

QATAR PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE

AT HOME*

* ÉVÈNEMENT SANS GRAND PUBLIC



3 & 4 OCTOBRE
PARISLONGCHAMP

#QPAT

FRANCE
GALOP



QATAR
RACING & EQUESTRIAN CLUB

PARISLONGCHAMP – SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2020 Qatar Prix Chaudenay (Group 2 – 3yrs - 3.000 metres - 140.000 €)

Valia marks the first point

Owned by HH The Aga Khan, **Valia** (Sea the Stars) has taken the first Group race of Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe weekend with success in the Qatar Prix Chaudenay, a race reserved to 3 year-olds and disputed over the marathon distance of 3.000 metres. Christophe Soumillon rode the filly with extreme patience as she tried this 3,000m trip for the first time, coupled with the particularly heavy conditions (4,8 on the going stick). Held up in last for the majority of the race, Valia then came with a strong run up the middle of the tack and easily got the better of both **Nemean Lion** (Golden Horn) et **Step by Step** (Sidestep).

The reactions

Alain de Royer Dupré (trainer of Valia, 1re)

"Today was her first attempt at both the ground and the trip but she has had an excellent run there. She is a classy filly. After she suffered some interference in the Vermeille, we couldn't take the risk in running her in a race as high standard as the Arc. She has done that easily, even if the distance was a shade long. She will be better over 2,400m but we didn't have much of a choice with our program and we will continue to aim towards to the Prix Royal-Oak (Group 1). Realistically, there are no other opportunities this year for her at Group 1 level."

Christophe Soumillon (jockey of Valia, 1re)

"Today was the perfect entry for her. She is a quality filly and acts well on the heavy ground. We didn't have to cover too much extra ground there and that has enabled us to win comfortably. We have gone a normal gallop, but I have rarely seen the track as heavy as that"

Lisa-Jane Graffard, representative of Godolphin in France (owner of Nemean Lion, 2nd)

"We are delighted. He has just ran in a Quinte and now he is placed at Group level. Mr. Fabre picked the perfect race. He has really progressed and will be very interesting over the longer distances next season. He managed the ground conditions well. Mickaël Barzalona said that is was extremely heavy. Nemean Lion has always been a nice horse. Last year he was slightly disappointing but never ran a bad race really. He continues to chance physically and is getting stronger all the time."

Yan Barberot (trainer of Step by Step, 3rd)

"I am pleased with that. He has shown there that he is amongst the best stayers in France. He was very close to taking the second place, he didn't get it but wasn't beaten very far and showed great courage. He really is a good horse over these types of distances. Today everything was in his favour. He loves the soft ground. He goes to the sales tonight and if he isn't sold we will have a lovely stayer for next year. He could run in the Prix du Cadran (Group 1) in 2021."

QATAR PRIX CHAUDENAY

1st VALIA (Sea the Stars & Veda)

J. : C. Soumillon

Own : HH The Aga Khan

Tr : A. de Royer Dupré

Br : .A. l'Aga Khan

2nd NEMEAN LION (Golden Horn & Ninfea)

J. : M. Barzalona

Own. : Godolphin

Tr : A. Fabre

Br : C. Berglar

3rd STEP BY STEP (Sidestep & Anavera)

J. : G. Benoist

Ow. : Écurie des Monnaies

Tr. : Y. Barberot

Br. : E. Bec de la Motte

Distances : 2 – short head - 2

Time of race : 3'30''55