

# Meet the youngsters

**In the first of a two-part series, John Scanlon takes a look at some of the young horses forming part of Johnston Racing's juvenile team in 2024.**

**W**ITH THE onset of the Flat turf racing season just a few weeks away, it won't be too long before many of the yard's two-year-olds make their debuts on the racecourse.

Last year, Nurlan Bizakov owned our leading juvenile in Sacred Angel, who won the Group 3 Princess Margaret Stakes before running a huge race when finishing third in the Group 1 Cheveley Park Stakes. This year, Mr Bizakov will be represented by **Dash Dizzy**, a bay colt by Wootton Bassett out of the Oasis Dream mare, Dream The Blues.

It was 14 years ago that Wootton Bassett landed the Group 1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere at Longchamp to seal the title of Champion 2yo colt in France in 2010, the highlight of his racecourse career. The son of Ifraaj has since proved to be hugely successful at stud for Coolmore, having produced Group 1 winners of the calibre of Almanzor, King Of Steel and Bucanero Fuerte. By my reckoning, his progeny have won four Group or Grade 1 juvenile races to date.

Dream The Blues raced only once, winning her maiden over six furlongs at Redcar. In the paddocks, she has produced several winners, notably Sioux Nation (by Scat Daddy), winner of the Norfolk and Group 1 Phoenix Stakes as a juvenile, and the multiple Listed-placed Alabama (by No Nay Never).

Dash Dizzy is a graduate of the Arqana August Yearling Sale, where he was acquired for a reported €300,000. A January foal, one would hope to see Dash Dizzy on the racecourse in the first half of the season.

The Around The World Partnership, longstanding owners with Johnston Racing, will this season be represented by a Sea The Moon colt out of a Group 3-winning and Classic-placed mare. At Book 2 of Tattersalls October Yearling Sale, Johnston Racing acquired a bay colt by **Sea The Moon** out of the Acclamation mare, **Daban**, for 13,000gns.

Unbeaten as a juvenile, Sea The Moon really burst on to the international racing scene with a sensational performance in the Deutsches Derby at Hamburg, when he routed his field by 11 lengths. His only career defeat came in the Grosser Preis von Baden, a top Group 1 race, when he finished second to the year-old Ivanhowe. At stud, he has already produced Group 1 winners in Alpine Star, Fantastic Moon, Durston and Muskoka, and he was Champion Sire in Germany last year.

After landing a Kempton maiden on her sole juvenile start, Daban lifted the Group 3 Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket before finishing a decent third to Winter in the 1,000 Guineas itself. Herself a half-sister to the Goodwood Group 3 winner, Thikriyaat (by Azamour), Daban has produced one winner from her two runners to date, namely Nigwa, by Sea The Stars, who won a maiden over a mile and a quarter at Ripon.

The familiar red, white and blue colours of owner Dougie Livingston will be carried this year by a **Cracksman** filly out of the Showcasing mare, **Conselice**.

The bay filly, an early May foal, was bought at Book 1 of Goffs Orby Sale last autumn for €48,000.

A son of Frankel, Cracksman won eight of his 11 races, landing the Coronation Cup, two renewals of the Champion Stakes and the Prix Ganay at the highest level. He was crowned Champion 3yr old colt in Europe in 2017, and Champion Older Horse in Europe in 2018. He made a decent start to his stud career, producing winners such as Dance In The Grass and Crackovia in his early crops, but his stud record moved to a different level last year when his Ace Impact landed the Prix du Jockey Club and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in an unbeaten three-year-old career.

The dam Conselice started her career in Italy, where she won four races, all over a mile, culminating in a smooth success in the Group 3 Premio Regina Elena, the Italian 1,000 Guineas. In

the paddocks, this filly is her third produce and, if the video of her on Goffs' website is anything to judge by, she looks an athletic mover.

Once again, Jaber Abdullah has supported the yard by sending a clutch of well-bred youngsters to race for him this term. Among them, acquired at the Goffs Orby Yearling Sale is the chestnut filly by **Australia** out of the Zamindar mare, **Crown Light**. Consigned by Tinnakill House Stud, this filly was foaled on March 2.

By Galileo out of that magnificent racemare Ouija Board, Australia won a Group 3 at two, before progressing to win the Derby and Irish Derby as well as the Juddmonte International at three. His Group 1 winners at stud include Broome, Order of Australia and Galileo Chrome, while our own Paul Dean's St Leger runner-up, Sir Ron Priestley, is among his scorers at Group 2 level. Other winners by Australia trained at Kingsley Park include Lord Lamington, Struth and Benacre.

A half-sister to the Group 1 Prix Vermeille winner, Bateel (by Dubawi), Crown Light was unraced. However, she has proved successful at stud, boasting five winners from her five runners to date. These include Claim The Crown (by Acclamation), a dual winner for Roger Varian who has also scored as a four-year-old in Australia, and Dornoch Castle (by Gleneagles), a dual juvenile winner last year for Johnston Racing in the colours of John Brown and Megan Dennis.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed has once again sent a draft of two-year-olds to be trained at Kingsley Park. One of the pedigrees to catch my eye belongs to his bay filly by **Too Darn Hot** out of the Shamardal mare, **Kazziana**, who was foaled on February 7.

The Champion Two-Year-Old colt in Europe in 2018 (Dewhurst and Champagne Stakes) and the Champion Three-Year-Old Miler in Europe in 2019 (Sussex Stakes and Prix Jean Prat), Too Darn Hot has made an impressive start to his stud career. Indeed, Darley claim that his feat of achieving four European Group-winning two-year-olds from his first crop has



**Dougie Livingston's Cracksman filly out of Conselice**

never been equalled. His Fallen Angel won the Group 1 Moyglare Stud Stakes, while Alyanaabi finished second to City Of Troy in the Group 1 Dewhurst Stakes.

As her name suggests, Kazziana is a daughter of Kazzia, Godolphin's winner of the 1,000 Guineas, Oaks and the Flower Bowl Invitational Stakes in 2002. That also makes her a half-sister to Eastern Anthem, the Sheema Classic winner who was beaten by a nose by Jukebox Jury in the 2009 renewal of the Preis von Europa. In the paddocks, Kazziana has produced one winner in Al Waqidi (by Dubawi), unbeaten in two minor races in 2021.

Lastly, those who remember the yard's bargain-buy Rose Of Kildare from a few years ago will no doubt be keen to watch the progress of the **Harry Angel** filly out of the Zoffany mare, **Silken Skies**, bought by Johnston Racing at Tattersalls December Yearling Sales for the princely sum of just 2,000gns last November.

A son of Dark Angel, Harry Angel won the Mill Reef Stakes as a juvenile before developing into a top-class sprinter at three, landing the Sandy Lane Stakes on the way to a July Cup and the Haydock Park Sprint Cup double. Now at stud under the Darley banner, Harry Angel has made an excellent start and enjoyed his first Group 1 winner, Tom Kitten, in Australia last October.

Opulence Thoroughbreds have snapped up this filly. She is out of the sprinter, Silken Skies, whose only win came over six furlongs at Haydock in a maiden fillies' event. In fact, this filly is a sister to Azure Angel, who has won four of her six starts, including off a mark of 89 in a six-furlong handicap at Newcastle last month. She's an intriguing prospect.

That concludes the first part of this feature. Next month we'll look at six more members of the Johnston Racing juvenile army for 2024. Please remember the horses we feature are simply those who have caught my eye in terms of pedigree or sales details. In no way should my comments be interpreted as horses to follow for betting purposes. ■



**Jaber Abdullah's Australia filly out of Crown Light**