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Tallaab Al Khalediah conquers Obaiya Cup
STRI at The Saudi Cup - Realising Saudi Arabia’s racecourse vision
Australian Jockey Isabella The
Mashhur Al Khalediah assures victory in The Jewel Crown
Tadhg O’Shea dominates Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only
HH The President Cup victory in Abu Dhabi for Rmmas
RB Lam Tara stars in Al Asayl double at Abu Dhabi
SIVIT AL MAURY, Shadwell Arabian Stallions welcomes a new stallion for the 2020 breeding season
Rmmas snatches Abu Dhabi feature for O’Shea and De Roualle
Ihtesham, Mazur claim Abu Dhabi Championship
RB Lam Tara and Taamol share Abu Dhabi Laudits
Anas Al Seyabi guides AJS WATHANAN to Rodat Al Maida Cup win
Lukasek rides FUWAIRAT to victory
EBRAZ wins Triple Crown
AAHIL winner of Gulf Cup
Thomas rides MEHDI to victory
LEKHRAIB won The Late Rashid Mubarak Al Shafi Cup
TAYF, MINSTREL and AL NAAMA win on H.E Sheikh Joaan Trophies Day
EBRAZ, KASSER and ENNAB win features
ENNAB’s first win in the season
AAHIL, AL NAAMA and JABALAH shine at HH Sh Abdullah Trophy
RAQEE wins Al Thakhira Cup thriller
Umm Garm’s DABAAB fantastic in Dukhan Cup victory
AALEY AL MAGAM wins Jaafar Cup
SHALAA and JABALAH shine at Qatar Derby meeting
YAZEED winner of Qatar National Day Trophy
KASSER winner of LPA race

Photo: QREC/Juhain CP

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Photo: Juhaim AREC

Cidinha Franzão
Publisher
Favio Lorenz
Publisher
On Saturday evening, February 29, at the packed King Abdulaziz racecourse, the 2018 Dubai Kahayla Classic winner Tallaab Al Khaleldiah (KSA) overcame a 10-month absence to lift the inaugural Obaiya Arabian Classic, now the richest event in the Purebred Arabian racing world with prize-money of $1,900,000.

Ridden by Roberto Perez, who has been based in Saudi Arabia for many years, the Saad Mutlaq trained Tallaab Al Khaleldiah left the gates to take the lead in the 2000m race and was never threatened. Hajres (TUN), ridden by Christophe Soumillon and trained in France, closed in on him in the final stages but had to settle for second place, three lengths behind. Mashhur Al Khalediah (FR), ridden by Jean-Bernard Eyquem finished third.

“He doesn’t like to stay in the back. He always keeps going in the front. That is how he won in Dubai, that’s how he won everywhere. We were just a bit afraid because of his injury, but he has proven himself today. More than being confident, I think we had a lot of pressure to keep the Al Khalediah name up and that was the most pressure. He ran last time in March and thank God it makes us feel so much better and we are now looking forward to going to Dubai once again. I hope he can run again in the Dubai Kahayla Classic. I think it is a historical day for horse racing in Saudi Arabia and a historical day in the racing world whether it is in Saudi Arabia or not. We hope for many more to come”, Prince Fahad, representing owner Al Khalediah Stables, said.

“So, you know, we made a plan last night for this race. I know that horse, I have ridden him like 10 times. I know when I worked the horse the last two times; I knew he was going to fight, that he had a great chance to win. He hasn’t run in a long time, not since Dubai. It is a long time, but he has too much class. He is a very good horse. This is a good race to win and I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to ride him, the Prince, the trainer, everyone”, said jockey Roberto Perez.

“Hajres jumped out really well. I was lucky to be just behind the winner. On the turn he was really off the bridle. I thought he’d have trouble to finish the last 400 (metres) but he kept going the whole way and finished second. He was really tough today and quite lazy, but he’s a really nice horse. We got beat by the best (Arabian) horse in the world. I was really lucky to be on his back today and I’m proud to see we did a great performance”, said Christophe Soumillon.

Source and photo: Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia/ Doug DeFelice
World-leading sports surface solution provider, STRI Group, recently completed one of the most ambitious projects in its 90-year history—a turf racetrack in the challenging terrain of Saudi Arabia. STRI was chosen by his Excellency Prince Bandar Bin Khalid Al Faisal (chairman of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia) to support his vision of making Saudi Arabia a destination for world-class horse racing on turf. Critical to achieving this was the delivery of an elite turf track in time for the inaugural running of the world’s richest horse racing event, the Saudi Cup.

As the Principal Contractors for engineering and construction of the new turf track at The King Abdulaziz Racecourse, STRI provided an end-to-end design, build and operate solution to Riyadh Equestrian Club. Here’s a sneak peek into how STRI delivered this mammoth project.

**Making racing history**
Prince Bandar’s vision was to create the first ever elite turf racetrack in Saudi Arabia. The course had to perform to the highest possible standards and be constructed using the finest materials available. The entire design required the construction and establishment of the track to be undertaken in a record-breaking period of just six months, requiring a large-scale resource input to achieve such a fast turnaround.

**Key challenges**
The major hurdles to overcome were timescales and climate. Following our engagement in July 2019, STRI’s teams of researchers and consultants quickly established the most effective way of producing a surface that would meet the needs of our client. Our on-the-ground mobilisation was immediate, to ensure we made the most of the time available to us to deliver the track and deal with the challenging and variable climate of Saudi Arabia.

**Design and build**
Engineering a track of this standard is a highly complex process requiring input from our world-leading experts in drainage, irrigation, construction, materials analysis and biomechanics.

The primary constituents that make up the track are relatively few in number, but the type and amounts of those constituents are critical to making the track a success. First steps are to understand the baseline environment of the development site. Our team conducted a detailed study of the site including a comprehensive review of climatic conditions.

From there, an extensive materials selection regime was undertaken, taking a range of sands and gravels from around the Kingdom and testing them for their compatibility to create a firm surface ideal for racing. This rootzone, once mixed with stabilising fibres, provides the perfect medium within which to install the grass surface.

The construction process itself was rapid and extensive resources were drafted from across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to excavate the existing track material and install the new one. Timing was critical and the earth movement work had to be completed at breakneck speed as we needed to be ready to sow with the
selected grass species as soon as temperatures reached the optimal level.

The turf track
To meet the needs of a winter race in Saudi Arabia, the track was established with a “cool season” grass species – i.e. a species usually found in more temperate climates. This grass thrives in the winter climate of Saudi Arabia and, when combined with a special blend of stabilising fibres incorporated into the mix, it provides a surface which not only performs exceptionally well but also looks visually stunning.

Once sown, a daily bespoke maintenance regime was developed to ensure the correct levels of water and fertiliser were applied to maximise strong sward establishment. Deep rooting was critical to develop a grass surface that not only looked fantastic, but also held together under the stresses created by a galloping horse.

After several months of careful maintenance, we are delighted to have presented and demonstrated a track that is befitting of this prestigious race event.

A note on sustainability and future-proof design
Sustainability underpins STRI’s approach to all design projects. Our R&D teams are continually innovating technologies to make developments more sustainable, through the construction and operational phases of their lifecycles.

This not only relates to sustainability from a climate perspective, with the key pressures being water and resource use, but we also work with clients to design facilities which will fit their business model needs in the short, medium and long-term.

For example, water use per capita in the Middle East is amongst the highest in the world. Current forecasts suggest that local aquifers will run dry in the next 20 years. STRI develops technologies and techniques to reduce the water requirement of natural turf.

HRH Prince Bandar’s project in Riyadh is a great example of our ability to problem solve. STRI has made its name developing elite sports surfaces across the world and our in-house R&D combined with global network means that we are able to adapt to even the most challenging of situations. However, it is exactly these kinds of projects that we relish the opportunity to get involved in.

The timescales, climate, resource availability and the need to have a surface of exceptional quality all made this project a challenge. Striving to achieve the wider National Vision 2030, we believe this facility will form part of a network of world leading venues in the region and create a global powerhouse of natural turf racing.

“I’m very happy, although I’m not surprised. We engaged some of the best people in the world to design and work on the track. They said they would deliver and they have, so I’m extremely happy. STRI has done an amazing job.” His Excellency Prince Bandar bin Khalid Al Faisal (chairman of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia).

“What has been achieved in a short period of time is staggering. We know STRI are world class, world leaders in their field, I think what they’ve done is superb. The detail and the attention that they’ve gone to is phenomenal. It’s been an absolute pleasure to work with them. This track is unbelievably consistent; I don’t think you’ll walk on a more consistent racing surface anywhere in the world. It’s level, beautiful cambered bends. It’s some achievement.”

Clerk of the course and Newmarket Head of Racing, Michael Prosser.

“What I’m very happy with the ground on the turf track. After three months when you see what the team has done here, they’ve worked very hard and done a fantastic job. I have ridden here for a very, very long time and at the other track and I see the construction here and it’s very good.” Oliver Peslier, jockey, Call The Wind, 1st: Longines Turf Handicap.

“What they’ve done in the space of two months (with this turf course) is remarkable.” Frankie Dettori after his win on Dark Power, 1st: The STC 1351 turf sprint.

© Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia/Becky Donald
Congratulations to Australian Jockey Isabella Teh on attaining her Queensland Thoroughbred Jockey Licence on the 24th January 2020. She is apprenticed to Pat Duff in Brisbane, a trainer renowned for producing outstanding apprentice riders which have included: Mick Dittman, Mike Pelling, Jim Byrne and Mandy Radecker. Pat has been training thoroughbreds for over 50 years and thinks very highly of his young apprentice.

