



Horse Chestnut

Fort Wood – London Wall by Col Pickering

The prodigal son has returned. Slaughter the fatted calf and let's celebrate! The time has come to support Horse Chestnut, 'our' Champion, the One Who Sailed for America to make a new beginning - but never quite got a proper chance. He had stakes winners from mares by sires whose names hardly ring a bell: Demons Begone, No Sale George, Polish Numbers, General Meeting, St Jovite. So much for breeding the best to the best. So let's see what he can do back home, with real support.

The best thing about Horse Chestnut's exploits in the US is that there's a lot of pedigree information available to see what makes him tick. Let's first sketch a background, though, about his own female family, and the way his sire Fort Wood makes out.

Fort Wood is a son of Sadler's Wells, whose damsire Bold Reason provides kin-links in Sadler's best progeny.

In Fort Wood the link is between Bold Reason and the bottom female line, through Fall Aspen & her dam Change Water.

Horse Chestnut (by Fort Wood) is kinbred 4x2(3) Bold Reason x Nalatale (Antalya), and 4x4x5x4 Bold Reason x Imitation x Khaled x Acropolis. Bold Reason is the distinguishing line for Fort Wood's sire Sadler's Wells, and seems to be doing his thing here as expected. Imitation and Khaled are 2x3 in Fort Wood's dam Fall Aspen.

It is important in this context to note (we'll see why later) that Khaled is the sire of Swaps, the latter kin to the mare Flower Bowl, dam of full brothers Graustark & His Majesty. Swaps is kinbred 3x2x3x4 Selene x Eclair x Cinna x Uncle's Lassie, Flower Bowl is kinbred 3x2x3x3 Selene x Teresina x Cinna x Kampala. They all link together.

Top runners from Horse Chestnut's immediate female line include West Wall/Rawl Plug, black-type full sisters by Plugged Nickle (both sisters are dams of SW's by Horse Chestnut's sire Fort Wood) and Sports Chestnut, by Sportsworld. Interesting to note that Plugged Nickle and Sportsworld are close relatives. They have the mare Missy Baba as their 2nd/3rd dam. They are by sires Key To The Mint (Graustark) and Alleged (Hoist The Flag), who are very much kin-related. This relationship involves the tried-and-

tested kin-lines of Romanella (dam of Ribot), Cosquilla (dam of Princequillo), Teresina (dam of Alibhai), Mahubah/Annette K. (the two grandams of War Admiral).

Following on from all this, there is interesting information to be drawn from the crops sired by Horse Chestnut in the US.

His best son to date is Gr1 winner *Lucifer's Stone*, whose dam is kinbred 4x4 Halo x Loboette (the latter his fourth dam). Loboette is by Good Counsel out of Chanderelle (who is 2x2 Swaps x Flower Bowl and kin to Fort Wood's grandam Change Water, while Chanderelle's dam Chandelle is also kin to Halo). In this pedigree Bold Reason (the notable one from Sadler's Wells), Halo and Good Counsel are all sons of Hail To Reason and all three are close kin.

Gr2 winner *Spanish Chestnut* is kinbred 5x3x4 Bold Reason x Nalatale x Never Bend (Bold Reason and Never Bend have the same dam). We find more of the same in English Gr3 placed *Chester le Street*, who is out of a mare by Dayjur, and kinbred 5x3x5x4 Bold Reason x Nalatale x Hail to Beauty x Never Bend.

Gr3 winner *Smart Enough* is kinbred 3x3 Fall Aspen x Numbered Account (dam of Polish Numbers) and 4x4x4 Change Water x Intriguing (dam of Numbered Account) x Cyane. Intriguing is a daughter of Swaps.

In the same camp as Smart Enough belongs *Tabacchi*, who finished 4th in the Gr1 Belmont Stakes. He is 3x3 Fall Aspen x Playmate (grandam of Woodman, and a full sister to Numbered Account, above, both daughters of Intriguing) and 5x4x5 Bold Reason x Antalya x Minaret (his fifth dam).

