

# THOSE GOLDEN MOMENTS

This year, the Klarion is remembering some of the horses and races that made the past decade so special for Johnston Racing. This month JOHN SCANLON turns the spotlight on a colt whose golden moment came at the Curragh one September afternoon in 2011.

**J**UKEBOX JURY was a five-year-old when he lined up for the Group 1 Irish St Leger at the Curragh on September 10, 2011. A son of Montjeu, and owned by Alan Spence, he was in excellent form, having successfully stepped up in trip at Deauville on his previous start to land the Prix Kergorlay, a Group 2 event over 15 furlongs, beating a stellar field of stayers including Kasbah Bliss, Dunaden, Americain and Red Cadeaux.

He faced five rivals in the Irish classic. The odds-on favourite was Aidan

O'Brien's Fame and Glory, also a five-year-old and also by Montjeu. The Coolmore horse had finished second in the Derby to Sea The Stars in 2009, and had amassed five Group 1 wins.

## Juvenile

Having landed the Criterium de Saint-Cloud as a juvenile, Fame and Glory won the Irish Derby at three, the Tattersalls Gold Cup and the Coronation Cup at four, and the Gold Cup at Ascot at five.

Also in the field were the Curragh Cup

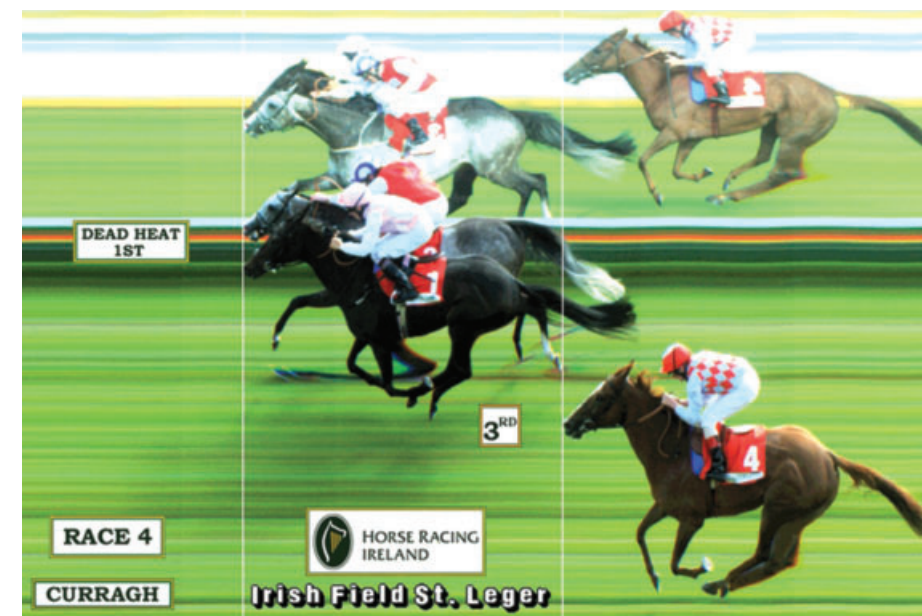
winner Red Cadeaux, the dual Group 2 winner Duncan (Prix Foy and Yorkshire Cup), the Listed Irish St Leger Trial winner Fictional Account and the handicapper Waydownsouth.

With the St Leger at Doncaster taking place earlier the same afternoon, the top jockeys were split between the Curragh and Yorkshire. Johnny Murtagh, who had ridden the horse on his debut success as a juvenile at Glorious Goodwood and at Longchamp when he finished third in the Prix la Rochette, came in for the ride on Jukebox Jury. It added excitement to the

race to know that, if Jukebox Jury were to win, Murtagh would be completing the full set of Irish classic wins.

Setting the pace against a fierce headwind, Jukebox Jury attempted to make every post a winning one. Duncan tracked him in second, with Fame and Glory generally leading Red Cadeaux in the early part of the race. Once in line for home, Duncan came to join Jukebox Jury and a battle royal took place throughout the closing stages between the two. Red Cadeaux was pulled a little wider by Tom McLoughlin and began to make gradual progress towards the leaders as Fame and Glory dropped away tamely.

**L**OOKING back on the video now, Jukebox Jury always appeared to have slightly the upper hand in a desperate rush for the line, but Duncan, ridden by Eddie Ahern, refused to be denied. As the pair flashed by the post, the verdict looked to be extremely tight. After an understandable delay, a dead-heat was pronounced between Jukebox Jury and Duncan.



The official print of the photo-finish which could not split the pair

Red Cadeaux had stayed on well to finish a length back in third.

"I thought he was beaten in the last 100 yards," Johnny Murtagh admitted after the race.

"Eddie was coming there strongly, but in all fairness to my lad, typical Mark Johnston, he fought back. Just on the line, I felt my lad had his head down."

Johnny was in no doubt that Jukebox Jury deserved huge credit for this, his second Group 1 win after the Preis von Europa.

"He was very brave because it was a strong headwind and Eddie's horse came

to me earlier than I would have liked. I was racing from a long way out," he said.

The dead-heat may, in some ways, have taken the shine off the merit of Jukebox Jury's win. Alas, the subsequent Melbourne Cup seven weeks later proved his final run. In the race he sustained an undisplaced condylar fracture of his near-fore cannon bone, finishing 20th of the 23 runners. There was huge frustration, as four of the first five horses home at Flemington, including the first two, Dunaden and Red Cadeaux, had finished well behind Jukebox Jury at Deauville in the Kergorlay.

A top-class, middle-distance performer, Jukebox Jury raced successfully in Britain, France, Ireland and Germany and acquitted himself with credit in Canada, where he finished a close second in the Canadian International, in Dubai and in Australia. ■

The winners: Duncan under Eddie Ahern, left, and Jukebox Jury with Johnny Murtagh