Isabella began her race riding as a licensed Arabian Racehorse Jockey in 2014, the next few years Isabella would go on to win many races aboard an imported French stallion called Dje-hibi (9:8-1-0) owned and trained by her mother Michelle Amos. More wins and places for a number of Arabian racehorse owners would be added to the list before taking up riding full-time for Pat Duff Stables. Pat stated that ‘riding Arabians put her in good stead by giving her confidence on racehorses’. Isabella has been one of the leading jockeys with the Australasian Arabian Racing Club and is always ready to help and assist her fellow jockeys at any time.

Isabella has also spent several years training and competing in Endurance. She has ridden both for other people as well as having trained and campaigned her own horse, a 3/4 Arabian grey gelding named Piccolo Burasca. He stands at only 13.2hh being part Thoroughbred and Welsh pony in the mix. With a big heart and trot, together they completed a gruelling Tom Quilty (160km) in 2015 at Kholo NSW, to get a coveted Quilty buckle.

A fortnight ago Isabella rode in two country races finishing 4th and 7th. Most recently she was booked for 3 rides and got her first race win aboard Ringo’s Magic for trainer Gavin Dempsey of Bell in Queensland. Making this a dream come true for one of our future champions on the track.

It has taken Isabella seven years to get her Thoroughbred Jockey License, but she has enjoyed a varied journey that has seen her work for both Arabian and Thoroughbred stables - breaking in horses, retraining, preparing horses for sale, track riding, endurance, riding school instructor, Arabian racing and training.

Before her interest in racing Isabella represented her local Pony Club for many years, she competed in EFA/FEI Interschool program, Dressage, show jumping, Show Hack and Western Performance Sporting. Since then Isabella has completed studies in Horse Breeding (Cert III), Cert III in Racing (Trackwork Rider) and now to complete her apprenticeship a Cert IV in Racing (Jockey).

This is a reminder to never give up on your dreams and goals. That the journey is full of surprises and valuable experiences. To give thanks and appreciate the people who have been part of the journey. Isabella’s journey as an apprentice jockey is just starting, there will be highs and lows, challenges, defeats and victories...but that’s racing...and she loves it!

Nadine Frampton with inputs: M.Amos. I.Teh / Photos: Nadine Frampton

Sunday’s card, November 24, at Abu Dhabi was highlighted by the most valuable race of the season staged in the capital, the Group 1 AED 5,000,000 Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Jewel Crown. Over 1600m on turf, it was won by Mashhur Al Khalediah, who was providing a truly cosmopolitan result as he snared the prize in style.

Trained in Newmarket by an Englishman Phillip Collington the 5-year-old horse was ridden by Frenchman Jean-Bernard Eyquem for Saudi Arabian owners Athbah Racing. It was a sixth career victory for the horse in what was his local debut.

With RB Money To Burn setting a strong pace, last year’s winner Al Shamoos and this year’s victor settled in just behind, with the former making her bid for glory with about 450m remaining. However, Eyqem had her in his sights and shot to the front about 250m from home, opening up a substantial advantage in what proved a race-winning move. His mount was either lonely or tiring in the final 100m, allowing the chasing pack a glimmer of hope, but the winning post came too soon for them with Bel’Izam and Chaddad taking the minor honours. It was the winner’s first start since a third in the Arabian World Cup at Longchamp in October.

“He can start to misbehave if he is somewhere too long, so we decided to arrive quite late (into the UAE) and it has worked out,” Collington said. “This was a plan for him for a while and it has worked out perfectly. Jean-Bernard knows this horse so well and gave him a brilliant ride and I am indebted to the owners for allowing me to train this calibre of horse. It is why I started training.”

Carrying Prestige status, the 1600m HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (IFAHR) Apprentice Jockey Championship was won for a sixth consecutive year, the latest five trained by Eric Lemartinel, by a runner owned by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in this instance Bainoona.

A 6-year-old mare, who had the assistance of Italian Riccardo Iacopini, she was winning for the sixth occasion, but first since a course and distance handicap victory last December from no less than AF Maher, subsequently winner of the Group 1 Kahayla Classic at Meydan in March. Given a confident ride by the young Italian, she was
 eased into contention on the home turn before swooping to the lead at the 200m pole, shooting clear before seeming to get lonely close home, but never in any danger of defeat.

Iacoponi said: “I look up to some of the top Italian jockeys in the world, like Christian Demuro and Frankie Dettori. Everybody is a fan of Frankie. It was a really very good race and there was a bit of a challenge at the start, but then I managed to get the horse to do what I wanted to do and we won. It’s an incredible feeling winning on my first ride on an Arabian abroad. I have ridden Arabians in the past and won at Rome’s Cappannelle Racecourse, where I am based. It was the 70th win of my career for me and feels very special.”

Also over 1600m and a Prestige contest, the HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship (IFAHR) went to the same owner and trainer with Asyyad, who actually won the apprentice race on this card last season.

In a race contested at a furious gallop, set by Arif, Asyyad raced in third of the ten runners before, as the leader understandably tired, he cruised to the front under Victoria Larsen, the pair darting away from the other nine to win easily. The winning 5-year-old gelding earned a fourth career victory and third on turf, having most recently won on dirt at Al Ain in February.

Denmark’s Larsen was ecstatic and said: “I cannot believe it. I am lost for words. Obviously I hoped to come here and win on the biggest of stages, so to actually do so is amazing.”

Restricted to horses in private ownership, the 1400m Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only was won stylishly by Jawal Al Reef, swooping late under Richard Mullen to claim a second career victory. Trained by Hassan Al Hammadi for Ahmed Ebrahim bin Aamer Al Shemeili, the 6-year-old entire was settled in midfield, albeit wide throughout, before producing his decisive finish.

“I am always nice to get a winner on a big night like this,” Mullen said. “We all have to thank Sheikh Mansoor for what he does for Purebred Arabian racing and I am very fortunate to have his support personally. It is great this fellow has won again because he was a good second two weeks ago and deserved a change of luck and I am delighted for his connections.”

Trainer Abdallah Al Hammadi and his main patron Al Ajban Stables celebrated an Al Ain double on Friday and were back in the winner’s enclosure after the 1600m maiden for those foaled locally in which Salima Al Reef came out on top in a three-way battle over the final 100m. Stable companion and eventual third Rayqa led at this point before being passed by Ezz Al Rawasi who was then denied victory by Jesus Rosales and Salima Al Reef who was opening his account at the third attempt.

Rosales said: “That was my only ride tonight, so it is the perfect outcome in front of a big crowd. I had a very willing partner who battled hard.”

Photos: Cidinha Franzão
Riccardo Iacopini on Bainona

Nicola Ivan from Romania
Tadhg O’Shea dominates
Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only

Emirates Racing Authority – Media Department

Tadhg O’Shea on AF Al Bairaq

On March 14, a 1600m conditions race Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only was dominated by Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda whose first colours were carried to a smooth victory by Tadhg O’Shea AF on Al Bairaq, trained by Ernst Oertel and chased home by the same owner’s AF Momtaz who was saddled by Antonio Fresu and trained by Musabbeh Al Mheiri.

Homebred, the 6-year-old entire was having just his ninth outing and was winning for the second time having won 2018 Emirates the Colts Classic, a Prestige contest, over this Abu Dhabi 1600m.

Al Nabooda said: “That was very pleasing as I bred both horses as well, so it is a particularly good result for my whole operation.”

Shakir Al Balushi and Thulbaseera Al Jasra

Racing at Abu Dhabi on Sunday, March 8, evening was a low key affair, but a memorable one for trainer Ibrahim Al Hadhrami, as well as for Omani apprentice Shakir Al Balushi, who partnered his first winner in the UAE.

Al Hadhrami completed his brace in a 2200m handicap, restricted to horses in private ownership, in which Shakir Al Balushi and Thulbaseera Al Jasra just held on to deny Hawafez and Burj Al Reef, both of whom were closing fast having been held up a long way off the early pace.

Second throughout the first half of the race, Al Balushi’s mount then took the lead with about 900m remaining and the jockey committed for home leaving the home turn in what was probably a race winning move. They opened up a lead of about four lengths, but the line only just came in time with Hawafez a neck behind, himself a short-head in front of Burj Al Reef.

A 5-year-old entire owned by Hamad Abdul Rahman Mohd Kayed, the horse was recording a first victory having mustered a third, over this course and distance, as his best previous effort in 12 starts.

Al Hadhrami said: “It has been another very satisfying evening and our horses remain in good form, which is very gratifying.”

Al Balushi said: “I knew my horse stays, so I was happy to be positive on him. Luckily we just held on and I am very grateful to connections for the ride on this horse.”

Richard Mullen on SS Jalmod

For horses in private ownership, a 1600m handicap may have attracted the maximum allowed field of 16, on March 1, but very of the runners ever threatened with AF Hakeem, owned and bred by Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda, making a bold bid to lead all the way under Brazilian jockey Bernardo Pinheiro, but unable, despite battling back, to deny SS Jalmod who gained the initiative entering the final 250m before keeping on strongly.

Sporting the silks of Nasir Askar, Richard Mullen was in the saddle for Satish Seemar and had his mount in second or third throughout the majority of the contest before asked for an effort by his jockey, responding well and gaining a deserved success.

