

# Seventh Rock<sup>(AUS)</sup>

*Rock Of Gibraltar – Ruby Clipper by Rubiton*

**A family on the up. That's the female line of Seventh Rock, whose Gr1 winning grandam Miss Clipper seemed to appear out of the blue following several generations of mediocrity.**

Miss Clipper became dam of Gr1 winning multiple champion filly Ruby Clipper, whose first runner Seventh Rock also attained Gr1 status. The sequence involved very classy contenders: Gr1 winner Miss Clipper to Australian champion Rubiton to get Gr1 winner Ruby Clipper, who saw European champion Rock Of Gibraltar to get Gr1 winner Seventh Rock. Best to the best, that's for sure, but there were intriguing pedigree connections, too.

**W**inner of the Australasian Oaks, Miss Clipper was a daughter of unremarkable sire Alert, a Gr1 placed English miler (TFR 117) whose dam was half sister to Jan Ekels (in SA mainly remembered as sire of Gr1 sprinter Rotterdam and of Gr1 middle distance staying mare Smart As Paint).

Miss Clipper's dam Right Wind was by English miler Seventh Hussar (TFR 109), who no doubt was acquired for stud in Australia because of his pedigree. He descends from the famous mare Sister Sarah, through daughter Caerlissa (also dam of Epsom Derby and St Leger winner St Paddy).

The female line build-up of Seventh Hussar is such that he, his dam Ann Boleyn and his grandam Game Of Chance become close kin to a host of often encountered names in local pedigrees.

Game Of Chance, by Big Game out of St Paddy's half sister Marita, is closely inbred: Big Game's sire Bahram and Marita's sire Dastur are both sons of Friar's Daughter. In terms of pedigree construction, Game Of Chance is close kin to Bride Elect (dam of Royal Prerogative) and to Darrica (grandam of Golden Thatch). The affinity between Royal Prerogative and Golden Thatch is well established in South Africa (notably through Gr1 sire Goldmark) and is based on kinship between female line ancestors Bride Elect and Darrica. Game Of Chance makes for an added alternative.

It is interesting to note that Miss Clipper's dam Right Wind, the daughter of Seventh Hussar, is out of a mare by Pirate King – a half brother to Bride Elect. The kin-links (Marita x Lost Soul) started right there.

Seventh Hussar has been represented by several daughters in South Africa. Rose Bay became the dam of champion Mark Anthony, a son of Royal Prerogative – the Bride Elect link again. Another daughter, Denise's Joy, is grandam of imported Australian-bred filly Joie de Grise, a multiple Gr1 winning sprinter. Joie de Grise is by Kenmare, whose grandam Belle Of The Ball is close kin to Game Of Chance's daughter Ann Boleyn.

Ann Boleyn is by Tudor Minstrel, who makes for a significant pedigree mix with elements from Game Of Chance. Ann Boleyn is close kin to all of Nasrullah (incl sister Rivaz, 3-part brother Royal Charger, etc), to influential mare Mixed Marriage (incl her kin Court Martial, Abernant – the latter sire of Golden Thatch' dam Abella, out of Darrica), to Lady Angela (dam of Nearctic), and to the mare What A Treat, dam of Be My Guest (damsire of Rock Of Gibraltar). There are others.

To get Ruby Clipper, Miss Clipper visited Australasia's champion older horse of 1987 Rubiton. This was interesting, as Rubiton's dam Ruby is a daughter of Seventh Hussar. The two grandams of Ruby Clipper, in other words, are both by Seventh Hussar. The mating with Rubiton built further on the strength of Miss Clipper's pedigree. Ruby Clipper was born in the same year as Horse Chestnut, and a year after Jet Master. The two champions had merit ratings of 125 and 126, while Ruby Clipper weighed in with MR 124 – in relative (sex) terms, she was the better of the three!

Rock Of Gibraltar was an excellent mate for Ruby Clipper. A dual Gr1 winning juvenile and then 5-time Gr1 winning 3yo made Rock Of Gibraltar the first horse ever to win seven

consecutive Gr1's in the Northern Hemisphere, breaking Mill Reef's 30-year-old record. His pedigree shows close kin-breeding, as his sire Danehill and damsire Be My Guest have much in common. Both are grandsons of Northern Dancer, with further kin-links of Danehill's significant Flower Bowl to Tudor Minstrel, the damsire of Be My Guest. The pair fall into the Mixed Marriage camp, where also belong Abernant, Court Martial and a host of others.

A look at the first two damsires of Rock Of Gibraltar's best offspring makes good reading. Sadler's Wells, Nureyev and Thatch pop up several times – they are from the Dalmary female line (as is Golden Thatch). Dalmary is close kin to Tudor Minstrel's dam Sansonnet and to Flower Bowl's dam Flower Bed. Then there are Gr1 winner Mount Nelson (Selkirk, Forty Niner), General Elliott (Selkirk, Riverman) and the filly Utrecht (Kris, Riverman). Selkirk and Kris are both by Sharpen Up, who has Mixed Marriage as paternal grandam. The presence of Riverman adds more, as Rock Of Gibraltar's grandam is 3-part sister to Riverman. Also making an appearance are Kenmare (noted earlier as sire of Joie de Grise), as damsire of stakes winner Kandahar Run, and Indian Ridge (by Ahonoora, who brings Golden Thatch' female line), as damsire of Gr3 winner Theann.

In Seventh Rock the kin-link is between the dam of Be My Guest and the Seventh Hussar-double in Ruby Clipper.

## PICK OF THE BUNCH

*Suitable mares for Seventh Rock could include*

1. Royal Prerogative, notably in combination with Golden Thatch (Goldmark) or other close kin-lines, such as Argentina (Averof, Flaming Rock)
2. Mixed Marriage, notably through Sharpen Up (Fine Edge, Kris/Diesis), Gone West (Western Winter, Count duBois (from female line of Kris/Diesis), West Man (dam by Riverman), Dupont)
3. Mixed Marriage kin-relatives, notably Court Martial (Eliodor/Model Man), Abernant (Golden Thatch, Badger's Drift, Dynasty) – or other strong Tudor Minstrel descendant, such as Aimee in Blushing Groom (Saumarez, Jallad, Spectrum) or Welsh Pageant (Saumarez)
4. Dalmary female line descendants, notably Sadler's Wells (Fort Wood/Dynasty), Fairy King (Tara's Halls/Second Empire), Nureyev (Caesour), Ahonoora (Imperial Stride, dam from female line of Kris), Golden Thatch
5. Flower Bowl, notably through His Majesty/Graustark (Caesour, Parade Leader)
6. Combinations of multiple Nasrullah & close relatives, such as found in Kenmare (4 lines, plus other kin-link to Seventh Hussar)

## Where from here

The South African mare population gives ample opportunity for Seventh Rock to succeed.

Royal Prerogative and Golden Thatch are well represented, in combination even. Mixed Marriage abounds, as do her many kin-relatives, which include Court Martial, Abernant as the most obvious examples – there are many more. Then add Flower Bowl's influential sons His Majesty and Graustark. And the Dalmary female line descendants, flowing from Sadler's Wells, Fairy King, Nureyev, Thatch, Ahonoora. Many of these can be found in tandem.

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