



Dubai Racing Club | Steven Cargill

## BEST SOLUTION WINS GROUP 2 AT NEWMARKET, EYES MELBOURNE

The powerful Godolphin operation got their July Meeting at Newmarket Racecourse off with a bang, as Dubai World Cup Carnival star **Best Solution** solved all the problems thrown at him in the Princess of Wales's Arqana Racing Club Stakes (G2) over about-2400m.

The Day 1 feature of the popular meeting was an exciting affair, attracting a salty septet, including the highly thought-of duo of Sir Michael Stoute trainee **Mirage Dancer** and John Gosden pupil **Raa Atoll**, as well as Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum's talented **Barsanti** and Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum's pair of Group 3 winner **Muntahaa** and class-tested **Laraaib**.

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## BENBATL MARCHING TO MUNICH FOR GROßER DALLMAYR-PREIS

**Benbatl** has been a bit more unreliable than preferred throughout his career, but the highs have been absolutely gargantuan for the stamped son of Dubawi. The Godolphin colour-bearer has never dodged a fight, already an alumnus of the Investec Derby (G1), four Group 1s and a pair of Royal Ascot runs in his dozen starts.

The winner of this year's Singspiel Stakes (G3), Al Rashidiya (G2) and Dubai Turf sponsored by DP World (G1) at Meydan, as well last year's Hampton Court (G3) at Royal Ascot, exits a disappointing effort in the Queen Anne Stakes (G1) in his royal meeting return on June 19 and will look to bounce back in his next effort. Trainer Saeed Bin Suroor has decided to take a familiar route and give Benbatl a change of scenery.

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"He worked (Thursday) and he worked very well," Bin Suroor said. "The target for him is to run in Germany at the end of the month. We will see how he goes there and decide what to do with him after that. We'll keep our options open. So far, he's in very good form."

The event implied is the Group 1 Großer Dallmayr-Preis Bayerisches Zuchtrennen at Munich. The race will be a return to two things Benbatl seems to enjoy: turning left (like at Meydan) and about-2000m in trip. Bin Suroor also addressed the Queen Anne performance, which left many perplexed, as the Christophe Soumillon-piloted Group 1 winner was in prime position throughout before faltering to 10<sup>th</sup> place.

"I think that the ground may have been too firm for him on that course," he explained. "We need good ground, like Meydan, but not too firm. He will go to Munich for a mile and a quarter, which is good (distance) for him, and good from there."

Bin Suroor won the Dallmayr-Preis in 2001 with Godolphin's **Kutub**. Last year, he and Godolphin were second with **Best Solution**.

## BREEDERS' CUP-BOUND THUNDER SNOW TO MAROIS, JC GOLD CUP

Dubai World Cup sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) winner **Thunder Snow** is doing very well and appears on his way to an ambitious latter half of the 2018 season. Last seen romping to a 2000m track record (2:01.38) victory on the Meydan dirt course in the \$10 million international showcase under a heady ride by Christophe Soumillon, the Irish-bred son of Helmet (AUS) was given a rest after said effort, which was his fourth of the season after contesting all three legs of the Maktoum Challenge.

"He is doing very well right now," Bin Suroor said. "Options are still being kept open for him right now, but it looks like we might take him to the Jacques Le Marois (G1) at Deauville on the 12<sup>th</sup> of (August). He can run up to a mile and a quarter, but this race is at one mile. I will talk to Sheikh Mohammed and make a decision.

"I am looking forward to him returning," Bin Suroor continued. "He got a break right after the World Cup and the target for him is the (Grade 1 \$6 million) Breeders' Cup Classic (at Churchill Downs on November 3). He will probably run at the end of September in the Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park before that."



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## PAVEL AND MIND YOUR BISCUITS COULD DO BATTLE IN WHITNEY

Apparently, it pays to be grey, especially if you are a horse who raced on Dubai World Cup night at Meydan Racecourse in 2018. Two ghostly alumni of the UAE's premier sporting and social event have returned with emphatic victories in the United States and appear primed for serious second halves of the season. Chief among those is Reddam Racing's eye-catching **Pavel**, fourth in the Dubai World Cup sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1), who crushing an accomplished field in the Stephen Foster (G1) at Churchill Downs. A key race for DWC runners, the Foster has been won or placed in by **Silver Charm**, **Street Cry**, **Gun Runner**, **Curlin** and **Victory Gallop**.

Next up for the Doug O'Neill trainee will be Saratoga's prestigious Whitney Handicap (G1), where he may take on two-time Dubai Golden Shaheen sponsored by Gulf News (G1) winner **Mind Your Biscuits**, who exits a heartbreaking nose loss in the Metropolitan Mile Handicap (G1) on June 9 for trainer Chad Summers, who said: "It's always crushing to lose a head-bob, but he ran a smashing race. We are seriously considering the Whitney on August 4<sup>th</sup>."

Silver bullet **X Y Jet**, second to 'Biscuits in March's Shaheen, returned a terror in Gulfstream's Smile Stakes (G3), winning by an easy 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lengths.

## BEST SOLUTION (Continued)

Best Solution did not have a completely easy go of it in the feature. For a moment, it appeared that he may be stuck in traffic when the real running started, but under a clever ride by Carnival favourite Pat Cosgrave, the Group 1-placed son of Kodiak seized an opportunity to split horses and engage 2-1 market leader Mirage Dancer with about 500m remaining. After a long battle with said rival, the long-winded bay 4-year-old colt proved superior by a half-length, laughing at the punters who made him a 6-1 fourth choice.

The victory gave the 17-time starter his third Group victory from as many seasons, after having taken Newmarket's Autumn Stakes (G3) at two and Newbury's St Simon Stakes (G3) as a sophomore in 2017. Earlier this season, he made four starts at Meydan, including three during the Carnival. His top efforts included a dominating victory (pictured) in the Jaguar F Handicap in February and a solid fifth in the \$6 million Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) behind **Hawkbill**, subsequent Prince of Wales's (G1) winner **Poet's Word**, Group 1 winner **Cloth of Stars** and Japanese Derby champion **Rey de Oro**.

"We were happy with this run in the Dubai Sheema Classic and with his (winter) in Dubai," Bin Suroor said immediately following the win. "We will see how he comes back. This one has options. We are looking for a Group 1 for him and looking overseas. Maybe Australia for the Melbourne Cup (G1). We have seen mile and a half and mile and a quarter horses here go on to do well there."

Another Bin Suroor-Godolphin DWC Carnival runner to perform exceptionally this weekend was **Racing Country**, who won for the second consecutive time this summer. Runner-up in a division of the UAE 2000 Guineas Trial on Meydan dirt, the son of Dubawi was dominant in the Ascot's Savills Handicap under jockey Eddie Greatrex.



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