

THOSE GOLDEN MOMENTS

This month JOHN SCANLON recalls July 2013, when Maputo led home a 1-2-3 for the yard in the Glasgow Stakes at Hamilton

ANYONE who follows racing will know how difficult it is to achieve success in a stakes race. First and foremost, it's hard enough to win a race of any description and I read somewhere recently that fewer than 1% of racehorses ever win a stakes race.

So when a racing yard dominates a particular stakes race to the extent of training not just the winner, but the second and third placed horses too, it's time to sit up and take notice.

For Johnston Racing, July 19, 2013 was just such a day, and the Glasgow Stakes at Hamilton just such a race.

The Glasgow Stakes was formerly run at York in May, where it was regarded as something of a trial for the Derby. Indeed, Sir Henry Cecil's Commander in Chief won both races in 1993, having to work hard in the Glasgow Stakes to defeat Needle Gun by a length.

Promoted to Listed status in 1999, the race was transferred to Hamilton in 2006 and since then it has been slightly extended in distance to 11 furlongs, switched to a mid-July date and reopened to fillies. It has also attracted high-class horses such as Postponed (2014) and Defoe (2017).

The 2013 renewal of the race attracted a field of just five runners, following the withdrawal of Alwilda. The yard sent three horses to contest the race. Alta Lilea was a Galileo filly, owned by Sue and Jennifer Bianco, who had already won three times before lining up at Hamilton. She stayed well, and had won twice over a mile and a half earlier that year.

Mister Impatience was a promising colt by Hernando owned by The Originals. A winner at Doncaster in March, he

had finished second to the subsequent Derby winner, Ruler of The World, in the Chester Vase in May.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed's Maputo completed the trio. An imposing colt by Cape Cross, Maputo was rapidly improving and was the winner of four of his five races as a three-year-old, the only blip in his record coming at Royal Ascot where he finished down the field in the Britannia Handicap.

The opposition included Mick Channon's Cruck Realta, a Sixties Icon filly who had won a Fillies' Listed race at Newbury on her penultimate start before contesting the Group 1 Pretty Polly Stakes last time out. She will be known to many as the dam of a certain filly called Rose of Kildare!

The race itself worked out perfectly for the Kingsley Park trio. Making the most of her proven stamina, Alta Lilea dictated the pace, tracked by Mister Impatience, with Maputo content to race

in third, stalked by Cruck Realta.

Having made smooth progress to join Alta Lilea two from home, Maputo, who had never previously raced beyond a mile and a quarter, took some time to put the race to bed, but eventually stayed on well to score by a length and a quarter from Alta Lilea, while Mister Impatience battled on hard to hold Cruck Realta to land the stable 1-2-3.

MAPUTO, whose victory gave Mark his fifth success in the race and jockey Joe Fanning his third, went on to land the Royal Whip Stakes, Group 3, at the Curragh before being transferred to Godolphin.

The Johnston/Fanning axis scored again in the race through Dr Jim Walker's Subjectivist last year, and are both now poised just one winner behind the race record holders, Sir Michael Stoute and Pat Eddery, on six and four wins respectively. ■



Maputo and Joe Fanning win the Glasgow Stakes