It was a second career win for the 5-year-old gelding, but first on turf having previously landed a 1400m at Al Ain last March when trained by Younis Al Kalbani.

Mullen said: “I am delighted for the owner and whole team to win on this horse who has run plenty of good races in defeat and is a fun little horse to have in the yard. He takes his racing well, so we were happy to run him again after he finished third at Jebel Ali just nine days ago.”

Tadhg O’Shea, victorious aboard AF Ashras

On February 16, five of the 16 runners in the 1600m handicap for horses in private ownership were saddled by Ernst Oertel for his main patron, Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda. They combined to provide first and second with the owner’s re-
tained jockey, Tadhg O’Shea, victorious aboard AF Ashras, chased home by AF Akeem who had tried, valiantly to make all under Brazilian jockey Bernardo Pinheiro. Settled behind the leaders, the homebred 9-year-old entire eased into contention leaving the back straight before committing for home as the leaders departed the home turn and soon went clear with the race in safe keeping. It was a fifth career victory for the horse.

O’Shea said: “Ernst has his horses in great form still and this is a lovely, genuine, old horse that has been running consistently well all season. As I always say, I am privileged to be riding these horses for Mr Al Nabooda, Ernst and his team. They make my job easy providing with good chances on a regular basis.”

For horses Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only, the 1200m handicap, on February 9, went to the powerful team of owner Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda, his main trainer Ernst Oertel and retained jockey Tadhg O’Shea courtesy of Noof KB. Settled well off the early pace among the 12 runners, the 7-year-old mare closed stylishly at the top of the straight before sprinting to the front inside the final 100m.

It was a fifth career victory for the mare, third over course and distance and O’Shea said: “The yards are in good form and everything went to plan with the race contested at a fast pace which she really likes. To be fair, she is an easy mare to ride and one of those that makes my job easy on the racecourse.”

Apprentice Sean Kirrane and AF Makerah

Restricted to horses in private ownership, a 1400m handicap provided the perfect opportunity for Irish apprentice Sean Kirrane to continue his fine recent run, landing the spoils on top weight AF Makerah for Ernst Oertel and Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda who also bred the 7-year-old mare, on February 2.

Having tracked the leaders throughout the first half of the race, Kirrane asked his mount to challenge early in the straight, the pair hitting the front 300m out and never looking likely to
be caught. It was a first Abu Dhabi victory for Kirrane, about 23 hours after his breakthrough winner at Meydan having also opened his Al Ain account at Al Ain on Friday when registering the first double of his fledgling career.

For AF Makerah it was a fifth career victory, all in Abu Dhabi and a second over this course and distance.

Kirrane, based with Satish Seemar at Zabeel Stables, said: “It has just been a brilliant three days and I cannot thank Mr Oertel and Mr Al Nabooda enough for this opportunity; you always know you have a definite chance riding for them in these races. She travelled well throughout the race and I was always pretty happy. When I asked her to go win her race she did just that and has won nicely.”

**Fernando Jara and Dahess D’Arabe**

Champion UAE jockey 11 seasons ago when based with Doug Watson at Red Stables, Fernando Jara, who won the 2007 Dubai World Cup on Sheikh Hamdan’s Invasor, completed a treble with the ultra-smooth victory of Dahess D’Arabie in a 1600m handicap restricted to horses in private ownership, on December 22.

Saddled by Helal Al Alawi for Saleh Omar Al bin Haidar, the 5-year-old gelding was registering a third career and UAE success on his 16th career start. Victorious over 1400m on the Al Ain dirt in February, his other winning note was hit in a 1200m maiden here in the capital in March 2018.

“That was a good win and I was always travelling well throughout the race,” Jara said. “When I asked him to win his race, he responded well. That was quite impressive in what had looked a competitive race.”

**Connor Beasley**

Connor Beasley was back in the winner’s enclosure, on January 19, combining with Helal Al Alawi to take the 1200m handicap, restricted to horses in private ownership, with Dahess D’Arabie who ran out a relatively comfortable victor for Saleh Omar Al bin Haidar.

Having chased the leaders throughout the first half of the race, Beasley drove the 6-year-old gelding to the front leaving the home turn and they never looked likely to be denied, the horse registering a fourth career success and second over course and distance having won a maiden under these conditions in March 2018.

Beasley said: “He has done that nicely in what had appeared a competitive race, but I was always pretty confident throughout and he quickened nicely when I asked him.”

**Fernando Jara aboard Dahess D’Arabie**

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**Tadhg O’Shea aboard AF Taraha**

A positive move from Tadhg O’Shea at the 450m pole, committing for home aboard AF Taraha, secured the 2200m handicap for horses in private ownership, on December 15.

Said 6-year-old mare had most of her 11 rivals immediately in trouble and powered all the way to the line to register her fourth career victory and second on turf. A course and distance winner on her penultimate start in November she was then, a week later, second over 1800m on the dirt at Al Ain. Homebred by Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda she, like the vast majority of the owner’s string, is trained by Ernst Oertel.

O’Shea said: “Driving here this evening, I thought this was my best chance, so I am glad she has won again. I know she stays the trip well so was happy to be positive from a long way out and I had a very willing partner.”

Al Nabooda added: “I have a great trainer and top jockey, so the team is strong behind me and that was a very good ride from Tadhg.”
Tadhg O’Shea on AF Ashras

For horses in private ownership, on December 8, the 1400m handicap was won convincingly by the reigning champions, owner Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda, trainer Ernst Oertel and jockey Tadhg O’Shea who was happy to track the early speed aboard AF Ashras before committing for home exiting the home turn.

A homebred 8-year-old entire, it was a s fourth career victory for the horse, all bar one on turf, but first since November 2017 when he landed a 1600m handicap here at Abu Dhabi.

O’Shea said: "That was a competitive little race, so we have to be happy with that. This is a horse who rarely runs a bad race, so it is great he has put his head back in front.”

Owner and trainer completed a homebred double in the finale, a 1600m handicap, but this time it was Antonio Fresu in the saddle aboard Noof KB, a 6-year-old mare who recorded her fourth career victory.

Racing in the capital on Sunday evening, February 9, one of the most prestigious meetings staged throughout the season at the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, was highlighted by the AED 5 million 2200m Group 1 HH The President Cup won in thrilling fashion by Rmmas and Tadhg O’Shea, the jockey completing a double on the card after four races.

Settled in rear by the champion jockey, Rmmas was visibly travelling strongly leaving the back straight, but with a wall of horses in front of him. O’Shea switched the 7-year-old entire out to challenge down the centre in the straight, the gap appearing when he needed it before locking horns with Al Zahir winner of the two previous renewals, Goshawke and Harrab. O’Shea drove his mount to lead with about 100m remaining and found a willing partner to land the lucrative prize for Sheikha Fatima bint Mansour Al Nahyan and Jean de Roualle, chased home by Al Zahir, Goshawke and Harrab.

Victorious, under O’Shea, in the course and distance prep on his previous start three weeks ago, this was the sixth career victory for the horse and fifth in the UAE since joining De Roualle.

“He is a very nice, strong horse who is relaxed, but can quicken,” said De Roualle, who saddled the same owner’s Loraa to win this in 2017. “He has a telling turn of acceleration for about 200m as he showed in the trial and again tonight with Tadhg riding him perfectly both times to deliver that telling burst when it mattered.”

O’Shea, landing the prize for the first time, added: "That was a lovely spare ride, so a big thank you to the connections. It was almost a carbon copy of the trial and things pretty much went smoothly throughout.”

Source: ERA
Racing on the Abu Dhabi turf Sunday evening, January 26, was highlighted by the 1200m Group 3 Shadwell Stud Al Ruwais Stakes for which a dozen Purebred Arabian sprinters went to post. Only one really mattered with RB Lam Tara posting a smooth success representing the same connections as last year’s winner, RB Money To Burn, subsequently winner of this year’s 1600m Group 1 Al Maktoum Challenge R1 on the Meydan dirt surface.

Confidently ridden by Fabrice Veron, completing a double for himself and trainer Eric Lemartinel, the 5-year-old mare, owned by Sheikha Alyazia bint Sultan Al Nahyan, was settled just behind the leaders before closing on them, seemingly effortlessly on the home turn. Once Veron asked, she shot clear passing the 300m pole and was never in any danger of being caught with AF Alwajel running on late to deny Rawaa second place.

She is now the winner of half of her eight career starts, having only raced on turf here in the capital, with three 1600m victories to her name. This was her first outing over a trip shorter than that 1600m.

“She is very good and very quick,” said Veron, the only jockey to have ridden her in a race. “I was always happy throughout the race; she travelled strongly and then quickened very smartly to win a good race in style. It was a very good performance. We were confident she had the speed for this shorter trip and that has certainly proved to be the case.”

Earlier, Veron could not have timed his challenge any better in the opening 2200m maiden, producing Arjan to lead right on the line for His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Lemartinel and the team at Al Asayl. Initially settled in the middle of the 14 runners, Veron asked his mount to close on the home turn before staying on very strongly in the final 300m, snatching a dramatic victory from RB Dixie Honor who had led throughout the majority of the straight under Al Moatasem Al Balushi.

A homebred 5-year-old mare, Arjan was having her fifth career start, but just second on turf, previously registering two second places, including on her sole previous Abu Dhabi effort, just a week ago, over 1600m.

“We were confident the longer trip would suit,” Veron said. “She stayed on well last week when second over 1600m and when she tried 1800m at Al Ain in December she was closing strongly at the end, so the 2200m was certainly in her favour.”

