

Reda & Shabih Alreeh shine in Qatar Derby Trials

The pair owned by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Thani and trained by Julian Smart clinch two out of four big races

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DOHA

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Thani's Reda and Shabih Alreeh stamped the seal of their owner and trainer Julian Smart on the Qatar Derby Trials Day, winning two of the four races on Thursday.

At the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club Racecourse in New Al Rayyan, Alberto Sanna placed Shabih Alreeh, a three-year-old chestnut colt in the winner's circle in the 1,400m race, beating off a stiff challenge from Farooq (Faleh Bughanaim) to bag the race with neck margin.

Yazeed, ridden by Gaetan Faucon, took the third spot one and a half lengths behind.

For Shabih Alreeh, this was the second successive triumph. Earlier, Sanna had ridden him to the victory in his maiden run in Doha last month.

Then came the bigger one over the 1,850m distance. And Reda chose to follow pace-set-

ters Zahwah and Messine De Sunuhe, both trained by Jassim Mohammed Ghazali.

British rider Harry Bentley, who had a glorious treble yesterday, positioned Spaghetti, another Ghazali ward, in the third spot and waited patiently for the race clear the last bend to turn for the home stretch.

It was Rasheed (Gaetan Faucon), who launched the first dash with about 500m to go. Quickly Spaghetti, owned by Khalifa bin Sheail al Kuwari, responded and overtook before seeking to widen the gap.

From outside, Reda showed a good reservoir of energy and darted furiously down the stretch. For a moment, there was a huge battle for the top honours and it was Reda who managed to hit the front and hung on to win the race by neck. Spaghetti also got the second spot by neck ahead of Rasheed, while Carab (JP Guillambert) and Najda (Alberto Sanna) earned the fourth and fifth spots, respectively.

The result meant it was a maiden triumph for Reda in Doha in five races. After running two races, he went abroad and did four races before returning to Doha in November when he was second under Marco Monteriso.

QATAR DERBY TRIALS DAY (TURF)

15TH RACE MEETING RESULTS

FEAGENTRI (GENTLEMEN RIDERS) LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIAN MAIDEN CUP (1,600m)

1st 51,300 2nd 19,800 3rd 9,900
1. Aziznefs (Eric Poretz, USA), 2. Semwo (Elliot Ohgren, SWE), 3. Jefool Al Jazeera (Guilain Bertrand, FRA)
Won by 2.5, Shd, 5. Time 1:38.19
Owner - Al Shahania Stud. Trainer - Jassim Mohammed Ghazali

THOROUGHBRED CLASSIFIED STAKES CLASS 2 (1,100m)

1st 51,300 2nd 19,800 3rd 9,900
1. Black Granite (Pierantonio Convertino), 2. The Smart One (Gerald Avranché), 3. Receding Waves (Harry Bentley)
Won by 2.05, 0.5
Owner: Injaaz Stud. Trainer: Mubarak al Khayarin

THOROUGHBRED HANDICAP CLASS 3 (DIV 2, 1,400m)

1st 25,650 2nd 9,900 3rd 4,950
1. Palmetto Dunes (Stephan Ladjadj), 2. Perigee (Harry Bentley), 3. Hi Holy (Marvin Suerland) & Go For Broke (Gerald Avranché)
Won by 2, Dh, Nk.
Owner - Abdullah Hassan Ali Abdulmalik. Trainer - Deborah Mountain

LOCAL PUREBRED ARABIANS (1,400m)

1st 85,500 2nd 33,000 3rd 16,500 4th 9,000 5th 6,000
1. Tasslam (Stephan Ladjadj), 2. Al Malhoufa (Pierantonio Convertino), 3. Al Malhouf (Harry Bentley)
Won by 0.5, 1.25, 0.5.
Owner - Eng Dhafi al Ardi al Marri. Trainer - Dhafi al Marri

QATAR DERBY TRIAL (1,600m)

1st 85,500 2nd 33,000 3rd 16,500
1. Al Uraiq Secret (Eduardo Pedroza), 2. Abu Samrah (Harry Bentley), 3. Asaaf (Stephan Ladjadj)
Won by 0.5, 6, Shd.
Owner - Sheikh Faisal bin Hamad bin Jassim al Thani. Trainer Ibrahim al Malki

QATAR DERBY TRIAL GR 2 (1,850m)

1st 85,500 2nd 33,000 3rd 16,500
1. Opera Baron (Harry Bentley), 2. Open 'N Shut (Saleem Golam), 3. Robinnielly (JP Guillambert)
Won by 0.5, 1.25, Hd
Owner - Khalifa bin Sheail al Kuwari. Trainer - Jassim Mohammed Ghazali

QATAR DERBY TRIAL (1,400m)

1st 85,500 2nd 33,000 3rd 16,500
1. Shabih Alreeh (Alberto Sanna), 2. Farooq (Faleh Bughanaim), 3. Yazeed (Gaetan Faucon)
Won by Nk, 1.5, 5
Owner - HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Thani. Trainer - Julian Smart

QATAR DERBY TRIAL (1,850m)

Purebred arabians 4 year olds only colts & geldings to carry 58kg, fillies & mares 56kg
1st 85,500 2nd 33,000 3rd 16,500 4th 9,000 5th 6,000
1. Reda (Marco Monteriso), 2. Spaghetti (Harry Bentley), 3. Rasheed (Gaetan Faucon), 4. Carab (JP Guillambert), 5. Najda (Alberto Sanna)
Won by Nk, Nk, 1.5, 1.25
Owner - HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Thani. Trainer Julian Smart

Both Spaghetti and Rasheed have been in strong form. The former looking for his fourth win in a row in as many races in Doha, while the latter had made a winning debut last month with Jean Baptiste Hamel astride.

Al Uraiq Secret, owned



(Left) Al Uraiq Secret and Opera Baron owners receive trophies after winning races on Thursday.



Eric Poretz of the USA is being honoured for leading Aziznefs to victory in the Fegentri Local Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate Race (gentlemen).

by Sheikh Faisal bin Hamad bin Jassim al Thani and trained by Ibrahim al Malki, clinched the Qatar Derby Trial 1,600m. Eduardo Pedroza led him to a half-length victory over Abu Samrah (Harry Bentley), which extended his impressive run to four unbeaten runs in five races in Doha till now.

Bentley also had his share of success as he teamed up with Khalifa bin Sheail al Kuwari-owned Opera Baron to forge a half-length triumph in

the Qatar Derby Trial Group 2 race (1,850m) over Open 'N Shut (Seleem Golam). The third spot went to Robinnielly (JP Guillambert).

Stephan Ladjadj was behind two winners in Palmetto Dunes, owned by Abdullah Hassan Ali Abdulmalik and trained by Deborah Mountain. The three-year-old bay gelding was two lengths ahead when he won the Thoroughbred Handicap Class 3 Division 2 Race ahead of Perigee (Bentley). Hi Holy was tied for

the third with Go For Broke.

Ladjadj narrowly guided Tasslam to the victory in the Local Purebred Arabians 1,400m race, beating Al Malhoufa and Al Malhouf.

Earlier, American Eric Poretz won the final race of the World Fegentri Championship race for gentlemen, piloting Aziznefs two and a half lengths ahead of Semwo (Elliot Ohgren of Sweden). Guilain Bertrand of France was astride Jefool Al Jazeera, who was third.