

**J**OHNSTON RACING made a fast start to the April campaign, with a winner at Chelmsford City on the first day of the month.

Just five days after her successful reappearance at Kempton, **Aventuriere** returned to the racecourse at Chelmsford, where she was stepping up in trip to a mile and three-quarters for the first time.

Kirsten Rausing's Archipenko filly was one of 11 runners who went to post for this handicap, with Franny Norton taking the ride. **Aventuriere** struck the front on straightening up for home, and galloped on strongly to score from **Beat The Breeze** by two lengths.

Another four-year-old who has made a bright start to the season is **Gobi Sunset**, an Oasis Dream gelding owned by Johnston Racing, who turned out in a seven-furlong handicap at Newcastle on April 2, for which just five runners went to post.

Gobi Sunset was sent into an early lead and, sensing a chance to slip his field, young jockey Jonny Peate pushed the gelding into a clear lead of 10 lengths with two furlongs remaining and held on to win by four and a half lengths from Kapon.

Gallop Racing's **Headingley** picked up where he left off

# ROUNDUP

## ... of the yard's April winners

last year when landing a novice event over a mile at Redcar on April 5. The Dawn Approach colt was among 11 runners, and Ben Curtis took the ride.

He set out to make all the running and when Villeurbanne was switched left to mount a challenge in the closing stages, he just had to be pushed out to put the race to bed, beating that rival by half a length.

**S**HEIKH Hamdan bin Mohammed's **Desert Safari** completed a double for the yard when landing a six-furlong handicap at Kempton. The Slade Power gelding, a four-year-old, faced six rivals in a handicap for older horses, with Franny Norton riding.

Desert Safari made all the running, pursued by Jonah Jones, Total Commitment and Lexington Dash, and they finished in that order, with the winner almost a length clear.



Headingley and Ben Curtis



The Burke Family's Fred (pink silks)

There was more joy for Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed at Bath on April 6 when **Golden Flame** scored a pillar-to-post success in a maiden race over a mile and three and a half furlongs.

The son of Golden Horn beat Going Gone by five lengths in the hands of Adam Kirby. Golden Flame is out of the Rock of Gibraltar mare, Flame of Gibraltar, who won a maiden at Lingfield over 10 furlongs before finishing runner-up in the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2009.

William Johnstone's Australia colt **Annandale** struck in a 10-furlong handicap at Nottingham on April 7 under Franny Norton. The colt, who holds a Derby entry, raced in midfield in the early stages.

In the straight Annandale looked a little outpaced, but when Franny asked for his effort, the colt gradually closed on Taravara and the pair drew clear, Annandale winning by a neck.

**A**FTER finishing second in his first two races in March, Mohammed Bin Hamad Khalifa Al Attiyah's **Kehailaan** went one better when staying on well to win a mile maiden at Southwell on April 8.

The Gleneagles colt was ridden by Ben Curtis and faced 11 rivals at Southwell. He had to be pushed along to keep tabs on the leaders but in the straight he was asked for his effort by Ben and ranged up alongside the leaders with two furlongs to travel. In the closing stages, he wore down Arctic Emperor to score by two and a quarter lengths.

Later on the Southwell card Silver Shade won a match over a mile and a half. Full details of that win can be found in Kingsley Park Partnership News on page 22.

This year's Craven meeting at Newmarket saw the inaugural running of the Pat Smullen Memorial Handicap, a race to remember the nine-time Irish champion jockey who died last year, and we're delighted to report that the race was won by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed's **Overwrite**.

**O**VERWRITE was among seven runners and was ridden by Franny Norton. The experienced jockey controlled the race from the front, and when he asked his Zebedee gelding for his effort two furlongs from home he received a game response, winning by a head from Oh This is Us.

**Sibaaq**'s win at Beverley on April 14 took on a new significance in light of the recent death of Sheikh Hamdan al Maktoum. The Dark Angel gelding was the first winner Johnston Racing has trained in the royal blue and white colours of Shadwell Estate Company Limited, as successors to the great man.

Racing over seven and a half furlongs on his seasonal debut, and ridden by Dane O'Neill, Sibaaq hit the front after a furlong. Travelling strongly, he was shaken up with two furlongs to race and soon went clear, beating Yorkshire Lady by a length.

A double was completed when Kingsley Park 17's Coupe de Champagne was successful in a fillies' maiden at Kempton. You can read all about her win in Kingsley Park Partnership News on page 22.

Continued on page 14



**Zabeel Champion** scored the first of his two April wins at Ripon on April 15. Jaber Abdullah’s consistent four-year-old Poet’s Voice colt faced nine rivals in a handicap over a mile and a quarter for the Ripon Silver Bowl. Ridden by Ben Curtis he was in third until going clear two furlongs from home and finished strongly to score by three-quarters of a length from Mascat.

