

THE YARD's first winner of the month was the grey mare, **Military Two Step**, who landed a handicap over two miles at Chester on July 1.

ROUNDUP

The Jukebox Jury mare, a five-year-old and owned in partnership between Chris Hirst and Dougie Livingston, was top-rated in a field of seven for this event open to four-year-olds and upwards, and was ridden by Franny Norton.

She took a prominent early position and spent much of the race in third place. At the three-furlong marker she was angled out and a furlong later hit the front. Ridden clear in the short Chester straight, she went on to score by three lengths from the favourite, Malakahna.

This win, the fifth of the mare's career to date, boosted Military Two Step's catalogue page and the mare subsequently sold for 40,000gns at Tattersalls' July Sale.

On his fifth career start, **Baileys Khelstar** secured his first win when landing a mile and a half handicap at Beverley's evening meeting on July 7.

The three-year-old gelding, by Cloth Of Stars and owned by Baileys Horse Feeds, faced five rivals and was ridden by Joe Fanning. Travelling in second, he was switched left with two furlongs to race and, having taken the lead, he kept on well to score by a length from Jamih.

Baileys Khelstar is out of the Traditionally mare Khelwa, the winner of a conditions event over a mile at Maisons-Laffitte. His sire Cloth Of Stars (by Sea The Stars) won the Prix Ganay (Group 1) and had the distinction of being placed second, then third, behind Enable in successive renewals of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

The three-year-old filly **Kitai** is improving fast and

... of the yard's July winners

followed up on her recent Carlisle success with an impressive win at Pontefract on July 11.

The No Nay Never filly, owned by M C Sweeney and Partners, had scored over seven furlongs at Carlisle in June and was raised 5lb in the handicap for that success.

At Pontefract, Kitai was raised in class to a 0-105 handicap but dropped back in distance to six furlongs. She faced six rivals, and was the only three-year-old in the field. Joe Fanning took the ride.

As It Just Takes Time and Aphelios disputed the lead in the early stages, Joe settled Kitai on the rail. Approaching the turn into the short Pontefract straight, the filly was clearly travelling best of all as It Just Takes Time led round the bend.

Angled out by Joe to take the lead with a furlong to run, Kitai went clear in the closing stages and simply had to be pushed out to score easily, by two and a half lengths from It Just Takes Time.

THIS was a thoroughly impressive display from a fast improving filly who coped with the rise in class and the drop in trip admirably. She was purchased by Mark and Charlie at Goffs Orby Yearling Sale in 2021 for €150,000 (bear in mind that No Nay Never's current stallion fee is €175,000), and is out of the Pastoral Pursuits mare Belle

Isle making her a half-sister to the Group 3-placed Woody Creek and the useful sprinter Abel Handy.

No Nay Never's standing continues to rise with recent top performers including Alcohol Free, Blackbeard and Little Big Bear.

The African Queen made a winning debut for John Brown and Partner when comfortably landing a juvenile restricted maiden over seven furlongs under Neil Callan at Brighton on July 11.

The Last Lion filly, a February foal, was bred jointly by Mr Brown and the Johnston-owned Friar Ings Stud. The sole debutante in the field of four, The African Queen was, nonetheless, quickest away and made the early running. Despite showing marked signs of greenness, she continued to lead from Etihad Rail, with Lady Ava held up at the rear.

Despite edging left towards the far rail when asked for her effort in the final furlong, The African Queen stayed on well to win by a length and three-quarters from Lady Ava, with Vice Captain a further length back in third.

The African Queen is the first foal out of John Brown's Helmet mare, Burgonet a three-time winner at 10 and 12 furlongs. The filly deserves credit for overcoming greenness on her debut and will have learned plenty from this positive first racecourse appearance.

SPECIFIC Times turned in an excellent display to land a valuable nursery on the John Smith's Cup card at York on July 15.

The Blue Point filly, owned by Times of Wigan, was having her fourth start and making her handicap debut in a race which attracted a dozen runners. Jason Hart took the ride on Specific Times who had been allotted an opening mark of 67 following three decent runs in maiden fillies' events at Newmarket, Catterick and Ripon. In addition, she was stepping up to a trip of six furlongs for the first time.

Quickly away, she travelled strongly throughout and effectively dominated the race, comfortably beating Callianassa by two lengths.

The runner-up had previously run in midfield in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot so, albeit Specific Times was in receipt of 9lb from her, this may have been a good performance.

Specific Times is out of the same owner's Gleneagles mare Daily Times, a half-sister to the Grade 1 winner, Newspaperofrecord.

The yard chalked up an across-the-card double on July 26, courtesy of the five-year-old gelding Dark Company, who won a selling handicap at Lingfield, and the three-year-old colt Hope You Can Run, who was successful in a mile and a half handicap at Catterick.

Dark Company had finished third on his last three starts before lining up at Lingfield for the 10-furlong contest with eight runners. Stable apprentice Archie Young took the ride, with his confidence boosted after riding his first winner on



Kitai, owned by M C Sweeney and Partner

Barrolo for Grant Tuer at Musselburgh the previous day.

With Creationist making the early running, the gelding settled in fourth. Turning for home, Dark Company stuck closer to the far rail than his rivals and headed Creationist two furlongs out.

He soon forged clear and went on to score comfortably by five lengths from Send In The Clouds.

Archie will have been delighted to score his first success for the yard on a horse with which he has become well acquainted, but the gelding attracted a bid of 8,800gns at the post-race auction and has left the yard.

The double was completed when **Hope You Can Run** landed a victory in the mile and a half handicap at Catterick in good style.

Crone Stud Farm's Lope De Vega colt was one of three three-year-olds in the field of six. Jason Hart took the ride and, having trailed the field in the early stages, he decided to go to the head of affairs after a couple of furlongs. Travelling strongly throughout, Hope You Can Run continued to lead and despite Feud looking like a potential challenger on his inner, he kept on well to defeat that favourite by two lengths.

Hope You Can Run was bred by Gigginstown House Stud, and bought by Johnston Racing for €115,000 at Goffs Orby Yearling Sale in 2021. He is out of the Smart Strike mare, Shelbysmile. ■



Specific Times under Rachel Fox-Barnett at Kingsley Park