A 1400m maiden restricted to 4-year-old colts and geldings foaled locally was won by JAP Nazaa under Royston Ffrench riding in the famous predominantly green silks of Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum for trainer Irfan Ellahi.

Having raced just behind the leaders in fourth or fifth, and hugging the inside rail the homebred grey colt had to pull out to challenge Taajer, seeking to give Al Asayl a quick double, hitting the front 200m out and always looking likely to thwart late challenges from both Al Ajeeb W’Rsan and Kesra.

Making just his third start, having debuted on the dirt at Sharjah in November before finishing a never dangerous eighth in the Abu Dhabi Colts Classic, over this same 1400m on the turf in the capital, he is seemingly improving.

Ffrench said: “I have to thank Irfan for putting me on the right one because he had two in the race. He and his team do a great job with these horses and this fellow is only going to get better as he gains more experience.”

Afforded Prestige status, the main support race and restricted to horses foaled in the UAE, the 1600m Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club Gold Cup, contested this year as the Shadwell Gold Cup with Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum’s
breeding empire sponsoring five of the six races, including the aforementioned feature, was won in determined fashion by AF Sanad.

Rousted to lead by Bernard Pinheiro shortly after the stalls opened, the 7-year-old stayed there, seeing off the challenge of the sponsor’s AF Mahshoum early in the short straight and always appearing likely to hold off AF Yathroq who loomed as a danger with 200m remaining, but never really looked like going past.

Owned and trained by Khalifa Al Neyadi, this was a fifth success for the horse, third on turf and second at 1600m having shed his maiden tag over the trip on the dirt at Al Ain when running in the colours of his breeder, Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda who was among the first to congratulate Al Neyadi.

Pinheiro said: “We had a bit to find on official ratings, but I wanted to be positive on him, knowing he would find plenty under conditions we know suit him. Luckily everything worked out perfectly and this is a big result for all of us concerned with the horse.”

Jawal Al Reef landed a 1600m handicap for horses in private ownership, driven to lead just inside the final 200m by Pat Cosgrave with the pair clinging on grimly from fast finishing duo AF Ashras and Daqui Lotois.

Content to bide his time in midfield, behind what looked a very generous early gallop, Cosgrave eased his mount, a 7-year-old entire, into contention at the top of the straight before challenging between runners.

Trained by Hassan Al Hammadi for Ahmed Ebrahim bin Aamer Al Shemeli, it was career win number three for the horse who is enjoying a productive season having won his penultimate start, over 1400m, with second and third placings on his other outings this campaign, all here at Abu Dhabi.

Cosgrave said: “In fairness the trainer was pretty confident and I was able to switch him to challenge when I wanted and, luckily the gaps appeared when I needed them. It was getting a bit close as the line approached, but we had the job done.”

Source: ERA
Having been forced to postpone a meeting after the bad weather of last week, racing returned to Abu Dhabi on Sunday, January 19, the first meeting of 2020 in the capital, a six-race card featuring the HH The President Cup Prep, won in thrilling fashion by Tadhg O’Shea aboard Rmmas.

Riding for Jean de Roualle and Sheikha Fatima bint Mansour Al Nahyan, O’Shea was happy to take his time in the middle of the pack before edging closer as the runners prepared to leave the back straight, seemingly tracking Richie Mullen aboard Harrab. Meanwhile, in this prep over the same 2200m as the Group 1 feature itself, up front Darius Du Paon and Adrie de Vries were bowling along happily in front and, when the Dutchman committed for home at the 400m pole, they had most of their 13 rivals in trouble.

The exceptions were Harrab and Rmmas with the former wearing down De Vries’ mount with less than 100m remaining only to be snared in the final 50m by O’Shea and the classy Rmmas.

Source: Emirates Racing Authority

Ihtesham, Mazur claim Abu Dhabi Championship

Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club staged its final meeting of 2019 Sunday, December 22, with its six races officially highlighted by the Listed Abu Dhabi Championship, a 1600m contest restricted for 3-year-olds. The 1600m affair was won by a flared nostril in a desperately close finish by Ihtesham, who clung on grimly to deny the unfortunately named RB Secondtonone.

The Ben Shahwan Arabian Horse Stables-owned filly won a 1400m Abu Dhabi maiden on her sole previous racecourse appearance in similar style, leading early in the straight and holding on well to clinch the spoils for trainer Ibrahim Al Hadhrami, ridden then by Szczepan Mazur, as she was here. Having tracked the speed, Mazur set sail for home with 300m remaining and the winning line appeared just in time to deny jockey Ryan Powell and trainer Nicole Ruggeri first UAE winners with local and turf debutant RB Secondtonone.

“Too be honest I did not know if we had held on,” Mazur said. “When a horse is finishing fast like that, it is very hard to tell. Thankfully, the result was in our favour. This is a very nice filly who has now won both of her starts and shown a great attitude on both occasions. With luck, she is going to be a filly who can go onwards and upwards.”

Champion UAE jockey 11 seasons ago when based with Doug Watson at Red Stables, Jara, who won the 2007 Dubai World Cup on Sheikh Hamdan’s Invador, completed a treble with the
ultra-smooth victory of Dahess D’Arabie in a 1600m handicap restricted to horses in private ownership. Saddled by Helal Al Alawi for Saleh Omar Ali bin Haidar, the 5-year-old gelding was registering a third career and UAE success on his 16th career start. Victorious over 1400m on the Al Ain dirt in February, his other winning note was hit in a 1200m maiden here in the capital in March 2018.

“That was a good win and I was always travelling well throughout the race,” Jara said. “When I asked him to win his race, he responded well. That was quite impressive in what had looked a competitive race.”

Owner and trainer wasted no time in completing a double, combining with Connor Beasley to land the finale, a 2200m maiden, with Ezz Al Rawasi. Opening his account at the fifth attempt, the victor settled in midfield by Beasley, edged into contention on the sweep for home and ultimately sprinted clear to victory.

Inexperience almost proved costly for JAP Almahfuz in the opener, a 1400m maiden for horses foaled locally. Having led from the outset under Jara, the 3-year-old drifted markedly towards the centre of the track early in the straight, relinquishing the lead to fellow debutant Mhwal and Connor Beasley.

However, Jara was able to straighten his wayward partner and - once back on an even keel - he picked up noticeably to regain the initiative inside the final 100m and win going away for trainer Irfan Ellahi and owner-breeder Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum.

“We like this horse and, as we saw there, he is still a big baby and very much a work in progress,” Ellahi said. “He can only improve for that initial experience and hopefully he is a nice horse to look forward to.”

AF Momtaz was the game front-running winner of a 1400m handicap, consistently responding to the urgings of Antonio Fresu, who was riding for his main UAE employer Musabbeh Al Mheiri and reigning UAE champion owner, Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda. Like the vast majority of the owner’s horses, AF Momtaz is a homebred and was registering a fourth career victory, all on the Abu Dhabi turf and winning for the second week running in the capital, having landed a 1600m handicap seven days previously.

“This horse just loves it here in Abu Dhabi and is a very tough, game and honest horse who just always tries his best,” Fresu said. “A week is a quick turnaround, but he has handled it well.”

Source: Emirates Racing Authority

The first of the three Thoroughbred feature races staged during the season at Abu Dhabi, the 1600m Listed Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan National Day Cup was the highlight in the capital on Sunday, December 8, and won impressively by Taamol, a first big race winner in the UAE for jockey Sandro Paiva.

Based at Grandstand Stables, where Taamol, a 5-year-old gelded son of Helmet is trained by Ali Rashid Al Rayhi, it was a fourth career victory, all on the Abu Dhabi turf and winning for the second week running in the capital, having landed a 1600m handicap seven days previously.

“It is the first time he has won over 1600m, but I do not think his stamina was ever really an issue and that was a good performance to win a good race.”
Over the same 1600m, the Purebred Arabian equivalent, the Group 3 Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan National Day Cup was won, narrowly, by the exciting RB Lam Tara, who displayed telling acceleration to go from the rear of the main group among the 16 runners on the home turn to strike the front with about 200m remaining. From there it was just as case of the winning post arriving soon enough and it did, despite the late challenge of Harrab who never really looked likely to breach the deficit the winner and Fabrice Veron established with what proved a race winning move.

In receipt of weight, as a 4-year-old filly, trained by Eric Lemartinel for Sheikha Alyazia bint Sultan Al Nahyan, from all bar one of her 15 rivals, the filly has now won three of her seven starts, all in the capital, including the Listed Arabian Triple Crown R1 over this 1600m in February. Fabrice Veron has been aboard for all seven starts and said: “She is, as we have always said, a very nice filly, still learning and hopefully improving. That was a very good performance in a strong race and, hopefully, she can progress from this.”

Former UAE Champion Jockey Brett Doyle, now a big part of Charlie Appleby’s Godolphin operation, opened his account for the campaign at just the fourth attempt with the ultimately smooth success of Onward in the opening 2200m handicap.

Settled nearer last than first throughout the early stages, the 4-year-old colt edged closer leaving the back straight and, once asked by Doyle, produced a telling turn of foot in the straight, the pair hitting the front with less than 200m to run and always in control thereafter.

Trained by Abdallah Al Hammadi for Al Ajban Stables, the winner had opened his account, at the eighth attempt, on his previous start over 1800m on the dirt at Al Ain.

Al Hammadi said: “He won at Al Ain last time after two good seconds, but this is the first time we have run him on turf which we wanted to do because his good European form was all on grass.”

