

Stratford 26th September Review

By Paul Simmons

Photos courtesy of GJ Multimedia

1st Race – The Geoff Howard Maiden Stakes

PA Maiden over 6 Furlongs

The impressively bred **Juhood (Al Sakbe x Tamani)** made short work of the opposition here, winning as he liked from odds on favourite Takaamul. Trip To Paris set a good pace from the off but Juhood and Takaamul were always cruising in behind and as they approached the home straight Phil Collington made smooth progress to lead with only stablemate Takaamul laying down any serious challenge. Juhood was kept up to his work in the final furlong to win by just under a length for owner, breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum and trainer Gill Duffield. Takaamul (Djebbel x Valina Des Fabries) was always in contention but couldn't quite reach the winner in the closing stages. Katwalk (Makzan x CS Shamal) was always handy and easily held off the rest of the field for third and will be sharper for the experience next season.



2nd race – The Royal Cavalry Of Oman Novice Rider Series Handicap Stakes

PA 0-65 over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs



A fantastic riding performance here from Rachel Kneller aboard the Gill Plumbley owned and trained **Pacific Way (Way To Go x Bacifica)**, who won in fine style here, comfortably defeating this field to put her right in the frame for the Jebel Ali Final at Warwick. Barik led the field at a good gallop throughout and was looking to be in command under Oliver Garner as they entered the home straight, but Kneller was cruising under Pacific Way and she soon asserted her authority in the final furlong to pull readily clear for a three length victory. The winner's half brother Barik (Darike x Bacifica) ran another solid race in second, he did all the hard work but couldn't hold off the winner, although he remained comfortably clear of the field. Jamaahir (Makzan x Tikis Tiffany) is improving

with every run and ran on promisingly in the closing stages to hold off WFA Leopard and is one to note for next time.

3rd race – The Curtis Medical For Surgeries Open Race Handicap Stakes

TB, AA & PB 0-180 over 6 Furlongs

Ela Figura cut out the running and set off at a decent sprint pace until joint favourite Avery hit the front inside the straight and set sail for home under a determined Martin Smith with Blanc Visage and Minnie Mill cruising in behind. As they entered the final furlong **Blanc Visage** was sent about his business by Simon Walker to win going away by two lengths for a well deserved first win for owner, trainer Tina Ashton. Minnie Mill came with a decent turn of foot inside the final furlong to take second ahead of Avery who rallied hard but couldn't hold on and finished two lengths back in third ahead of Ela Figura.



4th race – The Springfield Video Handicap Stakes

PA 0-55 over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs



Raihan cut out the early running setting a moderate pace for the first four furlongs before Martin Smith swept past on **Shereik (Frere Des Loups x Satin Sheiks)**, upping the pace and setting a strong gallop before pulling clear inside the home straight to win as she liked under an inspired Martin Smith, landing an easy four length victory for trainer Rob Bailly and owners RIO Racing, in doing so landing the second victory of the season for this mare who has a strong claim in the Jebel Ali Final. Hayley's Comet (Nevesti x Kapilia) ran another excellent race in second, he chased the winner all the way to the line but was never nearer than second. Millennium Leap (Khairouan x Balla Star) made excellent progress along the back straight and looked a big danger coming into the home turn but had no extra to give, she stayed on well for third ahead of Kayeed.

**5th race – The gototheraces.com Handicap Stakes
PA 0-90 over 6 Furlongs**

The Bill Smith trained **Galaavi (Flaming Streak x Virlaxy)** gained a deserved first UK victory here in fine style, making all and soon drawing several lengths clear down the back straight, winning as she liked by a comfortable eased down five lengths to give Simon Walker one of the easiest wins of the campaign and his second of the meeting, and giving new racing owners the Athbah Stud Ltd their second win of the season. Jelvita (Njewman x Vite Amine) ran her usual game race in second but soon looked to be struggling to go the pace, but to her credit kept on for second. Al Harith (Asad Saif x Wadha Al-Thania) was reluctant to race and gave too many lengths away at the start to be in contention, eventually finishing third.



**6th race – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)
PA 0-80 over 1 Mile**



Trainer Bill Smith and jockey Simon Walker followed up for another decent win with handicap debut **Nasheet (Vasilisk x Mangana)**. The early pace was set by Billoube and Final Fling with the rest of the field held up behind, and as they entered the straight Final Fling set sail for home with Nasheet and Whisper closing rapidly in behind. Nasheet was sent into the lead as they hit the final furlong, although he had to pull out all the stops to hold off a fast finishing Whisper (The Wiking x Sucha), who produced her smart turn of foot inside the final furlong but just failed to get home by three-quarters of a length. Final Fling (Djamel x FH Honey Mellon) ran on well inside the straight, only losing second inside the final furlong;

he kept on one paced but was well clear of the rest of the field.

**7th race – The ARO Dinner Dance 31st October Handicap Stakes
PA 0-40 over 6 Furlongs**

An brilliant riding performance here from jockey Martin Smith, who is in the form of his life this season, as he steered home Caroline De Wilde's lovely mare **Egypt (Marawan x Sareefa)** to out-sprint these rivals in devastating style. The early pace was cut out by VY Mista Mena who's chance petered out after three furlongs with Shouq taking the initiative inside the final home straight, but Smith always looked confident on Egypt, coming with a wet sail inside the final furlong to pull clear impressively to win by three lengths. Back in second was another strong effort from Florys Folly (Vert Olive x Florys Nautiac), who looks to be coming to hand, she was always handy and was in third as they entered the straight, laying down a serious challenge inside the final furlong but she couldn't quicken with winner. El Buba (Mahbuba x Zalmera) came right back to form here, he was midfield throughout before running on strongly inside the straight to just hold onto third by a neck from the fast finishing Tom Brady.



**8th race – The Penn Challenge Open Race Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier)
TB, AA & PB 0-160 over 1 Mile**



A third win of the campaign for the Jenny Peyton owned, trained and bred Anglo Arab mare **Dancing Grace**, who won with plenty in hand under a confident ride from Ceri Evans. Mattoni and Azzaamm cut out the early running ensuring a decent pace throughout, but Dancing Grace was always going with consummate ease and moved smoothly through the field in the final two furlongs before going comfortably clear to win by an easy two lengths. Mattoni ran well in second, making a decent attempt to hold onto victory inside the final furlong, but he had no chance with the winner. The winner's stablemate Hardtoback stayed on gamely inside the home straight for a respectable third.