

A SWITCH TO the all-weather and a step up in trip to seven furlongs has worked the oracle for juvenile **Tropical Air**, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed's Showcasing gelding.

After three midsummer runs over sprint trips, Tropical Air was gelded before making his debut in nursery company over an extended five furlongs at Brighton. He seemed to struggle on that track and connections opted to run him next time out over seven furlongs at Lingfield on September 16.

Tropical Air turned in a much-improved performance there, winning easily by three lengths from Rising Force. Raised 8lb for that win, the gelding followed up with another fine performance over seven furlongs at Wolverhampton, finding plenty in the straight to hold off the determined late challenge of Bulldog Drummond.

Seeking the hat-trick, Tropical Air was sent to Newcastle to contest a nursery, this time over six furlongs. Jason Hart took the ride on the gelding who was one of 10 juveniles who went to post for the race on October 2.

ROUNDUP

... of the yard's October winners

Tropical Air soon led, pursued by Miss Rainbow and Yiengaa in the first half of the race. Pushed along by Jason with two furlongs to race, Tropical Air kept on strongly and pulled away to score by two and three-quarter lengths from Anglesey Lad, with Miss Rainbow finishing two lengths back in third.

Winning on debut, **Arisaig** landed a fillies' restricted novice event at Chelmsford on October 5.

The Harry Angel filly, owned by Johnston Racing, faced seven rivals in the Chelmsford race which was run over seven furlongs. Oli Stammers took the ride.

Arisaig started well but was soon overtaken by Tokyo Dreamer who made the running, pursued by Zariela on her

outer. Turning for home Zariela went a little wide offering Arisaig the chance to mount a challenge and Oli sent her into the lead with a furlong to run. Keeping on strongly she pulled clear of her rivals to score by three and a quarter lengths from Zariela.

Remarkably, Johnston Racing were able to acquire this filly for just 6,000gns at Tattersalls October Yearling Sale, Book 3, last autumn. On this performance, that could prove to have been a very shrewd buy.

Following up his Newcastle success in September, **Curran** produced a game performance under Joe Fanning to land a Pontefract novice event over 10 furlongs on October 9.

The Gleneagles colt, owned by Sue Russell and Mark Russell and facing seven rivals, was sent into the lead with three furlongs to race and was travelling strongly turning for home. Prepschool was well-placed to challenge, but Curran stayed on well to beat him by a short head.

Curran looks a great prospect to become a talented stayer as he matures. His dam, the Camelot mare, Tipitena, out of whom he is the first produce, won over a mile and a half as a four-year-old and was Group 3-placed.

Bohemian Breeze turned in an excellent performance to land a mile and a half handicap at Kempton on October 11. The three-year-old Galileo gelding, owned by Johnston Racing, was ridden by Oli Stammers and faced 11 rivals.

The gelding was settled in midfield until turning for home when he was pushed forward. He took the lead inside the final furlong and kept on strongly to score by a length and a quarter from Ithaca's Arrow, with Mount Olympus a length back in third.

The step up in trip appeared to hold no horrors for the gelding, who is out of the Mastercraftsman mare Wind Chimes, who won the Group 3 Prix de Lieurey at Deauville and just lost out by a head in the Group 1 Prix du Moulin de Longchamp.

A SWITCH to the all-weather and a step back in trip to five furlongs saw **Zachary** win a juvenile nursery at Chelmsford on October 14. Seven went to post and Marco Ghiani took the ride on the Cable Bay gelding, owned by Owners Group 113.

