



Twice Over^(GB)

Observatory – Double Crossed by Caerleon

Twice Over's sire Observatory made his name on the track as giant-killer, getting the better of Giant's Causeway who was en route to his sixth straight Gr1 win. The win earned Observatory a Timeform rating of 131, the fifth highest 3yo rating of the year, with Sinnidar (134), Tiznow (133), Giant's Causeway (133) and King's Best (133) just marginally above him. Observatory was expected to have another great season as a 4yo, but a hairline fracture of his pelvis after Royal Ascot ended his racing career and he went to stud. Twice Over, from his third crop, is his best progeny.

Observatory's pedigree makes interesting reading. He's from the same female line as Storm Bird (notably sire of Storm Cat). His grandam Victoria Star and 3rd dam Solometeor are both close kin to Storm Bird, with female line ancestor Solar Display a common factor.

Pedigree analysts have long regarded Storm Bird to be very close kin to Nijinsky and The Minstrel, the relationship involving the presence of Bull Page and Flares/Omaha in the pedigrees of each. Storm Bird also has a kin-relationship with Blushing Groom, with Storm Bird's 4th dam Dark Display and Blushing Groom's third dam Emali close kin.

A glance at the pedigrees of

Observatory's best runners gives the impression that most of them appear to support the theories.

Twice Over: dam by Caerleon (Nijinsky), grandam by Blushing Groom.

African Rose & full sister Helleborine: dam by Quest For Fame (who is by Blushing Groom's son Rainbow Quest, out of a mare by Nijinsky's son Green Dancer), grandam by Nijinsky.

Violette: dam by Pursuit Of Love (who is by Blushing Groom's son Groom Dancer, out of a mare by Nijinsky's son Green Dancer).

Sottone: grandam by Local Suitor (son of Blushing Groom).

Sebastian Flyte: third dam is by Far North (full brother to The Minstrel) and is very close kin to Observatory's grandam.

The Grey Berry: dam by Bin Ajwaad (son of Rainbow Quest, by Blushing Groom).

Armand: dam by Nijinsky.

On to Twice Over's female line and its Gr1 winners.

Double Crossed, the dam of Twice Over, is by Caerleon (by Nijinsky), out of Quandary (by Blushing Groom). She is kinbred through bottom female line ancestors, 5x5 No Fiddling x Blade Of Time.

Twice Over's fourth dam Aunt Tilt is half sister to sire Damascus, their dam Kerala close kin to Blushing Groom's 2nd dam Aimee (the pair 3x3 in Quandary).

Twice Over's significant female line ancestors are Kerala and her dam Blade Of Time. Kerala is

close kin to the grandam of Buckpasser, to Lalun (in Sadler's Wells, Riverman), to Lassie Dear (by Buckpasser, and dam/grandam of Al Mufti/AP Indy), and very close kin to Lassie Dear's grandam Missy Baba (also 3rd dam of Sportsworld).

Kerala's daughter Aunt Tilt is close kin to influential mare Mixed Marriage.

Double Crossed is half sister to Clepsydra (Sadler's Wells), the dam of Gr1 winners Passage Of Time (Dansili) and Timepiece (Zamindar). Their dam Quandary (Blushing Groom) is half sister to Gr1 winner All At Sea (Riverman), to the grandam of US Champion Filly Banshee Breeze (Unbridled; dam by Known Fact, grandson of Mixed Marriage), and to the third dam of US G1 winner Hilda's Passion (Canadian Frontier; dam by Sadler's Wells' son El Prado). The multiple presence of Sadler's Wells and Riverman (both having Lalun) is perhaps more than just coincidence.

Where From Here

Suitable Lines for Twice Over could be drawn from the affinities in the pedigree of sire Observatory and/or those from his female line.

They include Damascus, Nijinsky, Blushing Groom, Storm Bird, Buckpasser, Lalun, Missy Baba, Mixed Marriage.

