



# MEETING DE DEAUVILLE BARRIERE

An outstanding summer schedule

FROM JULY 30  
TO AUGUST 27

HIPPODROME DE  
DEAUVILLE - LA TOUQUES

PRESS RELEASE

27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023

## MEETING DE DEAUVILLE BARRIERE 2023 LUCIEN BARRIERE GRAND PRIX DE DEAUVILLE Jack Darcy and Cristian Demuro: a victory of courage and tactical acumen

A few hours before the Lucien Barriere Grand Prix Deauville (Group 2), there was drama aplenty: as the favourite, Junko, was declared a non-runner. In the absence France's best hope, victory went to Britain's Jack Darcy. His jockey Cristian Demuro, an Italian rider based in France, rode a fine tactical race and one designed to exploit his mount's best qualities: with the combination taking control of the race from the start by dictating a false pace, and which was the prelude to horse's courage coming into play in the final stages. It was a master plan that paid off handsomely, as it enabled Jack Darcy to score his first group win. It also the marked the first French group success of the training father and son partnership involving Oliver Cole and his father Paul, based at Whatcombe, Oxfordshire. Before teaming up with his son, Paul Cole had already annexed this Group 2 prize on several occasions: with Courteous (1999), Strategic Choice (1996), Snurge (1991 and 1993) and Ibn Bey (1988). Although final group race of the Deauville Barriere Meeting was annexed by our British friends, the 2023 Meeting, as a whole, was characterised by the success of French-trained horses in the domestic group prizes: with the 'tricolores' recording 15 wins in the 22 events on offer in this department. That's twice as many wins as last year!



## The technical result

1<sup>er</sup> JACK DARCY

2<sup>e</sup> AL NAYYIR

3<sup>e</sup> HAYA ZARK

Distances : 5/4 – 7/4 – 5/4. Time : 2'49"01

## What connections said :

### **Cristian Demuro (Jockey, Jack Darcy, 1st) – France**

*« He had run well at Newbury - finishing second in the Group company - but on fast ground. Today, we were expecting a race devoid of pace. We'd talked about it at length with his entourage: and the idea was to race from the front by setting a false pace. He has a lot of raw talent and so we decided to kick for home early so as make it tougher for the rest of the field. Lastly, he proved himself to be very tough, as British horses often are. The trip was something of a question mark. However, in a 'French-style' race, without too much pace, the question of stamina proved less of a problem. »*

### **Edward Gascoigne (co-owner, Jack Darcy, 1st) – Great Britain**

*« Jack Darcy likes to lead and Cristian Demuro rode him perfectly. He ran in the Geoffrey Freer Stakes last time out at Newbury, over 2,700m, with the idea of going on to the Melbourne Cup. But we saw that the distance was too long. He hadn't run that badly, the race was won by Arrest, who was the Derby favourite, but his tank emptied put Olie [co-trainer Oliver Cole] said he was really well and in good form after that racee which is why we decided to run the Grand Prix de Deauville. We looked at the entries and the race seemed like a good opportunity. Junko's withdrawal this morning certainly helped. He's tough but he also has speed. Distance-wise, he's very adept in races over 2,000m if the pace is right, and, if the pace isn't too strong, he can stretch out to 2,400 or 2,500m as he did today. He was in complete control. It's a fantastic victory and we're very happy!*

*One of the owners is Mick Burns, who is Australian. He's been very patient as he bought a 50 per cent stake in the horse over a year ago, before the Gordon Stakes (Gr3) at Goodwood, and with the idea of acquiring a Melbourne Cup contender. It didn't go well, as the horse suffered a setback and it took us a while to get him back to his best. We're thinking in terms of the Caulfield Cup but we'll have to discuss it all together: as there will be sizeable field, there's going to be a lot of pace, and the distance is likely to be a bit long for him.*

*I'm delighted to have won this group races at Deauville! I have fond memories of this place because I came here with my father a few years ago for a poker tournament, which I won. It was at the Lucien Barrière casino, so this win brings back good memories! »*

### **Roman Le Dren Doleuze (Trainer, Al Nayyir, 2nd) - France**

*« It marks the first time that I've trained a horse to who has achieved a Gr2 placing. When you're lucky enough to have [a horse] with a great pedigree like that, it's important to be able to tackle the top races. We have managed to get the best out of Al Nayyir. He's a horse who improved since his last outing. He's certainly still on an upward curve. Furthermore, he finished very well and I don't think he had a very hard race: and Théo Bachelot, his jockey, didn't resort to the whip. Given the insights we*

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*get when the jockey dismounts from horse, we can look forward to a very bright future with him. Al Nayyir has strengthened up in the last few weeks. It's a good thing that the race was run 3,000m today, because I think he would have raced freely. So we're going to stick him to these types of distances: between 2,500m and 2,800m. We'd like to thank Mr Elhrari for the trust he has placed in us, having entrusted us with a horse, who has come aboard, with a good CV, and it wasn't a gimme that he would succeed in Europe. He will certainly have the opportunity to win at group level in the autumn. We don't yet have a programme mapped out for him. I don't think we'll be heading to the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Gr1) trials. Instead, we will probably heading abroad with him: and perhaps in the direction off Germany or Britain in a month's time. He's a horse who needs fast-run races so as to be able to harness his turn of foot to good effect. »*

**Adrien Fouassier (Trainer, Haya Zark, 3rd) - France**

*« I don't know what to say in the heat of the moment. He didn't have his ground and the race didn't pan out for him. I'm very disappointed. »*

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