16,000 spectators watched a thrilling days racing with some exceptionally close finishes not only in the handicaps but also in the Group events, and the Tote reported a 20 % increase in turnover with £100,000 in bets taken on the day.

The day began with the ever popular Emirates Airlines seven furlong premier handicap featuring 17 runners. It was won in superb style by Welsh owner and trainer, Delyth Thomas's, useful gelding Jaamahir ridden by Sophie Doyle. The in form, Qatar based trainer Julian Smart scored two victories with the tough Mu'Azzaz in the Meydan International Stakes and Group 1 Kahayala Classic winner Jaafer, who won his first UK Group 1 in the Shadwell Dubai Stakes for owner HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, both piloted by an inspired Alan Munro.

The Group 1 Emirates NBD Hatta Stakes proved to be a spectacular race with Jane Haddock's British bred mare, Nokomys (leased to Athbah Stud) just getting up by a short head from the Qatari mare Al Anqa, for UK trainer Bill Smith and jockey Simon Walker. French raider Salaamah (ridden by Jean-Baptiste Hamel) also won a thrilling finish when just getting home by a head from Belgium contender Omni DA.

The day finished with two competitive handicaps won in superb style by Champion trainer Gill Duffield's Takaamul in the Jebel Ali Racecourse Stayers Handicap (piloted by an in form Sophie Doyle), and the beautifully bred, potential superstar colt, Menwaal, in the Jumeirah Group Mile Handicap. Menwaal being superbly ridden by Martin Smith.

However, the most impressive performance of the day was the Al Khalidiah Stables incredible colt Nashwan Al Khalidiah, who blew the opposition away with a pillar to post victory in the Al Hai Group 1 Zaabeel Stakes sprint under a confident Jean-Baptiste Hamel.

**Race 1 - The Emirates Airline Premier Handicap Stakes**  
**Over 7 furlongs**

Once again, an extremely competitive handicap race with 17 classy handicappers going to post, all of which had a solid chance of getting in the frame. The field broke from the stalls quickly with Unshooda, Sabden, Sakeena Sky Zayin and Pinkie Tuscadero all showing early speed with the rest of the field fairly well placed in behind. However, as they approached the two furlong marker the race began to unfold as Dakaran forged her lead inside the two furlong marker with Billoube and Jamaahir both snapping at her heels.

As they hit the final furlong, Dakaran still had the initiative under a determined Rachel Kneller but Sophie Doyle was galvanising a strong run from Jamaahir. These two fought it out inside the final furlong; firstly it looked as if Dakaran was going to get home; but an energetic Doyle refused to be denied on **Jamaahir (Makzan x Tikis Tiffany)** and drove him to a neck advantage just inside the shadow of the post for a popular victory. His delighted and elated Welsh owner and trainer Delyth Thomas was almost speechless after this 16/1 shot got home. *“He’s such a lovely horse and tries so hard, I can’t quite believe he’s won but I think it would have broken my heart if he had been second yet again; it’s a dream come true to win here and Sophie rode a superb race.”*

20/1 shot Dakaran (Karmah x Djaxy Des Forges) has looked slightly inconsistent to date, she won well over two miles at Wolverhampton before doing nothing at Fakenham, but she looked like a revelation here galloping strongly home inside the final two furlongs and showing a decent turn of foot. She was unlucky to be denied victory inside the final furlong and there is clearly plenty of improvement in Sarah Saunders plucky mare.

Three lengths back in third was Helen Bona’s smart gelding Billoube (Bengali D’Albret x Billou Al Maury). He made strong headway inside the final three furlongs and was a solid second inside the two furlong marker before the final stages but he stayed on strongly for third on his seasonal debut, and full credit to his trainer to get him here in such good heart. Whilst Maghazi (Chndaka x Nirva De Cardonne) ran a brave race under top weight back in fourth and stayed on well inside the final furlong: he will be interesting when upped in trip.

### **Race 2 – The Meydan International Stakes Over 1 mile 2 furlongs**

A fascinating addition to this race meeting with a quality field of seven going to post. HH Sheikh Hamdan’s eye catching homebred mare Haneen, led the field at a strong gallop throughout with Genuinely At Risk, Mu’Azzaz and Tidarbret in behind. As they approached the final two furlongs Steve Harrison drove the Middleton Stud’s imposing British bred entire Tidarbret into a decent lead with Mu’Azzaz hard pressed and one paced, galloping in behind under a energetic ride from Alan Munro. However, as they entered the final furlong the seemingly reluctant **Mu’Azzaz (Amer x Massamarie)** found his second wind and responded gamely to Munro’s urgings. He passed a tiring Tidarbret to win, going away by two and a quarter lengths for Qatar based trainer Julian Smart and owner/breeder, HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani (Al Shahania Stud).