Always prominent, perhaps never headed under Fernando Jara from a plum draw in one, debutant JAP Aneed made a very pleasing start to his career with a very pleasing start to his career with a smooth success in a 1200m maiden restricted to horses foaled in the UAE and aged three. Trained by Irfan Ellahi for Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, the homebred grey colt was soon in front before Jara sent him for home halfway up the short Abu Dhabi straight after which the result was never in doubt.

Ellahi, who enjoyed an Al Ain victory with JAP Al Kanf on Friday, said: “That was very pleasing and this is a horse we like. It was his first start and, hopefully, he can build on that with time and experience.”

Source: Emirates Racing Authority
Bought by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum at two, SIVIT AL MAURY joined François Rohaut’s yard at three and won the Prix Flipper on debut the same year. At four, he won his first Stakes races, the Prix Dama (Gr.3 PA) at Dax and the French Arabian Breeders’ Challenge Sprint (Listed PA, now given a Gr.2 PA status) and finished third in the President of the UAE Cup (UK Arabian Derby) (Gr.1 PA) in Newmarket.

The following year, SIVIT AL MAURY won the Prix Dama (Gr.3 PA) for the second time and travelled to Turkey twice to win the International Al Riza Bey Stakes (Gr.2 PA) and the Malazgirt Trophy (Gr.1 PA) in Istanbul. After a setback, SIVIT AL MAURY joined the stables of Musabbeh Al Mheiri in Dubai and finished second to MANARK in the Mazrat Al Ruwayah (Gr.2 PA) in Meydan.

SIVIT AL MAURY (AKBAR) was bred in France by Haras de Saint-Faust and Renée-Laure Koch. He is the half-brother to champion racemare SYLVINE AL MAURY (MUNJIZ) who won four Group 1 PA races. His outstanding dam line has produced some of the leading racehorses in Europe such as: NIZAM, DAHESS, EASTER DE FAUST, LWSAIL, KAOLINO, KANDAR DU FALGAS, LIGHTNING BOLT, NIVOUR DE CARDONNE, MKEEFA, MISTER GINOUX, NO RISK AL MAURY.

SIVIT AL MAURY will stand in the UK and will be available via artificial insemination only. Also standing in the UK will be AL JAKBAR and AL SAOUDI. The latter had a very successful year in 2019 when ADI DE SAINT LON became the leading Arabian racehorse in Morocco with five Listed PA victories and a place in the Grand Prix de S.A.R. le Prince Héritier Moulay El Hassan (Gr.3 PA) and TIIAAR was awarded the leading Arabian racehorse in the UK. Furthermore, AL SAOUDI sired his first Group winner in 2019 when AW-ZAAN won the Royal Cavalry of Oman Clarendon Stakes (Gr.3 PA) at Newbury.

AF AL BURAQ, HANDASSA, MANARK and NO RISK AL MAURY will stand at Haras de Saint-Faust in France where they will cover mares naturally. AF AL BURAQ sired his first Group 1 PA winner in 2019 with AF MAHER who won the Al Maktoum Challenge Round 3 in February and the Dubai Kahayla Classic a month later. His progeny continues to improve and impress.

NO RISK AL MAURY sired several Stakes performers in 2019 with AL SHAMOOS (Gr.2 PA), MINHA (Gr.2 PA) and AL NOURY (Listed PA) as well as SALMA NOUR GRINE who was placed twice in Group races. The two sons of MADJANI (TIDJANI), HANDASSA and his full-brother TAAJER who stands in Italy, sired their first foals in 2019.

MANARK’s first year at stud was very promising, as he demonstrated an outstanding fertility.

Richard Lancaster, Shadwell’s Stud Director below, said: “After the sad loss of MADJANI in 2019, we are now looking forward into the future with our young sires. We are delighted to welcome the new addition to our stallion roster: SIVIT AL MAURY. His performances as well as his pedigree and conformation are remarkable.

“MANARK was very well received with quality mares now safely in foal. HANDASSA and TAAJER’s first foals exceeded expectations.

“The performances of the progeny of our proven sires AL SAOUDI and NO RISK AL MAURY were outstanding. We are very grateful to the breeders, owners and trainers who have placed their faith and hopes in our stallions and have been rewarded by such great results.

“Our 2020 stallion roster offers various opportunities to all breeders to find the right match for their mares. We are thankful for all the support we receive from breeders worldwide.”

The complete roster, with the nomination fees and conditions, will be available shortly on Shadwell Arabian Stallions website and Facebook page. Breeders are invited to contact our team to receive their 2020 stallion brochure.

For more information about Shadwell Arabian Stallions:
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RACES IN QATAR
SEASON 2019-2020

Source: Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club / Photos: QREC Juhaim
After a few hiccups, Al Ghazali Stud’s **AJS WATHANAN** (Amer x Mangaline Du Loup) picked up a fine victory, third of his season so far, in the **RODAT AL MAIDA CUP (LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN CONDITIONS)** on Wednesday, March 11. The feature race on dirt saw Anas Al Seyabi guide the Gassim Mohammad Ghazali trained gelding to a two-length and a quarter victory, handing Umm Qarn’s **SEALINE** (Amer x Jaljalah), ridden by Ronan Thomas for Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle, his second straight runner up finish. Al Moatasem Al Balushi guided Mohammed Riyaz Ibrahim Kasim trained **SAA’D** (Burning Sand x Mataleb ASF) to a close third in the 1700m run.

Qatari rider Saleh Salem Al-Marri raced his second winner of the day in the penultimate race of the meeting with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalid Bin Nasser Al Thani’s **HAZM AL SULAIMI** (TM Fred Texas x Hasna) topping the **PUREBRED ARABIAN CONDITIONS** in thrilling fashion. The jockey was astride Gassim Mohammad Ghazali’s ward for the first time and the two did well to Ronan Thomas ridden Barra by a nose at the post.

Sheikh Faisal Bin Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani’s **JAHFAL** (Amer x Synaps) had two third-place C&D finishes this season coming into the **PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (75 & below)**. On Wednesday, Ibrahim Saeed Ibrahim Al Malki’s ward finally stepped into the winner’s circle with a fine victory under Leo Salles in the 1700m run. The two-length win was second on the day for the colours, trainer and the jockey.

Brooq Stud’s **NASHMI BROOQ** (Burning Sand x Doranikaa) was the ninth winner of the season for Qatari rider Meteb Ali Al Marri. On Wednesday, in the **PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (80 & below)**, Hamad Ateeq Al Marri saddled horse had the apprentice rider in the saddle for the fourth straight time, and the duo raced to a C&D victory for the second straight time this month in the six furlong sprint.

![Anas Al Seyabi guides AJS Wathanan to Rodat Al Maida Cup win](image-url)

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Saleh Salem Al-Marri on Hazm Al Sulaimi

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Anas Al Seyabi with AJS Wathanan
Sheikh Faisal Bin Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani’s FUWAIRAT (Amer x Sakina De Faust) was well held in Group 1 company last time round but Ibrahim Saeed Ibrahim Al Malki trained horse bounced back with a victory with Tomas Lukasek guiding the 5yo to a C&D victory in the PUREBRED ARABIAN GRADUATION PLATE, on March 4. In the 1700m race, Fuwairat started the widest of the nine contenders but did well to win by three lengths and three quarters.

Umm Qarn’s BADDA (Seraphin Du Paon x Raqiyah) picked up a second C&D victory this season with the Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle saddled mare topped the PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (90 & below) in a thrilling fashion on Wednesday. In the 1700m run on dirt, the 5yo was partnered by Soufiane Saadi for the second straight time, and the two started on the inside off Gate 2 and managed to hold off as many as five other contenders for a fantastic victory with three-quarters of a length to spare.

Qatari rider Faleh Bughanaim helmed his fifth winner this season on Wednesday. Bughanaim was astride Osama Omer Al Dafea’s GINKEAU (Divamer x Eauvation Des Cedres) for the second straight time, and the colt showed versatility moving from turf to dirt and stepping down in distance to six furlongs in the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (Div 2). The two followed up their third-place finish in the top notch Silver Sword race two weeks ago with a thrilling victory by a neck.

Injaaz Stud’s AWAMIR (Nizam x Assana D’Aroco) had shown promise on his debut when he finished fifth over a mile in October. On Wednesday, the Mohammed Gassim Ghazal trained colt stepped down in distance to a six-furlong sprint in the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (Div 1) with JP Guillambert in the saddle once again. The 4yo managed to pick up a thrilling victory, winning by a short head at the post.
Qatari jockey Meteb Ali Al Marri raced to his eighth win this season when the apprentice rider helmed **NASHMI BROOQ** (**Burning Sand x Doranika**a) to a fine win on Wednesday. In the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN NOVICE PLATE, the Hamad Ateeq Al Marri saddled Syo topped the six-furlong run with a length to spare. It was the horse’s second victory in a busy season that has seen him line up 14 times.
EBRAZ wins Triple Crown
In the presence of HH The Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani’s Ebraz and HH Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani’s French King played out a repeat of last year’s results winning the two, USD 1 million each, features at Al Rayyan Park on Saturday, February 22.

The Julian Smart-trained EBRAZ (Amer x Massamarie) showed some late pace on the long home straight to complete not only a treble of the HH THE AMIR SWORD (GR1 PA) (Sponsored by Al Hazm) (4yo & older PA), but also won the Triple Crown, having won at Goodwood and Longchamp last year.

