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# **Native strikes to land Solario**

Unbeaten two-year-old Native Khan passed his first serious test in the Alexis Catchpole Celebration Solario Stakes at Sandown.

Ed Dunlop's grey made waves with an impressive debut victory at the Newmarket July meeting and was ridden confidently by Eddie Ahern, although he had a moment of worry two furlongs from home when stuck in a hole behind horses.

But he squeezed the 6-5 favourite through in good time and he stretched nicely to the front to defeat Measuring Time by half a length.

While there have been plenty of subsequent underachievers among former winners of the Solario, horses like Raven's Pass and Oh So Sharp went on to great success and Dunlop is now considering a handful of Group One options for Native Khan.

He said: "He did it well considering it was a little bit of a messy race. We were in jail, but Eddie got us out and he will have learned a lot from it.

"He won't have a heavy campaign, maybe one or two more races, but it will be a big one. He's in the Dewhurst, the Racing Post Trophy and the Grand Criterium, which as he is French-bred, we will consider."

Ahern was also impressed, adding: "It wasn't that easy as there was no pace early on. It was only his second run so I didn't want to go round the outside. He has a big future ahead of him, he will have learned a lot and he's a good horse.

"When he was in behind he was travelling really well. He picked up and went away, but he was looking at the photographers up the hill. If they had come at him he'd have gone again, and the turn of foot he showed at Newmarket you would have seen again had there been some pace on."

Native Khan was trimmed to 25-1 from 33s by William Hill for next year's 2000 Guineas.

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