

Huntingdon Saturday 29th May Review by Paul Simmons

1st Race – The Racing Enterprises Maiden Stakes Over 6 furlongs

A shock result here as the un-fancied 12/1 Duffield runner and HH Sheikh Hamdan owned **Ashwaaq (Al Sakbe x Bisbille)** showed the field a clear pair of heels under a superb ride from the talented young jockey Oliver Garner. Always travelling well she was sent to the front inside the home straight and under a determined ride from Garner held on well by a length from fast finishing stablemate Jaady. Speaking afterwards, winning trainer Gill Duffield said, *"She's been working very green at home so this is a bit of a surprise, although her dam won over 5 furlongs and was half sister to champion sprinter Vert Olive"*. Back in second was the smart colt Jaady (Prince D'Orient x Alharir) who was always handy and disputed the lead before the straight making the winner work hard for her win. Beverley Deutrom (FKA Paterson) unleashed a smart colt in Maghazi (Chndaka x Nirva De Cardonne) back in third; he came with his run inside the home straight and whilst always being held by the first two was safely clear of the field and is one to watch for the future.

2nd Race - The Royal Cavalry of Oman Novice Rider Series Handicap Stakes Over 1 mile 6 furlongs

Another surprise win from the Carl Kester owned and trained 8/1 shot **Sabden (Bengali D'Albret x Sambella)** who was superbly ridden by Kirstin Mellor. Kester's eight year old mare was rallying for the lead inside the final two furlongs with the hard ridden Hayley's Comet, and as these two fought out the finish inside the final furlong they were head to head all the way to the line with Sabden just holding on by a nose from a gallant Hayley's Comet (Nevesti x Kapilia). The latter lost nothing in defeat and was arguably a shade unlucky on the day and should be winning again soon. Bonham ran a solid race in third on his seasonal debut, staying on dourly in the closing stages, and is one for the short list next time out.

3rd Race - The Oliver Cromwell Handicap Stakes Over 1 mile 2 furlongs

The Royal Cavalry of Oman's Hajes set a decent pace from the off with stablemate Mudalal close up and Moshahed and Tidarbret all handy. As they entered the final two furlongs Steve Harrison unleashed a devastating run on the Middleton Stud's smart Breeders' Cup winner **Tidarbret (Bengali D'Albret x Iktidar)** who kicked clear to win in the final furlong coming home three lengths too good for the Royal Cavalry of Oman's Mudalal (Darike x Rawabi). The last named ran an impressive race on his season debut in the UK and ran on strongly in the closing stages, chasing hard but always being held, even so an easy four lengths clear of third. Moshahed (Chndaka x Nirva De Cardonne) was hard ridden in the home straight but to his credit fought triumphantly to claw back third from Hajes in the final furlong.

4th Race - The Royal Cavalry of Oman Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier) Over 6 furlongs

Another impressive winner from the powerful Duffield stable as Martin Smith rode a well judged race on HH Sheikh Hamdan's smart filly **Manaal (Djendel x Kahina El Kihm)**. Smith was always well placed and the filly showed a smart turn of foot inside the final furlong when challenged by stablemate Takaamul to win by just under a length. Takaamul (Djebbel x Valina Des Fabries) ran another sound race back in second and tried to catch the winner but was always just being held; he remains a smart prospect. Finishing third, the Royal Cavalry of Oman's Wathiq (Nenuphar Al Maury x Tawam) led the field into the straight and rallied hard under pressure but

couldn't lay up with the first two. He stayed on well and could be interesting if upped in trip.

5th Race - The Sponsor This Race To Have Your Name Here Open Race Handicap, Over 1 mile 6 furlongs

Son of Sophie (Band On The Run x Fair Enchantress) won again in awesome style here galloping readily clear in the home straight having led the field from the six furlong marker. He was easily clear inside the final furlong under a confident ride from Rachel Kneller and won as he liked by seven lengths for trainer Peter Hamersley. Yankey (Amfortas (IRE) x Key) chased the winner from the half way marker and was always playing catch up; yet whilst he was no match for the winner on this occasion the owner/trainer ridden gelding ran a good race in second and was easily clear of the field. Straffan Cyclone (Shernazar x Hurricane Jane (IRE)) was a further twelve lengths back in third and worked hard to hold that position from a fast finishing Ditzzy Diva.

6th Race - The Pepys Handicap Stakes Over 7 furlongs

Millennium Leap (Khairouan x Balla Star) jumped straight into the lead at the start under a superb ride from Tom Garner and she showed the field a clean set of heels inside the final furlong to win nicely at the line for her delighted owner/trainer Mark Cooper. Commenting after the race Cooper said *"I was confident she was right today, she was spot on and Tom rode a great race. He did exactly as he was told which is rare in a jockey"*. Back in second was an eye catching run from the David Paton trained Senor Dublcheck (Bengali D'Albret x Mais); always in contention he made his move inside the home straight and ran well under pressure inside the final furlong and will be interesting over a further distance. Another four lengths back in third was Caroline De Wilde owned/trained and ridden Egypt (Marawan x Sareefa) who was up with the pace but always going to settle for a minor place. Odds on favourite Florys Folly ran no sort of race here seemingly never travelling or in contention.

7th Race - The Shaw & Fox Handicap Stakes Over 7 furlongs

They didn't hang about here with confirmed front runners Floren and Sakeena Sky Zayin taking each other on for the lead from the start ensuring a decent pace. As they entered the home straight, the leaders started to struggle whilst young guns, Flashcat and Dargali, started to make their move. Hitting the final furlong Dargali took the lead with Flashcat chasing in his slipstream, yet in the end **Dargali (Bengali D'Albret x Iktidar)** under a well timed, confident ride from Vicky Clarke won by a cosy half length for owner/breeders James and Jo Kippen and trainer Dennis Batteate. This colt looks smart and is one to bear in mind for Dubai Day. Speaking afterwards Jo Kippen said *"We've no big plans for him but are pleased with that win and his full brother Tidarbret's victory as well. It shows the stud is breeding decent race winners and the dam has just had a filly by Munjiz too"*. Flashcat (Concord x Edjalie) has strengthened up over the winter and ran a competitive race forcing the winner pull out all the stops for victory. His turn shouldn't be far away. Whilst the ever consistent Floren (Bengali D'Albret x Florys De Nautiac) stayed on well in the final furlong to take third and will appreciate a stiffer test of stamina next time out.

8th Race - The Montague Open Race Handicap Over 7 furlongs

A double here for owner/trainer Carl Kester and jockey Kristin Mellor as **Red Myth (Arkadian Hero x Denise Best (IRE))** made very short work of the opposition by landing a comfortable victory from the field. Red Myth led from the start and quickly

went clear of the field winning by an easy five lengths and looks firmly on the upgrade. Back in second was a good run from Mandy's Meastro (Brahms x Belle Masque) who chased the winner all the way down the straight but was never any nearer. The old timer Anglo, Hardtoback (Norton Challenger x Harem VII), ran an amazing race in third galloping on resolutely in the closing stages to take third inside the final two furlongs for owner/trainer/breeder Jenny Peyton.