

DESERT RAIDER landed the second win of his career, and the second win of the year for the yard, when winning a mile handicap at Lingfield on January 4.

The three-year-old Advertise colt, owned by Kennet Valley Syndicates IX and Partner, stepped up in trip to a mile for the first time, and was also fitted with cheekpieces for the first time. The gelding was one of nine runners and was ridden by Rossa Ryan.

From the stalls, there was a three-way battle for the lead, with Desert Raider just prevailing over Ventura Empress and Orange Rosetta. Travelling strongly at the head of affairs, Desert Raider turned for home two lengths clear of his closest challengers. As Montecristo Gold made ground from the rear, Desert Raider increased his lead entering the final furlong and simply had to



Artisan Dancer wins at Newcastle under Jason Hart

ROUNDUP

... of the yard's January winners

be pushed out to score by two and a half lengths from Montecristo Gold, with Muy Barato a similar distance back in third.

Desert Raider is out of the Danehill mare Sahara Sky who has produced six winners in the paddocks, including the Phoenix Stakes (Group 1) winner Dick Whittington, by Rip Van Winkle, and the Hong Kong winner, Winning Ways, by Lope De Vega.

The third winner of the month was **Love De Vega**, who turned in a game performance in a Chelmsford City handicap on January 11.

A five-year-old, the Lope De Vega entire, owned by Mick Doyle's Crone Stud Farms Limited, had three early season runs as a juvenile, scoring in a Nottingham novice event, and won again as a three-year-old. He won twice the following year.

In recent weeks, Love De Vega has been in good form, finishing second at Chelmsford in December and at Kempton on January 3. He was one of seven runners for the seven-furlong handicap at Chelmsford on January 11. Kevin Stott was in the saddle.

Love De Vega was quickly away and led from Ultramarine and Razzam. Turning for home he continued to hold sway, but both Ultramarine and Revolutionise came with strong runs on his outer in the straight. Showing admirable resolution, he held on to score by half a length from Ultramarine, with Revolutionise finishing the same distance back in third.

Love De Vega is out of the once-raced Motivator mare, Ribble, a half-sister to the Al Quoz Sprint winner The Right Man, also by Lope De Vega.

One of the yard's well-bred unraced three-year-olds made an ideal start to his racing career at Wolverhampton on January 16. Owned and bred by Ballylinch Stud, **Sindoriyno** landed a maiden over a mile and half a furlong, coming from off the pace to collar the favourite in the closing stages.

The Footstepsinthesand colt faced eight rivals, all aged three, all of whom had run at least once, and was ridden by David Probert.

Sindoriyno raced back in fifth place as first Jaunty Dancer and then



Desert Raider wins at Lingfield under Rossa Ryan

Budding led the field. Making a little progress into fourth, Sindoriyno still had a lot to do turning for home, but the debutant stayed on relentlessly in the closing stages to catch and collar the favourite, Pagliacci, in the final strides. At the post, the colt had won by a head with the third horse, Bas Bleu, almost three lengths away in third.

A full brother to the stable's Group 3 Anglesey Stakes winner, Marie's Diamond, and from the family of Sinndar, Sindoriyno is the seventh foal, all winners, out of the Kalinisi mare, Sindiyma. Sindiyma won a Fairyhouse maiden over a mile and a half for the Aga Khan at three, and was a half-sister to the Listed Lingfield Oaks Trial winner, Sindirana.

The Coolmore stallion, Footstepsinthesand, whose greatest hour came when he won the 2005 renewal of the 2,000 Guineas, has produced seven individual Group 1/Grade 1 winners to date. Given such a pedigree, the colt looks likely to improve for time and distance, and his run here must be regarded as highly encouraging.

David Probert was clearly impressed.

'He was still quite raw,' the winning jockey told the Klarion after the race, 'but the penny dropped in the straight and he's a nice prospect going forward. Being closely related to Marie's Diamond, he's very well bred.'

IT's hard to think of a more consistent performer among the Johnston Racing string than the four-year-old gelding, **Artisan Dancer**. Since chalking up a hat-trick of wins in August and September of last year, the Mastercraftsman gelding, owned by The Makyowners, had run nine times, finishing second five times, third three times and outside the frame just once.

From the beginning of his hat-trick sequence, Artisan

Dancer's official rating had risen from 57 to 72, the mark off which he raced at Newcastle on January 27. Versatile as to distance, Artisan Dancer had last run over a mile and three-quarters at Wolverhampton eight days earlier. Experiencing traffic problems more or less throughout, the gelding kept on well to finish second to Palace Boy.

At Newcastle, Artisan Dancer dropped back in trip to Gosforth Park's stiff mile and a half. A field of seven runners went to post for the handicap event, with Artisan Dancer being one of the three three-year-olds taking on some older horses. Jason Hart was on board.

It turned out to be an exciting race to watch. As Carlton led the favourite, King Viktor, in the opening stages Jason was in no hurry and settled Artisan Dancer towards the rear, settling him in sixth place of the seven runners.

He made good headway with two furlongs to race and, travelling strongly, he took the lead from King Viktor inside the final furlong, stretching clear in the final half-furlong to score by two and a quarter lengths from It's A Love Thing.

This was a comfortable success for the gelding who has now won four races, all on different artificial surfaces. His consistency is, it seems, matched only by his versatility. Credit is also due to Jason Hart, who rode the gelding with poise and confidence.

Artisan Dancer is out of the Red Ransom mare Russiana, who was trained in France by Andre Fabre. She won over a mile at Longchamp on her sole juvenile start and was thrice Listed-placed at three at Longchamp and Chantilly.

In the paddocks, she has produced no fewer than seven individual winners, including two full-brothers to Artisan Dancer in the Listed winner, Esteve, and the Listed-placed, Rudimental. ■