

# GLOBEFORM'S DUBAI WORLD CUP DAYS SPECIAL

MEYDAN 31 MARCH 2018

## Race 8



### GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI SHEEMA CLASSIC (G1)

2400 m / 12 furlongs turf / Meydan / 31 March 2018

كأس دبي العالمي  
DUBAI WORLD CUP

Horses presented with best Globeform ratings, trainers / riders and GF ratings achieved last three starts (left to right).  
Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 1,5lbs over this distance.

122	CLOTH OF STARS	A Fabre	M Barzalona	117 – 122 – 113+
122	SATONO CROWN	N Hori	J Moreira	122 – 105 – 112
120	REY DE ORO	K Fujisawa	C-P Lemaire	119 – 120 – 119
120	IDAHO	A P O'Brien	R Moore	115 – 96 – 112+
119	HAWKBILL	C Appleby	W Buick	115 – 114 – 117
119	POET'S WORD	Sir M Stoute	F Dettori	119 – 114 – 109
113	MOZU KATCHAN <i>filly</i> *	I Sameshima	C Demuro	110 – 113 – 112
114	BEST SOLUTION	S bin Suroor	P Cosgrave	114 – 114 – 0
111	DESERT ENCOUNTER	D Simcock	S Levey	0 – 111 – 108
111	KHALIDI	C Cox	S de Sousa	111 – 109 – 103

\* Mozu Katchan: 2kg (4.4lbs) sex weight allowance, add 4.4 to GF rating for direct comparison with males.

2017 JACK HOBBS / Globeform 122

## GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

This year's Sheema Classic has come up a very competitive, high quality, affair. With half a dozen rated with a couple of lengths, this turf contest is wide open.

**CLOTH OF STARS** get a narrow vote – he is a classy sort and possibly open to improvement this season. He is a hot contender sporting the Godolphin colours, though handled by multiple French champion trainer Andre Fabre. A steady improver through five runs last season, when he closed his campaign out with a career best effort to finish second to Enable in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe over this distance at Chantilly, he has been aimed at this event all winter. We can expect Fabre to have him in peak form on the big day. Cloth Of Stars won his first three races in 2017, beating Star Victory in a G3 at Saint-Cloud, then beating Mekhtaal in a G2 at Chantilly, before a neck verdict over Zarak in the prestigious Prix Ganay at Saint-Cloud on May 1. He was given a long break – in order to come back fresh in the autumn – and resurfaced in the Prix Foy at Chantilly on September 10. It's one of three important 'Arc' preps, run over the full 2400-metre distance, and Cloth Of Stars shaped nicely to take second, 1 ½ lengths behind Dschingis Secret. It was a perfect prep, leading to another step up in the championship event three weeks later, when he was 2 ½ lengths behind the impressive filly Enable, with fellow G1 winners Ulysses, Order Of St George and Brametot filling third, fourth and fifth. Dschingis Secret had to settle for sixth. Cloth Of Stars was held up in midfield in the Arc, and he came with strong run to get up for second with about half a furlong to go. He never threatened Enable, but was a clear runner-up, and she really was a bit special last year. Cloth Of Stars has won four times at the left-handed Saint-Cloud and Meydan should suit him just fine – but very firm ground would be a worry (he has done all his racing on good and soft ground).

He prepped for Dubai in the Prix Darshaan over 1900 metres (9.5 fur) on the Polytrack at Chantilly on March 6, and ran a game race to finish second, 1 ¾ lengths behind another Fabre trainee, Dubai World Cup contender Talismanic. Cloth of Stars, who needs 12 furlongs to show his best, was compromised by the moderate pace and raced a bit too freely. Like the winner, he was under a hand ride from start to finish. Third home was Savoken, a game and consistent performer who has won four times and run to around the 100-mark in the past. He was 3 ½ lengths behind Cloth Of Stars while carrying 2kg (4lbs) less.

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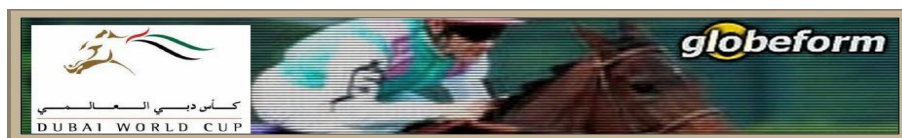
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**SATONO CROWN** takes strong Japanese form into the battle, having won the Takarazuka Kine over 2200 metres (11 furlongs) at Hanshin last summer – by  $\frac{3}{4}$  length from Gold Actor – and finished a game second to the high class runner Kitasan Back in the Tenno Sho Autumn over 2000 metres in Tokyo. Kitasan Black was the 2016 winner of the Japan Cup, and he went on to that event once more after his win in the Tenno Sho, a race Satono Crown also used as a prep for the Japan Cup. Kitasan Black fared best, checking in third behind Cheval Grand and **REY DE ORO**, while Satono Crown was back in tenth place. **IDAHO**, another Sheema contender, finished fifth. Satono Crown was beaten a long way also in the Arima Kinen over 2500 metres at Nakayama in December, when Kitasan Black was back in winning form, while Satono Crown beat just three of his 15 opponents. Now six, Satono Crown is coming off two dull efforts, but don't write this old warrior off. He has run well fresh in the past, he has the class to handle most of these, and remember, this is the horse that swept by Highland Reel for a fine half-length win in the 2016 Hong Kong Vase.

