

Back In The Red back in winner's circle

WOLVERHAMPTON

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BACK IN THE RED, who has been in the grip of the handicapper since the summer, put himself back in credit when finishing strongly under John Egan to touch off Diminuto in the 5f handicap.

The gelding, who is trained by Ron Harris for Mrs Ruth Serrell, went up a stone for two turf wins in August, and it is only now that he has slipped back to a mark which makes him fully competitive again. He needed to be at his best to overcome an unfavourable draw, and showed a good attitude under pressure to snatch the prize close home.

"He's a tough little chap when he's given a chance," said Harris of the winner, "but he was slaughtered after his two wins and it disheartened him for a while. He's been unlucky with the draw on his last few starts and didn't have the best of it tonight, but a field of nine gave him the chance to get into it and he battled on well."

Trainer Michael Wigham was keen to give much of the credit for Confidentiality's run of victories - she completed a quick hat-trick when taking the 1m1f handicap - to the filly's rider Nicky Mackay, who has ridden the Irish import to two of her three successes.

"Nicky prepared the filly when she came to me and pointed us in the right direction with her," said Wigham. "He told us what trip to run her over and got her ready to run. He's a bright lad who'll go far - Mr Cumani has obviously taught him well."

As for Confidentiality, Wigham will take a little while to weigh up his options after the filly's three wins in ten days. "We'll sleep on it before deciding where to go next," he said, "but she'll get ten furlongs and will make up into a nice jumper in time."

Desert Clover was a warm order on his racecourse debut in the 7f juvenile maiden, the Paul Cole-trained colt being backed from 13-8 to 5-4, and the newcomer did not disappoint as he made all under Richard Quinn.

"He had a few niggling problems early in the year but had been working nicely at home recently and we fancied him to win," said Cole's travelling head groom John Jennings. "But there's only so much you can do at home and he needed to show it on the track. He was a bit green at the end and will come on a lot for the race." Dancing Deano, trained by Reg Hollinshead and ridden by Russell Kennemore, just got the better of Sion Hill in the 7f conditions event. However, was banned for three days (December 3-5) for using his whip above shoulder height.

Carcinetto, trained by David Evans and ridden by Tom McLaughlin, made it three wins from her last four starts when getting the better of dead-heaters Cornus and Coleorton Dancer in the 6f handicap.

Star performance

Confidentiality completed her hat-trick in good style in the 1m1f handicap