

Kingsley Klarion



ISSUE 329
February 2023

ASDAA GETS CHARLIE OFF TO A FLYER!



ASDAA ACES IT FOR CHARLIE

CHARLIE JOHNSTON lost no time in securing his first winner as the sole licence holder at Kingsley Park, when Asdaa powered to success in a Kempton handicap on January 4.

It was from the start of 2023 that the yard's training licence was held in Charlie's name alone, after a year in which he and his father Mark held it jointly. Both had stressed the change would make no difference to the way the stable operated and, proving it was indeed business as usual, Charlie posted his first winner with just his second runner.

He saddled 40 runners in the month and the seven winners among them meant a strike rate of 17.5%, comparing favourably with the overall strike rate for last year of 13.8%. With 10 runners finishing second or third, the placed strike rate of horses finishing 1st, 2nd or 3rd was 42.5%, slightly above last year's overall figure of 41.4%.

It is, of course, early in the year but Charlie and Mark are pleased to have made a solid start to the 2023 campaign,

suggesting that Johnston Racing's proud record of producing winners is in safe hands under Charlie's stewardship.

Asdaa, the horse providing that significant first win for Charlie, is a seven-year-old Dutch Art gelding owned by Owners Group 045. He made it a double when scoring again, at Chelmsford on January 12. That completed a hat-trick within 15 days, having produced a pillar-to-post success at Newcastle on December 28.

Asdaa, one of the busiest horses in the yard, thrives on racing and ran five times in January. His lifetime record of 60 runs to the end of January includes nine wins, six seconds and six thirds.

At Kempton on January 4 he was raised 4lb for his Gosforth Park success a week earlier, and was one of 11 runners who went to post for the first division of the mile handicap. Jack Mitchell took the ride.

Asdaa raced in mid-division in the early stages and began to make headway from four furlongs out. He challenged the leaders entering the final furlong and stayed on strongly to score by two

lengths from Hopeman Harbour.

Sent back to Kempton three days later for a similar event, Asdaa looked likely to score with a furlong to race but Lordsbridge Girl finished with a rattle and Asdaa had to settle for second.

Five days later, Asdaa contested another mile handicap, this time at Chelmsford City. Eight runners went to post and Jason Hart took the ride.

Asdaa broke well and raced at the head of affairs. The favourite, Giorgio Vasari, challenged in the closing stages, but Asdaa was always doing enough, holding off that rival by three-quarters of a length.

HE was back on the track at Lingfield on January 21 in a contest over a mile, finishing seventh of 12, and was out of luck once more in his final outing for the month when he finished fifth of 13 over a mile at Kempton. The redoubtable gelding is a classic example of the Johnston Racing philosophy that if a horse is fit, healthy and enjoying his racing he can run regularly. ■