

Macallan Wins Wathba Stallions Cup in Sweden

9 May 2019, Jagersro, Sweden ~ Martin Rodrigues on Macallan ran a well-judged race to win as the Wathba Stallions Cup Group 3 race opened Sweden's 2019 racing calendar on 8 May 2019 for Purebred Arabian horses at the Jagersro track.

Nine went to post in the 1730-metre contest on the dirt tracks for this edition of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival as Martin Rodrigues on **Macallan** (Dahess x Queen Anne (Riyal)) won the race in the time of 2:02.1 with a nearly two-length margin from Jaldi Karo with Cleopatre in third place. Macallan is owned by Stall Apperitiffe.

It was a strong field with the 'Big three' of Scandinavia - Jaldi Karo, Macallan and Al Munteze Monlau - in the fray. All of them are international pattern race performers and Macallan alone has six such victories to his name. The three finished in that order in last year's edition of Wathba Stallions Cup, but nothing stays exactly the same.

Considered a short-distance runner Macallan, under a new regime trained by Henrik Engblom, turned the tables on Jaldi Karo having played his cards well.

At half way stage young Benjie was in the lead with Al Munteze Monlau and Maghazi close up. Then everything changed when first Cleopathre, then Jaldi Karo and Macallan from among the back-markers made their moves.

Cleopathre and Jaldi Karo hit the front round the bend with Macallan catching up. Battle ensued and when first Cleopathre gave in and then Jaldi Karo also did so a little later. Martin Rodriguez had judged the pace well and had fuel for an almost two length victory for Stall Apperitiffe and trainer Engblom.

Engblom is himself an industrious man, with around twenty English thoroughbreds in his care. He is also one of the most accomplished jump jockeys in the region and readily admitted tactics had won the day. He was also happy for the Festival's support. "It is needed in both the bread and butter races and the top races. It's inevitable that good money will attract even people from outside the Arabian horse racing fraternity," Engblom said.

Report:Nils Rosenkjaer

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