

**J**OHNSTON RACING's blistering June campaign got off to a red-hot start with an across-the-card double on June 1 and a treble the following day.

On the first day of the month **Knightswood** won in good style at Ripon, while **World Without Love** landed her first win of the season at Carlisle.

Five horses went to post for the mile and a half handicap for older horses at Ripon. Joe Fanning took the ride on Knightswood who was looking for his first win since scoring twice in succession at the beginning of last season.

The four-year-old Decorated Knight gelding, owned by Brian Yeardley and Partner, was dropped in class here and initially settled in second behind the early leader, Bamboo Bay.

Knightswood made gradual progress on the outer from four furlongs out and came to challenge Bamboo Bay and Frankendael with three furlongs to go. Striking the front entering the penultimate furlong and showing great turn of foot, Knightswood pulled clear and won by two and three-quarter lengths from Gastronomy.

At Carlisle World Without Love scored over the stiff mile and three-quarters track. Mascalls Stud's Ulysses filly, a four-year-old, faced four rivals and rider Franny Norton settled her in third.

A furlong and a half from home all five runners looked in with a chance, but clearly showing the best finishing speed, World Without Love hit the front a furlong out and soon put the result beyond doubt. The filly kept on well to score by two lengths from Glasses Up.

This was a second career success for this well-related filly, a half-sister to Subjectivist, Sir Ron Priestley and Alba Rose.

# ROUNDUP

## . . . of the yard's June winners

The June 2 treble came courtesy of Austrian Theory at Epsom, Ludo's Landing at Carlisle and Bulldog Spirit at Doncaster. **Austrian Theory**, Dr Jim Walker's four-year-old Awtaad gelding, was one of 12 runners in a handicap over a mile and half a furlong, including stablemate Dutch Decoy. Joe Fanning was on Austrian Theory while Neil Callan rode Dutch Decoy.

From the stalls Joe crossed to the rail at the head of affairs, closely pursued by the favourite Fantastic Fox while Dutch Decoy raced in sixth.

Turning for home Fantastic Fox tried hard to get to Austrian Theory but couldn't close the gap and it was Dutch Decoy who came to challenge at the furlong pole. The leader held on to win by half a length.

'That's fantastic,' Charlie Johnston told reporters after the race. 'We've always thought a lot of the winner and he was a very talented two-year-old.'

At Carlisle, Phil and Jude Jones's Kodiak gelding **Ludo's Landing** was one of nine runners who went to post for the mile handicap. Franny Norton took the ride. Hitting the rising ground Ludo's Landing made good progress and kept on well, going clear in the closing stages to win by three lengths from United Force.

This was an improved performance from Ludo's Landing, which may have resulted from the application of blinkers.

At Doncaster, Gallop Racing's **Bulldog Spirit**, a three-year-old Churchill gelding, was among seven runners in a mile and a half handicap, ridden by Jack Mitchell. The early running was made by Sutue Alshams, with Bulldog tracking the leader on the rail.

Turning for home several horses who had been racing in rear made significant progress, including Another Run who swerved right and collided with Bulldog. But asked for his effort by Jack, he responded generously and at the post was a neck ahead of Another Run.

It was a game performance from Bulldog Spirit, who is beautifully bred. He is out of the Holy Roman Emperor mare Banimpire, who won six Stakes races including the Group 2 Ribblesdale Stakes and the Royal Whip Stakes at the Curragh.

On June 3, and having run with great credit on his two previous starts, **Lion Of War** recovered from a stumble at the start to score cleverly in the Edinburgh Cup Handicap over nine furlongs at Musselburgh.

**T**HE race attracted three Kingsley Park runners: Qatar Racing's Lion Of War, with Declan McDonogh in the saddle; Dr Jim Walker's Venetian (Billy Garrity) and Jaber Abdullah's Gareeb (Joe Fanning).

Venetian was smartly away and soon led, but Lion Of War was slowly away and appeared to stumble. As a result, he was several lengths adrift of the field in the early stages.

Venetian led the field off the home turn, but Coco Jack came to challenge Venetian with two furlongs to run, gradually gaining the upper hand. But a long, sustained run from the rear saw Lion Of War overtake the leader in the closing stages, passing the line a length and a quarter ahead of Coco Jack. Venetian battled on well to finish third, beaten a further half a length.

