

MEYDAN - Thursday

FIRST RACE

10:00 EDT

Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Quartet, PA, ATC

1 Mile 1 Furlong 110yards(Dirt) 3yo and Up

Handicap - Purse: \$60,000.

No	PP HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT. ODDS
1	(1) GRAND ARGENTIER	S Hitchcott	D Watson	131 10-1
2	(2) RESPECT ME	W Smith	I Mohammed	131 15-1
3	(4) ETIJAAH	P Hanagan	D Watson	130 3-1
4	(5) ZEPHUROS	W Buick	C Appleby	125 2-1
5	(7) ORMINDO	F Tylicki	A Bin Harmash	122 6-1
6	(3) ENERY	F Jara	M Al Muhairi	119 4-1
7	(8) INVINCIBLE STRIKE	R Mullen	S Seemar	118 10-1
8	(6) STREET ACT	T O'Shea	A Al Raihe	118 5-1

SELECTIONS: 4 - 8 - 3

ZEPHUROS wasn't the fastest away when fourth here on New Year's Day but that still represented a highly promising reappearance effort and he is entitled to strip fitter for that first start in almost a year. He has been dropped 2lb in the weights for that run, leaving him on a very workable mark of 87. The veteran Street Act still retains plenty of enthusiasm for the game, ran a perfectly respectable race when third last month and is entitled to be in there pitching again. Etijaah, a winner here in November, returns to this venue in good heart following another solid showing at Jebel Ali last time.

SECOND RACE

10:35 EDT

Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Quartet, Double, Pick 3, ATC

5 Furlongs(Turf) 3yo and Up Handicap - Purse: \$120,000.

No	PP HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT. ODDS
1	(5) STEPPER POINT	James Doyle	W Muir	132 4-1
2	(8) BANAADEER	P Hanagan	D De Kock	129 8-1
3	(2) CASPIAN PRINCE	R Winston	D Ivory	128 5-1
4	(1) GREEN DOOR	A Atzeni	R Cowell	127 8-1
5	(4) ROICEAD	W Smith	D Selvaratnam	127 3-1
6	(3) SAAYER	C D Hayes	D Selvaratnam	126 5-1
7	(6) FITYAAN	D O'Neill	M Al Muhairi	125 12-1
8	(7) DEMORA	A Rawlinson	(3) M Appleby	122 8-1

SELECTIONS: 4 - 1 - 3

Stepper Point has plenty on his plate under top weight but he added a Group Two success to his CV last summer and certainly has the class to put it up to these. Similar sentiments apply to Caspian Prince and, strictly on their running in their running in the Prix de l'Abbaye, he looks better treated at these weights. Saayer ran really well when fifth behind Hototo here recently and appears to have acclimatised well to these shores, while Banaadeer has a squeak if putting his best foot forward. However, Green Door remains a smart sprinting prospect and despite reportedly needing his recent comeback run here, he still shaped with a good degree of promise in what looked a very hot contest.

THIRD RACE

11:10 EDT

Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Quartet, Double, Pick 3, ATC

1 Mile 1 Furlong 110yards(Dirt) 3yo and Up

Handicap - Purse: \$120,000.

No	PP HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT. ODDS
1	(1) FOOTBRIDGE	W Buick	C Appleby	132 3-1
2	(6) LET'S GO	James Doyle	S bin Suroor	132 7-5
3	(2) STORM BELT	S Hitchcott	D Watson	131 6-1
4	(4) SPECIAL FIGHTER	F Jara	M Al Muhairi	130 4-1
5	(3) ROMANSH	R French	S Ghadayer	125 15-1
6	(5) PLANTAGENET	P A Graberg	N Petersen	123 5-1

SELECTIONS: 2 - 1 - 4

LET'S GO wasn't able to repel the high-class Tryster at Chelmsford in September but that was still a fine effort and he duly took another step forward when claiming Listed honours at Lingfield subsequently. Always travelling well at the head of affairs, he put the race to bed in decent style when asked to go and looks the type to do really well in the coming months. US import Footbridge sports the same colours as the selection and made an encouraging debut for these connections almost a year ago. He has presumably been kept fresh for this year's Carnival and it will be fascinating to see how he fares. Special Fighter didn't show too much in Group Two company latest but his previous Listed success reads much better.

