

The President of the UAE Cup (UK Arabian Derby, Group 1 PA) Ascot Racecourse, Saturday 23rd July 2011

Review by Paul Simmons
Images courtesy of thejockey.co.uk

Every few years in racing (whether it be Arabian or Thoroughbred) a superstar is seen on the race track and to witness their brilliance is a thing of beauty. At Ascot this year a new star emerged in the shape of the incredible French filly **Kiss De Ghazal (Dormane x Kaoe De Ghazal (Kesberoy))**; unbeaten in 6 races in France including the Breeders Cup Juvenile last year, but she had yet to take on serious Group 1 colt performers. In this year's renewal of The President of the UAE Cup (UK Arabian Derby), Kiss De Ghazal silenced all her critics with a devastating display of



brilliance to land an emphatic victory by 7 lengths making the rest of the classy field look extremely ordinary. She will clearly be a force to be reckoned with at the Breeders Cup meeting at Saint Cloud in September or even the Qatar Arabian World Cup. This classy filly went off the 11/10 favourite and under a superb ride from Jean-Bernard Eyquem she never gave her backers a moments concern, quickly asserting her supreme talent and class to gallop readily clear of the field inside the final furlong for an easy going away victory for trainer Jean-François Bernard and owner Mr Haif Bin Mohammed Al Qhatani.

With the winner home and dry, the race for second was a fascinating display as the French trained Divamer, the Iraqi bred and owned Gharra'a and the British owned Forgehill Cosaque all fighting out a battle royal to the line. In a near photo finish it was Alban De Miuelle's Umm Qarn runner Divamer (Amer x Divana) who just got up on the line for second; this was a solid run from this talented performer and he looks a fine prospect. Dr Al Nujaifi's eye catching filly Gharra'a (Matador x Wadha Al-Thania) has been in great form in Sweden, proving she is well up to this grade of racing by battling on well in the final furlong and going down by a head to take third. Forgehill Cosaque (Dormane x Change of Scent (Baroud III)) met trouble in running and was arguably given too much to do by his jockey. When he found daylight however he came with a strong run inside the final half furlong and was finishing best of all for fourth by a short head.



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