

QATAR PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE

AT HOME*

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3 & 4 OCTOBRE
PARISLONGCHAMP

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RACING & EQUESTRIAN CLUB

PARISLONGCHAMP – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2020

PRIX DE L'OPÉRA LONGINES

(Group 1 – 3-y-olds & up fillies and mares) – 2.000 metres (10f) – 300.000 €

All press conferences can be accessed via the zoom link: <https://urlz.fr/dWFe>

Tarnawa wins the equivalent of the Arc for fillies and mares

The winner of the Qatar Prix Vermeille (Groupe 1) three weeks ago, the Irish filly **Tarnawa** (Shamardal) again unleashed a murderous burst which enabled her to follow up in the Prix de l'Opéra Longines: a race that revels in the reputation of being the fillies' Arc de Triomphe. Christophe Soumillon gave Tarnawa a very patient ride, and the filly had a considerable amount of ground to make up in the straight. She prevailed at the death after getting the better of her fellow Irish raider, **Alpine Star** (Sea the Moon). The latter was fast out of the gates before allowing **Tawkeel** (Teofilo) to stride on. **Audarya** (Wootton Bassett), having hugged the rail in third position, never relinquished this position throughout.

Tarnawa is owned by His Highness The Aga Khan and is trained by Dermot Weld. She was ridden by the first choice rider of her owner, Christophe Soumillon.

Post-race reaction

Christophe Soumillon (jockey of Tarnawa, 1st)

« Her trainer was confident going into the race despite the ground. Alas, we were a bit inconvenienced by the draw, as she isn't the fastest out of the gates. Last time out, when she raced over 2.400m (12f), she was incredible. I was confident going into the race that there would be enough pace from the off. I didn't wish to find myself seeing plenty of daylight going to the false straight, and I managed to angle the filly behind All Rumours. That enabled me to get into a good position and give the filly a breather before she changed legs, and prior to me asking her for maximum effort. Today, she repeated her level of form but it's difficult to tell if she's capable of emulating this next season. We must enjoy this victory. If all goes to plan, she may perhaps head to the Breeders' Cup, and I hope that I will have the opportunity of making the trip [to the US] to ride her. »

Georges Rimaud (the director of the Aga Khan Studs: the owner and breeder of Tarnawa, 1st)

« She showed impressive powers of acceleration. The trainer was very confident, and that rubbed off on Christophe who rode the filly from off the pace. Despite the deep and tiring state of the ground, you can see that she's in top form. You can certainly say that she's a very good filly. As regards tackling the Arc, we didn't take long to reach a decision as she didn't have an entry in that race and is very well suited to the 2.000m (10f) trip. We've no regrets in any case. She isn't short of options, and the Breeders' Cup is one of them. She's run after a gap of three weeks and travelling her over [from Ireland] has been far from easy. »

Shane Foley (the jockey of Alpine Star, 2nd)

« She has again run a very good race. It's shame to again get beaten by a small margin in a Gr 1 race, but she gave it her all. »

Ioritz Mendizabal (the jockey of Audarya, 3rd)

« She has really run a good race - perhaps even more so that she did at Deauville. However, she was up against stiffer opposition. The pace wasn't taxing and she perhaps made a bit too much use of herself. Given a stiffer pace, she probably could have won. »

Jean-Claude Rouget (the trainer of Tawkeel, 4th)

« The 2.000 metre trip on heavy ground is as far as she cares to go. She found a second change of gear but was only able to maintain her momentum for 50 metres. Furthermore, she was up against some class acts! It isn't impossible that she will head to the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf. »

PRIX DE L'OPÉRA LONGINES

1st TARNAWA (Shamardal & Tarana)

Jockey: C. Soumillon

Owner: HH The Aga Khan

Trainer: D. Weld

Breeder: HH The Aga Khan

2nd ALPINE STAR (Sea the Moon & Alpha Lupi)

Jockey: S Foley

Owner: The Niarchos Family

Trainer: J. Harrington

Breeder: The exors of S. Niarchos

3rd AUDARYA (Wootton Bassett & Green Bananas)

Jockey: I. Mendizabal

Owner: Mme A. M. Swinburn

Trainer: J. Fanshawe

Breeder: Haras d'Ecouves

Distances: Sht hd - 3/4l- 3/4l.

Time : 2'12''87