Review – Hereford Sunday 4th July

1st Race – The ARO Racing Maiden Stakes over 1 Mile 1 Furlong:

Another dramatic start to a maiden as Samauring Zayin almost failed to jump off and badly hampered 6/4 fav Al Haitham: the pair eventually jumping off nearly a furlong behind the field. That said the rest of the field set off at a scorching pace with Haneen, Altesse Kossack and Aakbe all showing early speed. As they rounded for the home turn Ollie Garner had set sail for home on the beautifully bred Haneen (Prince D'Orient x Maheba De Piboul) and this talented mare kicked readily clear of the field to win by an impressive eight lengths for HH Sheikh Hamdan and Gill Duffield. Haneen is entered in the Group 1 Hatta Stakes on Dubai Day. Back in second was an excellent run from Athbah Stud's Aakbe (Akbar x Avril De Syrah) who rallied hard in the final furlong to hold off Altesse Kossack (Marwan I x Azedine A). The latter ran her best race to date having travelled well throughout and she came through with a strong gallop in the home bend before losing second inside the final furlong.

2nd Race – The Royal Cavalry of Oman Novice Rider Handicap Stakes 0-55 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs:

A fascinating race that saw Bonham and Hayleys Comet take each other on for the lead and as a result they set a strong gallop throughout but ultimately did themselves no favours out in front, as they turned for home they were head to head hackling for the lead with Bonham just usurping his authority in the final furlong. But **El Buba** (**Mahbuba x Zalmera**) who had been sitting in behind, came with a wet sail down the stands side under a superb determined ride from Tracey Gavin and he swept into the lead inside the final half furlong to win by two and half lengths for trainer David Paton. Bonham (Bakara x Bonnie Jet) lost nothing in defeat and ran a great race but was out gunned in the final stages, as did Hayleys Comet (Nevesti x Kapilia) a neck back in third who gamely battled on for second but had to settle for third.

3rd Race – The Athbah Stud Handicap Stakes 0-70 over 2 Miles:

An extremely impressive seasonal debut from Pacific Way (who has been competing in endurance this year) who out stayed the field here in dour fashion to win for owner/trainer Gill Plumbley. The field set off at a decent pace from the start with the tempo being wound up along the back straight and as they turned for home it was Des'brie and Pacific Way who galloped easily clear of the field, and as they hit the final furlong **Pacific Way (Way To Go x Bacifica)** galloped clear under a well judged ride from Martin Smith to win on the line by two and a half lengths. Des'brie (Vadeer x Elina Des Fabries) ran a solid race back in second at her first attempt over this mammoth trip, she showed plenty of resolution chasing the winner all the way to the line and is one to watch. Whilst Debrett (Bengali D'Albret x Djeba Al Mels) stayed on one paced in the home straight a good twelve lengths back in third, but in turn was clear of a labouring Floren.

4th Race – The Merwah Handicap Stakes 0-60 over 1 Mile:

A thrilling end to this competitive mile handicap as Wikkara and Star Valentina galloped into a clear lead inside the home straight and they were head to head with every stride inside the final furlong with Tom Garner on Wikkara and Rachel Kneller on Star Valentina hard at work driving these two brave athletes towards the finish

line, and as they approached the shadow of the post it was <u>Wikkara (The Wiking x Akara De Syrah)</u>, under an energised ride from the talented Tom Garner, who seized the advantage to win by a head for trainer Adam Newey and owner Linda Cross. Back in second was a superb effort from Star Valentina (Div x Pronika) who had every chance inside the final furlong and was all out for victory but just couldn't quite get there, she is one to watch next time out. Whilst four lengths back in third was Trip To Khairo (Khairoaun x Tikis Trip), who ran her best race of the campaign showing a good turn of foot inside the final furlong to sprint clear of the rest of the field.

5th Race – The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap Stakes 0-80 over 7 Furlongs:
Another thrilling duelling finish here as a revitalised Pinkie Tuscadero took an Nasheet for a furious battle to the line, these two looked extremely smart galloping into the home straight with Pinkie Tuscadero on the inside the Nasheet all out in her slip stream. As they hit the final furlong Pinkie Tuscadero (Izentespeshal x Altyv), under a fantastic power packed ride from Phil Collington, showed her true determination and courage in holding off the sustained challenge of Nasheet to score by a neck for in form trainer Adam Newey and the Almost All Partnership. Nasheet (Vasilisk x Mangana) ran an eye catching race on his seasonal debut and looked like winning inside the final furlong but couldn't get past the determined winner. Whilst Miswadah (Makzan x Shunah) looked out paced early on but came with a good strong run off the home bend and chased the leaders into the home straight and will come on for the run.

6th Race – The Penn Challenge OPEN (TB &AA) Handicap Stakes 0-170 over 1 Mile 1 Furlong:

An unexpected but decent win by **Trouble Maker (Green Desert x River Abouali)** here as owner/trainer/jockey Lee Moulson scored a resolute victory with an emphatic four length victory over impressive Anglo runner Dancing Grace (Dancing Spree x Hardtoboss). They went a fair clip throughout, but as they headed inside the final furlong it was Trouble Maker who was forging a determined path to the winning post and he galloped into a clear four length advantage under a determined ride from Moulson to score their first ARO victory. Back in second was another fine run from Dancing Grace who chased the winner all the way to the line but never looked like winning. Whilst Ditzy Diva (Imperial Dancer x Runs In The Family) ran a good race in third, she looked tapped for toe in the straight but stayed on well for third ahead of Mattoni.

7th Race – The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap Stakes 0-95 over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs:

A match race here as stablemate's, Moshahed and Qareim De Faust, tried to win a tactical affair over this staying handicap. As they turned into the home straight it was clear that Phil Collington was travelling well under **Moshahed (Chndaka x Nirva De Cardonne)** and he outstayed his companion Qareim De Faust (Dormane x Harein De Faust) in good fashion to win by two and half lengths and should have a good each way chance in the stayers handicap on Dubai Day.

8th Race – The ARO Returns to Hereford on 21st August OPEN (TB & AA) Handicap over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs:

Another emphatic victory here from the ever impressive **Son Of Sophie (Band On The Run x Fair Enchantress)** who once again galloped his rivals into submission in

devastating style, he swung off the top bend in a clear lead under a confident ride from Rachel Kneller to win as he liked by twelve lengths for owner/trainer Peter Hammersley. Back in second was a one paced Global Achiever (Key Of Luck x Inflation) who had no chance with the winner but was kept up to his work to hold onto third. Whilst Reminiscent (Kahayasi x Eliza Orzeskowa) showed he was coming back to form staying on dourly in the final furlong for third.