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Sea sets sail for Champion test

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Mark Johnston reports Sea Lord to be in tip-top condition ahead of his step up to Group One company in the Tattersalls Millions Irish Champion Stakes.

The Cape Cross colt is enjoying a fantastic campaign with lucrative handicap wins at the Curragh, Newmarket and Goodwood, followed by a narrow success over weekend winner Poet's Voice in Group Three company at Salisbury.

He was supplemented for Saturday's feature at a cost of 75,000 euros but his trainer is under no illusions about the task ahead as the three-year-old faces the prospect of tackling the likes of Rip Van Winkle and Twice Over.

"He's in good form. We've done this a couple of times this year - supplemented horses for big races - and touch wood, he seems very well," said Johnston.

"It's a big leap for him and we can't take it for granted that he is up to Group One level, but it seems the right progression for him at this stage. He had a number of targets but we decided on this one."

It will also be Sea Lord's first run beyond a mile this weekend but Johnston believes there is enough evidence to suggest the 10 furlongs will not be a problem.

"The breeding on his dam's side suggests he could be better over a mile and a quarter and his style of running is very laid back," the Middleham handler continued.

"Kieren Fallon rode him last time and he said he could be better over a mile and a quarter."

He's by Cape Cross and although he was a miler himself, we've seen he is capable of producing horses with stamina. He hasn't raced on anything other than fast ground this year, but we know he'll handle that fine."

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