



**T**HE KINGSLEY Park partnerships were back among the winners in June, with wins for each of four different partnerships.

Kingsley Park 33's **Swordplay**, a Kodiak colt, had made a highly promising debut at Hamilton on May 31, finishing half a length second to Ganesha in a five-furlong maiden. He reappeared on the Lanarkshire track eight days later, and was stepped up in trip to six furlongs in a restricted novice event which drew a field of five runners.

Lady Bouquet made the early running, with Swordplay, under Joe Fanning, prominent on her inner. Having made his way to the stands' rail, Swordplay inched ahead into the lead approaching the two-furlong marker. Clearly suited by the step up in trip to six furlongs, Swordplay kept on strongly and won, comfortably, by a length and a half from Chumbaa, with Lincoln Royal three-quarters of a length back in third.

## Back among the winners!

This was a convincing display by the Kodiak colt, a €20,000 purchase by Johnston Racing at the Arqana October Yearling Sale in Deauville. Swordplay is out of the unraced Muhtathir mare, Cloghran, making him a half-brother to a Group 1 winner in Robin Of Navan (by American Post), who won the Criterium de Saint-Cloud in 2015, and to two other winners in France.

Despite the convincing nature of the win, Swordplay still displayed some signs of greenness here and has plenty of scope for improvement going forward.

At Catterick on June 10, Kingsley Park 28 – Gold's **Jungle Fever** scored a very

game win in a handicap over the minimum trip.

Successful at Brighton last term, and gelded over the winter, the son of Bungle Inthejungle raced twice during May at Wolverhampton and Redcar. At Catterick he faced four rivals, including the in-form Let's Go Hugo. Franny Norton took the ride.

Quickly into his stride, Jungle Fever led straight from the stalls, closely attended by Let's Go Hugo racing slightly wider. The other three runners looked outpaced at this stage. Inside the two-furlong marker, Let's Go Hugo eased into the lead, and with a furlong to race he looked to have an advantage of around a length over Jungle Fever.

With Franny asking for everything on Jungle Fever, the KP 28 gelding fought back bravely, and as they passed the winning post, Jungle Fever was judged to have won by a head, with Dark Crusade a length behind the second horse in third.

Jungle Fever showed admirable



Alumnus wins at Newcastle under Jason Hart



Swordplay flies to the finish line under Joe Fanning at Hamilton

resolution here and has not been too harshly treated by the handicapper for this narrow win.

The Phoenix of Spain filly, **Persian Phoenix**, gave Kingsley Park 36 their first win when landing a restricted novice stakes at Wolverhampton on June 19.

The filly made her debut at Redcar in May, and progressed well to finish second in a six-furlong event at Chelmsford on June 8. Hopes were high that a step up to seven furlongs might allow her to open her winning account.

**A**T Wolverhampton, with Franny riding, Persian Phoenix was drawn widest of all in stall seven. However, the filly broke smartly enough for Franny to cross to the rail at the head of affairs, and she was never headed.

Ridden a furlong out, Persian Phoenix forged clear in the final furlong to score by three and a half lengths and one and a quarter lengths respectively from Hadrian's Wall and Belle Storm.

Persian Phoenix is out of the Dalakhani mare, Middle Persia, who won a mile maiden in Ireland for Lady Chryss O'Reilly. In the paddocks, she has produced six individual winners to date, including Kilimanjaro, by High Chaparral, winner of the Listed Lingfield Derby Trial in 2015 who finished sixth behind Golden Horn in the Derby.

A filly with plenty of scope to improve, Persian Phoenix appreciated the step up in trip and won comfortably at Wolverhampton.

**Alumnus**, available to back on course at odds of 28/1 just before the off, turned in an improved display at Newcastle on June 29 to land his first career success for the Kingsley Park 29 – Gold partnership.

Visored for the first time, the Kendargent gelding was having his first run since turning in a disappointing display on soft ground at Windsor on May 1. Alumnus was also stepping up in trip to an extended mile and a half. Jason Hart, who had ridden Alumnus on both his previous starts at Gosforth Park, took

the ride.

Seven went to post for this handicap, the opening event on the Newcastle card. Oh So Charming took a keen hold and led straight from the stalls. Jason Hart settled Alumnus in second, the pair soon opening a gap of several lengths on the remainder of the field.

Turning for home, Jason took Alumnus over to race against the stands' rail. The gelding nosed into the lead three furlongs out, and when Jason kicked for home with a quarter of a mile still to race, Alumnus was well clear. Staying on strongly, Alumnus finished relatively unchallenged, two and a half lengths and one and a quarter lengths respectively clear of Military Tycoon and Maso Bastie.

**A**LUMNUS was bred by Kirsten Rausing and is out of her Sadler's Wells mare, Alma Mater, a Listed winner over an extended mile and a half at Fontainebleau as a four-year-old. ■