

Wolverhampton Sunday 20th September Review

By Paul Simmons

Images courtesy of GJ Multimedia

Race 1 – The Al Furjan Maiden Stakes

PA Maiden over 1 Mile 1 Furlongs

An impressive looking performance here from the smart colt Seaukoa, who was given a confident ride by Martin Smith. Des'Brie set off at the head of affairs and set a decent pace throughout with Ambrose, Seaukoa and Lamy all settled in behind. As they entered the final furlong the superbly bred **Seaukoa (Al Sakbe x Neomelique)** was sent to the head of affairs by Smith and galloped clear for a comfortable two length victory for Sheikh A Almaddah and trainer Gill Duffield. Back in second was the Adam Newey trained Des'brie (Vadeer x Elina Des Fabries), who ran a superb race settling beautifully in front before battling on well in the closing stages; she looks to have a bright future next season. Ambrose (Amer x KTP Mystic Flight) was a further four lengths back in third and is starting to look frustrating although perhaps didn't appreciate the step up in trip; he's worth another chance back on the turf.



Race 2 – The Emirates Hills Stakes

PA Conditions over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

Angel Picamer (Amer x Picea HT) signed off her illustrious race career with an emphatic victory for proud owner, breeder Zelda Angel, galloping her rivals into submission under a supremely confident Simon Walker. Having looked to struggle behind the leaders at one point down the back straight, she was soon on terms and readily pulled clear inside the home straight to win as she liked by an easy four lengths from Al Janoob. This was the ninth race of her career, which included victory of The Emirates Horse Breeders Society Handicap Stakes over a mile on Dubai Day. She was also placed 2nd in the Group 3 Sprint at Great Leighs to Nokomys.



Speaking afterwards winning trainer Bill Smith said *"She's been a great mare to train, very easy and straight forward, very laid back about her work, but that's her last race as she is off for a well earned break to the breeding paddocks"*.

Three lengths back in second was Al Janoob (Magic De Piboul x Ester Du Paon), who was so impressive at Market Rasen but couldn't catch the winner in the home straight and had to settle for second; he looks a classy prospect for the future but is perhaps more effective on the turf. Recent Breeders' Cup winner Tidarbret (Bengali D'Albret x Iktidar) ran well back in third, having been given a difficult task at the weights in this conditions event.

Race 3 – The Al Quoz Open Race Handicap Stakes

TB, AA & PB Open Handicap over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

An impressive performance here from young Jack Sherwood, who burst into the lead inside the final two furlongs on his mother's smart all weather performer **Chapter (Sinndar x Web of Intrigue)** to gallop home five lengths clear from Son Of Sophie, clearly proving he stays well. This should put him right in the frame for the TB championship at Warwick. Back in second was the ever game Son Of Sophie who was always prominent and ran on strongly in the closing stages but was never nearer than second. Starcross Maid missed the break but was finishing like a train in the closing stages and was only two lengths back in third.



Race 4 – The Al Hamriya Port Handicap Stakes

Handicap 0-60 over 1 Mile 1 Furlongs

Simon Walker continued his purple streak here with a gutsy and well timed ride aboard **Unshooda (Makzan x Shunah)** to win in fine style for owner, trainer Delyth Thomas. This game little mare who impressed when winning over 6 furlongs at Salisbury, was under pressure four furlongs out but Walker kept pushing away and she went on inside the final two furlongs to prove she stays this trip to win easily by three lengths to record the third victory of her career.



Speaking afterwards Delyth Thomas said *"She's a lovely mare and I had her as fit as I could get her and hoped she would stay this trip"*.

Back in second was the ever consistent Pavot Al Kyle (Pavot Al Maury x Ellaria) who seems to excel at this track, he never looked like reaching the winner but battled on gamely to hold off Raihan (Passem Lotois x G Sustika) for third. The latter ran another solid race and she should reward connections with a win soon off her current mark.

Race 5 – The Al Barsha Handicap Stakes PA Handicap 0-85 over 7 Furlongs

Although an intriguing contest on paper this race lost some of its interest due to the withdrawal of Al Mamoon, and after a prolonged delay at the start due to a number of factors it was still further diluted when Al Harith jinked to the left soon after the start, leaving the luckless Phil Collington with no option but to hit the sand. This left Genuinely At Risk with about a twenty length lead over Even Keener with poor Shouq trailing in third. Walker duly won as he liked on the Athbah Stud's incredibly handsome **Genuinely At Risk (Doran x Djenuine)**; he looked very at ease back on the dirt and could do no more than come home on his own; it will be interesting to see if he can continue this form on the turf. Sixteen lengths back in second was Even Keener (Bengali D'Albret x Kenithra), who although well beaten on this occasion is clearly talented; she had no chance with the winner after missing the break and is worth another chance. Shouq (Makzan x Buka) finished a remote third, but although well beaten in this class will be worth another chance when reappearing in her grade.