**T**HE Burke Family’s Frankel gelding, **Fred**, is enjoying a tremendous campaign as a four-year-old in 2021 and he was once again in the winner’s enclosure at Brighton on April 17 when landing a seven-furlong handicap. Successful at Lingfield and Chelmsford over the winter, Fred was sent to Brighton for his first run on turf since October. He was faced by five opponents and carried top weight. Sent straight into the lead by Franny Norton, he made all the running to score by a length and a quarter from De Vegas Kid. The two-year-old filly **Out In Yorkshire** made a winning debut at Beverley on April 22. The Outstrip filly, owned and bred by Johnston Racing, was one of eight fillies who went to post for the second division of a fillies’ novice event over five furlongs. Ben Curtis took the ride. He set out to make all the running and Out In Yorkshire was clear of her field with two furlongs to race. She kept on

well up the rising ground to score by a length and three-quarters from Pure Charmer. That evening at Chelmsford, Mick Doyle’s **Love Destiny** returned to his best when scoring in a handicap over seven furlongs, his fifth career win over that distance. The Lethal Force colt was one of seven runners and was ridden by Richard Kingscote. Approaching the home bend, Richard decided to race through, rather than around, his field and he was rewarded when the gaps opened to allow Love Destiny to make his challenge, and he kept on well to win cosily from Glenn Coco by three-quarters of a length. On April 24 there was a second win of the month for **Zabeel Champion**, who was registering his fifth career success, but his first over a mile and a half. There was little pace in the three-runner race in the early stages, with Zabeel Champion, under Ben Curtis, leading Faylaq, with Madeeh bringing up the rear.

**W**ITH three furlongs to race, both rivals ranged up to challenge on the outer, and while Madeeh’s effort petered out quickly, Faylaq looked dangerous. But Zabeel Champion responded well to Ben’s urgings and went clear in the final furlong, scoring by a length and three-quarters. **Andonno** was a rare runner for the yard in selling company at Lingfield on April 26, and duly landed the odds with a comfortable success under Hollie Doyle, who was having her first ride for the yard. The Dansili gelding, owned by Rob Ferguson and Gary



Two wins at Ripon in April for Zabeel Champion under Ben Curtis (white cap)



Home And Dry wins at Chelmsford under Franny Norton

Pemberton, was asked for his effort three furlongs from home. He went three lengths clear with a furlong to race and kept on well until being eased by Hollie in the closing stages, winning by two and a half lengths from Lanika. There was no bid for Andonno, and connections will hope that the run may give the gelding a confidence boost. At Ayr **Dream With Me** completed an across-the-card double when running out the game winner of a handicap over a mile and a quarter.

**S**A EED Suhail’s Frankel colt, a four-year-old, was settled in second by Ben Curtis, joining the leader as they turned for home. From the two-furlong pole he and Howzer Black were involved in a sustained duel, which ended when Dream With Me just got the upper hand in the closing stages, winning by a length. The stable chalked up a treble on April 28, when **King Frankel**’s win at Pontefract was followed by a Chelmsford double for Franny Norton on **Justified** and **Home and Dry**. Mohamed Obaida’s King Frankel showed good promise in three juvenile starts last year. At Pontefract he ran over a mile and a quarter for a maiden race, partnered by Oli Stammers. The Frankel colt set out to make all the running and went clear with two furlongs to run, beating King of Tomorrow by 32 lengths. Hugh Hart’s Justified, a four-year-old Authorized gelding, faced five rivals in a handicap over a mile and three-quarters at Chelmsford. In the lead from the outset, Justified kept finding more in the final stages and at the line he won by a neck from Aldrich Bay. The treble, and Franny’s double, was completed when Barbara and Alick Richmond’s Home and Dry ran out the

easy winner of a Chelmsford handicap over two miles. He raced lazily at the rear of the field under Franny, but the further they raced, the better Home and Dry travelled, and he went on to score by a remarkable 14 lengths from stablemate Fandabidozi. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed’s Dubawi colt, **Zookeeper**, made an impressive seasonal debut as a three-year-old at Musselburgh when landing a nine-furlong handicap on April 29. One of eight runners for the race, Zookeeper was ridden by Joe Fanning. He eased into the lead with more than two furlongs to run and was always doing enough to hold the challenge of Fae The Port by half a length. Later that day at Chelmsford Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed’s **Golden Flame** followed up his recent Bath success, beating two rivals over a mile and three-quarters. Ryan Moore predictably set out to make all the running on the three-year-old Golden Horn colt, who two furlongs out pulled clear of his rivals, and won by four lengths from Pied Piper. The record-breaking month for Johnston Racing ended on a winning note when Qaader won a mile conditions event at Goodwood. The Night Of Thunder colt, owned by Shadwell Estate Company, was asked to make all the running by Jim Crowley. **H**E fought back gamely when headed by Legal Attack with just over a furlong to race to score by a short head, with Dark Lion three lengths back in third. ‘Last year we thought he was a Pattern horse after he finished second in the Coventry,’ said Mark after the race. ‘Hopefully he’s not far off it now he’s found the winning habit again.’ ■