Stablemate Aaley Al Magam set the pace in the 2400m race with Umm Qam’s Chamekh and Yazeed not too far behind. As Aaley Al Magam weakened on top of the straight, YAZEED (Munjiz x Al Dahma), ridden by Olivier Peslier for trainer Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle was joined by another stablemate TAYF (Amer x Djelmila), who had Soufiane Saadi in the saddle, up front. French Champion Jockey Maxime Guyon managed to find a gap between the two Umm Qam horses and urged his mount forward and Ebraz pulled away easing to a victory with a length and three quarters to spare.

A spectacular run on the long home straight at Al Rayyan Park saw LADY PRINCESS (General x Nacree Al Maury) complete a hat-trick for the colours of Khalifa Bin Sheail Al Kuwari on Saturday. Cristophe Soumillon was in the saddle of the Thomas Fourcy-trained filly for the HH THE AMIR SILVER SWORD (Sponsored by Ooredoo) (4yo PA). After staying behind another Fourcy’s ward, Emporio, for the bulk of the race, Soumillon had his mount pick up the pace coming off the bend and then just kept pulling away for a spectacular victory in the USD 250,000 race.

HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani’s METHGAL (TM Fred Texas x Theeba) found some late reserves on the home straight to ease through to a memorable victory in the QATAR INTERNATIONAL CUP (GR1 PA) (4yo & older). Coming off a handicap victory last month, the colt settled midfield under Maxime Guyon even as the Mickael Barzalona-ridden Khozan set the pace early on. Julien Auge had the Thomas Fourcy-trained Shalaa (Dahess x Dormadora) move up on the outside two furlongs out and take the advantage. However, the Julian Smart-trained Methgal too joined the leader and pulled away 100m out for a one length victory. Umm Qam’s Marid (TM Fred Texas x Al Dahma) completed the top three under Olivier Peslier.
Umm Qarn’s AAHIL (Munjiz x Daniah) improved his strike rate with his seventh career win and second straight this term on Friday, February 21. Helmed by Ronan Thomas yet again, Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward followed up his C&D victory with yet another comfortable win when he topped the GULF CUP (GCC bred 4yo & older PA) on turf at the Al Rayyan Park. The 6yo got going in the miler in the home straight, with the Maxime Guyon-ridden AJS Moaddie giving chase. However, eventually Aahil won with two lengths to spare, even as the Mohammed Nasser Al Naimi-trained AJS MOADDIE (AF Albahar x Gabie De Carrere) finished second ahead of the Mohammed Gassim Ghazali-saddled ZAHWA (Aaber ASF x Mataleb ASF), who completed the podium under Theo Bachelot.

Al Shahania Stud’s R B KINDLE (Burning Sand x Rich Kinkga) showed some late pace to register her second straight sprint victory under Harry Bentley. After a Group 3 victory last month, the Gassim Mohammad Ghazali-trained mare was midfield coming off the final bend in the six-furlong run on Friday. The Champion Jockey had the 6yo step out for a clear run at the post and eventually took the advantage in the final furlong to win by a length.

Umm Qarn’s HAKIDA (TM Fred Texas x Al Dahma) had shown promise when third on her mile-long debut in December. On Friday, the Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle-schooled filly partnered Ronan Thomas once again, this time running 2000m in the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE. Biding their time, the filly was let go at the business end of the race and she surged forward to eventually go past the post with two lengths and a quarter to spare.
Umm Qarn’s **ASHOURA (Tabarak x Dherwah)** stayed unbeaten after registering her second straight victory at the Al Rayyan Park on Friday. In the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN NOVICE PLATE (Fillies & Mares), the Alban Élie Marie De Mieulle-trained filly had Soufiane Saadi in the saddle once again, and the duo did well to negotiate the mile after a seven-furlong debut earlier this month. The 4yo held on well at the post, winning a packed 16 strong race by a quarter of a length.
Umm Qarn’s MEHDI (Majd Al Arab x Jaljalah) led a thrilling one-two for the famous colours and trainer Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle in the AL ZUBARA TROPHY (LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIANS) on the first day of the HH The Amir Sword Festival at Al Rayyan Park on Thursday, February 20. The 2000m feature on turf saw Eduardo Pedroza guide Abdulatif Hussain Al Emadi’s She’ris (Mared Al Sahra x Kerbelle Du Loup) set the pace up front with the Ronan Thomas-ridden Mehdi close behind while the latter’s stablemate Sealine (Amer x Jaljalah) not too far behind under Olivier Peslier. As the pace quickened coming off the final bend, the Ibrahim Saeed Ibrahim Al Malki-saddled She’ris weakened as the two Umm Qarn colts moved ahead. The two were neck and neck right till the post before Mehdi managed to take his first win of the season by a nose. She’ris settled for third. Asian Equestrian Federation and Qatar Equestrian Federation President Hamad Bin Abdulrahman Al Attiya presented the trophies to the winners of the feature.

Al Shahania Stud’s DAHRA (Mared Al Sahra x Djaima) may have made a low key start to her life in Qatar, but the filly chose the biggest racing weekend of them all to open her account in the country. In the PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP, the Ibrahim Saeed Ibrahim Al Malki-trained filly showed some turn of foot in the final furlong under Eduardo Pedroza that was good enough to edge out the Ronan Thomas-ridden Djamil by half a length at the post.

H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khailfa Al Thani’s MON’NIA (Amer x Margouia) opened the HH The Amir Sword Festival with a smashing victory. Having narrowly missed out on a hat trick last time out in better company, Julian Colin Smart’s ward was in her elements under Tomas Lukasek in the mile-long PUREBRED ARABIAN PLATE. The duo picked up pace on the home straight to pull away from the competition eventually going past the post with four lengths to spare.
Injaaz Stud’s LEKHRAIB (AF AlBahar x Grace T) continued with his run of promising results on Thursday, February 13, at the Al Rayyan Park dirt track when the Gassim Mohammad Ghazali schooled horse won the THE LATE RASHID MUBARAK AL SHAFI CUP (4yo & older PA) in a thrilling finish. The six-furlong sprint had JP Guillambert astride the 6yo and as the action heated up at the business end, Lekhraib held his own edging out Luca Maniezzi ridden TAHRI BABA (Mared Al Sahra x Zamara), trained by Mohammed Hussain Afroz for owner Dhafi Rashid Al Marri, by three-quarters of a length. Hassan Ali Abdulmalik’s ALMUHEET (AF Albahar x Maboud) was ridden to third place by Pierantoino Convertino for trainer Ahmed Mohamed Kobeissi.

Al Naif Racing’s FAHDAAH AL NAIF (Amer x Midjaal) built on her promising run over C&D a month ago when she won for the second time this season on Thursday. In the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (85 & below), Gassim Mohammad Ghazali trained mare was helmed by JP Guillambert, and the two picked up a fine victory in the six-furlong sprint, going past the post two lengths a quarter ahead of the competition.

Abu Fass Stud’s FLORIN DE FAUST (Kerbella x Isis Du Clos) bounced back from a forgettable finish last time out to register his first career victory. In the PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (75 & below), Leo Salles was in the saddle of the Mohammed Riyaz Ibrahim Kasim trained horse and the duo pulled off a close victory with three-quarters of a length to spare. The outing in the 1700m run was the 5yo’s first ever on dirt.

Mansoor Mesfer Al Hajri’s SHALEESH (Zaeem Al Shajaa x Rakayez) switched surfaces and moved up a bit in distance to shed his maiden status on his third career outing on Thursday. In the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE, rider Gary Sanchez helmed the colt to a close victory in the 1700m run with half a length to spare. This was the apprentice rider’s second victory this season.
His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani crowned the winners on the H.H Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy Day at QREC Al Rayyan Park on Saturday, 1 February. Also present on the occasion were QREC Chairman H.E Issa bin Mohammed Al Mohannadi, QREC Vice Chairman Hamad bin Abdulrahman Al Attiyah and CEO Nasser bin Sherida Al Kaabi.

After missing out narrowly on victories on his first two outings this season in Qatar, Umm Qarn’s TAYF (Amer x Djelmila) won the H.E Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy (G3 PA) (4yo & older) in fine fashion. The 8yo led a sweep for trainer Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle, with stablemate BIN GENERAL (General x Noorah) and Al Shaqab Racing’s GTNAH (TM Fred Texas x Mayada) finishing second and third respectively.

Soufiane Saadi had Tayf follow leader Bin General, ridden by Ronan Thomas, and the Tomas Lukasek-ridden MAXR for the bulk of the 2200m race. Coming off the bend, TAYF took the advantage and stayed unchallenged even as BIN GENERAL held his own with the Faleh Bughanaim-ridden GTNAH joining the party upfront in the final furlong. It was TAYF’s first win since May 2019 when he won at ParisLongchamp.

Hassan Ali Alabdulmalik’s MINSTREL (Majd Al Arab x Colette) registered his first victory in Qatar since making a move from France last year. Helmed by Ryan Curatolo, the Deborah Amanda Clare Mountain-saddled 4yo took the lead in the H.E Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy coming off the final bend. Despite a healthy gap, the Theo Bachelot-ridden SHA-Mayel (AF AlBahar x Melusinne), owned by Khalifa Bin Shuaib Al Kewari and trained by Mohammed Gassim Ghazali, picked up the pace in the last 100m and came within a head of MINSTREL at the post. Pierantonio Convertino rode the Ahmed Mohamad Kobeissi-trained GOOD DES VIALETTES (AF AlBahar x USA Des Vialettes) to third place in the colours of Dr Fahad Bin Abdullah Al Attiyah & Son.