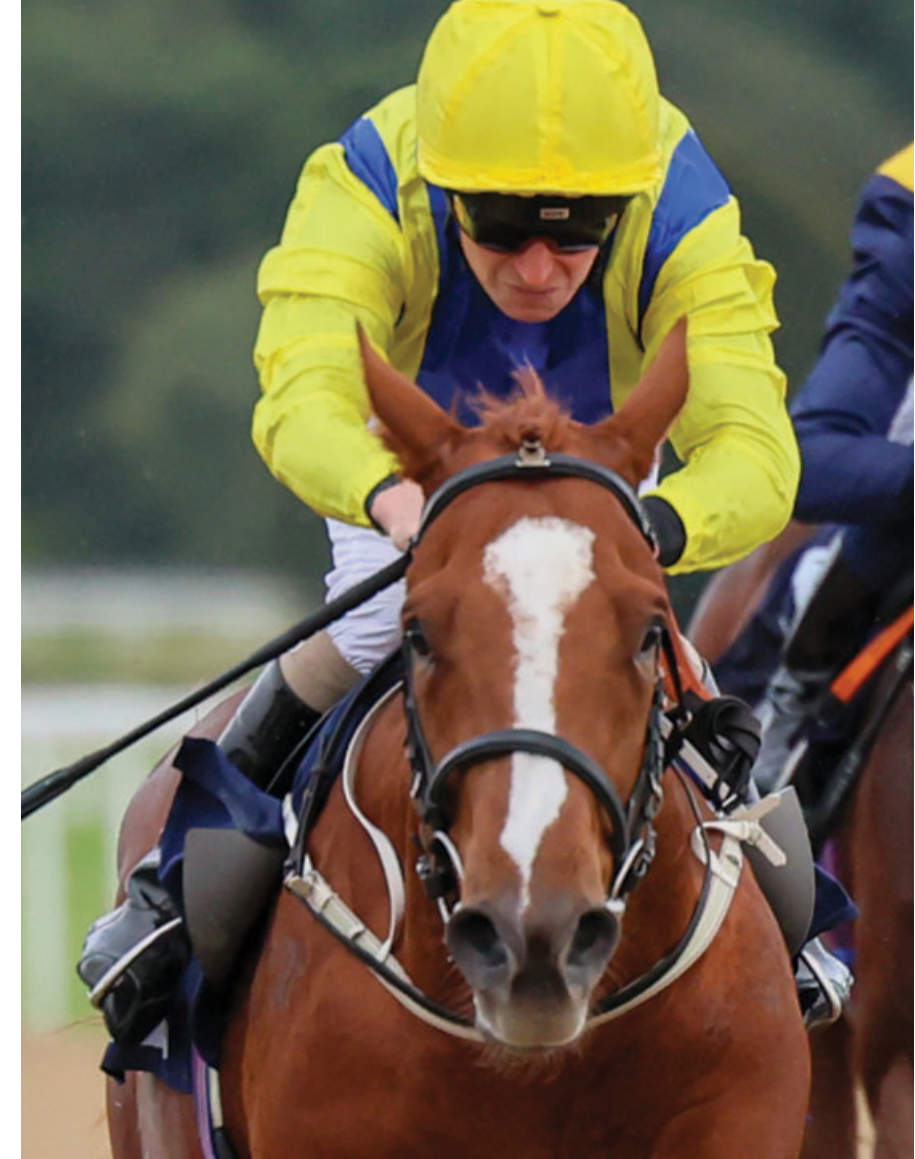
Drawn widest of all, he broke smartly but took a keen hold. Marco was able to take him across behind the other runners in an effort to get him to settle. Turning for home Zachary was brought wide to challenge.

He swept past the leader with half a furlong to race and held on to score by a length and three-quarters from Lady Bouquet

Zachary is out of the Speightstown mare, Roubles, who was a daughter of the five-time Group 1-winning mare, Soviet Song. He showed good speed to win here and has considerable scope for improvement.

Ask Peter turned in a remarkable performance to land an apprentice handicap at Catterick on October 21. The four-year-old Jukebox Jury filly, owned and bred by Johnston Racing Limited, was one of eight runners in the mile and three-quarters contest. Archie Young was in the saddle.

Ask Peter led from the outset and there was little change



Curran wins under Joe Fanning

Sirona bounces back

A LISTED-WINNING filly last year as a juvenile, Sirona made a welcome return to the winner's enclosure when registering a game success in an Ayr handicap on October 3.

After winning at Beverley on her debut as a juvenile, Jayne McGivern's Soldier Hollow filly was a decent second in a valuable fillies' conditions event at Goodwood next time out. She then was sent to Germany for a Listed event at Cologne over seven and a half furlongs, a race she won well by four lengths.

A return to winning form for the filly has proved difficult to achieve this term. She started the year on a mark of 100, and raced over an extended 11 furlongs in the Cheshire Oaks on her seasonal debut. At Ayr, she was dropped back in trip to seven furlongs and went to post as one of two three-year-olds in a field of seven for a competitive handicap. Joe Fanning took the ride.

The four-year-old Autumn Festival



Sirona, nearside under Joe Fanning, gets back up in the final strides to win at Ayr

started well and made the running while Joe settled Sirona in second place, and she travelled strongly behind the leader approaching the home turn.

