AXANA TRAVELS TO ENGLAND TO SNARE GROUP 3 AT LINGFIELD PARK
BECOMES FIRST GERMAN TO WIN UK GROUP RACE IN 7 RACING SEASONS
TEAM EFFORT PRODUCES SIGNATURE TRIUMPH FOR TVI / GAYNOR RUPERT

Axana showed just how special she is when becoming the first German-based racehorse in 7 years to successfully cross the English Channel and win a Group race in the United Kingdom on Saturday, when she repulsed challenge after challenge to prevail by three-quarters of a length in the Group 3 Chartwell Fillies Stakes at Lingfield Park.

The ground was soft and to her liking. Unfamiliar with racing on the straight and dropping in trip to 7 furlongs, she tracked just off the top pair for much of the race. When in the firing line and taking over the lead, she was generous, but inside the final 2 furlongs she acted as though she was looking for the turn, because she kept hanging her head to one side.

Twenty-year-old Jason Watson appeared to have asked her for some run a bit early, however, each time he signaled for more speed, the mare refocused and either maintained her gallop or increased its intensity. Twice in the final furlong and a half, Axana would spurt ahead of her rivals after being asked to concentrate on the task at hand. She ran in the pale blue silks of Team Valor's partner Gaynor Rupert's Caton Park Stud.

RACINGPOST.COM reported on the race:

German raider Axana overcomes Brexit delays to plunder Group 3 prize

Jason Watson gives the thumbs up after winning the Group 3 Chartwell Fillies' Stakes on Axana
Mark Cranham (racingpost.com/photos)

By David Milnes 6:30PM, MAY 8 2021

German-based trainer Andreas Wohler braved the Brexit crossing delays to send his filly **Axana** over for the Group 3 Chartwell Fillies' Stakes, and the move paid off handsomely.

Red tape caused by Brexit can add up to four hours to travel time through the Channel Tunnel, but Wohler was wise to the problem and got his filly to the Surrey course at 4.45am on Friday morning to give her extra time to recover.

The five-year-old mare was sent for home a long way out by Jason Watson and had enough up her sleeve to hold the unlucky-in-running Bounce The Blues.

Axana (Jason Watson) wins the Group 3 Chartwell Fillies' Stakes at Lingfield
Edward Whitaker (racingpost.com/photos)

The stewards called an inquiry immediately after Axana crossed the line three-parts of a length to the good, but the result was allowed to stand.

Watson said: "She did that well and just idled a bit out in front, which is probably why they called an inquiry.

"I was thankful to be entrusted with the ride by Mr Wohler and she was the best filly on the day. As she's German-bred it was no surprise she enjoyed this ground, and I'm delighted the long trip has been worth it for connections."