Speaking afterwards with winning trainer Julian Smart, he said *“I was confident he would win today, he does have a very relaxed way of racing and requires plenty of driving to win but Alan rode him perfectly today and its great to have a winner at such a prestigious meeting.”* Tidarbret (Bengali D’Albret x Iktidar) lost nothing in defeat and ran a brave race. He picked up the pace two furlongs out and ran his heart out all the way to the line but couldn’t go with the winner: he remains a smart performer. Genuinely At Risk (Doran x Djenuine) looked to be travelling well throughout until he came under pressure three furlongs out and looked one paced until staying on well in the final furlong to take third from a tiring Haneen (Prince D’Orient x Maheba De Piboul).

### **Race 3 – The Emirates NBD Hatta International Stakes Over 1 mile 2 furlongs**

Arguably the most thrilling racing finish of the day and a spectacle rarely seen in Group 1 races. The top class mares Nokomys and Al Anqa fought a royal battle for victory with the older mare, Nokomys, gaining a deserved victory having finished second in this event for the last two years. The Royal Cavalry of Oman's useful mare Kerbelle Lotoise setting a scorching gallop from the start with Iftekhar, Nokomys and Al Anqa all travelling well in behind. As they entered the final three furlongs, Iftekhar went into a brief lead before Al Anqa asserted her authority inside the final two furlongs. As they reached the final furlong it was nip and tuck all the way as Al Anqa and Nokomys went head to head for victory. Nokomys went into the lead inside the final half furlong before Al Anqa headed her briefly again. British bred **Nokomys (Amer x KTP Mystic Flight (Wiking))**, in the dying strides of the race, was ridden phenomenally by Simon Walker, who just got her up on the line for victory by a short head for owners Athbah Stud Ltd and trainer Bill Smith.

Speaking afterwards, winning trainer Bill Smith said *"She's a great mare to train so tough and genuine and deserves to win this after being the second for the last two years, and I am pleased for Athbah Stud and her breeder Jane Haddock."* Al Anqa (Amer x Altesse D'Aroco) lost nothing in defeat: last years French Juvenile Breeders Cup winner ran a superb race attempting to go clear inside the final furlong but she couldn't shake off the relentless Nokomys and just lost out to the more experienced mare in the closing stages. These two were a good ten lengths clear of Qatar local bred Oaks winner, Iftekhar (Amer x Arc De Ciel) who was one paced inside the final furlong but kept up to her work to hold off the pace setter, Kerbelle Lotoise (Kerbella x Dheila Lotoise).

### **Race 4 – The Shadwell Dubai International Stakes Over 1 mile 2 furlongs**

A quality field went to post for the richest race of the day as impressive Group winners Jaafer, Adjinn D'Aroco and Jalab Al Khalidiah took on smart Royal Cavalry of Oman stayer, Quorman Des Vialettes. The field broke well with relentless galloper Quorman Des Vialettes attempting to draw the sting out of the tail of the field, as they entered the home straight it was Adjinn D'Aroco under a strong Tadhg O'Shea who went into a clear lead with Jaafer stalking menacingly in behind and Jalab Al Khalidiah cruising in the pack. However, the writing was on the wall at the two furlong marker as Alan Munro unleashed a devastating turn of foot from Jaafer and this powerful grey stallion powered into a clear lead with Adjinn D'Aroco and Jalab Al Khalidiah fighting it out in behind for second.

**Jaafer (Amer x Madjela)** won going away by an impressive three lengths for trainer Julian Smart and owner HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani (Al Shahania Stud). Commenting afterwards, winning trainer Julian Smart said *"That was a fantastic performance from Jaafer in such top class company, we always thought he was better on dirt and I think that's probably his finest turf performance to date and his first European Group 1 victory."* Jalab Al Khalidiah (Amer x Edele De Carrere) chased the winner all the way to the line after snatching second place while inside the final furlong, but he had no chance of claiming victory. Nonetheless, he ran an excellent race to claim second in the closing stages. HH Sheikh Hamdan's smart, entire Adjinn D'Aroco (Tidjani x Asbaa D'Aroco) ran his heart out and made a bold bid for victory in the home run but couldn't stay with the winner. He was a shade unlucky to lose second by half a length inside the final half furlong. The Royal

Cavalry of Oman's Quorman Des Violettes (Dormane x Khandela Des Violette) plugged on gamely for the fourth.

### **Race 5 – The Emirates Equestrian Federation International Stakes Over 7 furlongs**

A strong field of 10 went to post for this juvenile championship and they broke well with Fawzi, Omni DA, Our Princess and Djeldora all showing early speed. As the field approached the final two furlongs, Djeldora, who held the initiative before Mubher, led inside the final furlong, but Omni DA went into the lead inside the final half furlong with evens favourite Salaamah finishing fast and furious down the centre of the track. These two game juveniles shot past the finish line in a bobbing head to head finish. The photo finish revealed the smart French mare **Salaamah (Njewman x Amidou Douzaia)** just won by a short head under a great ride from Jean-Baptiste Hamel for trainer Damian De Watrigant and owner/breeder HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nayyan.

