

Flying The Flag (IRE)

Galileo – Halfway To Heaven by Pivotal

A glance at the Sire-lines summary in the back of this book gives food for thought. There are 110 stallions listed for the 2016 breeding season. Of these, 107 are from the Phalaris male line, with 82 coming through Phalaris, Pharos, Nearco. To go one step further, 63 stallions have Nearco through Nearctic, Northern Dancer. Meaning that some 75% of stallions standing in South Africa are from the Nearco male line, and well over 50% descend from Northern Dancer.

This must be disconcerting for those who believe in the importance of male-line dominance in athletic performance. Nature would simply not allow such a concentration of power to occur.

Now female lines - that's different!

Endless opportunity for randomness there, the kind of thing nature thrives on.

That said, interplay between similarly constructed pedigrees with common elements can certainly create advantages. Usually there's a significant female line ancestor (SigAnc) involved, whose collective pedigree elements permuate through subsequent generations to create excellence.

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable lines for Flying The Flag could include

- multiples of Northern Dancer and Mr Prospector, combined (widespread, notably Machiavellian);
- Missy Baba female line descendants, incl Lassie Dear descendants, widespread, notably Duke Of Marmalade;
- Dalmary female line descendants, incl Nureyev, Sadler's Wells (notably Dynasty), Fairy King, Golden Thatch, Thatching, Lorenzaccio (Ahoonora), etc;
- Blue Peter, as in Model Man (incl descendants of his dam Top Model)), or in Princely Gift (Divine Force, Dominion Royale, Lavery, Tara's Halls, Right Approach, King's Chapel, Lavery, etc.);
- Forli (widespread, notably Special in Sadler's Wells, Nureyev);
- Lavendula (Perfume), widespread; combined with Tourbillon (incl My Babu, Ambiorix); combined with Sadler's Wells in Dynasty;
- Right Approach;
- Fappiano, Unbridled;
- Flying The Flag's female line descendants (Stravinsky, Royal And Regal, Regal And Royal, Dowsing, Jam Alley, Grey Eminence; etc.).

Cassandra Go, the product of two King's Stand winners, visted a third winner of that race, Pivotal. The result was a filly, Halfway To Heaven – winner of three Gr1 races including the Irish 1000 Guineas, and third in the French equivalent. Pivotal is a grandson of Nureyev, who is by Northern Dancer out of Special. The latter is by Forli, whose grandam Veneta gives close kinbreeding in Special, going to Dalmary in the bottom line of Special. Both Veneta and Dalmary are kin to Blue Peter, sire of Blue Smoke in Flying The Flag's female line. Blue Smoke is closely kinbred through Fancy Free x Straitlace, while Veneta is closely kinbred Straitlace x Dogaresa. As an aside, Straitlace is grandam of stallion Rio Preto, who left a minor legacy in South Africa.

If Special is significant in Northern Dancer's son Nureyev, then she may also be that in Sadler's Wells – also by Northern Dancer, out of a half sister to Nureyev. Sadler's Wells sired Galileo, sire of Flying The Flag. Galileo also sired Gr1 winner Photo Call, whose dam is half sister to Flying The Flag. Two half sisters to Verglas both got stakes winners from matings to Galileo.

A final observation about the coincidences in female line kinbreeding. Compare the pedigrees of Rip Van Winkle, the Gr1 son of Galileo and himself a Gr1 producing stallion, to that of Flying The Flag, also by Galileo.

The dam of Rip Van Winkle is Looking Back. She's by Stravinsky, a son of Nureyev. Stravinsky's grandam Prospector's Fire is by Mr Prospector out of Native Street. The dam of Looking Back is by Don't Forget Me, a son of Ahoonora (the sire of Indian Ridge).

Really.

The SigAnc of Flying The Flag appears to be the mare Native Street, by Native Dancer out of Beaver Street, by My Babu.

Beaver Street is closely kinbred, through Lavendula x Blue Peter. The elements from the pedigree of Blue Peter, winner of the Derby and 2000 Guineas, are the glue which holds together the pedigrees of Beaver Street, her dam Wood Fire, and her grandam Blue Smoke (by Blue Peter).

Blue Smoke is kinbred 2x2 Fancy Free x Straitlace, and through that Blue Peter finds himself close kin to a number of influential females – including Lavendula, Mumtaz Begum, Plucky Liege, Veneta, Dalmary.

Beaver Street is by My Babu (Tourbillon x Lavendula) and is very close kin to Missy Baba, whose female line leads to Lassie Dear descendants, including Lassie's Lady (who is close kin to Native Street) – dam of Duke Of Marmalade.

Beaver Street, a first foal, was unplaced in eight starts at two and three in England. Exported to the USA, she had thirteen foals there, twelve of which ran, all winners. The best of these, by some way, were Native Street and full sister Street Dancer, both by Native Dancer.

It is this at first glance odd combination of American and English pedigrees of sire and dam that makes for fireworks. The parents give kinbreeding in Native Street through bottom-line ancestors La Grisette (from Native Dancer) with (in Beaver Street) Straitlace. This fits in with the earlier noted the kin-breeding in Beaver Street's grandam Blue Smoke (by Blue Peter), through Fancy Free and Straitlace.

The upshot of the combination is that Native Street's pedigree elements make her close kin to two major lines: the mare Natalma and her son Northern Dancer, and stallion Raise A Native and his son Mr Prospector.

Concentrating on the branch of the family from which Flying The Flag comes, Native Street's daughter Street's Glory (by Dr Fager) was mated to Mr Prospector to give Fager's Glory. The unraced Fager's Glory became the dam of Glory Forever, a Gr3 winner who was third in the French 2000 Guineas. Fager's Glory also bred a filly named Rahaam, by Secreto, a son of Northern Dancer. She has a treble of Native Dancer, two from her grandsires Northern Dancer and Mr Prospector, the third from Native Street. Fager's Glory, incidentally, is close kin to Fappiano and son Unbridled.

The floodgates opened with Rahaam. Among her classy descendants are Verglas, runner-up in the Irish 2000 Guineas, later a stallion. Interesting to note that Verglas, a grandson of Fager's Glory, was mated to Calithea, a granddaughter of Fager's Glory. Verglas and Calithea were very close kin – more so because their sires Secreto and Chief's Crown were both Northern Dancer on Secretariat mares. The outcome was Gr3 placed stakes winner Chill, who went on to produce a Gr2 placed stakes winner (by Duke Of Marmalade, now standing in South Africa, and whose dam Lassie's Lady was noted earlier as close kin to Native Street).

Rahaam also got King's Stand Stakes winner Cassandra Go, a late maturing top-class filly by King's Stand Stakes winner Indian Ridge. The latter is a son of Ahoonora, by Lorenzaccio (Lavendula x Dalmary). His female line SigAnc is the mare Sugar Hills, who is close kin to Blue Peter (as well as to that one's dam Fancy Free and grandam Celiba). Recall the earlier mentioned kinships of Blue Peter - including Lavendula, Mumtaz Begum, Plucky Liege, Veneta, Dalmary.