

**MOLL COZY DUBLIN WINNER STRETCHING ON TURF FOR PADDY TWOMEY
FILLY WINS IN HAND, BUT NOBODY FOOLED BY CLOSENESS OF VICTORY
TRAINER PONDERING OPTIONS GOING FORWARD IN LIGHT OF NEW RATING**



The new and improved version of Moll duly came through as advertised by Paddy Twomey when she cozily won a mid-level handicap at Leopardstown Sunday. Not only was she able to flash as little of her brilliance as possible and still win, but she tried to fool the Official Handicapper in the process.

“The game in the British Isles is unlike the game currently played in America,” explained Barry Irwin. “Claiming races are limited and unpopular over there. So the only way to classify horses is to have the Official Handicap rate each horse after every race.

“If you don’t have a black-type horse, you must participate in handicap races and the best way to gain an edge legally is to get your horse to win without exposing too much of it to the handicapper. If a horse wins a handicap by 6 lengths, instead of the trainer being regaled as he would in the United States, the horseman instead would be looked upon as a fool because the end result is his horse will be penalized with so much weight for the win that it likely would be uncompetitive for a long, long time.” Moll earned a very modest 72 mark in breaking her maiden at Dundalk. For Sunday’s race she was only raised to 76, which gives Twomey several options in spotting her going forward, as he can run her back against modest company in yet another handicap.

“Bill Lee did a perfect job on her,” Twomey said. “He told me that he thought he might have allowed her to hit the front too soon, because she has a tendency to pull herself up and prick her ears, which is precisely what she did, but she was so much the best, she won anyway. The winning margin was half a length but it could have been anything Billy wanted.

“Look: I firmly believe that by the end of the season this filly will be capable of racing against the tops in her division. Having said that, she still is very raw and very much the unfinished article in terms of

being race wise. So let's have a think and decide whether we want to immediately go for black type, which is my normal way, or if we should take advantage of our good fortune and keep winning smaller races while the filly learns the game better."

Moll, because a "good thing" always gets out, was pounded in the early betting from 20-to-1 to 8-to-1 down the 2-to-1 favoritism. For a while a Ballydoyle inmate with one weak race was all the rage and was bet down to favoritism, but she faded to 5-to-1 and ran way down the pike. Moll's winning margin was half a length ahead of the fast-closing Marchons Ensemble, a consistently competitive and generally runs to an 82 handicap mark and has been as high as 84.

Barry Irwin said "I was happy. It was a very clever ride and win. We have ourselves a Group winner in the making by a tremendously successful sire in Camelot."