

Commercial breeders have a tough task.

On the one hand there's the objective of breeding a horse that'll set the tongues wagging at the sales, an impressive physical specimen with a catalogue page to match. That's the immediate pay-off for professional insight and effort.

On the other hand there's the breeder's desire to make headlines when the product reaches the track. That's the long-term pay-off, both for the breeder's reputation and the future family page in the catalogue. To achieve the first objective, breeders will use stallions known to throw good looks as well as ability. These are easily recognised.

To get to the second part, the everlasting fame and glory, a different set of skills is required. And luck, of course.

he surest way to fame and glory is to check the facts, and hope to spot a trend. In pedigree terms that means knowing what works with a stallion, and what has worked with the family of a mare. In other words, analyse the very best produce of a stallion, and analyse the very best from a mare's female line

Take Legislate.

His sire Dynasty has produced seven Gr1 winners to date. Their pedigrees, at first glance, appear to have little in common. The names of the successive damsires in the first five generations of each (meaning 7x5, or 35 names of damsires) throws up just one duplication. That is Drum Beat, 3rd damsire of Gold Cup winner Ancestral Fore, and 5th damsire of Legislate. Interestingly, the apparently significant elements from Drum Beat also feature in a large number of the whole group of 35 damsires.

Drum Beat is by Fair Trial, and is close kin to a host of influential other decsendants of Fair Trial. Those include Court Martial, Mixed Marriage, Farthing Damages, Advocate, Prize Court, Dramatic, Field Master - the list goes on. From half sisters to Fair Trial come other kin-links, including Sansonnet, Tudor Minstrel, Aristophanes, Kashmir. The elements prominent in the pedigrees listed lead to other close kin-linked ones, notably Abernant, and Tudor Minstrel's daughter Aimee (dam of Blushing Groom).

Legislate's dam Champers is by Restructure, whose damsire Thatching is a full brother to Golden Thatch. The brothers have an interesting pedigree, as their sire Thatch and dam Abella are from the same female line (Dalmary). Thatch is by Forli (Aristophanes x Advocate mare - see kin-links above), Abella is by Abernant out of a mare by Darius, making her very close kin to stallion Derring Do, who is by Darius out of a mare by Abernant, tracing to the mare Lost Soul. In Legislate's pedigree Derring Do is sire of Jan Ekels, his 3rd damsire. As an aside, Lost Soul also is ancestress of Royal Prerogative who has shown a strong affinity with Golden Thatch (as in Goldmark).

In Legislate, Jan Ekels is sire of the 3rd dam Classic Art, who is by Ambiopoise out of Amusette, by Drum Beat.

The link to Dynasty appears to centre on his grandam Joy Petite, who is by Joy (a grandson of the mare Lavendula) out of Lavenda Lady (who has Lavendula as her 3rd dam). Lavenda Lady is by Abernant.

Compare this to Legislate's 3rd dam Classic Art. Her sire Ambiopoise is by Ambiorix, a son of Lavendula. Her dam Amusette is by Drum Beat, the latter very close kin to Abernant.

The best performers from the female family of Legislate show similarities with the one of Dynasty (see box, going back to Legislate's 6th dam Zillah's Smile, a non-winning full sister to Cape Derby winner Prince Alfred). Let's take it from the top.

Drum Beat – one of a bunch of kin relations mentioned earlier. Let's call them the Drum Beat Bunch: Drum Beat, Court Martial, Mixed Marriage, Farthing Damages, Advocate, Prize Court, Dramatic, Field Master, Sansonnet, Tudor Minstrel, Aristophanes, Kashmir, Abernant, Aimee. There will be more.

Ambiopoise by Ambiorix, son of Lavendula. Jan Ekels by Derring-Do, who has Abernant

Bog Trotter by Irish River, whose damsire Klairon and dam Irish Star's female line trace to Lavendula's dam Sweet Lavender. Irish River is a virtual full brother to the dam of West Man, also with a double of the Sweet Lavender female line, the same as in Dynasty's female line. As an aside, note Dynasty's Gr2 stayer Paddy O'Reilly, whose dam is by West Man out of a mare by Irish River (!).

Western Winter is by Gone West (also sire of West Man), whose female line goes to Mixed Marriage. Western Winter's dam has Court Martial.

Goldmark, by Golden Thatch out of a Royal Prerogative mare. Golden Thatch (and full brother Thatching) are by Thatch, a son of Forli (Advocate, Aristophanes from the Drum Beat Bunch) out of Abella by Abernant. Sire and dam of Golden Thatch are from the same female line, going to the mare Dalmary. Golden Thatch and Royal Prerogative (from female line of Lost Soul) have an affinity.

Fort Wood is by Sadler's Wells (Dalmary female line, like Golden Thatch) out of Fall Aspen, whose sire Pretense belongs in the Drum Beat Bunch.

Restructure is a son of the mare Twine, by Thatching (Forli, Abernant). The 3rd dam is by Combat, half brother to Forli's sire Aristophanes.

