

Wolverhampton Sunday 9th August Review

By Paul Simmons

Photos courtesy of GJ Multimedia

The Bait Al Wakeel Maiden Stakes

PA Maiden over 1 Mile 2 Furlongs

An impressive performance here from Moshahed, winning on just his second start and doing so in fine style under a confident ride from Phil Collington. The race soon broke into two divisions, with Hajes, Al Wadee, Moshahed and Maxymus in the first group with the remainder somewhat detached at the back. As the



tempo increased inside the home straight it was clear Collington was travelling the best on **Moshahed (Chndaka x Nirva De Cardonne)** and he powered clear inside the final furlong to win by an easy two lengths for owner, breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan from Hajes (Vertigo x Al Muhabah), who just held onto second ahead of a fast finishing Maxymus (Makzan x KTP Mystic Flight). Winning trainer Gill Duffield said afterwards *"He won nicely but shapes as though he is a Stayer and will want further next year"*. Hajes and Maxymus both ran superb races in second battling on well in the closing stages, and are worth noting for next time.

The gototheraces.com Stakes

PA Conditions over 7 Furlongs

American bred sprinter Galaavi set off at a scorching pace from the start, but by the back straight was passed by 5/4 favourite Riko, Amwaj and Thimaar, who were travelling the strongest of the remainder. As they approached the final furlong it was Martin Smith, who is having a superb season and currently in the lead for the jockeys' championship, on **Thimaar (Chndaka x Alharir (Bengali D'Albret))** who kicked on with a smart turn of foot to win by a length for owner, breeder HH Sheikh Hamdan. Winning trainer Duffield stated *"This is a really nice filly, very classy and I thought she would run well today"*. Back in



second was Amwaj (Amer x Aziza D'Aroco) who ran a superb race; she was cruising throughout and rallied hard inside the final furlong and just held on by a neck from a fast finishing Riko (Dormane x Cary De Carrere); the latter lost nothing in defeat giving 5lbs to these improving fillies.

The Al Fahidi Handicap Stakes

PA Handicap 0-95 over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs



Noble Athlete set off to ensure this was a true test of stamina, with Marsak and Mi Temps De Piboul settled in behind, and the favourite Few and Far struggling at the back. As they increased the pace down the back straight there were three in with a chance, but before they hit the final turn for the home it was an inspired Martin Smith who kicked for home on **Marsak (Al Sakbe x Margau)**. He soon went into an unassailable lead, coming home eight lengths too good for Noble Athlete, scoring a treble for HH Sheikh Hamdan and trainer Gill Duffield. Commenting afterwards Duffield said *"Marsak loves this surface and Martin rode a well judged race on him, although I am not sure Mi Temps stayed the distance"*. Noble Athlete (Dorswan Du Cayrou x Noble Dame) ran another brave race here and remains in superb form, whilst Mi Temps De Piboul (Al Sakbe x Manie De Piboul) was one paced from the home turn and plugged on for third, but was in turn well clear of a very disappointing Few And Far.

The Burj Nahar Open Race Handicap TB, AA & PB 0-180 Handicap over 1 Mile 6 Furlongs

A slightly controversial race with hot favourite Burnley being pulled up after his jockey Jack Sherwood inadvertently rode a finish a circuit too soon. This talented jockey will no doubt not make the same mistake in his career. Aside from the breakneck pace set by those who thought it was a 7 furlong dash, the rest of the field galloped on and it was **Delorian** who showed the field a clean pair of heels for the Scott family, galloping home in fine style to win by an easy eight lengths. Back in second was the rapidly improving Dancing Grace, handy throughout and in hot pursuit of Burnley in the early part of the race, she stayed on really well to land second and remains a horse to follow this season. Blanc Visage has been running well all season and put up another solid effort here chasing the first two into the straight, but was never nearer.