At Lingfield on the same day, a battling display and a fine ride from Neil Callan saw **Gone** win a handicap by the narrowest of margins. The Gustav Klimt filly was one of eight runners in a race over seven and a half furlongs on the turf track. Owned by Christine Budden and Partners, the filly was seeking her third success of the season.

Drawn nearest the rail, Gone was quickly away and led throughout the opening furlong. Nibras Rainbow fluffed the start on the opposite side of the track but was rushed up to such an extent that he took the lead after a furlong or so.

In an exciting final furlong, Lunario began to hang right, while Gone and Nibras Rainbow battled it out. As they flashed past the winning post, Gone just had her nose ahead and won by that margin from Nibras Rainbow.

**Haizoom** won on her first start for Johnston Racing when running out the decisive winner of a handicap over two miles at Ripon on June 7.

Stuart Morrison's Sea The Stars mare, a five-year-old, was stepping back up in trip to two miles having been campaigned over shorter trips earlier this year. Joe Fanning took the ride.

Having led the field of four briefly in the opening strides, Haizoom was passed by Oasis Prince who proceeded to make



Ludo's Landing wins at Carlisle under Franny Norton

most of the running. With three furlongs to race, Haizoom drew level with the leader but was soon challenged by Lord Caprio who had raced in rear from the outset.

Showing admirable resolution, Haizoom kept on well in the final furlong and simply had to be pushed out by Joe to score by a length and a half from Lord Caprio.

The following day saw Joe ride a double for the yard at Hamilton, on the juvenile, Swordplay, and the four-year-old, La Pulga. Full details of Swordplay's Hamilton win can be found in this month's Kingsley Park Partnership News on page 12.

The Kodiak gelding, **La Pulga**, owned by Raceshare, was one of four runners in a race over 13 furlongs. He drew clear in the final furlong, keeping on well to score by four and a quarter lengths from Arrange.

This was a fourth career success for La Pulga, who clearly stays well. He is out of the Pivotal mare, Nijah, who won over a mile in France for Godolphin and was a half-sister to dual winner Prairie Spy.

**J**UNE 9 saw an across-the-card double at Bath and Haydock. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed's **Book Of Tales**, a three-year-old Ribchester gelding, took on five rivals in a Bath handicap over a mile and three-quarters, ridden by Richard Kingscote.

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At the outset, Star broke quickly and led briefly but Book Of Tales soon took over in front. Pursued by Star and Vitani, the gelding went clear until steadied after five furlongs or so.

As Star crept closer to the lead, Book Of Tales was shaken up with a quarter of a mile to race. Asked for more to see off the challengers the gelding pulled clear in the final furlong to score by four lengths from Grand Duchess Olga.

Book Of Tales is out of the unraced Sea The Stars mare, Dream Book.

LATER that evening, there was a popular success for the yard at Haydock when **Sir Jock Bennett**, Paul Dean’s Almanzor gelding named after the Johnston Racing legend Jock Bennett, opened his winning account at the sixth time of asking.

Only four went to post for the 10-furlong handicap, and Franny Norton took the ride. With two furlongs to race, Sir Jock Bennett and Pjanoo had closed on the leader Al Alaali and with 150 yards to race all three were in line. But Sir Jock responded gamely to Franny’s driving, finding more to forge ahead close home, scoring by a neck from Pjanoo.

This was a well-deserved success for Sir Jock who was purchased by Johnston Racing for 115,000gns as part of Book 1 of Tattersalls October Yearling Sales. Assistant Trainer Jock Bennett was delighted to see his equine namesake in the winner’s enclosure, but even more delighted for owner Paul Dean who had had to be patient in waiting for his horse to score!

At Goodwood on June 11 Susan and John Waterworth’s **Pons Aelius** won a handicap for older horses over two miles. The four-year-old Galileo colt was one of seven in the race and Oisín Murphy was on board.



Sir Jock Bennett wins at Haydock under Franny Norton

Travelling well in third, Oisín looked to take advantage of the cutaway in the straight but Aggagio moved to his right at just the wrong moment, forcing Murphy to switch Pons Aelius to his left. Once in the clear, Pons Aelius got his head in front, keeping on well to score by three-quarters of a length from Mostly Sunny.

A double was completed at Beverley when Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed’s **Dubai Leader** won the mile and a half handicap in game fashion. Joe Fanning took the ride in the field of 11.

