

# Admiral Kitten<sup>(USA)</sup>

*Kitten's Joy – Reacinforthestars by Grand Slam*

**Kitten's Joy isn't exactly a household name in South Africa, so it's worth reproducing his story as told by Timeform in the 2016 essay of Admiral Kitten's close relative Hawkbill.**

"Hawkbill is the first Group One winner in Britain sired by Kitten's Joy, winner of the Secretariat Stakes and Joe Hirsch Turf Classic, and also an unlucky runner-up in the Breeder's Cup Turf as a 3yo, when he was named champion grass horse at the Eclipse awards (America's turf 3yos are generally inferior to their dirt contemporaries but the highclass Kitten's Joy ended the 3yo season with a Timeform rating of 128). Kitten's Joy had a bone-chip operation before embarking on a 4yo campaign in which a tilt at the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was said to have been on the agenda before a recurrence of his knee problems (he was second to Irish-trained Powerscourt in the Arlinton Million on his final start). Kitten's Joy's owners Ken and Sarah Ramsey had another highclass performer at the time, Breeder's Cup Classic runner-up Roses In May who went on to win the Dubai World Cup. The Japanese wanted to buy them both, but we decided to keep Kitten's Joy, though nobody seemed to want to breed to a long-winded turf horse. So to keep Kitten's Joy we used the money from Roses In May to acquire broodmares to get him started', recounts Ken Ramsey. Some of the mares purchased by the Ramseys were procured from claimers, and the Ramsey mares accounted for the bulk of those who visited Kitten's Joy in his first season. His first runners didn't set the world on fire – 'we broke down three or four of them trying to get them to sprint four and a half furlongs on dirt' – but he had fourteen stakes winners in his second crop and eleven in his third. Among them those resilient Ramsey homebreds, the Breeder's Cup Sprint winner Bobby's Kitten (who won a Listed race at Cork in the latest season for Dermot Weld before being sidelined by injury, and retired to stand at Lanwades in Newmarket) and the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic winner Big Blue Kitten. Many big turf races in North America have a 'kitten' in them nowadays and Kitten's Joy has become the perennial leading turf sire over there. The best performances of Hawkbill, Cymric and the smart French miler Tareef, among others, have given Kitten's Joy a foothold in Europe. Some notable European breeders, including The Queen, the Niarchos family, Juddmonte Farms and the Aga Khan have used him in recent seasons.'

**K**itten's Joy is a son of Sadler's Wells stallion El Prado, also sire of Medaglia d'Oro who is making waves in two hemispheres. Kitten's Joy stands at a fee of \$100k in 2017, while Medaglia d'Oro commands \$150k. With Galileo across the pond in Ireland, the world-wide influence of Sadler's Wells is truly staggering.

**Kitten's Joy is half brother to the dam of champion filly Dreaming Of Anna** (by Rahy; she's dam of Gr1 winner and sire Fast Anna, by Medaglia d'Oro). Their dam Kitten's First is by Roberto stallion Lear Fan.

The bottom female line traces to the mare Fly By Night, significant bottom-line ancestor also of Almahmoud, dam of Natalma (dam of Northern Dancer and 3rd dam of Danehill) and Cosmah (dam of Halo).

Kitten's First is kinbred through Lear Fan's 4th dam Baba Kenny (kin to Fly By Night). The next six bottom female line ancestors make up

a sequence of kinbreds, who all link with the bottom-line of their sires to Fly By Night's dam Dazzling.

**Kitten's Joy's highest rated son Hawkbill** (Timeform 125 and still in training for Godolphin in 2017) and his **7th highest rated Admiral Kitten** (Timeform 117) are close relatives. They have the same 4th dam, Ride The Trails, who gives kin-breeding 4x4 with Kitten's Joy's 3rd dam One Lane. Behind it is kin-breeding Danger Ahead x Portage (who is 3rd dam of Ride The Trails).

**Kitten's First's 4th dam Lady Beware also is 4th dam of Horse of the Year Spectacular Bid** (Bold Bidder), who is kinbred 4x4 Step Across x Lady Beware (where Step Across is 3rd dam of Bold Bidder). Spectacular Bid is close kin to another son of Bold Bidder, Del Sarto, whose grandam is Cosmah.

Bold Bidder is also found in the female line of Silvano, where he is sire of 3rd dam Beautiful

## PICK OF THE BUNCH

*Suitable mares for  
Admiral Kitten could include*

- **Descendants from his own female line**, notably Fort Wood, as well as Cozzene (Noordhoek Flyer, Jackson), Laramie Trail;
- **Kin-links through his bottom female line**, notably Ride The Trails, leading to Bold Bidder (Silvano, Del Sarto, The Sheik, Spectacular Bid, Mount Hagen, Admire Main), Cequillo (Go Deputy, Fappiano)
- **Kin-links through Kitten's Joy bottom female line**, incl Cosmah/Halo (widespread - notably Rahy, Singspiel, Rakeen, Giant's Causeway), Natalma (widespread – notably Danehill)
- **Sadler's Wells** (widespread - notably Fort Wood), **Nureyev** (widespread - notably Theatrical)
- **Plum Cake** (Plum Bold, Alydar), **Coastal, Slew O'Gold**

Spirit, who is kinbred 3x1 Stepping Stone x Baby La and 4x4 Step Across x Starshot. The latter two are kin to Lady Beware, while Baby La is close kin the Ride The Trails.

The dams of Hawkbill and Admiral Kitten are kinbred through the bottom female line.

Admiral Kitten's dam Reacinforthestars is 5x5 Plum Cake x Blue Canoe, while Hawkbill's dam Trensa is 4x4 Imsohear x Wildwook & 5x6 Ironically x Portage (Blue Canoe is out of Portage, and is dam of Wildwook, who got Ride The Trails).

In the South African context Portage could be significant. She is the 3rd dam of Fort Wood, who is by Sadler's Wells.

Hawkbill's grandam, G1 winner Serape, is by Fappiano and kinbred 4x2 Cequillo x Ride The Trails (Cequillo's grandam Hostility is close kin to Danger Ahead).

**Kitten's Joy's G1 Turf Classic** winner Divisidero has as 3rd dam the mare Miznah, who is by Sadler's Wells out of a daughter of Cosmah – and consequently very close kin to Kitten's Joy.

The third dam of **Kitten's Joy's multiple Gr1** winner Real Solution is a half sister by Northern Dancer to stallions Coastal and Slew O'Gold.

**Kitten's Joy's G1 Breeder's Cup Juvenile Turf winner Oscar Performance** has a 3rd dam who is by Slew O'Gold out of a mare by Bold Reason (also damsire of Sadler's Wells). Oscar's dam is by Theatrical (by Sadler's Wells 3-part brother Nureyev), who is half brother to the 3rd dam of Kitten's Joy's Gr1 Breeder's Cup Sprint winner Bobby's Kitten.

**Kitten's Joy's G1 Hollywood Derby** winner Chiropractor is out of a mare by Theatrical.

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