



Dubai Racing Club | Mathea Kelley

## POET'S WORD MAKES EVERY METER COUNT AT ASCOT

On a day that was supposed to showcase another dominating performance by the world's top-rated turf male, **Cracksman**, Wednesday's Royal Ascot crowd was treated to an upset special in the about-2000m Prince of Wales's Stakes (G1). Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) alumni **Poet's Word** (above, right) and **Hawkbill** (far left) flattered its form by finishing first and third, bookending the John Gosden trainee. Trained by Royal Meeting win record-setting Sir Michael Stoute, Poet's Word is owned by Dubai's Mr. Saeed Suhail.

(cont. page 2)

## THE WORLD IS BLUE POINT'S OYSTER AFTER G1 KING'S STAND

After the disappointment of **Benbatl**'s off-the-board effort in the Queen Anne Stakes (G1) to kick off the Royal Meeting for the Godolphin operation, the morale of the royal blue spiked emphatically when Charlie Appleby-trained **Blue Point** (below, second from right) broke through at the top level with a resounding King's Stand (G1) win 70 minutes later. A Dubai World Cup Carnival performer, who was second to **Ertijaal** in the Meydan Sprint (G2) two starts back, the son of Shamardal made amends for a last-place finish in the Chairman's Sprint Prize (G1) in Hong Kong April 29<sup>th</sup>.

In the process, Blue Point established himself as perhaps the top five-furlong/1000m turf horse in the world, having defeated top-rated foes **Battaash** (2<sup>nd</sup>, blue and white silks) and defending champion **Lady Aurelia** (unplaced).

"I think the stiff five furlongs and strong pace has suited him here," Appleby said. "I have always thought a lot of this horse and he ran really in the Commonwealth Cup last year. For whatever reason, he brings his A-game here. I was delighted with him at the start of the year in Dubai and whilst things didn't materialise on Dubai World Cup night, we went on to learn a lot in Hong Kong and taught us a few matters. The horse had a horrid time on his way back from Hong Kong, but we gave him a nice break after that and I'm delighted with him."

Blue Point, who went to post as the heavy favourite in the Al Quoz Sprint sponsored by Azizi Developments (G1) on March 31<sup>st</sup>, was a veterinary scratch at the gate. A possible next start for the swift 4-year-old colt is the Darley July Cup (G1) over about-1200m.



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## MONARCHS GLEN ASSERTS HIS CLASS IN THE WOLFERTON STAKES

While the form of the Dubai Turf sponsored by DP World (G1) may have been questioned by some when Godolphin's **Benbatl** ran poorly in the Queen Anne Stakes (G1), such was quelled considerably when Juddmonte Farms' **Monarchs Glen** proved a powerful winner in Tuesday's Listed Wolferton Stakes under leading all-time DWC Carnival jockey Frankie Dettori for trainer John Gosden.

Tracking nicely midfield through most of the running, the Group 3-winning son of the great Frankel asserted himself within the final 300m to outclass his rivals. In the end, he finished up a length superior to **Euginio**, while well within himself. The victory was the third on the card for the potent Dettori-Gosden combination.

"I took a chance by going on the inside rail and it worked out," Dettori said. "Three rides, three winners at Ascot is special... I love Ascot. It has been so lucky for me and it's been a great team effort."

Monarchs Glen was 14<sup>th</sup> of 15 in the Dubai Turf in his previous start. Prior to that effort, he won two consecutive races, including the Darley Club Stakes (G3) at Newmarket. Tuesday's victory was a return to the about-2000m distance over which he has now smartly won twice.



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## DUBAI-BASED PHOENIX T'BREDS ON THE RISE AT ROYAL ASCOT

Phoenix Thoroughbreds, one of the rising powers in global racing, whose offices reside in Dubai's DIFC district, extended an excellent last few weeks of spring with a Group win and placing in the first two days of the Royal Meeting.

On Tuesday, its Martyn Meade-trained 2-year-old colt **Advertise** was a fine second to the dominant **Calyx** in the Coventry (G2) at 10-1. On Wednesday, the operation proved victorious with John Quinn-trained longshot **Signora Cabella** in the Queen Mary (G2) at 25-1.

Phoenix Thoroughbreds CEO Amer Abdulaziz mentioned that the successful operation may have an increased presence at the Dubai World Cup Carnival and during the 2018-19 UAE racing season with "10 or 11 horses" likely to be stabled locally. Earlier this year, Phoenix's **Gotti** was a distant second in the UAE 2000 Guineas (G3).

Those results come on the heels of Chad Brown-conditioned **Gronkowski** rallying for runner-up honours in **Justify's** Belmont Stakes (G1) coronation on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Belmont Park in New York.

## POET'S WORD (Cont.)

The 2¼-length victory with DWC Carnival regular James Doyle aboard was the son of Poet's Voice's first at the Group 1 level and followed multiple G1 placings, including excellent efforts in the 2017 Irish Champion Stakes (G1) at Leopardstown and Champion Stakes (G1) at Ascot. Earlier this year, he was a game second to Hawkbill in the Dubai Sheema Classic, hinting at what could be a big year for the 5-year-old. Racing at the top level in his fourth country, he may add a fifth to that list, as the victory earned him a spot in the starting gate for America's Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) in November at Churchill Downs.

"Poet's Word is a very consistent, brave, sound horse," Stoute, who won his record 76<sup>th</sup> Royal Ascot fixture, said. "That's what he is. A huge 'well done' to all the staff because they have put a lot of work into a horse like this. I was delighted with Poet's Word. He's been in the deep end in Grade 1s and has been running well in them, so it's great for him to win one."

Trainer Charlie Appleby was pleased with the performance of Hawkbill, who finished eight lengths astern Cracksman. The son of Kitten's Joy wore blinkers for the first time and exited a lackluster effort in the Coronation Cup (G1) at Epsom Downs, which was won by Cracksman 19 days prior.

"I'm please with today's run, because after a disappointing effort in the Coronation Cup, I feel he got himself back on track here," Appleby said. "The Juddmonte International (at York on August 22<sup>nd</sup>) looks like his forte. It's easier to get on the lead in a race like that, rather than having to dictate it yourself as you do overseas."

Appleby also confirmed Investec Derby (G1) winner **Masar** would run in the Coral-Eclipse (G1) on July 7<sup>th</sup>.



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