FOURTH RACE

11:45 EDT

Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Quartet, Double, Pick 3, Jackpot, ATC

7 Furlongs(Turf) 3yo and Up Al Fahidi Fort

Sponsored By Meydan Sobha Stakes (Group 2) -

Turf - Purse: \$250,000.

No	PP HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT. ODDS
1	(1) HARRY'S SON	P Strydor	Paul Lafferty	126 5-1
2	(2) GHAMER	D O'Neill	A Al Raihe	126 15-1
3	(3) ROYAL RIDGE	R Mullen	M De Kock	126 20-1
4	(4) MASTERMIND	W Smith	M De Kock	126 15-1
5	(5) ZARWAAN	P Hanagan	D Watson	126 10-1
6	(6) TELLINA	S Hitchcott	M De Kock	126 6-1
7	(7) SAFETY CHECK	W Buick	C Appleby	126 9-5
8	(8) ANAEROBIO	C Scoumillion	M De Kock	126 5-1
9	(9) EASTERN RULES	James Doyle	M Halford	126 8-1

SELECTIONS: 7 - 6 - 1

All eyes will be on Safety Check as he makes his first start of this year's Carnival. Charlie Appleby's five-year-old was a rapid improver at this meeting last year, winning three times - twice at Grade Two level. One of those victories came when running out a highly impressive winner of this very race and having ticked over with a couple of starts in the UK in the summer, he is fancied to resume where he left off this afternoon. Tellina boasts some very smart South African form and Mike de Kock will understandably be keen to take the wraps off his new acquisition, while Harry's Son was a Grade One winner in that same country and is another of obvious interest. Many British fans will be able to recall Zarwaan winning twice for Ed Dunlop last summer, including once in Listed company, and he adds another angle to an intriguing affair.

FIFTH RACE

12:20 EDT

Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Quartet, Double, Pick 3, ATC

1 Mile 2 Furlongs(Turf) 3yo and Up Handicap -

Purse: \$120,000.

No	PP HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT. ODDS
1	(4) ELLEVAL	P J Smullen	D Marnane	132 5-2
2	(3) SANSHAWEES	C Scoumillion	M De Kock	132 7-2
3	(10) ELHAAME	James Doyle	S bin Suroor	131 6-1
4	(7) THAIR	W Buick	S bin Suroor	131 5-2
5	(8) BANCUNAUAHEIREANNA	A Rawlinson	(3) M Appleby	130 15-1
6	(2) FEARLESS HUNTER	C Lopez	R Haugen	130 20-1
7	(9) ZAMBUCCA	H Crouch (5)	S Seemar	130 15-1
8	(1) PILOTE	R French	S Ghadayer	129 20-1
9	(6) START RIGHT	R Mullen	S Seemar	126 8-1
10	(5) WHISTLE STOP	P Hanagan	M De Kock	126 20-1

SELECTIONS: 1 - 3 - 4

ELLEVAL went down on his sword when only finding Star Empire too strong over this C&D two weeks ago, with the front two pulling some four lengths clear of the reopposing Sanshaawes. That form looks rock solid and he is fancied to gain compensation, but could have something to fear from a couple of Godolphin runners, Thair and Elhaame. The latter enjoyed a terrific summer in the UK, getting his head in front on three different occasions, and still looks to be going the right way, while the former did well here last year and ought to get involved. The consistent Start Right shouldn't be too far away either.

