

BLOODSTOCK WORLD



By Nancy Sexton

A SON of leading first-season sire Lope De Vega stole the show at the Tattersalls December Yearling Sale in Newmarket yesterday when selling to Charlie Gordon-Watson for 325,000gns.

The price was the highest at the auction since 2006 and provided the highlight of a solid day of trading during which seven yearlings sold for six figures.

Gordon-Watson, acting on behalf of Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum, had to outbid Alastair Donald of SackvilleDonald for the sale-topper, who had missed his engagement at Book 1 of the Tattersalls October Sale.

Bred and sold by Round Hill Stud, he is out of the winning Unbridled's Song mare Princess Serena and boasts a particularly active family as a three-parts brother to Puisseance De Lune, a dual Group 2 winner in Australia last year, and half-brother to the dam of Coronation and Moyglare Stud Stakes winner Ritzeena.

"He's going to Luca Cumani," said Gordon-Watson. "Obviously Lope De Vega has done incredibly well and you have Ritzeena on the page. He's a three-parts brother to Puisseance De Lune and, who knows, perhaps this horse will head to Australia one day."

Gordon-Watson and Cumani also struck at 140,000gns for a Shamardal colt closely related to this year's Singapore Airlines International Cup winner Dan Excel. Initially unsold in the

Gordon-Watson digs deep for son of Lope De Vega

ring at 95,000gns, the Church View Stables offering later changed hands in a private transaction.

"Shamardal has worked well with the family before and he looks a straightforward type," said Gordon-Watson. "He has phenomenal resale value if everything goes right."

Demi O'Byrne, acting on behalf of the Coolmore team, went to 240,000gns to secure a High Chaparral colt sold by breeder Ballygallon Stud through Jamie Raitlon. A half-brother to five winners, including the Group 3-placed War Is War, he is out of Group 3 winner Walkanna.

"He reminded me a lot of High Chaparral," said O'Byrne, who bought the Derby winner for 270,000gns at Tattersalls in 2000. "He moves like him – he's a quality horse. He's for the usual team and we're delighted to have him."

A Sea The Stars granddaughter of Rothmans International winner Infamy will join Ed Dunlop after selling for 165,000gns to Luke Lillingston. The filly, out of minor winner

Meeyouthee, by Sadler's Wells, was a 130,000gns pinhook by Chantal Regalado-Gonzalez and sold yesterday through The Castlebridge

high-class filly – a very special filly by a very special stallion. Let's hope she's another high-class racehorse for her owner." A Galileo colt from the family of Prix de l'Opera heroine We Are

could join his brother, the unbeaten two-year-old Giuseppe Piazzi, in Andre Fabre's yard following his 150,000gns sale to Blandford Bloodstock, while Hugo Merry signed at 140,000gns

for a Sea The Stars filly closely related to My Titania. In keeping with Tattersalls' other yearling sales this year, the December Yearling Sale returned an improved set of figures from 2013. All told, 161 lots changed hands for a total of 4,573,700gns, up 28 per cent from 2013 and a figure second only to that recorded in 2006. The average improved 15 per cent to 28,408gns and the median rose 20 per cent to 18,000gns. The auction resumes at 9.30am tomorrow with the opening session of the foal sale.

WITH FAME COMES FORTUNE

Famous Name - First crop foals selling this week

- Winner of €1.5 million
- Won or placed in 35 out of 37 Stakes races
- Gr.1 form at 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 years
- Finished a nose second in (Gr.1) French Derby
- 2015 fee: €4,000
- Retired sound of wind and limb having covered over 40 miles at racing speed
- Highest rated Dansili at stud in Ireland
- First foals at Goffs last week sold for €105,000, €35,000, €31,000...



Charlie Gordon-Watson: buyer of