

Wolverhampton Saturday 1st May Review **by Paul Simmons**

1st Race – The Season Starts Here Maiden Stakes **Over 7 furlongs**

They went a decent clip from the start with Zayin Barakaldo setting the field off at a good gallop with Joybell, Manaal and Takaamul settled in behind. As they came into the straight Simon Walker quickly pushed 5/4 favourite **Joybell (Kerbella x Joyous Princess)** into the lead and he galloped home in fine style on his UK debut to pull clear by four lengths at the line for trainer Bill Smith and owners the Athbah Stud Ltd. Back in second was Takaamul (Djebbel x Valina Des Fabries) who made a pleasing seasonal debut and ran on well under pressure but never looked like reaching the winner, whilst Manaal (Djendel x Kahina El Kihm) looked one paced back in third but is sure to come on for the run.

2nd Race – The Free Racing On Dubai Day Handicap Stakes **Over 6 furlongs**

WFA Leopard (Bengali D'Albret x Lapsana) started the season as he finished the last with an emphatic victory over his favourite sprint trip. Held up in behind under a confident Tom Garner, he asserted his authority inside the final furlong and just held on from his fast finishing stable mate for victory for the Adam Newey stable. Pinkie Tuscadero (Izentespeshal x Altyv) looked right back to her best after losing her way last season; she led from the start and gamely battled on inside the final furlong and was unlucky not to gain victory. Back in third was an encouraging seasonal debut run from Katwalk (Makzan x CS Shamal) who was held up with a run and fought hard in the final two furlongs at take third from a tiring Unshooda.

3rd Race – The See You At The Curragh Racecourse Handicap Stakes **Over 8 furlongs**

Bill Smith and Simon Walker followed up here with a quick double with the impressive American recruit **Genuinely At Risk (Doran x Djenuine)**, making it two from two at this track. This handsome son of Doran was settled in behind early pacemaker Des'Brie before moving smoothly through the pack to take third inside the straight and showing an impressive turn of foot inside the final furlong to get home by half a length from the hard ridden Mi Temps De Piboul (Al Sakbe x Manie De Piboul). The latter ran a decent race, always travelling well she lead inside the home straight and quickened up nicely but couldn't quite reach the winner. Noble Athlete (Dorwan Du Cayrou x Noble Dame) who was so impressive last season in a busy campaign ran a sound seasonal debut. Always prominent, he led three furlongs out and fought back inside the final furlong to finish only a head back in third and is one to note for next time out.

4th Race – The See You At Wolverhampton Racecourse On June 12th Open **Race, Over 1 mile 4 furlongs**

Son of Sophie (Band On The Run x Fair Enchantress) started the season as he means to go on with a power packed display on his favourite track. Always stalking the leader he quickened up inside the final three furlongs under a superb ride from Rachel Kneller who pushed him out to pull clear by an easy eight lengths for trainer Peter Hammersley. Back in second was Yankey (Amfortas (IRE) x Key) who travelled well and made good progress in the straight but never had a chance with the winner. Nonetheless both horse and rider made a pleasing ARO debut. Jayed (Marju (IRE) x Taqreem (IRE)) was a well beaten third but stayed on dourly in the final three furlongs and was in turn a good five lengths clear of the Anglo, Dancing Grace.

5th Race – The ARO Handicap Stakes

Over 1 mile 1 furlong

A superb training performance here from the all weather queen Delyth Thomas who produced **Florys Folly (Vert Olive x Florys De Nautiac)** to win first time out. Lady Marisha set a decent pace from the start and went for home inside the final three furlongs, but Florys Folly was travelling with consummate ease under the champion jockey Simon Walker and he pulled clear inside the final furlong to win by just under three lengths. Back in second was a back to form Brigitta (Khairoaun x Barryh); she was held up behind but made good progress to go third inside the straight and stayed on dourly to take second a good nine lengths ahead of battling on Lady Marisha (Nevesti x Shimmering Spektra).

6th Race – The info@aroracing.co.uk Open Race Handicap

Over 7 furlongs

A decent owner/trainer/jockey performance here from Emma Owen on **Global Achiever (Key Of Luck (USA) x Inflation)**; settled in behind he swept into the lead three furlongs from home and galloped readily clear inside the final furlong for an easy three length victory. Back in second was a tough Mandy's Maestro (Brahms x Belle Masque) who stayed on dourly in the closing stages and was rallied hard inside the final furlong to beat Balerno (Machiavellian (USA) x Balabina (USA)) who on this occasion had to settle for third.