

**J**OHNSTON RACING'S September campaign began with an across-the-card double at Chester and Chelmsford on the second of the month.

Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi's **Politico** was a winner over six furlongs at Chester at the end of May, after which he ran in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot. The Blue Point colt returned to the Roodee in September for his first race over seven furlongs, with Chester specialist Franny Norton taking the ride.

Nine went to post for this novice event and Politico was sent straight to the head of affairs. Franny ensured the colt hugged the rail and when shaken up with two furlongs to race, Politico opened up a lead of three or four lengths on the field. He simply had to be pushed out in the closing stages to score by two and three-quarter lengths from Autumn Rose.

Politico was a €63,000 purchase by Johnston Racing at Goffs Orby Yearling Sale last September. He is by the crack sprinter Blue Point out of the dual Listed-winning No Nay Never mare, Servalan.

The double was completed at Chelmsford when The Makyowners' **Artisan Dancer** followed up his August win at Southwell by landing the three-year-old staying handicap under top weight.

Oli Stammers rode the Mastercraftsman gelding in the field of eight over a trip of 13 and a half furlongs. Held up in rear for most of the race, Artisan Dancer was asked for his

# ROUNDUP

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

effort as the field entered the home turn.

Brought wide into the straight, the gelding appeared to have a huge amount to do to win, but he began to eat up the ground on the outside and he got up in the final strides to score by a neck from Grand Duchess Olga, with Philos three-quarters of a length back in third.

The ultra-consistent filly, **Dreams Adozen**, owned by Deva Racing (km), followed up four consecutive placed efforts and a win with a second victory on September 6 at Bath.

**T**HE Kingman filly was in a field of eight for the handicap over a mile and three-quarters, with Joe Fanning in the saddle. She was quickly away and made the running from the outset with little change in the order until the field turned for home.

Briefly challenged by Denis Anthony with a quarter of a mile still to race, Dreams Adozen kept on well to score by a length from My Chiquita.



Curran wins at Newcastle under Joe Fanning

She is out of the Motivator mare Ferevia, who won the Group 3 Prix Penelope at Saint-Cloud on very soft ground as a three-year-old.

There was a fabulous four-timer for the yard on September 16 thanks to Artisan Dancer, Tropical Air, Fox Flame and Mister Daydream.

After winning on September 2, **Artisan Dancer** returned to the racecourse at Lingfield on September 16 to face six rivals in an all-age handicap over two miles, with Oli Stammers again on board.

He kept the gelding in fourth until the final half-mile when Artisan Dancer began to creep closer to the leaders and with a furlong to race he burst into the lead, keeping on well to score by a comfortable three lengths from Team Endeavour.

That made it a hat-trick for this improving gelding, who is out of the thrice Listed-placed Red Ransom mare, Russiana. He is another example of an astute yearling purchase by Johnston Racing. The Mastercraftsman gelding was bought at the Arqana Deauville October Yearling Sale in 2021 for just €26,000. Having shown he stays well, and acts on three different all-weather tracks, he should be able to exploit further opportunities of this type as the season progresses.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed's **Tropical Air** opened his winning account at Lingfield in a 10-runner, seven-furlong nursery with Jack Mitchell on board.

The Showcasing juvenile was smartly away and led in the opening stages. He settled in second before easing past the leader as they turned for home and entering the final furlong he went clear of the field. As Rising Force attempted to challenge on the outer, Tropical Air kept on strongly to score by three lengths from Rising Force, with Birkie Boy finishing a similar distance back in third.

Tropical Air is out of the Bernardini mare, Tandragee, who raced mostly in the French provinces for Godolphin at distances of a mile to a mile and a quarter.

**A** winner over a mile and a half at Southwell at the end of August, **Fox Flame** backed up that success at Lingfield to give jockey Jack Mitchell a double. Stepping up in trip to a mile and five furlongs Fox Flame, owned by Johnston Racing, faced six rivals in a fillies' handicap at the Surrey track. She also raced off a mark 5lb higher than at Southwell, meeting the runner-up there, Kehlani, on 4lb worse terms.

Held up towards the rear of the field as first Kehlani and then Mellow Mood made the running, Fox Flame made good headway off the home bend, finishing fast and late to land the spoils by a short head from Turner Girl, with Mellow Mood almost three lengths away in third.

Out of the unraced Street Cry mare Street Fire, Fox Flame is a half-sister to Salute The Soldier (by Sepoy), a prolific winner of 10 races including two Group 1 events at Meydan, and to Storm Cry, a Poet's Voice filly trained by Mark to win twice over six furlongs some years ago.

Completing the four-timer was **Mister Daydream**. See KP Partnership News on page 23 for a report on his win.

**Curran** built on the promise of his Carlisle debut run when landing a Newcastle novice event on September 19. The Gleneagles colt, owned by Sue Russell and Mark Russell, was one of five runners who went to post for a novice event over a mile and a quarter. Joe Fanning took the ride.



A Lingfield win for Tropical Air and Jack Mitchell





Dreams Adozen won twice under Joe Fanning in September

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Turning for home all five runners were still in with a chance of winning, but with two furlongs to run Curran hit the front. Keeping on strongly, the colt was always doing enough to win and he crossed the finishing line a length and a half clear of The Hun.

Curran is the first foal out of the Camelot mare Tipitena, who won a fillies' maiden over a mile and a half at Roscommon at four, and who was Group 3-placed over nine and a half furlongs at Gowran Park. The colt was snapped up by Johnston Racing at Goffs Orby Yearling Sale for €45,000.

