

## Fontwell Park Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June Racing Review

By Paul Simmons

Photos courtesy of GJ Multimedia

### 1<sup>st</sup> race – The Eve Lodge Maiden Stakes over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs



A well deserved win for **Yaqoot (Darike x Nirva De Cardonne)** who ran some excellent races in defeat last season. She was prominent throughout before being brought with her run inside the final two furlongs and stayed on strongly under a well judged ride from Simon Walker to win by a length for trainer Bill Smith and owner, breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum. Back in second was the Royal Cavalry of Oman's A'Naser, who made his claim for victory in the home straight but was never going to get past the winner. Moshahed ran a promising race on his debut in second and stayed on well in the final furlong.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> race – The Eclipse Series Open Handicap 6 Furlongs

**Fraternity** was sent off like a speeding bullet under owner, trainer, jockey Karen Ward and duly made all, quickening up impressively in the final furlong to repel a late surge by Balerno, who was all out under a determined Anna Wallace, who finished two and a half lengths back in second. Four Pleasure was tapped for toe but was kept up to his work for third.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> race – The Angel Arabian Handicap 0-85 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs



Jockey Martin Smith's gold streak continued here as he caught the entire field napping and seized the initiative from the half way point on Qawaafil. Almost fifteen lengths clear at one point, this filly gamely out galloped the field and stayed on strongly in the closing stages to hold onto victory from a determined Few And Far. **Qawaafil (Vasilisk x Bisbille)** hadn't shown much in two runs last term, but as full sister to leading stayer Taabeer this trip was always going to suit, and Smith rode a bold race to out smart the field to claim victory of owner breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan. Winning trainer Gill Duffield said afterwards, "That was a good run and she's improving, but Martin rode that well". Few and Far

made up a huge amount of ground in the closing furlongs but was never going to reach the winner, however she battled on well to hold onto third from Alsharq, who was staying on ahead of the rest of the field.

### 4<sup>th</sup> race – The Al-Nujaifi Farm Series Handicap 0-65 over 6 Furlongs

They set off at a blistering pace in this sprint with Sakeena Sky Zayin bidding to make a brave bid for victory under a determined Phil Collington, with Whisper and Mr Ben her only real dangers. As they approached the final furlong Sakeena Sky Zayin was all out in the centre of the course for victory, but **Whisper (The Wiking x Sucha)** was finishing with a stronger burst of speed under a powerful ride from David Turner to win by half length for the Almost All Partnership. Speaking afterwards winning trainer Adam Newey said, "We thought she had a good chance today and she did it well, she is so tough and genuine and always tries her best". Back in second was a decent seasonal debut from Sakeena Sky Zayin under top weight, whilst stablemate Mr Ben, also trained by Bev Paterson, ran well on his debut; he had every chance in the final furlong and was only half a length back in third.



### 5<sup>th</sup> race – The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap 0-100 over 7 Furlongs

Mutafani set a fast pace from the off and quickened up the tempo in the final two furlongs, but **Aberfeldy (Amer x Zeinah)** was travelling ominously well in behind under a confident Simon Walker and she quickened clear in impressive style in the final furlong to win by just over a length for owner Jane Haddock and in form trainer Bill Smith. She looks firmly on the upgrade. Mutafani (Amer x Cheikha) did all the hard work and lost nothing in defeat, he fought hard in the final furlong but couldn't live with the winner, although he ran on gamely to hold off Marsak by a length to retain second.



### 6<sup>th</sup> race – The Gotottheraces.com Handicap 0-60 over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs



**Floren (Bengali D'Albret x Florys De Nautiac)** is maintaining his form admirably well this season and recorded a very impressive victory here under his welter weight of 11 st 2 lb (after his 6 lb penalty for his win at Wolverhampton the week before). Tough as teak this 9 year old entire outstayed his rivals in dour fashion and after tracking Abra into the home straight he stayed on in fine style under a superb ride from owner, trainer, jockey Theresa Smith. Abra ran another excellent front running performance and shows no signs of being a teenager; she set a good pace and was kept up to her task in the final furlong to hold onto second. Affar is clearly going the right

way and stayed every yard of this trip, he was handy throughout and battled on in the final furlong to take third from Notid.

### 7<sup>th</sup> race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap 0-75 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

An excellent confident boosting win for **Adraaj (Bengali D'Albret x Aicha Tourettes)** under a calm well timed ride from Phil Collington. Held up in midfield, he made smooth headway on this filly in the home straight and quickened up nicely in the final furlong to win by an easy length for owner, breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum and trainer Gill Duffield. Al Fairouz ran another solid race in second for the Royal Cavalry of Oman, he went for victory inside the two furlong marker and although he rallied inside the closing stages he never looked like passing the winner. Debrett ran another gutsy race back in third, he made all and stayed on well when beaten to hold onto third ahead of Pacific Way.



### 8<sup>th</sup> race – The Hope Farm Trading Open Handicap over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

There may have been only four runners but race goers were treated to a thrilling end to the day as Fred Offord and Kevin Supple went head to head inside the final furlong on **Kings Cavalier and Golden Peacock**. As they came inside the shadow of the post there was nothing to spare between these two gallant athletes with the judge calling a dead heat between the two. Exclusive Air couldn't quicken with these two and finished five lengths back in third.

