

TALKING TWO-YEAR-OLDS

In this second part of our feature looking at some of the two-year-olds set to run for Johnston Racing in 2023, JOHN SCANLON turns the spotlight on some of the juveniles we hope will prove excellent value for money for their owners in the coming months

OVER THE years, Mark and Charlie Johnston have proved themselves to be adept in purchasing at the yearling sales horses which turn out to be exceptional value for money. This month we focus on some of the juveniles who look to have been particularly well-bought last autumn.

It's not often that a yearling featuring in the Book 1 catalogue at Tattersalls October Yearling Sale can be bought for as little as 15,000gns, but that is the price Johnston Racing paid for Kingsley Park 33's **Le Havre** colt out of the Frankel mare **Hulcote** in a private sale.

The winner of the 2009 Prix du Jockey-Club and runner-up in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, Le Havre sadly passed away around this time last year.

The son of Noverre had already made a big impression at stud, responsible for such talented horses as Wonderful Tonight, the dual Group 1 winner, Suedois and La Cressonniere. His French Invasion has already scored twice for Johnston Racing this year.

The dam Hulcote is a winning half-sister to Mark of Gold, Pure Shores and Monjeni. She won handicaps at Sandown

and Haydock, and was Listed-placed when following our own Sapa Inca home in the Beckford Stakes at Bath. This colt, foaled on February 14, is her first foal and is qualified for French owners' premiums.

Another potentially well-bought individual is Jaber Abdullah's bay filly by **Showcasing** out of the Foxwedge mare **Fyxenna**. This filly, a March 22 foal, was snapped up by Johnston Racing for 28,000gns as part of Book 3 of the October Yearling Sale. Given that Showcasing's stud fee was then £55,000, this can be seen already to be an astute purchase.

A son of Oasis Dream, Showcasing won the Gimcrack Stakes and has enjoyed plenty of top-level success at stud, through horses such as Advertise, Quiet Reflection, Tropbeau and Mohaather.

Fyxenna ran only twice, finishing lame on her second start. A half-sister to the Listed winner Oasis Dancer (by Oasis Dream), she has produced the dual winner Union Court (by Havana Grey), who finished second in the Listed St Hugh's Stakes at Newbury last August.

At Goffs Orby Sale, Johnston Racing acquired a bay colt by **Bobby's Kitten** out of the Mr Greeley mare **Alumna** for €27,000. This colt, foaled on February 27, was consigned by Kirsten Rausing's Staffordstown Stud, and is a half-brother to Miss Rausing's Alpha Theta, by Archipenko, who won twice for the yard in 2020/2021.

A son of Kitten's Joy, the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint winner Bobby's Kitten has made an excellent start at stud, with Sandrine, a dual Group 2 winner, and Monaasib leading the way.

Alumna was trained in France by Andre Fabre for Miss Rausing and won twice, at Chantilly and Parislongchamp. She was beaten just half a length in the Group 1 Prix Saint-Alary at the latter course and finished third in the Group 3 Prix de Psyche at Deauville.

Out of a Group-placed winning member of one of Miss Rausing's most



The Mastercraftsman colt out of Lady Darshaan (Giovanni Silva)

prestigious families, this colt looks to represent tremendous value.

Another value purchase looks to be the bay filly by **Sea The Moon** out of the Invincible Spirit mare **Swift Action**. Foaled on February 8, this filly was acquired by Johnston Racing as part of Book 2 of the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale for 28,000gns. Sea The Moon's current covering fee is £25,000.

A SON of Sea The Stars, Sea The Moon made his name when slamming his 17 rivals in the Deutsches Derby, and his sole career defeat came when losing out to the year older Ivanhowe in the Grosser Preis von Baden. At stud, the highlight of his career so far is Durston's £1.69m win in last autumn's Caulfield Cup.

A half-sister to no fewer than five winners, Swift Action won a Tipperary maiden over five furlongs. In the paddocks she has produced one winner from four runners, but that winner, King's Harlequin, was a talented juvenile. She won a Listed race at Longchamp before winning the Group 3 Prix d'Aumale there in 2020. She was considered good enough to run in the Pouliches in 2021 but finished in midfield.

Being a half-sister to a Group-winning juvenile by a progressive sire, this filly looks sure to give her owner, Mrs Susan Rowett, lots of fun.

Next up is the bay colt, foaled on April 12, by **Mastercraftsman** out of the High Chaparral mare **Lady Darshaan**, owned in partnership by Andrew Herd, Peter Holloway, Deborah Finkler and Partner.

Consigned by Newsells Park Stud to Book 2 of the October sale, this colt was acquired by Johnston Racing for 32,000gns. The late Mastercraftsman stood for a fee of €25,000 when visited by Lady Darshaan.

A four-time Group 1 winner (twice as a juvenile), Mastercraftsman proved a reliable sire, represented on the track by such excellent horses as The Grey Gatsby, Alpha Centauri, Kingston Hill and Amazing Maria. He was the joint highest-rated son of Danehill Dancer at the time of his death, in 2021.

Lady Darshaan, an own sister to the Listed winner



The Showcasing filly out of Fyxenna (Archie Young up)

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The Bobby's Kitten colt out of Alumna (Katie Williams)

Tempest Fugit, was a talented juvenile. Winner of a fillies' maiden over the minimum trip at Windsor, she progressed to finish third in the Group 2 Cherry Hinton Stakes over six furlongs, before stepping up in trip to finish a creditable second in the Fillies' Mile, despite being hit on the nose by

the winning rider's whip in the final half furlong! She ran in both the English and Irish 1,000 Guineas, and wasn't beaten far when finishing sixth at the Curragh.

In the paddocks, Lady Darshaan has produced four winners, namely the Listed winner Let's Go (Street Cry);



The Sea The Moon filly out of Swift Action (Lillie Brooks)

Golden Spectrum (Dutch Art), who has won in Britain, Qatar and Hong Kong; the French Listed winner Beholding (Le Havre); and Coast Sky (Kodiac), three times a winner at Jebel Ali.

To top it all, the Siyouni half-brother to our colt, Carbis Bay, finished second on his racecourse debut at Newcastle last month.

LASTLY, look out for **Freds Mate**, a bay colt by Gleneagles out of the Woodman mare Flamingo Sea. Consigned by Ballylinch Stud, this late May foaled colt was purchased by Johnston Racing for €32,000 at Goffs Orby Sale last September, and is now owned by the Burke family.

A son of the late, great Galileo, Gleneagles seven career wins included four at Group 1 level, following up the National Stakes with an English/Irish Guineas double and a Royal Ascot success in the St James's Palace Stakes.

His best horses to date include Highland Chief, Loving Dream, Royal Lytham and Royal Dornoch.

Flamingo Sea, a half-sister to the German Champion 3yo filly in 1999, Flamingo Road (by Acatenango), was a winner at three in her native Germany. She has produced no fewer than nine winners from her 11 runners to date, the pick of which are Frozen Fire (the Irish Derby winner, by Montjeu) and Sir Walter Scott (by Galileo).

These are just some of the two-year-olds we hope will provide their owners with value for money this season. It promises to be fun keeping tabs on them all. ■



The Le Havre colt out of Hulcote (Giovanni Silva)



Freds Mate (Megan Graham)