Qatari rider Faleh Bughanaim rode his fourth winner of the season when he guided Al Shaqab Racing’s AL NAAMA (Majd Al Arab x Entisar) to a fantastic victory in the H.E Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy (P/A). The victory in the miler was the mare’s third straight having won a Conditions race in December and a Group 2 last month. Bughanaim had his 6yo mount take charge on the home straight and off to a memorable victory.

Umm Qarn’s ASHOURA (Tabarak x Dher-wah) made a fantastic debut on Saturday when the Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle-trained filly won the first race of the big meeting. In the seven-furlong Local Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate, the 4yo breezed through to a victory with four and three-quarter lengths to spare with Soufiane Saadi in the saddle.
After closely missing out on a Group 2 win last time round, H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani’s **EBRAZ (Amer x Massamarie)** raced to a hat-trick of sorts in the PUREBRED ARABIAN CONDITIONS on Thursday, January 23. Julian Colin Smart’s ward has now won the 1850m race for the third straight year. In the latest edition of the race, Tomas Lukasek helmed the multiple Group 1 winner to a fine win, beating the Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle-trained Chamekh by a length.

Qatari jockey Meteb Ali Al Marri continued with his promising season when he raced his sixth winner of the season, which is more than all his wins coming into the ongoing season put together. The apprentice rider guided Mohammed Ali Yousef Al Sheeb’s **KASSER (AF Albahar x Wujdan)** to a C&D victory for the second time this season. On Thursday, in the six-furlong LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN CONDITIONS, Kasser won narrowly by a neck.

A week after moving ownership with a claiming race victory, the Majed Mahadi Seifeddine-trained **ENNAB (Munjiz x Areej)** entered the winner’s circle yet again, this time in the colours of Rakan Khames Abuzuluf. Helmed by Ronan Thomas for the first time, the gelding narrowly edged out the Gassim Mohammad Ghazali-schooled Muthhil, winning the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (85 & below) with a quarter of a length to spare.
Qatar bred ENNAB (Munjiz x Areej) won for the first time this season on Thursday having featured only once in November. Ridden by Tomas Lukasek in the colours of H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Julian Colin Smart’s ward hit the turf at Al Rayyan Park for the first time since December 2018 and did well to win the seven-furlong PUREBRED ARABIAN CLAIMING RACE (60-90) with two lengths to spare.

H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani’s METHGAL (TM Fred Texas x Theeba) followed up his promising Qatar Derby last month with a fine win in the PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (95 & below) on Thursday, January 16. Julian Colin Smart saddled colt had finished in the frame in Qatar Derby (Group 1 PA) last month under Tomas Lukasek, who was in the saddle of the 4yo once again. In the miler, Methgal won with two lengths to spare at the post for his first victory in Qatar.

Umm Qarn’s BIN GENERAL (General x Noorah) has only been impressive in his short career so far. The 5yo had two runners up finishes in his first two outings this season, including in a high-class Qatar Derby last month. On Thursday, the Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle trained horse went one better for his third career victory, all of which have been under Ronan Thomas. In the 2200m PUREBRED ARABIAN GRADUATION PLATE, Bin General won by a length and three quarters as De Mieulle saddled his fourth winner of the day.

Umm Qarn’s DJAMIL (No Risk Al Maury x Al Dahma) led a one-two for trainer Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle on Thursday. In the mile long PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (4-6yo), Ronan Thomas helmed the 5yo for the third straight time. Having finished in the frame twice, on Thursday, the duo entered the winner’s circle for the first time in six outings, edging out Al Shaqab Racing’s Albasos by a neck.

Al Rabban Racing’s RS RASHEEDA (AF Al Bahar x Agdalya) showed promise on her first two outings, finishing runner up each time over a mile. Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward stepped up marginally in trip to 1850m in the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (4-6yo Fillies & Mares) on Thursday and went one better in spectacular fashion. Under a fantastic ride by Ronan Thomas the 4yo went past the post a massive 12 lengths ahead of the competition.
AAHIL, AL NAAMA and JABALAH shine at HH Sh Abdullah Trophy

Ronan Thomas on Aahil
Umm Qarn’s AAHIL (Munjiz x Daniah) had finished second behind Al Naif Racing’s MOL-HEB AL NAIF (Amer x Kesbah) last month. But Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward went one better this time round in fantastic fashion in Thursday’s H.H SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN KHALIFA AL THANI TROPHY (4yo & older Local PA, January 9) beating some top horses in the country for his sixth career victory. The 6yo had finished third over the mile long event last year but ensured a treble for trainer De Mieulle with Ronan Thomas guiding Aahil to a breezy three length victory.

Harry Bentley ridden Molheb Al Naif, trained by Gassim Mohammad Ghazali, finished second for the second straight year in the event, beating Tomas Lukasek helmed AJS MOADDIE (AF Al-Bahar x Gabie De Carrere) for second by three quarters of a length.

Al Shaqab Racing’s AL NAAMA (Majd Al Arab x Entisar) put up a determined display in the H.H SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN KHALIFA AL THANI CUP (Gr2 PA) (4yo & older) for her second straight victory Al Rayyan Park. In the mile long run, Qatari jockey Faleh Bughanaim had Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward take the lead four furlongs out going into the final bend. As the pace quickened on the home stretch, Tomas Lukasek ridden EBRAZ (Amer x Massamarie), trained by Julian Colin Smart for H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, and Umm Qarn’s TAYF (Amer x Djelmila), ridden by Ronan Thomas for De Mieulle, began their pursuit. However, Al Naama held on to her advantage going past the post one and a half lengths ahead of Ebraz, while Tayf was third by quarter of a length.

Umm Qarn’s JABALAH (Al Mamun Monlau x Kouthar) continued with his fantastic form around Al Rayyan Park with the Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle trained 4yo was in the winner’s circle for the third straight time this season. The Group 1 PA Qatar Derby winner had Soufiane Saadi for company once again and the result was no different despite a huge step up in distance to the 2200m H.H SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN KHALIFA AL THANI SILVER CUP (4yo PA). Jabalah beat H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani’s MON’NIA (Amer x Margouia), ridden by Tomas Lukasek for trainer Julian Colin Smart, by two lengths and a quarter, while another Umm Qarn colt, JABIR (Al Mamun Monlau x Maleehah) completed the top three under Ronan Thomas.

Al Shahania Stud’s R B KINDLE (Burning Sand x Rich Kinka) was left slightly wanting on her Doha debut a week ago, but Gassim Mohammad Ghazali saddled mare made amends on Thursday to notch her first victory in Qatar. Successful in the US, the 6yo entered the winner’s circle at Al Rayyan Park after topping the MAJD AL ARAB P/A SPRINTER CHAMPIONSHIP (Gr3 PA) (4yo & older) with Harry Bentley guiding her to a fine victory with two lengths and three quarters to spare.
Hassan Ali Hassan Al Matwi’s RAQEE (Mared Al Sahra x Cath) was back in the winner’s circle within a year of his previous victory with the 6yo topping the AL THAKHIRA CUP (LOCAL PURE-BRED ARABIANS) at the dirt track at Al Rayyan Park on Wednesday, January 8. In the six-furlong feature, the 6yo had Qatari jockey Faleh Bughanaim for company and the two won a thrilling blanket finish, edging out a trio saddled by Champion Trainer Gassim Mohammad Ghazali. The JP Guillambert-ridden LEKHRAIB (AF AlBahar x Grace T) was second by a neck for Injaaz Stud while Jassim Bin Ali Al Attiyah’s RASSAN (Amer x Sandytiki) completed the top three under Harry Bentley.

Umm Qarn’s MARUF (Tabarak x Noorah) had impressed with a fifth-place finish on his Qatar debut in November. Running on dirt for the first time in his career, the 4yo raced to a smashing victory. In the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (4yo-6yo), Ronan Thomas was astride Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward and the two went past the post seven and a half lengths ahead of the competition for the win.

Al Shaqab Racing’s MAIUF (TM Fred Texas x Mayada) led a one-two for the colours and trainer Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle, going one better than his Qatar debut last month. In the 1700m PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (4 Year Olds), the Ronan Thomas-ridden colt finished a length and a quarter ahead of stablemate Mkayns, ridden by Faleh Bughanaim, for his first career win.
In a dominant show, Umm Qarn’s DABAAB (Munjiz x Haifaa) continued impressing at the Al Rayyan Park when the Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle-saddled 6yo topped the DUKHAN CUP (4yo & older PA Fillies & Mares) at the dirt track on Thursday, January 2. In the 1700m run, Ronan Thomas guided the mare to her first victory this season, having finished in the top three on her other two outings since October.

Dabaab won with eight lengths and a quarter to spare, with Alexander Reznikov riding Al Jery-an Stud’s AJS JAMRA (AF Al Bahar x Mangal- line Du Loup), saddled by Hadi Nasser Rashid Al Ramzani, finishing runner up for her second straight outing. Jassim Bin Ali Al Attiyah’s NAI- MA (TM Fred Texas x Al Zubarah) was third for trainer Ahmed Mohamad Kobeissi under Ivan Rossi.