Once in line for home, the field raced in the middle of the course, with Sirona taking the lead with a furlong to race. Autumn Festival responded well, and had clearly regained the lead with around 100 yards to travel. But Sirona wasn't to be denied and she kept on well to regain the lead in the shadow of the post. The winning margin was a short head, with On A Session finishing a length and a quarter back in third.

After the race, Charlie Johnston explained the reason for the step back in trip. 'Sirona ran well for a long way last time and Joe felt that coming back

to seven furlongs would be a positive, and that's how it played out,' he said.

'We were trying her over a bit further earlier in the year and we've gradually worked our way back in trip. Hopefully, at last, we've found the key, which is good. She got back up again in the final strides and saw it out strongly. Seven furlongs on this autumn ground is her trip. She's won off 90-odd and we're always looking for more black type if we can get it.'

THE filly, who runs in the colours of Jayne McGivern's Dash Grange Stud, is out of the Kallisto mare, Si Luna, a triple Listed winner over a mile who went on to land the Group 3 Prix de Flore at Saint-Cloud at six.

in the order as the field entered the straight. Once in line for home Ask Peter pulled well clear of the remainder. As Can Can Girl came through to take second from Ebony May, the Johnston filly was going further and further away, and went on to score by a truly remarkable 22 lengths.

This was a third career success for the filly, who clearly stays well and enjoys soft underfoot conditions.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed's **Secret World** won a fillies' maiden at Wolverhampton on October 23 in taking style. The daughter of Dark Angel faced 11 rivals over seven furlongs and was ridden by James Doyle.

SHE flew out of the starting stalls and was able to grab pole position on the rails and led as the field negotiated the first bend. Turning for home she was shaken up and opened up a gap on her rivals. She kept on well, easily resisting the late challenge of Jeanne d'Arc to win by half a length.

Secret World, bred by Godolphin, is out of the Showcasing mare, World's Fair, a half-sister to Billesdon Brook (by Champs Elysees), the winner of the 1,000 Guineas and Group 1 Sun Chariot Stakes.

Wadacre Grace, twice a winner earlier in the year, returned to the winner's enclosure with a gutsy performance

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Freds Mate wins at Newcastle under Jason Hart

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in a Kempton handicap on October 25.

The four-year-old Brazen Beau filly, owned by Wadacre Stud, was having her 17th run of the year in a mile event. A field of 12 went to post and Franny Norton took the ride.

He hit the front as they turned for home and the filly showed great determination to hold on to her lead in the straight despite several late challenges and won by a head from Trais Fluors.

BENGURION produced a taking display on her debut to land a fillies' novice event at Lingfield on October 27. The Invincible Army filly, owned by Kenny Alexander, faced seven rivals over six furlongs, with Rossa Ryan riding.

Turning for home Bengurion was pushed along and took the lead in the final furlong and went on to win by three-quarters of a length from Catherine Parr. Peter Molony, racing manager to Mr Alexander, was delighted by the filly's success.

'Mark Johnston bought a couple of yearlings for Kenny last year, and Bengurion was the first to run,' he said. 'So this was a lovely start, and the filly did it nicely.'

Hey Lyla doubled her winning tally for the year when battling to success in a mile handicap at Chelmsford City on October 28. The three-year-old Oasis Deam filly, owned by Susan and Barry Hearn's Mascalls Stud, was back

down in trip to a mile and faced seven rivals, with Joe Fanning on board.

The filly broke well, racing prominently in the early stages as Impulsive Lady made the running. Shuffled back into midfield after a couple of furlongs Hey Lyla came a little wide into the straight but was noted making good progress.

As Emma Emilleen struck the front two furlongs out and began to hang right, Joe Fanning switched Hey Lyla towards the inner, where she stayed on strongly. The filly collared the leader in the final half-furlong, going on to beat her by half a length.

FREDS MATE ran out the game winner of a Newcastle novice event on October 30. The Gleneagles colt, owned by the Burke family, was one of eight runners in a restricted novice event over a mile. Jason Hart rode.

Having broken well Freds Mate raced prominently, vying for the lead with Paddy Mayne. They were joined by Cheshire Dancer who produced a strong drive to take the lead entering the final furlong as Rich Harry also came to challenge on the outside of Freds Mate.

To his great credit Freds Mate fought back to regain the lead in the closing stages and at the post the Gleneagles colt had won by a neck from Cheshire Dancer. ■