Royal Chalice by Royal Prerogative.

Western Winter again and again, combined with sons of Al Mufti - Captain has Field Master in female line, Victory Moon's dam is by Dancing Champ out of Wild Hyacinth (Royal Prerogative x Drum Beat).

Foveros is by Averof and belongs to the Drum Beat Bunch. Pas de Quoi is by Roland Gardens (Derring-Do) and has Court Martial in his dam.

Forli is Aristophanes x Advocate, both Drum Beat bunch.

2016 Sires Handbook RACEFORM Dancing Champ is out of Mrs Peterkin, whose dam Legendra is close kin to Tudor Minstrel and Sansonnet, and belongs to the Drum Beat Bunch.

Kabool's dam is half sister to Dynasty's sire Fort Wood. He's by Shareef Dancer, a half brother to Dancing Champ, out of Mrs Peterkin. Kabool's sire Groom Dancer is by Blushing Groom out of a mare by Lyphard (Court Martial as damsire).

All this seems to suggest that what works with Dynasty, also works with Legislate's family. It seems fair to assume that the legacy will continue.

Successful Matings in Legislate's Family

Prince Alfred (Sun Compass) (Cape Derby)

Zillah's Smile (Sun Compass)

Smilin' Thru (Drum Beat) (SA Guineas, Benoni Guineas)

Amusement (Drum Beat)

Amusette (Ambiopoise by Ambiorix)

Classic Art (Jan Ekels by Derring-Do)

Classy Play (Jungle Cove)

Black Skimmer (Bog Trotter by Irish River)

Dunedin Star (Western Winter by Gone West)

Champagne 'n Roses (Goldmark - Golden Thatch)

Cashmere 'n Caviar (Fort Wood)

Sauna's Rose (Tamburlaine)

Asprey (Restructure)

Champers (Restructure)

LEGISLATE (Dynasty)

Jungle Class (Jungle Cove)

Roxy Café (Royal Chalice by Royal Prerogative)

Roxanne (Western Winter by Gone West)

Sting Operation (Captain Al - Al Mufti)

Polar Art (Western Winter by Gone West)

Polar Moon (Victory Moon - Al Mufti)

Going Astray (Foveros)

Lady Curator (Pas de Quoi – Roland Gardens)

Lion In Winter (Western Winter)

Party Piece (Jungle Cove)

Forward Miss (Home Guard by Forli)

Forward Filly (National Assembly)

Golden Tulip (Rakeen)

She's a Champ (Dancing Champ)

She's a Treat (Harry Hotspur by Mexico)

She's All That (Western Winter by Gone West)

Kilcoy Castle (Kabool)

Glorified (Roland Gardens by Derring-Do)

Sunny Smile (Jamaico)

Only For You (Drum Beat)

Street Hawk (Fordham by Forli)

Northern Princess (Northern Guest)

Iceberg (Western Winter)

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Legislate could include

- I. The Drum Beat Bunch, incl Drum Beat (widespread, incl Trocadero, Jolly Drummer, Victory Moon, etc.); Court Martial (widespread, incl Lyphard, Elliodor, Count duBois, Western Winter, Capture Him, Lords, Welsh Harmony, National Emblem, etc.); Mixed Marriage (Sharpen Up, Gone West, Western Winter, West Man, Count duBois, etc); Farthing Damages (Pole Position, Mummy's Pet, Whistler, etc.), Advocate (Forli); Prize Court (Mexico, Harry Hotspur); Dramatic, Field Master (Captain Al, etc.); Sansonnet, Tudor Minstrel (widespread, incl Mrs Peterkin, Dancing Champ, Kabool); Aristophanes (Forli); Kashmir, Abernant (widespread, incl Golden Thatch, Thatching, Derring-Do, Roland Gardens, Jan Ekels, Badger's Drift, etc.), Aimee (Blushing Groom, Rainbow Quest, Saumarez, Badger's Drift, etc.); Pretense (Fall Aspen, Fort Wood, Kabool); Averof, Foveros; etc.
- 2. Sweet Lavender descendants, through Lavendula, Perfume, Source Sucree, Ambiorix, etc. (widespread, incl My Babu, Joy, Klairon, Regent Street, Ambiopoise, Irish River, Spectrum, West Man, Turn-To, etc.); descendants of Sweet Lavender's full sister Rose Red (dam of Aurora, leading to Alycidon, Borealis, Acropolis, Clouds, etc.); etc.
- Dalmary descendants, incl Thatch, Golden Thatch, Thatching, Waterville Lake, Nureyev, Sadler's Wells, Fairy King, etc.
- Bride Elect descendants, incl Royal Prerogative (notably combined with Golden Thatch, as in Goldmark, sire of Rebel King; Royal Chalice), Prized, Hethersett (sire of Blakeney, sire of Commodore Blake), etc.

Stands at: Drakenstein Stud

Enquiries: John Freeman Tel: 021 418 0566. Cell: 082 777 8117 email: john@johnfreeman.co.za

2016 Sires Handbook RACEFORM