

Irish Flame

Dynasty – Clock The Rock by Flaming Rock

The result of the Thornaby All-aged Sweepstakes, run early in 1944 at the now defunct Stockton racecourse in the north of England, carried little significance at the time. The finish was fought between two 3yo fillies, subsequent 1000 Guineas runner-up Grande Corniche beating Fragrant View by a short head. Decades later female-line descendants of the two fillies would meet again, in happy circumstances at Zandvliet Stud under the African sun.

Grande Corniche and Fragrant View had much in common. Both were daughters of champion 2yo sprinter Panorama. Both were out of mares by champion sire and champion broodmare sire Buchan (unlucky runner-up both in the 2000 Guineas and Epsom Derby). To complete the picture, the grandam of one was a daughter of Gay Crusader (a grandson of Bay Ronald), the grandam of the other came from the same female line as Bay Ronald. In terms of the theory of kin-breeding, Grande Corniche and Fragrant View were very, very close kin.

Fragrant View, who was a half sister to 1946 Epsom Derby winner Airborne, established a successful female line. In our context, she's third dam of French 2000 Guineas runner-up Condorcet, who started his stud career in Ireland before ending up at Zandvliet Stud seven years later. His best progeny abroad was Gr1 winner Condessa (TFR 121), whose dam, anecdotally, is close kin to the grandam of Golden Thatch.

Condorcet didn't make it in South Africa as a sire, and as broodmare sire is represented by just two South African stakes winners. Both are from the female line of Grande Corniche. The latter had been equally accomplished in establishing a successful female line as her former opponent. A daughter, Bebe Grande, who was the best of her sex at 2, then placed in both 1000 and 2000 Guineas the next season. Another daughter, the unraced Grande Cornette, produced two fillies by champion sprinter Abernant, the unraced Cormorant and one-raced Popcorn. Both found their way to South Africa.

Cormorant is ancestress of Gr1 winners Sound Of Rhum, Kale and Kildonan.

Popcorn established the Corn family – think Gr1 winners Smackeroo, Rain Forest, Festive Season, Festive Forever, Fearless, Three Kings, Shah's Star.

From the Popcorn family, Condorcet got one-time winner Crisp Corn, as well as lightly maiden Cora Dora out of Crisp Corn's half sister Corn. Crisp Corn is dam of Gr1 & Gr2 placed SW Miss Doreet (by Elliodor), while Cora Dora is the grandam of Irish Flame.

Cora Dora, kinbred to the female lines of her sire and dam by linking Fragrant View and Grande Corniche, visited Flaming Rock to get Clock The Rock, the stakes winning dam of Irish Flame. Flaming Rock (whose dam is half sister to sire Averof) has as his third dam the mare Silvery Moon. The latter is close kin to the dam of Fragrant View and very close kin to Grande Corniche' dam Joy Ride. The latter may seem some way removed from the action, but in terms of kin-breeding is the Significant Ancestor in the bottom female line.

Such important ancestors extend their influence for many generations. Little wonder, perhaps, in this case as Joy Ride herself is kinbred 2x1, with her dam White Folly being a virtual full sister to influential sire Blandford.

Joy Ride's daughter Grande Corniche is kinbred 2x1 Happy Climax (dam of her sire Panorama) x Joy Ride. Next Grande Cornette, by sire Kingsway whose grandam Yane is close kin to both Happy Climax and Joy Ride (3x3x2). Next in line are Cormorant and full sister Popcorn, by Abernant whose 3rd dam Lady Josephine is close kin to all of Yane, Happy Climax and Joy

Ride (4x4x4x3). Popcorn got Candy Corn from a mating to Ranjit, whose grandam Jury is kin to all of the above (3x5x5x5x4). Next is Cornice, by Oligarchy, whose third dam Feline keeps the fires burning, by kin-linking to all in the earlier sequence.

To digress, Cornice' half sister Titbit is by Morland (who gives a somewhat further removed 6x5 link with Joyride), but things are pulled much closer together in Titbit's champion son Smackeroo. He's by Mexico, who gives close kin-breeding, 2x2 Minstrel's Price x Candycorn. Behind it, Mexico's grandam Prize Court is close kin to Joy Ride. Remarkably, the next three dams in Mexico's female line are all kin to Joy Ride as well.

Cornice visited sire Dapper to get Corn. The dam of Oligarchy (sire of Cornice) and the grandam of Dapper are very close kin, both with Blue Larkspur and Bull Dog close up. This gives a different kin-link from what was established earlier. Fear not, however. The 4th dam of Dapper is Knockaney Bridge, close kin to Oligarchy's 3rd dam Felina – and to the whole string of kinships found earlier, ending with Joy Ride.

After that came Corn with Condorcet to give Cora Bella, then Flaming Rock to get Clock The Rock – all the way with the kin-breeding foundations remaining rock-solid.

Finally, Irish Flame – by Dynasty, whose grandam Joy Petite is by Joy out of Lavenda Lady. The two parents have the same female line, going to Sweet Lavender who is close kin to Joy Ride. There's more. Dynasty gives a closer bottom-lines kin-link, Lavenda Lady x Popcorn, both daughters of Abernant.

Everything still solid as a rock!

Where From Here

The female family of Irish Flame, and its major winners, represents everything that has worked for generations in South Africa. The sires of the major winners provide important opportunities to return to Irish Flame. Let's look.

Smackeroo, by Mexico who gives close kin kin-breeding to Candycorn.

Rain Forest, by Elevation whose 3rd dam Alicante (granddaughter of Buchan) is close kin to Joy Ride.

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Irish Flame could include

Fragrant View (Condorcet, Lavery);

Mexico (Harry Hotspur, Super Magic);

Elevation (Rain Forest);

Persian Wonder (London News, Classic Flag, Bush Telegraph, Crimson Waves);

Averof, Foveros (Rebel King, Warm White Night);

Royal Prerogative (Victory Moon, Goldmark, Divine Force);

Western Winter; Abadan (Full Colour);

Elliodor (Model Man, Special Preview, Jay Peg);

Rich Man's Gold; Jallad.

Festive Season, by Persian Wonder, whose grandsire Bahram and 3rd dam Futurity (both by Blandford) are close kin to Joy Ride.

Festive Forever & Shah's Star, by Foveros, whose sire Averof and damsire Whistling Wind (grandson of Panorama) are both close kin to Cornelle (Whistling Wind is also close kin to Grande Corniche).

Fearless & Carry On Katie & Storm Crossing, by Western Winter who is kinbred bottom female-lines Mixed Marriage (from his sire Gone West) x Golden Feast (his female line) – both these are close kin to Joy Ride.

Three Kings, by Royal Prerogative whose 3rd dam Phase is kin to Joy Ride (Royal Prerogative has strong kin-links with Averof, and also with Golden Thatch, the latter noted earlier as significant).

Sound Of Rhum, by Full Colour whose damsire Abadan is kin to Joy Ride (also, the dam of Sound of Rhum is by Pentland Firth, whose dam Free For All is close kin to Joy Ride).

Kale & Miss Doreet, by Elliodor whose 4th dam Loan is very close kin to Joy Ride.

Kildonan, by Rich Man's Gold whose 3rd dam Romanita is close kin to Joy Ride.

One possibly promising sire not spotted with the family is Jallad, because of his own kin-breeding (3x3 Aimee x Ajasco, who both are kin to Joy Ride), and because of a double Dante in his dam (Dante's dam Rosy Legend is close kin to Joy Ride, and Dante has been significant in another branch of Joy Ride's descendants, notably in sire Pieces Of Eight (TFR 128), a son of Relic.