Another horse to build on a promising debut at Carlisle was **Man Of Monaco**, who landed a Beverley novice event on September 20 under Joe. The Lightning Spear gelding was one of five runners, all three-year-olds, in a novice event over a mile and a quarter.

**M**AN Of Monaco moved into second at halfway and, bringing the gelding to challenge on the stands' side, Joe sent him into the lead soon after the two-furlong marker, and despite a late rally by Lope De Light he was always doing enough to win, passing the winning post half a length ahead of that rival.

Man Of Monaco is the first foal out of the Casamento mare, Molly Mayhem, a half-sister of the French Group 3 winner Spectre (by Siyouni), and the decent handicapper Mambo Nights (by Havana Gold). His sire Lightning Spear won the Group 1 Sussex Stakes as a seven-year-old and was twice runner-up in the Lockinge Stakes.

**Alpen Power** opened his winning account when landing a

mile maiden at Chelmsford on September 21. The Bobby's Kitten colt, bred by Kirsten Rausing and owned by Markus Graff and Partner, was in a restricted Maiden Stakes over a mile. Franny Norton took the ride on the colt, who faced eight rivals including a well-bred newcomer in Green Sigma.

Drawn wide, it took a while for Franny to steer the colt into the lead on the rail. Thereafter he travelled strongly in front and turning for home he looked comfortable.

Challenged by Just Rita approaching the final furlong, he kept on strongly to beat her by a length and a half. Alpen Power, is out of the Mr Greeley mare Alumna. Twice a winner as a three-year-old in France, Alumna finished a close fourth in the Group 1 Prix Saint-Alary at Longchamp. In the paddocks she has produced a dual winner in Alpha Theta, trained by Mark to win twice over a mile and a half.

**Ask Peter** landed a mile and a half handicap at Hamilton Park on September 24 under apprentice Archie Young. The Jukebox Jury filly, a four-year-old, was one of seven runners.

Archie sent Ask Peter to the head of affairs as the field made its way along the straight and into the loop. At the top of the hill Ask Peter held a three-length margin over Kells and Black Smoke. Racing out of the dip the Johnston filly was still in the lead, but the margin had been reduced considerably.

Pushed along and asked for her effort two furlongs out, Ask Peter kept on strongly, and although Tafsir produced a late challenge, Ask Peter was always doing enough to hold on for a one-length win.

**Tropical Air** followed up on a Lingfield win when adding a Wolverhampton handicap on September 25. Raised 8lb for that Lingfield success, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed's



King Of The Plains wins under Cieren Fallon

Showcasing gelding faced nine rivals in a seven-furlong event, with Jack Mitchell in the saddle.

The gelding was away smartly but beaten to an early lead by the favourite, Diddy Man. Tropical Air raced on his outer and pressed the leader throughout, but then nosed ahead from the two-furlong marker.

Bulldog Drummond came with a late run to challenge on the outer, but Tropical Air held on well to score by a neck.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed enjoyed another success when **Peace Walk** landed a novice event over an extended seven furlongs at Beverley on September 26.

The Cracksman colt had made his racecourse debut at the Ebor Meeting in York's Convivial Maiden Stakes on August 25, but nothing went right there and Peace Walk was always behind.

It appears, however, that Peace Walk earned plenty from that experience. Facing seven rivals in the Beverley race, including stablemate Scottish Reel, Peace Walk was ridden by Connor Beasley.

He raced in second until they hit the rising ground when Peace Walk edged into the lead with just over a furlong to race. Sticking on well in the soft ground, he stretched clear of Conde in the closing stages to score by four lengths, with Scottish Reel keeping on for third some five and a half lengths.

Peace Walk is out of the Invincible Spirit mare, Hoodna, a Listed-placed dual winner over six furlongs at Kempton. He is also a half-brother to Dubai Dominion (by Pivotal), a seven-furlong juvenile winner who finished second in the Listed Flying Scotsman Stakes at Doncaster.

**Pillar Of Hope**, a winner over course and distance last

September, returned to Redcar on September 27 to land a handicap over a mile and a quarter in good style.

Chris Buckley's lightly-raced five-year-old gelding won at Beverley in April and ran well in the Zetland Gold Cup next time out. On his first run at Redcar since then, he faced 10 rivals under top weight and was ridden by birthday boy, Jason Hart (29).

Blueflagflyinghigh and Pillar of Hope, both drawn on the wide outside of the field, started well and were able to cross to the inside rail in the lead, with Jason content to track that rival.

**T**URNING for home Blueflagflyinghigh still held the advantage, but Pillar of Hope gradually closed the gap and hit the front with a quarter of a mile to run. Chased by Havana Party and Skilled Warrior, Pillar Of Hope seemed to lengthen the gap inside the final furlong and kept on well to win by three and a quarter lengths from Havana Party.

**King Of The Plains** notched up his first win when beating eight rivals in a mile and a half handicap at Newcastle on September 29 under Cieren Fallon.

The Roaring Lion colt, owned by Qatar Racing, was settled at the rear of the field in the early stages. The leader travelled strongly, and at one stage held a lead of five or six lengths towards the end of the back straight.

Approaching the turn for home the field began to close together and off the bend King Of The Plains began to improve his position. Racing towards the stands' rail, the colt headed Dark Island a furlong and a half from home, and kept on strongly in the final furlong, crossing the line two and a quarter lengths clear of Genesius.