

## Warwick 11<sup>th</sup> October Review

By Sulekha Varma

### Race 1 The Weatherbys Bank Handicap Stakes (0-60) 6f

The market in this race proved what an open field it was, with the leaders ranging from 5-2 to 9-2 but **Whisper**, trained by Sam Davison and ridden by David Turner, proved her favouritism taking the race by just half a length on the line for The Almost All Partnership.

The petite Unshooda made most of the running with Champion Jockey-elect, Simon Walker on board, but had Raihan and Star Valentina, who made up considerable ground after missing the break, stalking in behind. At the furlong marker the race could have gone a number of ways, with the majority of the field stretched out in a line across the track. Half a furlong from home Trip To Khairo, Whisper, Unshooda and Raihan broke away from the rest of the group and Raihan looked to be travelling the best. However, Whisper, rallied by David Turner, found some impressive late speed to power past and take the honours. Raihan, having looked particularly well in the paddock, ran an excellent race in second returning to the form she had shown earlier in the season. Unshooda finished third following a brave front running performance.



### Race 2 The E-quester.com Open Race Championship (Conditions) 1m2f

**Son Of Sophie** came into this race having been beaten only once this season and was a worthy odds on favourite.



They didn't hang about, with Lay The Cash setting a brisk early pace. Coming down the back straight he was joined at the head of the field by Megabond, Cloud Catcher and Blanc Visage. However, both Delorain, who has thrown up some interesting performances of late, and the favourite, Son Of Sophie, started making moves on the outside and took up the running on the home turn. At the furlong marker, Simon Walker kicked for home but novice rider, Caroline Scott, did the same and Delorain showed impressive fighting spirit to stay with the Champion Thoroughbred-elect. These two pulled clear of the rest of the field and Walker was forced to keep his mount up to his work to seal the deal on the line by just half a length. Delorain ran a cracker of a race in second but was just not able to reel in the winner. Blanc Visage made a good effort to come home third and

Burnley, having been dropped out the back, showed his recognisable late flourish to stay on and take fourth.

### Race 3 The Red Mills Handicap Stakes (0-95) 1m2f

Gill Duffield's Marsak has turned up some excellent performances this season and was sent off a worthy 5-4 favourite. However, this was a well deserved second victory of the season for Jane Haddock's game filly, **Aberfeldy**, who has been unlucky in operating under the shadow of two very talented stablemates of late.

Noble Athlete took up the running early on pulling the tightly knit pack along at a decent clip. Turning for home Deolali took the lead with Aberfeldy and Marsak both going with him but it didn't take long for Simon Walker to send the grey Aberfeldy into the lead and pull away to win by a length and a half. Deolali produced yet another excellent run but didn't have the speed to take on Aberfeldy in the closing stages. The favourite, Marsak, just stayed on past Noble Athlete to take third.



### Race 4 The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Gold Final) (0-80) 1m2f

There were a number of previous winners lining up here and quite a few in with a chance. However, **Few And Far** was one of the few maidens but he showed real improvement to power away from the field and win as he liked.

Anna Wallace sent Al Mamoon into an early three length lead and the others seemed willing to let this happen. Stablemate Ajsaal lead the chasing pack with the others prepared to sit in behind. Both Few And Far and Debrett





were pressed on at the two furlong pole and it was Few And Far who was the first to show on the home straight. The slight mare kept plugging on and by the furlong pole nothing was able to rein in Bill Smith's ward consequently producing decisive victory. Al Mamoon stayed on very well to hold second, having made nearly all the running, and Debrett ran a fantastic race to take third, with Balladore back in fourth.

**Race 5 The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Silver Final) (0-80) 1m2f**

**Blu By You** made it two on the bounce here, defying top weight to follow up a hard fought victory at Wolverhampton only a few weeks ago.

Operatic is a confirmed front runner and nothing was different here as he took the lead from the off, tracked by Serabitibi and Barnshill Warrior. These two headed Operatic at the end of the back straight and the grey appeared to spit the dummy out and was cajoled along. However, he eventually consented to go forward again and pulled away from the pack with Blu By You, who was pushed along by Owner/Trainer/Rider Mark Wall. The pair fought off a challenge from Barnshill Warrior and ran on clear of the rest of the field. Both were all out but the line came just too soon for Operatic as Blu By You won by a head, making it a double on the card for Wall. Pavot Al Kyle stayed on impressively to take third and Barnshill Warrior showed remarkable improvement to take fourth.



**Race 6 The Shaw & Fox Anglo and Part Bred Championship (Conditions) 1m2f**

This was a two horse race both in the market and on the track as past Champion Anglo Arabs Curupanna and L'Escalou, both odds on with the bookies, lined up for the second time this season. **L'Escalou** prevailed, however, inflicting a sole defeat of the season for the mare, Curupanna.

Curupanna had already clocked up four victories this season and was seeking a fifth as she took an early lead with Oakvalley Rialto pushed along in second, Dancing Grace chasing in third and L'Escalou settled at the back of the field. As the outsiders tired, L'Escalou gradually closed the gap on Curupanna and was patiently ridden by jockey, Simon Walker. He eventually asked the horse to go at the furlong pole and he accelerated smoothly past Curupanna, who tried to fight back but could not find enough, as L'Escalou cruised to a length and a half victory.

The others were well outpaced but Oakvalley Rialto took third and Dancing Grace fourth.



**Race 7 The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Bronze Final) (0-80) 1m2f**

The absence of the probable favourite, Bonham, left this final race of the season wide open. **Brigitta** had only been seen out twice this season, both appearances being in May, and had been disappointing on both occasions. But she was settled midfield here and was ridden out to good effect in the closing stages.



Shouq was given a four length advantage by the rest of the field early on but the deficit was soon reduced by Golden Dream and Kayeed and the three were in a line coming in to home straight, with Lady Marisha pushed along in behind. However, Brigitta, appearing unwilling at first, was hard ridden and eventually consented to put her nose in front and stayed on well once she got there to see off the challenge from the 16-year-old veteran, Kayeed, who has improved with every run this season

despite his age. Lady Marisha ran a game race in third and Dakota Willow was another showed considerable improvement to take fourth.