

Noble Tune (USA)

Unbridled's Song – Serena's Cat by Storm Cat



Champion Filly Serena's Song
– third dam of Noble Tune. Her make-up represents the essence of the pedigree.

“There are only patterns, patterns on top of patterns, patterns that affect other patterns. Patterns hidden by patterns.

Patterns within patterns. If you watch close, history does nothing but repeat itself. What we call chaos is just patterns we haven't recognized. What we call random is just patterns we can't decipher. What we can't understand we call nonsense. What we can't read we call gibberish. There is no free will. There are no variables.”

A quote from cult-author Chuck Palahniuk's Survivor, a novel which starts on page 247 or so and goes backwards to page one. It is a gimmick, oddly related to analysing pedigrees, starting way back in time and working forward, attempting to discover elusive patterns.

Page 247 in the female line pedigree of Noble Tune is a grey mare, **Blanco**, born in 1932. She's by English champion sire Blandford, her dam a daughter of Irish Oaks winner Snow Maiden, who placed in the Irish Derby. Blanco only raced at 2, winning twice in 4 starts. Somewhere things clicked, as Blanco daughters started a chain of patterns on both sides of the Atlantic. The most prolific of her daughters was **Asti Spumante** (by Dante), who produced nine winners. One of those was oddly-named **A.1** (by Abernant). A.1 visited Crowned Prince (full brother to Majestic Prince), whose dam Gay Hostess is close kin to A.1 in terms of close-up pedigree elements, making for a 2x1 kin-link. The outcome of the mating, **Ampulla**, was a topclass 2yo filly (rated 110).

When taken to stud, Ampulla was virtually married to sire **Habitat**. A son, Ancestral, won stakes races in Ireland and USA. A daughter, Steel Habit, became dam of Gr1 placed Gr2 winner Batshoof (Sadler's Wells), stakes placed in USA. But another daughter, Zummerudd, took the cake. She got Irish Guineas runner-up Amethyst (by Sadler's Wells), Prix Robert Papin winner General Monash (by Thorn Dance, a 3-part brother to Lyphard), Irish SW Lucky (by Sadler's Wells) and 2000 Guineas winner King Of Kings (by Sadler's Wells).

That Ampulla visited Habitat so many times was no coincidence. She had an older half brother, Steel Heart, a Gr1 sprinter and sire (TFR 128). Steel Heart had two full sisters, Smokey Lady, Gr1 winner and champion 2yo filly in Ireland, and Harrapan Seal, stakes placed and rated TFR 117 as a 2yo. All three sired by Habitat.

Whatever it was, Habitat worked.

But it wasn't just Habitat. Ampulla's Gr3 winning half sister Chili Girl (by Skymaster) is dam of King's Stand Stakes winner Chilibrang (TFR 120; sire), the latter by Formidable, whose female line has the same origin as our starting-point mare Blanco. Chilibrang had a stakes winning full brother in USA.

On to another daughter of Blanco, named **Sleet**, and from there to a granddaughter **Pat's Irish** (by Tudor Minstrel). The similarities between Pat's Irish and A.1 (dam of Ampulla, see above) are striking. Blanco appears as their 2nd & 3rd dam. Abernant (sire of A.1) is very close kin to Tudor Minstrel, both sons of Owen Tudor and descending from Lady Josephine. That makes Pat's Irish and A.1 close kin.

Now for the knock-out blow.

Pat's Irish visited Kentucky Derby winner **Dancer's Image**, whose grandam Little Sphinx is full sister to Savage Beauty, the grandam of Habitat. The two grandams are by sire Challenger, whose pedigree makes him close kin to Blanco. The mating of Pat's Irish and Dancer's Image resulted in a stakes winning colt, and a filly, Image Intensifier. The latter was sent to **Northfields**, the

half brother to Habitat! That produced the filly Imagining, who became the dam of US Champion Serena's Song and her full sister Serena's Sister. These two siblings, now both at the head of Gr1 producing branches of their female line, are by Rahy. The latter is by Blushing Groom, whose grandam Aimee is by Tudor Minstrel and very close kin to Pat's Irish. Blushing Groom is close kin to A.1, given their assorted pedigree elements.

Interesting to note Imagining's half sister Alabama Nana, a G2/G3 winner in USA and placed in the Breeder's Cup Distaff. She is by Thatching, whose dam Abella is very close kin to A.1.

Where from here

A suitable way forward may be to link to the apparent affinity of the female line of Noble Tune with the female line of the trio Habitat, Northfields and Dancer's Image. The grandams of the three sires are full sisters, by Challenger who is close kin not only to Blanco (as noted above), but also to Tudor Minstrel, and closer still to Sansonnet, the dam of Tudor Minstrel. A half sister to Habitat is ancestor of sire Suave Dancer.

Noted above was Thatching as sire of the half sister to Imagining. Thatching is full brother to Golden Thatch. The latter has shown an affinity in SA with Royal Prerogative, whose dam is close kin to A.1 and her dam Asti Spumante.

Thatching is from the female line of Dalmaly, also the female line of Sadler's Wells and Nureyev. The latter is sire of Caesour, a close relative of Formidable – noted above as sire of Chilibrang, and from the same female line origin as Blanco.

Informative could be the pedigrees of successful offspring of King Of Kings. His Champion son King's Chapel has a double of Mixed Marriage (kin to Abernant, Tudor Minstrel) from Known Fact and Sharpen Up, and goes to the mare Farthing Damages in his bottom line (kin to Mixed Marriage and to Ampulla, the grandam of King Of Kings). Another champion son is Reigning To Win, by TV Heart Throb, a son of Known Fact. The dam of US G1 placed G2 winner Sweet Win is by St Jovite (dam by Northfields).

A final observation: the presence of Royal Charger in the pedigrees of the best horses from the family appears to be higher than average, Turn To in particular. This might be noteworthy; Turn To is sire of Hail To Reason, Sir Gaylord, etc.

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Noble Tune could include

- 1. Descendants from his own female line**, both close up and remote, notably King Of Kings, Caesour
- 2. Habitat** (Tara's Halls, Count duBois, Doowaley, King Of Kings, etc.), Northfields (Atso, Pathfork), Dancer's Image (Spectrum)
- 3. Abernant, Tudor Minstrel, Challenger** (all widespread) - and kin-related Mixed Marriage (Gone West, Known Fact, Zafonic, Sharpen Up, etc.); **Court Martial** belongs in the same kin-camp (notably in **Lyphard**, but widespread)
- 4. Dalmaly female line descendants**, incl **Sadler's Wells** (notably King Of Kings), **Nureyev** (notably Caesour), **Fairy King** (notably Tara's Halls, with damsire Habitat), **Golden Thatch** (esp combined with Royal Prerogative), **Waterville Lake**
- 5. Blushing Groom** (Rahy/Giant's Causeway, Jallad, Spectrum, etc)
- 6. Royal Charger**, notably **Turn To** (Hail To Reason, Sir Gaylord)