The Golden Horn gelding took the lead after two furlongs. On meeting the rising ground, Joe brought him to the centre of the track, where he was soon joined by Two Brothers and A La Francaise. But he kept on gamely to see off his challengers, scoring by half a length from A La Francaise. This was a third career success for Dubai Leader, who is out of the Zafonic mare, Zaeema.

This was also a valuable success for Joe Fanning, as it sealed his win of the £10,000 prize for being leading jockey at the meeting.

On June 12, Joe rode both the yard’s winners at Pontefract. Paul York’s **Yorkkindness**, a four-year-old Nathaniel filly, was in a field of four in a handicap over two miles and one furlong. The field raced in single file until approaching the two-furlong marker when Joe moved Yorkkindness off the fence ready to mount a challenge on the leader.

Sweeping into the lead off the home turn, Yorkkindness opened a gap on her rivals. She kept on well to score comfortably by five and a half lengths from Byron Hill.

Yorkkindness is out of her owner’s Dalakhani mare, Yorkidding, who scored eight times for the yard at distances of a mile and half a furlong to two miles, and five times in Class 2 handicaps.

Paul and Clare Rooney’s **Hi Clare**, a three-year-old Kodiak



La Pulga and Joe Fanning win at Hamilton

filly, took on five rivals in the three-year-old handicap over a mile, and Joe stole a march by grabbing the lead on the rail straight from the stalls.

Turning for home, Joe opened up a gap on his rivals and the filly kept on well, scoring by half a length from Tasever. This was a second career win for Hi Clare, who has finished out of the frame only once in her eight starts. She is out of the Dutch Art mare, Shemda.

At Yarmouth on June 15, **Book Of Tales** followed up on his Bath win when landing a handicap over 11 and a half furlongs under a 6lb penalty.

SHEIKH Hamdan bin Mohammed’s Ribchester gelding faced four rivals and was ridden by Joe, who set out to make all the running.

Entering the straight Book Of Tales was two lengths clear, but Raincloud threw down a serious challenge and took the lead with a quarter of a mile to race. At that point Book Of Tales’s stamina kicked in and the gelding pulled away again, going clear in the last half-furlong to score by four and three-quarter lengths from Duveen.

At Goodwood on June 16, the juvenile filly **What A Question** created a very favourable impression with a stylish debut success in a fillies’ maiden. Ballylinch Stud’s Lope De Vega filly was one of 10 in the six-furlong race and was ridden by James Doyle.

Quickly away, What A Question set out to make all the running, followed by Land Of Magic and Adaay In Devon. Travelling strongly throughout, she burst clear in the final furlong, and even though eased in the closing stages, she won by four and three-quarter lengths from Adaay In Devon.

Purchased for 55,000gns at Tattersalls October Book 2, What A Question is out of the New Approach mare, Ceisteach.

At Bath on June 17 Christine Budden’s **Gone** was seeking to

complete a hat-trick within a month. The Gustav Klimt filly was among five who went to post under Joe Fanning for the mile handicap for three-year-olds at Britain’s highest Flat racecourse.

Drawn on the rail, Gone was sent into the lead and travelled strongly, pursued in the early stages by Passing Time. Turning for home, Joe gave the filly a breather, allowing Passing Time and Oriental Dancer to move closer. But with a furlong and a half remaining, Gone was shaken up and responded by bounding clear of the remainder.

Substantially eased close home, she still won by three and a half lengths from Oriental Dancer. Rated 58 last October, her Bath win saw her rating rise to 73 and she now has five career wins to her credit.

**Alpina Express**, so impressive in winning at Ayr on her handicap debut, followed up in equally good style at Carlisle on June 19. The Sea The Moon filly, penalised 6lb for that Ayr win, was one of six runners contesting a handicap over one mile three furlongs, with Joe on board.

Quickly away she controlled the race and after turning for home it was clear she was travelling much the best of the group.

Indeed, having come clear of her rivals on the rising ground, Alpina Express was eased down in the final 100 yards, but still won by four and a half lengths from Optician.

**Knightswood**, successful in a Ripon handicap at the beginning of the month, returned to Yorkshire’s ‘Garden Racecourse’ on June 21 to race over the same course and distance.

The four-year-old Decorated Knight gelding, owned by Brian Yeardley and Partner, faced five rivals in the mile and a half handicap. Franny Norton had Knightswood settled in midfield on the rail as Zimmerman made the early running. In the closing stages, Zimmerman dropped away tamely, leaving Captain Kane