The Belgium runner Omni DA (Ircalan DA x Haliyana El Kendal) was desperately unlucky back in second and look to have victory at his mercy inside the final furlong, but the winners late charge proved too strong. Whilst HH Sheikh Hamdan's smart gelding Mubher (Al Sakbe x Elisa Du Paon) ran a race full of promise on only his second start. He led inside the final furlong and even when headed, he battled all the way to the line and was beaten into third by less than two lengths ahead of Kadesch DA (Djel Bon x Nowara DA) in fourth.

### **Race 6 – The Jebel Ali Racecourse Premier Handicap Stakes Over 1 mile 5 furlongs**

Some impressive and useful stayers went to post for this marathon handicap and the finish proved to be thrilling with the previous luckless Takaamul just getting up by a short head from stablemate Moshahed. They broke well and Alan Munro quickly went to the head of the field with 6/5-on favourite Moshahed, who ensured a decent gallop was set throughout with Takaamul, Theoretically and Cricket De Loup all handy.

As they entered the home straight Moshahed kicked on a gear with Takaamul and Theoretically still travelling well in behind. When they hit the final furlong, Alan Munro was all out on Moshahed as an energised Sophie Doyle drove Takaamul to challenge. These two brave geldings went head to head inside the final half furlong with **Takaamul (Diebbel x Valina Des Fabries)** under a great ride from Doyle and just got up by half a length to win for owner and breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and trainer Gill Duffield. Speaking afterwards Duffield said *"He's been crying out for a trip and I was confident he would run a big race here off his low weight, I knew he'd stay as his dam won over 1 mile 4 furlongs and his sire won the Dubai Stakes, and I am pleased he's lost his maiden tag after being consistently second."*

Moshahed (Chndaka x Nirva De Cardonne) ran an honourable race in defeat and rallied gamely when headed inside the final furlong and remains a classy stayer. Theoretically (Doran x First Ladie) deserves plenty of praise for finishing just two and a quarter lengths back in third under his mammoth burden of ten stone and at his first attempt at this trip. He has plenty of heart, was well clear of the rest of field and will be interesting when dropped back to ten furlongs.

### **Race 7 – The Al Hai Group Zaabeel International Stakes Over 6 furlongs**

**Nashwan Al Khalidiah (Tiwaig x Rayyan (Bengali D'Albret))** annihilated this quality sprint field in awesome fashion making all with a power packed display under a confident Jean-Baptiste Hamel. He won, going away by over three lengths. The 5/4 favourite never gave his supporters a moments concern as he galloped readily clear from the off to record a devastating pillar to post victory in the style of a phenomenal horse, to win as he liked for the Al Khalidiah Stables and trainer Jean-Francois Bernard.

Julian Smart's runner Nimr (Amer x Nisae) was always chasing in his slipstream. He was an easy second three furlongs out and ran on well under pressure to close the gap with the winner inside the final furlong but never got near the victor. The Royal Cavalry of Oman's Mutafani (Amer x Cheikha) looked right back to his best in third (was 2<sup>nd</sup> in this race in 2008). He was always travelling ahead of the pack and was a clear third three furlongs out, running on well to the line inside the final furlong to hold onto third ahead of Ircalan DA (Djel Bon x Allssah), but he was eight lengths adrift of Nimr.

### **Race 8 – The Jumeirah Group Handicap Stakes Over 1 mile**

An eye catching performance from HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's beautifully bred colt Menwaal, who showed an impressive turn of foot inside the final furlong to out point his stablemate Laqataat for victory. They were led for the first furlong by Whisper before Jelvita went to the head of affairs and took the field along at a smart gallop until the two furlong marker.

Laqataat (Bengali D'Albret x Qosheeyya), who didn't get the best break, swept into the lead inside the final furlong and to all intents and purposes looked the clear winner until she lost valuable lengths by drifting across the length of the track to the stands rail. This left **Menwaal (Chndaka x Synaps)** under a great ride from Martin Smith to power into the lead inside the final furlong and to win in fine style at the line by half a length. Speaking afterwards his delighted winning trainer Gill Duffield said *"He's a very nice colt and won that well especially on only his second start and should have further improvement in him. Laqataat is a very nice mare but threw her chance away in the final furlong by drifting across the track."*

Whilst the ever game Whisper (The Wiking x Sucha) ran a superb race back in third for trainer Adam Newey, she was always prominent and ran on strongly inside the two furlong marker leading briefly before being passed by the first two. She looks capable of winning again when upped in trip.