

Gimmethegreenlight (AUS)

More Than Ready – Yes She Can Cancan by Canny Lad

**It is rare for a mare to produce a Gr1 winner.
For her to produce more than one has statistically a chance close to zero.
So when two-time winning miler Yes She Can Cancan hit the boards with a Gr1 winning brother and sister following a stakes placed other sister, from just three runners by different sires, she caused a stir.
Something had to be going on in her pedigree.**

Yes She Can Cancan is one of four winners for her dam Dove Vai, and one of three full sisters and a 3-part sister. Dove Vai in turn is half sister to two stakes winning staying full brothers (who won 32 races between them), with the next dam Benbara Queen a 7-time winner who placed fourth in the Gr1 Australian One Thousand Guineas. Three generations further back is the mare Victory Piper, also the female line ancestor of Australian champion 3yo and 4yo filly (and Horse of the Year) Emancipation, whose granddaughter Virage de Fortune was champion 3yo filly in 2006.

In terms of female-line kin-breeding there are close similarities between these two branches of the female line.

The theory of female-line kin-breeding centres on interaction of female ancestors whose pedigrees contain a high proportion of the same elements. Kin-breeding in the general horse population is random – any representative sample will show that half are kin-bred, the other half not. Of the kin-bred half, less than 10% has kin-breeding 4x4 or closer.

Sampling of ‘better’ horses changes that pattern. Worldwide, as the quality increases, so does the incidence of kin-breeding, as well as the percentage of horses kin-bred 4x4 and closer. The threshold among randomly sampled stallions at stud, and premier-sale mares and yearlings, is about 70% kin-bred, with 25% at 4x4 or closer.

The killer category is that of champions from the last 50 years, of which a sample shows that 95% have dams who are kin-bred, with 80% of these dams kinbred 4x4 or closer. Often the grandams of these champions show similar kin-breeding, fol-

lowed by an unbroken chain of consecutive kin-bred ancestors stretching back far.

Kin-breeding appears to centre on significant female line ancestors, whose influence can last for many generations.

The table shows examples of the kin-breeding in a selection of champions (their sires’ kin-breeding added for interest):

Champions who are kinbred, and have kinbred dams and grandams

	horse	dam	gdam	vs.	sire	sire's dam
Seattle Slew	2x2	2x1	2x3		no	2x3
Roberto	2x2	2x3	4x4		3x3	2x2
Ribot	3x1	3x1	2x2		no	2x1
Mill Reef	3x3	3x3	3x2		3x4	no
Blushing Groom	2x2	2x2	3x2		no	no
Vaguely Noble	4x4	3x4	2x3		2x1	3x2
Dubai Millennium	2x3	3x2	2x1		4x3	3x2
Rachel Alexandra	3x4	4x3	3x1		4x5	6x5
Round Table	3x2	2x1	2x1		2x2	2x2

The common female line ancestor of earlier mentioned champions Emancipation and her granddaughter Virage de Fortune on the one hand, and Yes She Can Cancan on the other, is the mare Victory Piper (by Pipe of Peace out of Sweet Victory). Victory Piper remained a maiden, but became dam of Hartshill, the leading Australian 2yo of her year.

Victory Piper is kinbred 2x1 Red Briar (dam of Pipe of Peace) x Sweet Victory, and also 2x2 Red Briar x Victory Flight (dam of Sweet Victory).

This kin-breeding is extended in Yes She Can Cancan’s grandam Benbara Queen (stakes placed dam of two stakes winners). Benbara Queen is by Red Anchor, whose grandam Red Robe is full sister to Pipe Of Peace. Add lines from Red Anchor damsire Decoy Boy to those of his grandam Red Robe, and the dam of Red Anchor makes for kin-breeding with Victory Piper, 2x3 in Benbara Queen.

The significant female line ancestor in the female line is Victory Piper’s third dam Oriens,

a daughter of Hyperion, and herself kinbred 2x1 and 3x2, involving Hyperion’s dam Selene and grandam Serenissima. Victory Piper’s champion 2yo daughter Hartshill is kinbred 2x4 Alice Delysia (a daughter of Alycidon) x Oriens.

Now compare Emancipation. She’s a daughter of Betchingly, by Biscay. Betchingly is kinbred 3x2 Magic Wonder x Last Judgement. Both are kin to Victory Piper’s dam Sweet Victory. Magic Wonder and Sweet Victory are daughters of stallion Newtown Wonder, who appears a third time, in the pedigree of Emancipation’s damsire Gunsynd. The latter is close kin to Betchingly’s sire Biscay to boot.

Emancipation was mated to Kenmare, whose third dam Geifang Belle is close kin to the bottom-line pair of Red Briar and Sweet Victory (they are 2x1 in Victory Piper). The resulting mare Virage is dam of champion Virage de Fortune, by Anabaa, who gives remote kin-breeding through Oriens.

There’s an interesting parallel here with champion race filly Goldikova, who also is by Anabaa. Goldikova’s bottom female line goes to Tudor Gleam, who is 3-part sister to Red Briar (they are by Owen Tudor out of Infra Red, and Owen Tudor out of daughter of Infra Red). Tudor Gleam is very close kin to Sweet Victory and also to Victory Piper (who is 2x1 Red Briar x Sweet Victory). Goldikova’s dam and third dam are kinbred through Tudor Gleam, and in-between Goldikova’s grandam is kinbred through Infra Red (dam of Red Briar).

