

PEDIGREE THOUGHTS

CWC

CLIVE WEBB-CARTER BLOODSTOCK SERVICES

May 2009 – Issue 10

SEA THE STARS

The 2,000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket proved to be as exciting as expected. Galileo's half-brother, **SEA THE STARS** (07 c Cape Cross-Urban Sea by Miswaki) not only proved to be a very smart winner but also of an impressive classic pedigree. Trainer, John Oxx said after the race, that Sea The Stars will be aimed at the Derby Stakes (Gr 1). There has been much journalistic debate over whether he will stay the 12 furlong trip.

SIBLINGS

Just because Sea The Stars is a half-brother to Derby (Gr 1) winner Galileo and Tattersalls Gold Cup (Gr 1) winner Black Sam Bellamy does not mean that all Urban Sea produce will be expected to stay 12f. Both Galileo and Black Sam Bellamy are sired by Sadler's Wells, Europe's leading world-class sire of sires, who has been a strong source of Classic stamina in Europe. Urban Sea has also produced five other black type earners. One of these includes All Too Beautiful, a full sister to Galileo. Despite being by Sadler's Wells and being runner-up to Ouija Board (Cape Cross's leading stakes winner) in the 2004 Oaks (Gr 1), she has always looked best over 10f when winning the Middleton Stakes (Gr 3). Other siblings to Sea The Stars includes the Giant's Causeway daughter My Typhoon, who won the 9f Diana Stakes (Gr 1). Lammtarra's (Arc and Derby winner) daughter, Melikah, won a Listed race over 10f before finishing third in Love Divine Oaks (Gr 1) in 2000.

However what is interesting is Urban Sea's visit to Cape Cross's sire, Green Desert, in 2003 producing Cherry Hinton. Although Cherry Hinton was far from Group 1 class she did prove to be best over 10f when group-placed. She also ran a good race, as a maiden, in the 2007 Oaks to finish fifth to Light Shift.

URBAN SEA

Sea The Star's dam, Urban Sea, was a top-class racemare having won the Arc, as most people know. Despite having won the most prestigious 12f race in Europe, Urban Sea proved more consistent over 10f winning five races over the distance including the Prix d'Harcourt (Gr 2). Urban Sea's sire, Miswaki is very much a speed influence. Having been a leading two-year-old in Europe and winning the Prix de la Salamandre (Gr 1), his leading off-spring includes Breeders' Cup Classic (Gr 1) winner Black Tie Affair, Irish 2,000 Guineas (Gr 1) winner Bachelor Duke (Gr

1) and the Prix de l'Abbaye (Gr 1) winner Kistena. It is for this reason that we feel that Galileo has proved to be the sire that he is, siring leading juveniles such as New Approach and Teofilo with the right mares.

Miswaki is also the dam sire to another Derby winner, Dalakhani, who seems to be doing alright as a sire too.

Urban Sea's family has really taken off in the past twelve years or so and has produced a number of top-class performers, showing both speed and stamina. King's Best (Kingmambo), half-sister to Urban Sea, proved devastating over a mile in the 2000 Guineas. Another top-class miler from the family is the dual 2008 Group 1 winner Tamayuz (Nayef) who is out of a half-sister to Urban Sea. Anabaa Blue (Anabaa) is another Derby winner from the family, having won the French version, and is out of a Gp 3 winning half-sister to Urban Sea.

THE SIRE

Sea The Stars's sire, Cape Cross, is one of the top proven sires in Europe of today. Having retired to Kildargan Stud for the 2000 breeding season for a modest fee of Ir£8,000. Since then he has produced 49 stakes winners in two hemispheres that includes six Group 1 winners.

As a racehorse, Cape Cross has shown tremendous speed. Having won his maiden at two-years, over a mile, he followed this up with a number of good performances aged three. These included coming third to another Green Desert son, Desert Story in the Craven Stakes (Gr 3) and winning a conditions race mid season at Goodwood. It was at four and five-years that we saw the best of Cape Cross. Having run in at the Dubai Carnival, he took his place in the Lockinge Stakes (Gr 1) where he made all to win and gave him his Group 1 win. With further placed efforts in the Jacques le Marois (Gr 1) and the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes (Gr 1), he looked to be an exciting prospect in 1999. His fourth year in training saw him live up to this with victories in the Queen Anne Stakes (Gr 2) and Celebration Mile (Gr 2) at Goodwood.

The fact that Cape Cross showed such speed and class was no surprise. His sire, Green Desert, had won the July Cup (Gr 1) at three-years and was fast making an impression at the stud. At the time of covering, Green Desert had already produced Sheikh Albadou to win the Nunthrope Stakes (Gr 1) from only 3 crops of racing age. Green Desert has since gone on to prove to be a

sire of sires and has formed his own branch of the Danzig line. This has included the likes of Invincible Spirit, Oasis Dream and of course Cape Cross himself.

There is plenty of speed in Cape Cross's family as he is out of Champion's two-year-old filly Park Appeal, who has proved to be a useful producer. Her other offspring are the stakes winners, Vincennes, Phoenix Park and Great Britain with other daughters producing the Group 1 winner Diktat (Warning) and Group 2 winner Iffraaj (Zafonic). However, Park Appeal's half-sister Alydaress (Alydar) was able to stay 12f to win the Irish Oaks. Further down the pedigree it is littered with stakes winners with the Classic winners Shadayid (Shadeed) and Russian Rhythm (Kingmambo) being the smartest.

PROGENY'S TRIP

Despite this profile, some of Cape Cross's off-spring has been able to travel further than he did on the racecourse. We feel that the best way to determine whether a sire's progeny will get a certain trip is to judge the stakes off-spring and pedigrees, as these horses are normally well bred. The most obvious is Ouija Board (Gr 1), who proved to be a world-class filly over both 10 and 12f. Although Timeform have published the average trip of a Cape Cross runner at between 9 to 10f, this sire has been more than capable of siring other top class 12f stakes winners. The 2008 season saw Cape Cross have two Group 2 winners. The first of these was Treat Gently, who although out of a In The Wing's mare is a half-sister to Arrive and Hasili, the dam of Dansili and co. The second Group 2 winner was Crystal Capella who was the 7f juvenile stakes winner Crystal Star who was by Mark Of Esteem. Also at the time of writing, Sir Mark Prescott sent off a useful looking Moyglare 12f handicap winner, from the family of Relaxed Gesture by Cape Cross.

CONCLUSION

We feel that Sea The Star will stay 12f. Many of you may remember the great debate of the whether Hawk Wing would stay in the 2001 Derby. Had it not been for his stable companion, High Chaparral (what a time he is having as sire), who out stayed him, Hawk Wing would have won by two lengths. It could be the same case again with Sea The Stars as it could be Fame And Glory (Gr 1), who made a pleasing return at the Curragh in April. With the Derrinstown Derby Trial due this weekend we have a better idea if he looks a real Derby winner.

Mating Plans • Stud Books/Cards • Sales Up-Dates & Research • Bespoke Reports

Horcott House, Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4BY • www.wcbloodstock.co.uk
cwc@wcbloodstock.co.uk • Tel +44 7860158645