Umm Qarn’s SEALINE (Amer x Jaljalah) kept his winning record on dirt intact on Thursday. In the PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (90 & below), Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward had Ronan Thomas in the saddle, and the 6yo did well to edge out Ivan Rossi ridden Aneeq by a neck at the post in what was the longest race of his career at 1900m. The Amer colt has never finished outside the top, and only improved his strike rate to win for the fourth time in six outings.

Khalifa Mohamed Khalifa Abdullah Al Atti- Yah’s HATHLOOL (Jafer ASF x Djeldora) won the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (Rated 70 & Below) on dirt in thrilling fashion. In the 1700m race, ridden by Alexander Reznikov for the first time, the Hadi Nasser Rashid Al Ramza- ni schooled 5yo edged out Julian Colin Smart trained Satam by a head at the post.
Al Shahania Stud's AALEY AL MAGAM (Amer x Abigaille) had struggled in his last few outings around Al Rayyan Park but on Thursday, December 26, the Al Shahania Stud-owned horse was right where he needed to be. In the JAAFER CUP (LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIANS), Julian Colin Smart's ward was helmed by Tomas Lukasek and the 7yo continued his impressive run of results in the 2000m race, having finished third last year and runner up the year before, with a one and a half-length victory. The win was the second on the day for the colours, the trainer and the jockey.

H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani's AL WANNAH (Burning Sand x Massroura) registered her third victory of the calendar year when she topped the DJENDEL LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN GRADUATION PLATE. In the seven-furlong run, the Julian Colin Smart-trained filly had Tomas Lukasek for company and the two won a fantastic duel with the Alexander Reznikov-ridden AJS Jamra by a short head.

Umm Qarn's CHAMEKH (Munjiz x Al Dahma) finished just outside the top five earlier this month and took that momentum into Thursday’s MARED AL SAHRA PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE to shed his maiden status in a thrilling race. In a blanket finish of the 2000m race, Alban Elie Marie de Mieulle’s ward was ridden to a neck victory by Ronan Thomas as the 4yo colt entered the winner’s circle on only his second outing.

She may have been out of depth last time around in the Qatar Derby five days ago, but Al Jeryan Stud’s AJS HAMAYEM (AF AlBahar x Kamin) made it to the winner’s circle for the first time in her career in the ASRAA MIN ALBARQ PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE on Thursday. Running her shortest distance so far at seven furlongs, Hadi Nasser Rashid Al Ramzani’s ward won a close one under Ivan Rossi, winning with half a length to spare at the post.

Al Shaqab Racing’s SHALAA (Dahess x Dorradora) made good his trip from France when the Thomas Fourcy-trained colt landed the Gr3 PA QATAR DERBY (4YO PUREBRED ARABIANS) in fine form. The USD 150,000 Purebred Arabian feature saw Julien Augé astride SHALAA who made a run for the victory on the home straight against an all-colt field, on December 21. In pursuit were three of Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s wards, including early leader Umm Qarn’s BIN GENERAL (General x Noorah), who held his own under Olivier Peslier to finish runner up, ahead of stablemate MARID (TM Fred Texas x Al Dahma), who ran on the back of a Guineas victory last month. Another Al Shaqab Racing contender, Meblish, was impressive under Faleh Bughanaim to come from the back of the pack to complete the frame for De Mieulle.

Umm Qarn’s JABALAH (Al Mamun Monlau x Kouthar) led from gates to post in a spectacular run to take his second straight victory. Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward had Soufiane Saadi for company and the duo set the pace up front in the Gr1 PA mile long QATAR DERBY (3YO PUREBRED ARABIANS) and then survived a threatening pursuit from Thomas Fourcy’s French Raider LADY PRINCESS (General x Nacree Al Maury), who made a late charge under Julien Augé in the colours of Khalifa Bin Sheail Al Kuwari, which was good enough for a close second. Another French contender, BATTASH DE FAUST (AF Al Bahar x Ayisha De Faust), helmed by Adrie De Vries for trainer Jean Francois Bernard in the colours of Abdulla Mohamed Al Attiya, rounded the top three.

Al Jeryan Stud’s AJS SOGHAN (AF Al Bahar x Anayid) shed his maiden status after following up his C&D third place finish with a victory in the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN PLATE (3 Year Olds). In the mile long race, Alexander Reznikov was in the saddle for the Hadi Nasser Rashid Al Ramzani-trained horse once again and the two did enough to beat the Marco Casamento-ridden Dalilak by a neck at the post. The win was Al Ramzani’s third straight on the day and the second for the colours of Al Jeryan Stud.

Jassim Bin Ali Al Attiyah’s NAIMA (TM Fred Texas x Al Zubarah) made it two in a row when she topped the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN NOVICE PLATE. It was the Oaks winning rider Ryan Curatolo who was in the saddle for the Ahmed Mohamed Kobeissi-schooled filly and the two ensured a thrilling finish to the 1850m race with a quarter of a length victory on the 4YO’s fifth career outing.
Soufiane Saadi on Jabalah

Shalaa owner trophy AL Shaqab racing CEO
Mr Khalifa Mohamed Al Attiyah receiving from HE Mr Salah Bin Ghanem Al-Ali

Umm Qarn’s YAZEED (Munjiz x Al Dahma) followed up a promising Longchamp outing in October with a memorable win in the THE LATE SHEIKH JASSIM BIN MOHAMMED AL THANI TROPHY – QATAR NATIONAL DAY TROPHY (Gr2 PA) (3yo & older) at the Al Rayyan Park turf on Sunday. The going on the soft side post some rain in the Qatari capital, Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle’s ward had little trouble over a mile and two furlongs as the 6yo won by a length and a quarter under a fantastic ride by Ronan Thomas. Mohammed Nasser Al Naimi’s AKMAR (No Risk Al Maury x Safa), ridden by Luca Maniezzi for trainer Hadi Nasser Rashid Al Ramzani, edged out another Umm Qarn colt, TAYF (Amer x Djelmila), helmed by Soufiane Saadi, by a short head for the runner up spot.

Al Naif Racing’s MOLHEB AL NAIF (Amer x Kesbah) has rarely put a foot wrong in his career and Sunday, December 15, was no different where the 7yo handed Champion Trainer Gassim Mohammad Ghazali his only victory of the day. In the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN CONDITIONS (NATIONAL DAY CUP), the horse had Champion Jockey Harry Bentley for company and the fantastic ride saw them win by a dominant five lengths and three quarters, with Ronan Thomas riding Umm Qarn’s AAHIL (Munjiz x Daniah) to second place. Another Ghazali ward, JENJAL (Af Albahar x Gold Label) was third under JP Guilllambert.

Qatari Jockey Saleh Salem Al Marri rode his third winner of the season when he was astride Khalifa Bin Sheail Al Kuwari’s DEEBAJ (Amer x Obe De Ghazal). In the PUREBRED ARABIAN HANDICAP (95 & below), the Mohammed Gas-sim Ghazali trained mare got back to winning ways after a few blips in the last two races. The 6yo had closed out the last season with hat-trick of wins and on Sunday she won by half a length in the mile long race.

Osama Omer Al Dafea’s TAHAR (TM Fred Tex-tas x Insaft) perhaps took a liking to the turf when the going was soft as the 4yo shed his maiden status on his 11th outing at the Al Rayyan Park on Sunday. In the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (4 Year Olds), the colt had Ryan Curatolo for company and the two did enough to win the miler by half a length in a close finish.

YAZEED winner of
Qatar National Day Trophy
Qatari jockey Meteb Ali Al Marri rode his second winner of the day when he guided Mohammed Ali Yousef Al Sheeb’s KASSER (AF Albahar x Wujdan) to victory in the LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN CONDITIONS on Thursday, December 5. In the penultimate race of the day, Al Marri guided the 8yo to the horse’s first victory in two years. The Qatar bred horse picked up a breezy victory, beating the competition by three and a half lengths.

After closing out the last season with a maiden victory, Al Shaqab Racing’s MEBLISH (Dahess x Digama) began the new one with the second victory of his career and in the process became the third winner on the day for his handler Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle. Ridden by Ronan Thomas in the PUREBRED ARABIAN GRADUATION PLATE, the 4yo picked up a thrilling victory, edging out the JB Eyquem-ridden AJS Jamra by a head at the post, while the Rashid Ali Al Marri-helmed Taysh was only a short head behind in third.

Jassim Bin Ali Al Attiyah’s NAIMA (TM Fred Texas x Al Zubarah) closed out last season with two top three finishes on dirt. This season trainer Ahmed Mohamad Kobeissi ran the 4yo on turf for the first time in her career and the filly was a straight out winner in the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE. The Qatar bred filly was partnered with Ryan Curatolo and they won with three and a half lengths in the 1850m race.

Umm Qarn’s JABALAH (Al Mamum Monalu x Kouthar) made it two in a row on Thursday for trainer Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle when the 3yo won the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (3 Year Olds) (C & G) (Div 2) on the turf track at Al Rayyan Park. Helmed by Soufiane Saadi in the miler, the colt went past the post with three lengths to spare with Pierantonio Convertino guiding Ginkeau to the colt’s second runner up finish this season.

Qatari jockey Faleh Bughanaim registered his first victory of the season when he guided Al Shaqab Racing’s ALGHAF (TM Fred Texas x Entisar) to a fine victory in the first race of the meeting on Thursday. The result in the PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN PLATE (3 Year Olds) (Fillies) (Div 1) also meant that the filly, who won on her Qatar debut, led a one-two for French trainer Alban Elie Marie De Mieulle, who also saddled Al Rabban Racing’s runner up filly RS Rasheeda in the miler.
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