

عام
زاييدYEAR OF
ZAYED

Abū Dhābi

SHAIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN JEWEL CROWN RACE

by Deirdre Hyde ■ photos by Nils Rosenkjaer

The UAE Arabian racing's second meeting on the grass racetrack of Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club on 9th November is an early highlight of the season. On the six race card, two were the Prestige race final rounds of the HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Apprentice Jockeys World Championship (IFHRA) and the HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies World Championship (IFAHR) followed by the exciting Group 1, feature race, the 1.2 million euro, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Jewel Crown (G1).

Lara Sawaya, the organiser behind these races and as Executive Director, the force behind the HH Sheikh Mansour Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival, has had a great influence on the development of Arabian racing in recent years, and it is thanks to the Festival through her, that we have this Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Jewel Crown race; the richest Arabian race in the world. Sheikh Zayed, the late President of the UAE, greatly enjoyed racing and believed strongly that Arabians should race as part of

photo by Morhaf



Jewel Crown Trophy Presentation



Al Shamoos winning Jewel Crown

photo by Morhaf



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Arab culture and tradition. During his life he sponsored many races around the world, and we are lucky indeed that his family has continued this support especially in this the “Year of Zayed”, the Centenary of his birth.

The Jewel Crown saw fourteen of the world’s best Arabians entered, and hopes ran high as these beautiful athletes strode into the paddock. The talk was strong for two foreign raiders, Al Shamoos 4 yrs (No Risk Al Maury – Hamiya by Al Hasim) 8(4-2-1) the winner of her last start the Prix Des Juments at Longchamp, and Fazza Al Khalediah 4 yrs (Jalnar Al Khalidiah – Assma Al Khalediah by Amer) 11(10-1-0) winner of the Qatar Arabian World Cup on Prix De L’Arc de Triomphe day at Longchamp. The paddock was crowded with owners, trainers, jockeys, a patchwork of colours; excitement and anticipation could be felt as the horses made their way to the 1600m start. The locally bred ES Ajeeb 4yrs (Big Easy – Bent Al Asayl by Djebel Lotois) set off in front but by the home turn he was fading, it was 238 days since his last start. This left Al Shamoos in front, she was going very easily and it was obvious it was unlikely she could be caught, however Fazza Al Khalediah for whom the early pace had perhaps been a little strong came round

the final bend second to last but then picking up a gear, he flew the last 300m. gaining with every stride, however the winning post came too soon leaving Al Shamoos to claim the crown by a length. The time for the race was 1:42.19.

Al Shamoos was bred in France by Dr Mohammed Al Nujaiifi from his excellent brood mare Hamiya. A winner herself in Iraq, all her offspring so far to race have been winners. Al Shamoos had been purchased by HE Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Zayed Al Nahyan four days before her win at Longchamp on 6th October and now a month later gave her new owner this very special result. It was a first win in UAE for both her trainer Charles Gourdain and jockey Julien Auge.

Fazza Al Khalediah bred in Poland by Al Khalediah Stables is owned by Polska Akf, trained by Michal Borkowski, his jockey was Pierantonio Convertino. The third horse home was Joudh (Mahabb – Shamyil by Kesberoy) trained in France by Didier Guillemin ridden by Olivier Peslier for Yas Horse Racing Management LLC and bred by Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, she had been second to Al Shamoos in her last start. □

