

Greys Inn (AUS)

Zabeel - Great Verdict by Christmas Tree

It is written that Zabeel managed 11 sire championships in Australasia. In itself a sound indication of the quality he transfers. But when the opposition is taken into account, and it emerges that Zabeel had to compete against world champion sire Danehill to get to the top, his performance gains in stature.

In 2006 his Hong Kong trained son Vengeance Of Rain got the world's attention, which he confirmed in 2007 with a big win in Dubai. From previous crops Zabeel had produced sires Octagonal and Might And Power. Octagonal went to stud in France and in 2006 had multiple Gr1 winner Laverock, rated Timeform 123. That's the same rating Timeform awarded Greys Inn for his efforts in Dubai and Hong Kong as a 4yo, following his three Gr1 wins at three in South Africa.

Zabeel's sire Sir Tristram has been one of the most influential sires in Australasia in modern times - even if during his days there wasn't the stiff competition from the shuttle stallion legion such as Zabeel has to compete with.

Foaled in Ireland in 1971, Sir Tristram started his stud career at a fee of NZ\$ 1250, with shares on offer at NZ\$4000. At a point later in his career his fee was NZ\$220,000, with shares changing hands for half a million and more.

Sir Tristram's best progeny show commonalities. A great many of them are out of mares by Sovereign Path, or out of mares with either Hyperion or Hyperion's three-part sister All Moonshine, or out of mares with Princequillo. Not surprisingly, perhaps, for Sir Tristram's dam Isolt carries the perfect matches for those. Isolt is by Round Table out of All My Eye, who was by My Babu out of All Moonshine - the latter a three-part sister to Hyperion. To complete the picture: Round Table is by Princequillo, and My Babu is by Djebel out of Perfume, the latter a genetic sibling to Nasrullah.

The top and bottom half of Sir Tristram's pedigree are very similar in their make-up. Turn To at the top, his genetic sibling Perfume down below. Princequillo at the top and at the bottom. Hyperion's dam Selene at the top and at the bottom. Interesting to note that Sir Tristram's sire Sir Ivor had a similar pattern, with his grandsire Turn To and damsire Mr Trouble consisting of matching elements.

An evaluation of Sir Tristram's best progeny shows that Hyperion is important, especially if it comes through Aureole, who shares his grandam with Round Table. The latter's sire Princequillo is dupli-

cated in Sir Tristram himself, and elements from his female line get picked up. Nasrullah siblings matter, especially Turn To (Royal Charger), Mahmoud.

With Sir Tristram's sire and dam pedigree-halves are so similar, building further on that might be a sensible approach.

A look at Zabeel's best progeny.

Australian Horse of the Year Might And Power is out of a mare by stallion Day Is Done. The latter is by Artaius out of a mare by Habitat, out of a mare by Aureole. In perspective: Artaius is by Round Table out of a mare by My Babu, out of a mare by Hyperion. Habitat is by Sir Gaylord. The bottom female line of Might And Power shows that his fourth dam is a daughter of All Moonshine.

Octagonal, also voted Horse of the Year, and his Champion 3yo full brother Mouawad are out of famous mare Eight Carat, who is closely inbred herself.

Vengeance of Rain is out of a mare by Danehill.

Five of the dams of Zabeel's Gr1 winners have sons (Pieces Of Eight) or grandsons (Vice Regal, Rockcross, Reliance) of Relic close up. Interestingly, Vice Regal is by Bismark, the latter by Relic out of a half sister by Wilwyn to Sing Sing and Contraband (Relic and Wilwyn can be found in the pedigree of the dam of sire Goldmark), while Rockcross is a 3-parts relative to Relko (sire of Royal Prerogative).

Other lines which appear repeatedly and could be of note are Dante (damsire of Tudor Melody) and Panorama (Sir Cosmo).

Zabeel's dam Lady Giselle never raced. She is by Nureyev out of a mare by Val de Loir, two sires who are from the same female line - the one that also produced Sadler's Wells, Fairy King, and to which Golden Thatch and Thatching are inbred.

Lady Giselle's dam Valderna is inbred to Sunny Boy. The latter, a grandson of Asterus (by Teddy) is inbred to 3x3 to Gainsborough.

Teddy plays a major role in the bottom pedigree: Valderna's own dam Derna has no less than four lines of Teddy - in fact, Derna, her dam Miss Barberie and the next dam Vaneuse are all individually inbred to Teddy.

Derna proved an exceptional broodmare, producing top fillies Detroit (Arc de Triomphe; TFR 131) and Durtal (2nd 1000 Guineas; TFR 121). Detroit was by Riverman, whose second dam is inbred 3x3 to Teddy, and whose sire Never Bend has Asterus in his female line.

Zabeel's influence as a sire of sires may well hinge on the pedigrees of Sir Tristram (Round Table, Nasrullah, Hyperion), or of Lady Giselle (Northern Dancer, the Rough Shod female line, Teddy). The earlier mentioned son of Octagonal, Laverock, is a son of the mare Sky Song (Sadler's Wells). Grandam Criquette is by Shirley Heights (Mill Reef), the next two damsires are Icecapade (a Northern Dancer genetic sibling) and Roberto. Which could point at Hail to Reason/Turn To, or Thong/Special - the dam of Sadler's Wells has both.

The damline of Greys Inn seems to connect to elements from Sir Tristram, who has much in common with Greys Inn's grandam Summoned. Sir Tristram's grandam All My Eye and Greys Inn's fourth dam Vanita are genetic siblings.

Interesting to note that Gr1 winner and sire Zeditave, who is a half brother to the dam of Greys Inn, has so much in common with his half sister that the pair can be regarded genetic siblings.

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Greys Inn could include

1. Mares with ancestors who have Hyperion affinities (widespread - incl Fort Wood; Rockefeller, Sharpen Up; etc, etc)
2. Mares with Danzig (Danehill, National Assembly, National Emblem, etc)
3. Mares with His Majesty/Graustark (Caesour)
4. Mares with Nanatallah (Thong, Special - leading to Sadler's Wells, Nureyev, Golden Thatch, etc.
5. Mares with Sir Ivor affinity group elements (Riverman, Mill Reef, Halo)
6. Mares with Royal Charger, Turn To, Hail to Reason (Bold Reason, Sadler's Wells); Mahmoud
7. Mares with Majestic Prince (Coastal, etc)

Where From Here

The most likely scenario is that the affinity of Greys Inn will follow that of Zabeel and Sir Tristram, and goes the Hyperion route. That makes Danzig/Danehill a useful cross, especially if some Bold Ruler can be added to enhance the GG-factors. In this context the spotlight falls on a half sister to the dam of Greys Inn, Pampas Fire. She has a daughter Summary (by Tierce, Sir Ivor line sire) who produced 2005 NZ champion 3yo Filly Shikoba. The youngster is by US sire Chief Bearheart, a son of Chief's Crown (Danzig x Secretariat by Bold Ruler) out of a mare by Bold Hour (Bold Ruler).

If, on the other hand, Greys Inn inherited some of the Nureyev affinities, Sadler's Wells becomes an option, as do the relatives with Nantallah (Special, Thong) in their pedigree. Fort Wood springs to mind here, as he's a son of Sadler's Wells and has Hyperion tendencies, inherited from his damline.