SIXTH RACE

12:55 EDT

Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Quartet, Double, ATC

1 Mile(Dirt) 3yo and Up Handicap - Purse: \$110,000.

No	PP HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT. ODDS
1	(2) MIND THAT BOY	M Barzalona	S Ghadayer	132 10-1
2	(7) SILVER OCEAN	R French	N Petersen	130 12-1
3	(3) ENERGIA COLONIAL	P A Graberg	N Petersen	128 6-1
4	(12) MUSTADEEM	P Hanagan	A Al Raihe	128 12-1
5	(9) ROYAL NAVY SHIP	P Strydor	Paul Lafferty	128 5-1
6	(10) UNFORGIVING MINUTE	S Hitchcott	D Brennan	128 30-1
7	(11) AMERICAN HOPE	James Doyle	S bin Suroor	126 10-1
8	(6) SECRET BRIEF	W Buick	C Appleby	126 5-1
9	(4) SUCCESS STORY	T O'Shea	J K Min	126 10-1
10	(8) TOP CLEARANCE	C D Hayes	D Selvaratnam	126 20-1
11	(14) VORTEX	C Lopez	R Haugen	126 6-1
12	(1) FOX TROTTER	P J Smullen	B Meehan	125 10-1
13	(15) GREATEST JOURNEY	A Rawlinson	(3) S bin Suroor	125 12-1
14	(5) TIZ NOW TIZ THEN	R Mullen	S Seemar	122 8-1
15	(13) BANNOCK	F Tylicki	A Bin Harmash	120 30-1

SELECTIONS: 7 - 8 - 10

AMERICAN HOPE returns to this racetrack for the first time since running a massive race in the Royal Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot in June, finishing sixth. He has since joined the Godolphin ranks and looks to have been laid out for a Carnival campaign. A big run from him can be expected but this looks a competitive race on paper, with fellow Godolphin runner Secret Brief making plenty of appeal himself having ended his three-year-old career in much better fashion than it began. Top Clearance didn't shape too badly in a Group Two earlier this month and should appreciate having his sights lowered, while the likes of Fox Trotter and Royal Navy Ship could also be worth considering.

SEVENTH RACE

1:30 EDT

Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Quartet, ATC

1 Mile 4 Furlongs(Turf) 3yo and Up Handicap -

Purse: \$150,000.

No	PP HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT. ODDS
1	(10) HAAFAQUINEA	W Buick	S bin Suroor	132 8-1
2	(12) RIO TIGRE	M Barzalona	S Ghadayer	129 15-1
3	(3) AL SAHAM	James Doyle	S bin Suroor	127 4-1
4	(2) SUGAR BOY	H Crouch (5)	S Seemar	127 30-1
5	(9) SPEND THE CASH	W Smith	W Mongil	126 20-1
6	(11) CERTERACH	P J Smullen	M Halford	125 7-1
7	(8) DORMELLO	C D Hayes	D Selvaratnam	125 15-1
8	(6) ANTINORI	R Mullen	S Seemar	122 15-1
9	(13) QUARTERBACK	D O'Neill	R Haugen	122 8-1
10	(14) TANNAAF	C Scoumillion	M De Kock	122 5-2
11	(5) MAJED	P Hanagan	D M Simcock	121 10-1
12	(1) PAENE MAGNUS	F Tylicki	A Bin Harmash	121 20-1
13	(7) ZEN ZANSAI ZAID	T O'Shea	T Gustafson	121 20-1
14	(4) KEEP IN LINE	D Probert	S bin Suroor	118 8-1
15	BATTERSEA	RESERVE	R Varian	119
16	VAASA	RESERVE	A Bin Harmash	119
17	SAXO JACK	RESERVE	S bin Suroor	118
18	SEMEEN	RESERVE	F Nass	117

SELECTIONS: 3 - 1 - 10

Saeed bin Suroor might hold the key to this race with Haafaguinea and Al Saham both holding strong claims. Both are returning from breaks, the former having ended last year's campaign by landing his second big handicap pot of the Carnival and he is expected to continue that improvement. However, the latter really put it up to multiple Meydan winner Songcraft here last February and doesn't have many miles on the clock for a seven-year-old, suggesting he might not have stopped improving just yet. Irish raider Certerach warrants respect despite his wide berth, while Tannaaf catches the eye having won at Doha in December.