



Midnight Lion tops new sale

JULY 18 saw the inaugural one-day Tattersalls Summer Sale held at Park Paddocks in Newmarket.

The sales topper proved to be Midnight Lion (*pictured above under Nestor Francisco*), the three-year-old Nathaniel colt trained by Charlie Johnston to land a Goodwood maiden over a mile and three-quarters in June for his then owner, Sheikh Hamed Dalmook al Maktoum.

In line with recent trends on the bloodstock scene, the sale attracted substantial support from Middle Eastern buyers, but on this occasion it was Nick Taylor of Tom Malone Bloodstock who secured the colt for 85,000gns.

Out of the Indian Ridge mare Coyote, Midnight Lion is destined to go jumping, as perhaps was always likely to be the case given that he is a half-

brother to Eradicate. A three-time winner on the Flat for Johnston Racing and owner Alan Spence, including in the Listed Braveheart Stakes at Hamilton, Eradicate (by Montjeu) went on to be a talented hurdler for Nicky Henderson, landing back-to-back renewals of the Grade 3 Swinton Handicap Hurdle in 2010/11, before securing two wins in novice chases.

Asked about future plans for Midnight Lion, Taylor confirmed that the colt would switch codes.

'He's for Paul Nicholls,' he told the



Racing Post, referring to the 14-time champion NH trainer.

'We saw him in the yard and then we liked him even more. Nathaniel is a big plus to go jumping, he has a lovely soft-ground action and is just the type of horse we're looking for.'

Acquired by Johnston Racing for 60,000gns as part of Book 1 of Tattersalls

October Yearling Sale in 2021, Midnight Lion earned more than £16,000 in his career to date. While sorry to see the horse leave the yard, Charlie is happy that the sale represents sound business for the horse's owner. We wish Midnight Lion every success in the future for his new connections. ■