REVIEW – The Wathba Stud Farm Cup Series UK Breeders Stakes

Newbury Racecourse, Thursday 9th June 2011

Review by Paul Simmons, additional editorial by Amanda Smith
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The British leg of the Wathba Stud Farm Cup Series was run at Newbury Racecourse yesterday (9th June), with seven locally bred Arabians battling it out on the Grade One Track.

The race was won by **Ambrose (Amer x KTP Mystic Flight (Wiking)),** who has been knocking on the door of victory for most of his racing career, having been placed 9 times from 11 starts, but has always looked a little quirky and reluctant to put his head in front. He showed no such reluctance in this contest and won emphatically under a well timed ride from Simon Walker, losing his maiden tag in fine style for owner/breeder Jane Haddock.

The field broke well with Pinkie Tuscadero setting a blistering pace with Whisper and Samauring Zayin keeping themselves in contention. Katwalk was noticeably tapped for speed in the early stages while Simon Walker played a patient waiting game with Ambrose in behind. 3 furlongs out Walker moved Ambrose smoothly through the field to the take the lead from a one paced Pinkie Tuscadero. He then quickly asserted his authority and set sail for home, with Verdora looking to be his biggest danger. Approaching the final furlong the writing was on the wall with Ambrose galloping clear of the field for a devastating nine length victory.

Speaking afterwards winning trainer Bill Smith commented *"We've always known he has talent and had planned to target this race as his first of the season. We were hopeful of a big run today, and he's done it impressively"*. His delighted UK owner/breeder Jane Haddock, who has been breeding top class Arabian racehorses in the UK for many years, said *"I am delighted to win this race as it supports the UK breeders, Ambrose is very talented and hopefully that win will give him the confidence he needs."*

Lara Sawaya, Director of Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival, was especially pleased that there were seven different UK breeders represented in the line up. The race served to promote the diversity of locally bred Arabian Racehorses linking with the Festival's unique concept to support the foundations of Arabian racing.

James Kippen's homebred mare **Verdora (Dormane x Vert Galante (Dunixi)** ran an excellent race back in second, she travelled well mid field and then galloped on in the closing stages when the early front runners were spent. **Katwalk (Makzan x CS Shamal (Bengali D'Albret))** struggled in the early stages to go the pace, but her stamina kicked in and she made late progress in the final furlong to claim third by a neck from a one paced Whisper.