A sombre mood in Sharjah as victorious Swwing dies

By Denzil Pinto

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By Peter Ward

The tragic death of Swwing, moments after he claimed a maiden victory at the 22nd attempt, cast a shadow over the racing in Sharjah yesterday.

Trained by Tony Manuel, Swwing ended his wireless run with a gallant victory in the featured 2000m handicap under Sam Hitchcott. However, the 6yo. sadly collapsed and died shortly after the race.

Manuel said: “All seemed fine but when Sam took the saddle off in the winner’s enclosure the horse started to spasm so we tried to walk him back to the stables as quickly as we could.

“Sadly, he then collapsed and we think had a sudden heart attack. It is obviously a massive shame for everybody concerned.”

In the day’s other races, the Thoroughbred equivalent of the 2000m saw Skygazer making every yard of the running under Tadhg O’Shea and always looked a likely winner.

Trainer Ali Rashid Al Rayhi said: “This horse stays well and won over this 2000m trip at Al Ain last season. With stamina not an issue we won’t have any problems”.

It was a sombre mood in Sharjah as the horse, who was trained and cared for by the Al Rayhi family, passed away after a race.

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Trainer Ali Rashid Al Rayhi said: “This horse stays well and won over this 2000m trip at Al Ain last season. We made sure that everyone was happy and supported by Daman Active Living and supported by Kaveh Mazur who was riding for Khalifa Al Neyadi.

All three were jumped out smartly and won easily at the start. With stamina not an issue we had no problems.”

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