There's more. Like Tabacchi, Gr1/2/3 placed *Isipingo* is by Horse Chestnut out of a mare by

Woodman, and kinbred 3x3 Fall Aspen x Playmate. Isipingo's dam is out of Bravemie, a full sister to Miesque. Bravemie and Miesque are daughters of Pasodoble, who is kinbred Romanella x Teresina x Mahubah x Artist's Proof x Cosquilla. Shades of Alleged and Key To The Mint, noted earlier in Horse Chestnut's female line relatives.

Of interest will be Gr3 placed *Little Hussy*, whose dam is a daughter of Smart Strike. In South Africa Smart Strike's full brother Strike Smartly has grand record with Fort Wood mares. Little Hussy shows the relationship of Change Water to Classy 'n Smart, the dam of Smart Strike. Classy 'n Smart is kinbred 2x3 Cyane x Outing Class, who both are kin to Change Water – as in Fort Wood x Strike Smartly.

Stakes winner *Rough Road Ahead* is kinbred 3x2 Sadler's Wells x Waltzing Empress (his grandam); Rough Road Ahead's damsire Regal Classic is a half brother to Classy 'n Smart, which gives kin-breeding Change Water x Outing Class.

Where From Here

The Swaps/Flower Bowl connection appears to make for an interesting opportunity. Woodman appears twice as damsire in Horse Chestnut's best, and Polish Numbers once. The dams of Woodman and Polish Numbers are Playmate and Numbered Account, full sisters by Buckpasser out of Intriguing (a daughter of Swaps). The two mares are kin to Fort Wood's dam Fall Aspen. Note in this context Numbered Account's daughter Secret Asset, who is by

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Horse Chestnut could include

1. Mares with Intriguing (notably Woodman, Secret Prospector), or other Swaps (notably Parade Leader & other Kingmambo, Rakeen/Jet Master) or Khaled (notably Badger Land)
2. Mares with Flower Bowl, through son Graustark/His Majesty (notably Caesour, Parade Leader, Danehill)
3. Mares with Halo (notably Rakeen/Jet Master) or kin-relative Never Bend (notably Riverman, Mill Reef), or other Hail To Reason (notably Roberto)
4. Mares with Damascus (notably Complete Warrior, Captain Al) or other kin-links to Bold Reason
5. Mares with Cyane/Outing Class (notably Strike Smartly, Ringaro)
6. Mares with Donatello (notably Alycidon, Jallad, Elliodor, Goldmark)

Flower Bowl's son Graustark. That makes Secret Asset kin to Change Water. As Secret Asset is the dam of Secret Prospector, we may ask if Fort Wood had any success with Secret Prospector mares. He did indeed. Five daughters of Secret Prospector have to date visited Fort Wood, three of them produced black type horses, including Gr1 winner Elusive Fort and Gr2 runners-up First Honour and Aspen Secret.

The Swaps/Flower Bowl connection can be further exploited, through Graustark & full brother His Majesty. Caesour mares may present a good opportunity, or mares with Danehill, but there are many others, notable Parade Leader. The latter is by Kingmambo, a son of Miesque, whose full sister Bravemie featured as grandam in Horse Chestnut's Gr1 placed son Isipingo. Parade Leader's dam Battle Creek Girl is a daughter of His Majesty, while her grandam Soaring is a daughter of Swaps. One step further: Soaring is female line ancestress of three full siblings by Halo, sires Devil's Bag & Saint Ballado and mare Glorious Song (dam of Rakeen).

Acropolis' sire Donatello must be of interest, notably through Alycidon who is full brother to Acropolis. Alycidon sires Antalya's full sister in blood Almiranta (TFR 128). Donatello appears in Jallad, whose grandam Silver Liner is kin to Nalatale. He's also significant in Elliodor, through that one's damsire Crepello, and Goldmark.