

Three of the best make it a Saturday treble!

Paladin follows up at Haydock to add to a double at Newmarket

THE STABLE enjoyed a successful Saturday on July 22 when chalking up an across-the-card treble at Newmarket and Haydock Park, *writes John Scanlon.*

It was a case of third time lucky for Gallop Racing's improving juvenile filly, **Carolina Reaper**. She is a daughter of Too Darn Hot, hence the name, which is that of the world's hottest chilli pepper!

She had finished second at Beverley in June and then sixth of 16 in the Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot. On the July course she faced a field of 10 other fillies over seven furlongs. James Doyle took the ride.

Carolina Reaper was away quickly from the stalls and led from the outset, with James keen to race in the centre of the track. From the two-furlong marker she began to increase her lead and in the final furlong she fairly bounded up the rising ground to score by four and a half lengths from Ambiente Amigo.

Assistant Trainer Jock Bennett said: 'She has learned from the two previous runs. I would think the Group 3 Sweet Solera

Stakes comes into the equation now.'

Carolina Reaper is the seventh of nine foals and the fourth scorer produced by the Listed Rosemary Stakes winner, Dark Promise (by Shamardal), herself a half-sister to four black-type performers headed by the Group 1 Oaks heroine, Love Divine. A 46,000gns purchase by Johnston Racing at Book 2 of Tattersalls October Yearling Sale, this scopey filly looks a really good prospect.

The Owners Group 052's **Dutch Decoy** has proved himself an ideal horse for a multi-ownership group, winning nine of his 53 career starts and being placed in 15 more of them. The consistent six-year-old earned his reward for a string of decent performances this year when landing a good quality handicap over a mile of the July course in the hands of Oli Stammers.

Twelve runners went to post, with ages ranging from three to seven. In the early stages Dutch Decoy tracked the leaders before challenging Hafeet Alain inside the final furlong and going on to win by a neck from that rival.

Jock Bennett said he had feared the heavy rain might have



Clockwise from the top: Carolina Reaper wins under James Doyle; Oli Stammers completes the Johnston Racing double at Newmarket aboard Dutch Decoy (purple and black); and Paladin (nearside) at Haydock under Andrew Mullen makes it a treble

put paid to Dutch Decoy's chances because he prefers quicker ground, adding: 'He ran at Goodwood last year in the Golden Mile, and I would think that, all being well, he might go back there.'

Rain which turned the prevailing soft ground into heavy conditions marred Haydock Park's evening card, but **Paladin** produced a game display to land the seven-furlong novice event and complete the yard's treble on the day.

The Justify colt, owned by John Brown and Megan Dennis, was having his third career start, after racing at Haydock and Leicester in June. Nine went to post for the race, in which Paladin was ridden by Andrew Mullen.

Paladin was quickly away and soon led, travelling strongly at the head of affairs. When, a furlong from home, he was headed by Sea The Dream he refused to give in and nosed ahead in the closing strides to score by a neck.

A €70,000 purchase at Goffs Orby Yearling Sale by Johnston Racing last September, Paladin is the first foal out of the Planteur mare, Golconda. Golconda was herself Listed-placed as a juvenile in France, before racing in Graded races in the United States. Paladin's sire, the 2018 US Triple Crown winner Justify, is currently standing at Ashford Stud in Kentucky at a fee of \$100,000. ■

The August Sale



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