

FRANNY ON THE MEND

A SUCCESSFUL AFTERNOON for Franny Norton at Brighton on October 5 turned sour when the jockey was injured in a freak accident.

Having already ridden a winner for George Boughey on Pocket The Profit in the second race on the card, Franny was on the way to post aboard the juvenile colt Whitefeathersfall when the horse was spooked by ground staff coming out from under a rail in front of him. Despite his best efforts, he was unseated from the colt and sustained a broken arm in the fall. It was terrible luck for Franny who, at that point, had ridden 56 winners in 2021, and who looked sure to surpass comfortably his tally of 59 wins in 2020.

His agent, Niall Hannity, was able to give the Klarion some positive news about Franny's recovery.

'Thankfully, it was a clean break that didn't require any surgery,' he told us.

'Hopefully, Franny could be back in action on the all-weather in the coming weeks.'

Few would argue that Franny, now 51, has been riding as well as ever this year. He partnered Sir Ron Priestley to a Group 2 double at Newmarket in the Jockey Club Stakes and the Princess of Wales's Stakes.

The Klarion wishes him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back among the winners as soon as possible. ■



Franny Norton

Mildenberger off to stud

S HEIKH HAMDAN bin Mohammed's popular stayer Mildenberger will soon be off to stud. The six-year-old Teofilo entire, whose last win came in a Fast Track Qualifier for the All-Weather Championships at Wolverhampton in January, will join former stablemate Universal on the roster at Groomsbridge Stud in Suffolk.

Out of the Dubawi mare Belle Josephine, who won two of her three career starts for the yard, Mildenberger won seven of his 24 races across five years' racing. A talented juvenile, Mildenberger won his first two races, novice events at Haydock and Newbury, before finishing third in the Group 2 Vintage Stakes at Goodwood. After lifting the Listed Stonehenge Stakes at Salisbury next time out, Mildenberger brought his juvenile season to a close by finishing third in the Royal Lodge Stakes, another Group 2 event, beaten two lengths by Roaring Lion.

He kicked off his three-year-old career with a win in the Listed Feilden Stakes at Newmarket, with Kew Gardens six and a half lengths back in third, and confirmed himself as a live contender for the Derby when finishing runner-up to his old adversary, Roaring Lion, in the Dante Stakes (Group 2) at York. Alas, injury intervened and the colt missed the Derby, only returning to the track after an absence of some 11 months.

Mildenberger went on to finish placed in three further Group races; he finished third behind stablemate Communique in the Jockey Club Stakes (Group 2), third behind Stradivarius in the Yorkshire Cup Stakes (Group 2) and second behind another stablemate in Nayef Road, in last year's renewal of the Sagaro Stakes (Group 3).

'He's a lovely horse in the flesh with the most

fabulous front legs,' said Groomsbridge Stud's Sally Forster about her new recruit. 'They're just as good as you'd get,' she continued, hoping that Mildenberger will prove as successful as Universal.

At an initial fee of £1,500, it's thought Mildenberger might act as a dual-purpose sire, and may well also cover some sport horses. It will be fascinating to see how he fares at stud. ■



Mildenberger with groom David Hickin