Whereas Emancipation is by Betchingly, Yes She Can Cancan is by Canny Lad, a son of Betchingly. Canny Lad is kinbred 3x2 Last Judgement x Beautiful Dreamer, who are both kin to Sweet Victory. This repeats the kin-links found in Emancipation.

Just as Anabaa gave kin-breeding through the female line’s significant ancestor Oriens, so does More Than Ready’s bottom female-line ancestor La Troienne go to Oriens is the mating with Yes She Can Cancan which gave Gimmethegreenlight. The links are remote, but significant.

Gimmethegreenlight’s Gr1 winning half sister Ofcourseican is by Mossman, whose fourth dam Margaret Ann is very close kin to Victory Piper.



Where from here

Victory Piper may well hold the key. Mares who have multiples of the close-up lines from her pedigree should be the ones to look out for.

Victory Piper's sire Pipe of Peace is by Supreme Court out of Red Briar, and kinbred 2x1 Forecourt x Red Briar and 3x2 Overture x Infra Red.

This gives an interesting link to Jallad, a son of Blushing Groom, from the Infra Red female line. Jallad is kinbred 3x3 Aimee x Ajasco, bottom-line grandams of sire and dam. Ajasco is out of a daughter of Llanstephan, the latter by Dante out of Gadabout, by Gainsborough out of Arabella. Dante's full brother Sayajirao and Arabella are in Victory Piper. In a nutshell, Jallad's kin-breeding of Aimee x Ajasco goes straight to Victory Piper. It is notable that the earlier mentioned champion Goldikova is out of a mare by Blushing Groom.

Jallad's female line is represented in South Africa, not only in champion Princess Victoria, but also in the mare Platinum Lass, who comes with a double, as she is by Jallad.

Blushing Groom is also found in Rainbow Quest, who is kin-bred 3x3 Aimee x Noblesse, both kin to Victory Piper and Red Briar. Rainbow Quest's son Saumarez is 4x4x1 Aimee x Noblesse x Fiesta Fun, who all link in the same way. Rainbow Quest's son Spectrum also fits the pattern. There will be others, with Blushing Groom as sire of females.

Red Briar's dam Infra Red is a daughter of Black Ray. This female line is not only the one of Blushing Groom, but also of

Khaled (kinbred 2x1 Selene x Éclair; sire of Swaps, who is kinbred 3x2x4 Selene x Éclair x Uncle's Lassie). Swaps is significant in the female line of Fort Wood, where he's sire of second dam Change Water.

Red Briar's three-part sister Red Ray is ancestress of Mill Reef.

Red Briar is the third dam of Bel Byou.

Also on the bottom-line of the pedigree is Victory Piper's daughter Lunar Queen. She's by Mount Hagen, whose second dam Sunset is kin to Red Briar and to Oriens. Mount Hagen stood for several years at Summerhill and can be found in SA female lines, as well as in the pedigrees of some major international sire-lines.

Supreme Court's female line of Overture (tracing to Pretty Polly) can be found in Preamble, Tara's Halls, Alan Adare – to mention but a few.



PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable lines for Gimmethegreenlight could include

1. Blushing Groom, notably Jallad (and his female line, the Petrava family), Rainbow Quest (Saumarez, Spectrum), and Blushing Groom as sire of females, etc.
2. Other Black Ray female line, notably Khaled (Swaps and other of his female line descendants, notably Green Desert; Change Water – as in female line of Fort Wood), Mill Reef (Shirley Heights), Bel Byou
3. Pretty Polly female line descendants, notably through Overture (Preamble, Tara's Halls, Alan Adare, etc.) – widespread
4. Soho Secret female line descendants
5. Multiples of Hyperion, Owen Tudor, Tudor Minstrel; Mixed Marriage (Court Martial, Abernant, etc - widespread)
6. Dante/Sayajirao (National Emblem, King of Kings, Derring Do (Dominion Royale, etc.)
7. La Troienne female line descendants (widespread), in combination with the above

What of the influence of Gimmethegreenlight's sire More Than Ready?

More Than Ready is sire of Gr1 winners, and in the South African context best known as sire of Breeders Cup Juvenile winner Pluck, bred by Varsfontein (where Gimmethegreenlight starts his stud career). Pluck, whose dam is by Fort Wood, comes from the Soho Secret female line, and is kinbred 4x4 Good Landing x Secret Landing (dam of Soho Secret), both mares daughters of First Landing. Gimmethegreenlight will no doubt get lines from this female line, which is interesting as his significant ancestor Oriens kin-links to the Soho Secret female line (through the mare Iona). It's remote, but looks significant.

There's also the fact that More Than Ready's dam Woodman's Girl is kinbred 2x2 Playmate x Good Landing, both mares tracing to La Troienne. To what extent kin-linking to La Troienne will assist Gimmethegreenlight may well depend on what other lines that famous mare is combined with.

VARSFONTEIN STUD

Stud master: Carl de Vos
Tel: 021 869 8238 • Cell: 082 800 8490
email: info@varsfontein.co.za

Enquiries: JOHN FREEMAN - Syndicate Manager
Tel: 021 418 0566. Fax: 021 418 0254.
Cell: 082 777 8117
email: john@johnfreeman.co.za