

## **EURO CHARLINE HAS BIG YEAR AHEAD AFTER SOLID 4TH IN DUBAI LIKELY ON TO ROYAL ASCOT AFTER EARNING \$300,000 IN FIRST RUN AS 4YO G1 WINNER HOLDS ON HER OWN WITH TOP MALES AFTER PLAN GOES AWRY**

Euro Charline will probably head back to the company of her own sex at Royal Ascot for her next start, a favorable proposition considering there are few fillies or mares in training who could have fared as well as she did on March 30 with the task she faced in the Dubai Turf.



*Euro Charline is a “magnificent looking filly with a world of talent,” said Barry Irwin after the Dubai Turf. Mathea Kelley photo*

The big, stout filly was presented with an assignment that raised a few eyebrows: chasing a \$6-million pot against top males in her first start since the summer of her 3-year-old season. She performed creditably and picked up \$300,000 with a fourth-place finish, even though her connections’ plan went out the window when the starting gate opened. In retrospect, a fresh Euro Charline was in trouble as soon as she drew the rail post, for she was sharp as a tack and broke so well that her rider could only steer as she shot straight to the lead. Even worse, she was pressured from the outside by a 50-to-1 shot who eventually faded to finish eighth.

Barry Irwin said “My one fear ahead of the race was that the filly would be too fresh coming off a big layoff and running in a paceless affair. If she had just not broken like a flash, I think we would have been fine. It was nobody's fault. It just happened. The jockey did the best he could to settle her, but the pace presser never let up.

“Our filly showed extreme courage in hanging tough for fourth, beaten narrowly for second and third. The way the race was run, she never could have beaten the runaway 4-plus length winner and race favorite Solow from France. But she easily could have been second ahead of The Grey Gatsby and third horse Mshawish.”

The Grey Gatsby, the French Derby and Irish Champion Stakes winner, finished 1 ¼ lengths clear of Euro Charline for second. Mshawish, winner of the Grade 1 Gulfstream Park Handicap this winter, got up late for third by three parts of a length. Among those behind Euro Charline at the wire were the other filly, Cladocera, who had swept consecutive Group races in Dubai, and Grade 1 Woodbine Mile winner Trade Storm, who ran third in last year’s Breeders’ Cup Mile.

The Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Turf is foremost on Marco Botti’s wish list for Euro Charline this season. She also could return to Arlington Park to defend her title in the Grade 1 Beverly D.

Up next will probably be another crack at Royal Ascot, where she finished a close third in last year’s Group 1 Coronation Stakes over a mile. The Group 2 Duke of Cambridge is the track’s equivalent race for older fillies and mares, to be staged on day 2 of the meet this year on June 17. Botti wants to consider her for the Group 1, \$2.3-million Singapore Cup on May 17 at Kranji, but that would be another long, long trip.