Some ideas:

Damascus leads to Complete Warrior (damsire of Captain Al, by Roberto's son Al Mufti), Rollins (dam full sister to Roberto; damsire of Jet Master); Right Approach (damsire Shaded by Nijinsky out of Damascus mare); Damascus Gate (dam by Buckpasser).

Blushing Groom is sire of Jallad, Rainbow Quest (Spectrum, Saumarez), Comic Blush, and is in Lundy's Liability (sire by Blushing Groom; grandam by Nijinsky).

Nijinsky is in Silvano, Lecture (grandam by Nijinsky, sire's damsire is Buckpasser), Indigo Magic (dam by Caerleon), Russian Fox, Victory Moon (by Al Mufti, dam by Nijinsky's son Dancing Champ), Parade Leader, Lundy's Liability (sire by Blushing Groom), Royal Academy.

Storm Bird is found in Black Minnaloushe (by Storm Cat; dam by Nijinsky's son Green Dancer), Tiger Dance (by Storm Cat, dam by son of Blushing Groom out of mare by Roberto),

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Twice Over could include

1. Damascus through Complete Warrior (Captain Al; Counter Action); Rollins (Jet Master); Damascus Gate; Right Approach.
2. Blushing Groom through Jallad, Rainbow Quest (Spectrum, Saumarez), Comic Blush, Lundy's Liability, Kabool, Waldoboro, Our Casey's Boy.
3. Nijinsky through Dancing Champ, Silvano, Lecture, Indigo Magic, Russian Fox, Victory Moon, Parade Leader, Right Approach, Tamburlaine.
4. Storm Bird through Black Minnaloushe, Windrush, Tiger Dance, Carpocrates, Manshood, Lake Coniston, Mogok.
5. Buckpasser (widespread), notably through Al Mufti, Northern Guest, Damascus Gate, etc.
6. Lalun through Sadler's Wells (notably Fort Wood, Casey Tibbs), Riverman/Irish River (Spectrum, Nysaeen, West Man), Mill Reef (Casey Tibbs, Almushtarak, Indigo Magic).
7. Missy Baba through Al Mufti, Sportsworld, AP Indy (Camden Park), Wolfhound, Fahal.
8. Mixed Marriage through Gone West (Western Winter, West Man, Count duBois, Dupont, Indigo Magic, Manaloi), Sharpen Up (Dominion Royale, Dupont).
9. Twice Over's bottom female line (Stronghold, the imported mare Half A Sixpence).

Windrush (dam by Storm Cat; sire's damsire is Buckpasser), Carpocrates (by Storm Cat; 4th dam by Nijinsky), Tiger Ridge (by Storm Cat; grandam by Buckpasser).

Buckpasser is widespread, incl Northern Guest (dam by Buckpasser, grandam Best In Show is 3rd dam of Observatory's SW Star Cluster), Al Mufti (by Roberto, also damsire of Observatory; dam Lassie Dear by Buckpasser).

Lalun is the dam of Bold Reason (in Sadler's Wells), and of Never Bend (in Riverman, Mill Reef). Sadler's Wells' best SA-son Fort Wood is interesting, as his grandam Change Water is close kin to Kerala's dam Blade Of Time (from the same female line is Kabool, whose sire Groom Dancer is by Blushing Groom). Riverman is sire of Irish River (with Rainbow Quest in Spectrum).

Missy Baba is female line ancestor of Al Mufti, AP Indy, Sportsworld – among others.

Mixed Marriage is female line ancestor of Gone West and half brother Known Fact. Gone West is sire of Western Winter, whose dam Chilly Hostess is close kin to the grandam of Observatory, to Storm Bird, and very close to The Minstrel. Gone West is also sire of Zafonic (whose full brother Zamindar sired Gr1 winner Timepiece, the latter half sister to the dam of Twice Over) – Zafonic is out of a mare by The Minstrel, and is sire of Count duBois and Dupont (the latter's dam by Sadler's Wells, and 2nd dam by Sharpen Up, a noted Mixed Marriage carrier).

Twice Over's female line also produced SA-sire **Stronghold**, who is a grandson of Gr1 winning mare All At Sea (by Riverman).