Race 6 – The Mena Rashid Handicap Stakes PA Handicap 0-70 over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs

They went a fast pace from the start with Debrett and Operatic soon vying for the lead, with Sakeena Sky Zayin and the rest of the field settled in behind. Going out onto the second circuit Sakeena Sky Zayin took over from Debrett, who was soon backtracking through the field, but it wasn't long before she was challenged and overtaken by the following group. As they turned for home it was the Delyth Thomas owned and trained Roches



Du Cayrou, who was going ominously well for Simon Walker, with Whisper and Floren all rallying in behind. As they entered the final furlong Walker went clear on **Roches Du Cayrou (Newday x Kahinaoura)** and duly galloped home for a solid victory for the undoubted all weather queen Delyth Thomas. Whisper (The Wiking x Sucha) ran another brave race back in second, running on well in the home straight and is clearly versatile having won over six and seven furlongs this term; she is a strong contender for the Jebel Ali Final. Floren (Bengali D'Albret x Florys De Nautiac) has been in tremendous heart this term and ran on well in the closing stages under his determined owner, trainer, jockey Theresa Smith for third and is another for the short list for Jebel Ali Final.

Race 7 – The North Shropshire Anglo Arab Only Handicap Stakes Anglo Only Open Handicap over 1 Mile 1 Furlongs

Without doubt the most popular win of the season here as the evergreen Philip Rondel (who qualified for his bus pass some years ago) ran out an amazing winner of this Anglo race on his gallant Anglo mare La Perruche. Curupanna was sent off the odds on favourite and sat in comfortably behind early leader Oakvalley Rialto, with Fieldday City Of Dreams sitting on her heels and La Perruche struggling at the back seemingly outpaced. However as they turned into the home straight Wallace pushed for home on last season's champion Anglo Curupanna and looked to be the assured winner, but **La Perruche (L'Estragon x Iron Bird)** was responding gamely to the urgings of her determined jockey and they



were soon all four in a line before La Perruche came with a wet sail down the centre of the track and grabbed the lead inside the final half furlong to win by 1½ lengths for delighted owner, trainer, jockey Philip Rondel. Curupanna lost nothing in defeat, she ran on well when La Perruche challenged but couldn't hold onto victory. Fieldday City Of Dreams ran a superb race, having been handy throughout and was far from disgraced in finishing two lengths back in third. Both horse and jockey received a well deserved reception from all those present on his return to the winner's enclosure.

Race 8 – The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier) PA Handicap 0-50 over 2 Miles

They went a fair pace in this staying handicap with Shereik and a well looking Tom Brady both forcing the pace out front, and the rest of the field held up in behind. They led the field out on to the second circuit, but Simon Walker was stalking ominously in behind on the in form Delyth Thomas's Bonham, with Hayleys Comet also looking confident under Oliver Garner. The rest of the field all looked to be off the bridle and hard ridden. As they made the turn out of the back straight it was Hayleys Comet and Bonham who swept to the front, and these two gallant geldings pulled easily clear of the field in the home straight with about twenty lengths to spare over the field. As they passed the final furlong marker Walker and Garner were both hard at work and were nip and tuck all the way to the line, with Walker just getting up on the line by half a length on **Bonham (Bakara x Bonnie Jet)**, in doing so Walker was recording his fifth win of the meeting and giving owner, trainer Delyth Thomas a treble.

Speaking afterwards Thomas said *"He's a smashing horse and seems right back to his best now and I thought he had a good chance today"*.



Hayleys Comet (Nevesti x Kapilia) lost nothing in defeat and bravely galloped all the way to the line and deserved to hold onto victory and is another for the short list for the Jebel Ali Final. Shereik (Frere Des Loups x Satin Sheiks) and Tom Brady (Khelure x Island Star) both had a hard race having gone a punishing pace from the start, and then fighting out the finish for third with Shereik just getting up by a length. Tom Brady ran by far his best race to date and seemed to relish this trip (his dam won over two miles) and is one to watch for next time.