The Tijara Town Handicap Stakes PA Handicap 0-65 over 7 Furlongs

Raihan ensured there was a good pace from the start and led the field into the closing stages with Mr Ben, Even Keener and Ajyaal all handy. As they entered the home straight it was Raihan, Ajyaal and Even



Keener all in a line and Mr Ben, Jaamahir and Benny The Dip all being hard ridden for their efforts. A determined Fred Offord drove **Even Keener (Bengali D'Albret x Kenithra)** to the front inside the final furlong and won well by 2½ lengths for the BXPS Partnership. Speaking afterwards winning trainer David Paton said *"We have always thought a lot of her and knew she had a race in her, and I think she will improve for this effort which will have done her confidence good"*. Back in second was another excellent effort from Ajyaal (Bengali D'Albret x Silvena (Klarnet)) who finished really well but couldn't get past the winner, and he was all out to hold on to second with Raihan (Passem Lotois x G Sustika) staying on gamely for a close third.

The Jebel Ali Racing Club Handicap Stakes (Series Qualifier) PA Handicap 0-70 over 2 Miles

A truly incredible riding performance here from David Turner, who's mount Debrett was off the bridle for virtually the entire two mile race, although he was never worse than third throughout. Floren set a steady pace from the start with Debrett, Affar and Roches Du Cayrou all handy in behind. As they hit the final four furlong marker Floren picked up the pace and started to leave the field in his wake with only Affar and a hard ridden Debrett chasing in behind. As they hit the final two furlongs it was Debrett who came down the centre of the track, being pushed along by a determined David Turner, with Affar and Floren both rallying hard up sides. By the final furlong **Debrett (Bengali D'Albret x Djeba Al Mels (Dormane))** finally kicked into gear and pulled clear for a two length victory to repay Turner for his momentous riding performance, giving popular owner Linda Cross another winner to add to her tally. Speaking afterwards winning trainer Adam Newey said *"He made hard work of that and we'll probably try and freshen him up now with some endurance rides"*. The Iraqi bred Affar (Asad Saif x Al Qaida Al Thania) ran a superb race back in second, he battled on really well in the final furlong chasing his stablemate to the line, and was in turn two lengths clear of a brave Floren (Bengali D'Albret x Florys De Nautiac) who had made the running throughout and stayed on gamely for third.



The AI Wasl Open Race Handicap Stakes TB, AA & PB Open Handicap over 7 Furlongs



Favourite backers were finally rewarded here with 7/4 shot **Chapter** obliging in fine style for the Sherwood family and in doing so giving jockey Jack Sherwood a welcome winner after the Burnley incident earlier. They went a fair speed in the early stages with Megabond prominent, but as they hit the final furlong Sherwood looked to be quite comfortable on Chapter and duly powered home for an easy two length victory. Just Crystal ran a superb race back in second, she came with her run inside the final furlong but was never going to reach the winner, whilst Megabond did all the hard work and kept on well in the closing stages to hold on deservedly for third.

The Palm Islands Handicap Stakes PA Handicap 0-50 over 1 Mile 4 Furlongs

The all weather queen Delyth Thomas had to wait until the final race of the day to get a winner at her favourite track, but again the favourite backers were out of luck as it was Thomas's second string Bonham who hit the winning trail, leaving 5/2 favourite stablemate Flory's Folly way back in fifth. They went a moderate pace here with much of the field not confirmed as Stayers, and as they started to increase the pace down the back straight many of the field were off the bridle. **Bonham (Bakara x Bonnie Jet)** hit the front inside the final furlong under an energetic ride from David Pritchard and he went clear by a comfortable three lengths from Lady Marisha. Delyth Thomas said after the race *"He's a lovely horse and I thought he would run well today, but Flory's Folly was the one I thought would win"*. Back in second was another great run from Helen Bona's mare Lady Marisha (Nevesti x Shimmering Spektra) who ran on well in the closing stages but couldn't reel back the winner; she is deservedly off to the breeding paddocks next year. Mahbishai (Mahbuba x Lola Caramba) had every chance in the final two furlongs but seemed to struggle over this trip and it will be interesting to see how he fares when back racing over a mile.

