



THE KINGSLEY KLARION

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The Johnston Racing Magazine



Dear My Friend takes Listed

FOLLOWING UP on his New Year's Day success at Newcastle, Dear My Friend landed the second Listed win of his career when landing the Tandridge Stakes at Lingfield on February 4.

The Pivotal gelding, owned in partnership by Middleham Park Racing and Michael Lai, had bounced back from wind surgery and being gelded to score in great style over a mile at Newcastle, and the Listed race at Lingfield was seen as a suitable opportunity to determine whether he could reproduce that level of ability away from Gosforth Park.

Five runners went to post and Joe Fanning took the ride. On breaking from the stalls Joe sent the gelding immediately into the lead, tracked by Nine Tenths and Bopedro.

Approaching the home bend, Nine Tenths appeared outpaced and that impression was confirmed in the straight when Dear My Friend, once shaken up by Joe, quickened clear and came home unchallenged, scoring by a length and three-quarters from Nine Tenths with Diderot finishing half a length back in third.

This was another impressive win for Dear My Friend whose success maintained the gelding's unbeaten record on all-weather surfaces. Winning jockey Joe Fanning was impressed by the run.

'He can be a little keen so I was going to take a lead,' he said.

'But I couldn't see any pace in the race so I thought if he settled in front I would let him bowl along.

'There was a fair headwind, so that was a good performance and he loved

it.'

MPR's Mike Prince was equally delighted to see the four-year-old follow up on his Newcastle success.

'The wheels are firmly back on,' he said after the race.

'Dear My Friend was an exciting sort when he won the Listed Burradon last year, but ultimately he needed his wind doing and he needed gelding. As we went through the season it became more apparent.

'He looks like he's improving now and he's pretty versatile in terms of his racing because he came from behind at Newcastle.'

THE plan remains to target the gelding at the valuable mile championship race at the All Weather Championships Finals Day at Newcastle on Good Friday, March 29. ■