**REY DE ORO** finished well in front of Satono Crown in the Japan Cup, run over the same distance as the Sheema Classic, and this 4-year-old may be able to progress further in 2018. He fought on bravely in the Japan Cup, but Cheval Grand proved too strong and beat him by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lengths. This was Rey de Oro's first start against older horses. He won the Japanese Derby and St. Leger Trial and was the top 3yo around. His Derby win, gained over 2400 metres at Tokyo racecourse in late May, came at the expense of subsequent dual G2 winner Suave Richard, who he beat readily by  $\frac{3}{4}$  length. Rey de Oro's Leger Trial win, also over 2400 metres but run at Hanshin in September, was easier – he beat Kiseki by 2 lengths, with Satono Arthur third and Danburite fourth. Kiseki gave the form a nice boost by landing the St. Leger a month later – when he won by 2 lengths from Clincher, the horse who won this year's Kyoto Kinen, a race Rey de Oro used as his prep for a trip to Meydan. He made a good impression on the day, finishing third to Clincher under a tough weigh assignment. Racing over a soft turf course (which may not have suited him all that well), Rey de Oro was beaten  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lengths. Globeform ratings show that it was performance close to his best to date, indicating that there's more to come from this son of King Kamehameha. He has a good chance in the Sheema Classic.

**IDAHO** is an intriguing contender. A big, strong horse, and a bother to Highland Reel, he is now five years old, and it will be interesting to see whether he can step up a notch on his best from shown last year. If he can, well then he will be a serious contender in this division. He ran his best race when third behind Enable and Ulysses in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes over 12 furlongs at Ascot last July ( $5\frac{1}{4}$  lengths behind the winner, with Highland Reel fourth). Idaho, who had previously won the Hardwicke Stakes over the same course and distance (by half a length from Barsanti), failed to reproduce his 'King George' form on four subsequent starts, though they were all tough races. He was not too well ridden when sixth of seven in the Sword Dancer at Saratoga, then beaten  $7\frac{1}{4}$  lengths into eighth place behind Enable in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, a dull fourth in the Canadian International, and finally a respectable fifth in the Japan Cup (from a bad draw). As Aidan O'Brien's only runner in the Sheema, he must be respected.



### GLOBEFORM'S BETTING PLANS, 31 MARCH 2018

All betting plans will be sent out in email Newsletter on Friday afternoon

Betting plans to Florida Derby day in Newsletter Saturday morning

Please double check program numbers when placing your bets.

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*Hawkbill beating Frontiersman in the Dubai City Of Gold  
Photo: A Watkins / Meydan*

**HAWKBILL**, winner of the 2016 Eclipse Stakes, is probably best over 1 ¼ miles (2000 metres), but he handled the Sheema course and distance well when winning the local prep for this race, the Dubai City of Gold on March 10. It was hard fought success, however, as another Goldolphin runner, the Gold Cup bound Frontiersman, pushed him all the way to the line. Hawkbill won by a head. He beat Frontiersman also when coming home the ¾-length winner of the Prince Of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket last summer. That event, also run over 1 ½ miles, is further proof that Hawkbill – who is a half brother to Kentucky Derby hopeful Free Drop Billy, stays the Sheema trip – but does he stay it well enough to handle the likes of Cloth Of Stars and Rey de Oro? If the pace comes up slow, then the answer is 'perhaps', but if it's a strongly run affair, it's a 'probably not'. Either way, we are dealing with Godolphin trainee in fine form with home court advantage. It's always a bit risky to dismiss them.

**POET'S WORD** is Sir Michael Stoute's only runner on the day. We should perhaps not read too much into that, but that Stoute feels he is ready for a tough race like this, while the snow has barely left the ground back home in Newmarket, is significant. Poet's Word is just the type of horse Stoute excels with, a late developing, strong runner who is given time to develop as an older horse. Poet's Word ran just once at two (fourth in a Newmarket maiden), he won twice (a maiden and a handicap) from five runs at three, and worked his way up to a G3 win and two runner-up efforts in G1 company last year. He beat Second Step by 1 ½ length in the Glorious Stakes at Goodwood, before taking second, beaten just half a length by Decorated Hero, in the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown. That was his best to date. He was second also in the British Champion Stakes, though 7 lengths behind Cracksman, who handled the soft ground much better than him. Poet's Word was given one more race in 2017, but this trip to the Hong Kong Cup was not profitable. He finished a never threatening fifth, 5 lengths behind Time Warp. Poet's Word would not be a shock if he beats all in the Sheema. He gets Frankie Dettori in the saddle.