



FINN CHARMS IN ROYAL MILE

MUSSELBURGH's Royal Mile Handicap on Easter Saturday has been a race the yard has liked to target in recent years and there was further success this year on April 8.

Johnston Racing had won three of the last four renewals prior to this year's race through Book of Dreams, Naamoos and Spirit Catcher. Now Dr Jim Walker's Finn's Charm, pictured above, can be added to that list of winners.

The field of nine included stablemate Lion Of War, who was favoured in the betting under Oisín Murphy. But it was the Kingman colt who won the day under the expert guidance of Joe Fanning.

There are few jockeys who can

compare with Joe as a judge of pace, and, additionally, he is something of a Musselburgh specialist. So when he was jocked up on a course winner with a good draw, the omens were particularly good.

Drawn in stall two, Finn's Charm broke quickly and was sent into the lead, pursued initially by Manitou and Captain Winters, while Lion Of War raced in midfield.

Turning for home, it was clear that Finn's Charm was full of running, and when Joe asked for his effort two furlongs from home he quickened clear of the remainder, finishing four and a quarter lengths clear of the second horse, Gincident, with Lion Of War staying on well in the closing stages to

finish third.

Joe Fanning was delighted, but not surprised, by Finn's Charm's performance.

'We thought a lot of Finn's Charm last year,' he told ITV Racing. 'He won and then finished fourth at Royal Ascot. He was a bit disappointing after, but he might just have been a bit weak. However, he gave me a nice feel there and won well.'

THIS was a commanding front-running display by Finn's Charm, who recorded a good time for the race. A 42,000gns purchase from Book 2 of the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale in 2021, he looks a real prospect for the rest of the season. ■