

Windsor Knot Pedigree Notes

by Sieglinde McGee

Some mares have had a profound influence on the breed. One of those is Special (by Forli) and it is as the dam of Nureyev, and granddam of Sadler's Wells and Fairy King that her name has lived on in pedigrees, and will continue to do so for a long time.

Those three sons of Northern Dancer (by Nearctic) were outstanding sires at stud, each getting a long list of Group 1 and classic winners, and having sons to carry on their line.

The impact that Sadler's Wells has had, on flat and on National Hunt pedigrees, has been colossal with Galileo, Montjeu, In The Wings, Old Vic, King's Theatre, and Oscar just a handful of his major sire sons.

Fairy King, whose Derby winning son Oath is getting big-race winners in India, is also responsible for the notably successful dual-purpose sire Turtle Island, and for the recently pensioned champion Australian stallion Encosta De Lago. In 2013 Fairy King's juvenile Group 1 winning son and successful flat sire Second Empire made headlines with Grade 3 Grand National success for his son Auroras Encore, and his National Hunt runners also include the Grade 1 chase star Somersby.

Nureyev's sons include Stravinsky, Spinning World, Soviet Star, Theatrical, Peintre Celebre, and Polar Falcon, and the latter's most famous son is the Group 1 sprint star and major international sire Pivotal.

This line has already been in the news in 2015 thanks to the impressive juvenile hurdler Peace And Co, who is by Pivotal's classic winning son Falco. That French-based stallion is also known as being the sire of Odeliz, who was only beaten half a length when runner-up to classic heroine Just The Judge in the Grade 1 E P Taylor Stakes at Woodbine in October.

Ace miler Excellent Art has a tally of blacktype scorers that is into double digits, and juvenile Group 1 star Siyouni was the champion freshman sire in France in 2014, getting eight blacktype two-year-olds in his first crop including the dual Group 1 placed pattern scorer Ervedya and two other Group 3 winners.

Pivotal's most famous son was also one of his first stallion sons, the top-class sprinter and leading speed sire Kyllachy, sire of the Group 1 winning millionaires Sole Power and Krypton Factor among many others of note.

Impressive sprinter Captain Rio, who won at Group 2 and Listed level, is another fine example of what the Pivotal stallions can do, and the latest Group 1 victory for his progeny was with Terravista over six furlongs at Flemington in November, a first success at the highest level for this prolific pattern winner.

In short, the Pivotal branch of Nureyev's line, just like the other powerful male line branches that descend from the remarkable mare Special, is one that is no stranger to producing notable and major stallions.

It is little wonder, therefore, that Rossenarra Stud's dual pattern winner Windsor Knot has also done well at stud, and his results are made all the more notable by the fact he has far fewer runners than do most of his rivals.

His brightest star, so far, is the popular mare Euphrasia (dam by Lake Coniston) who was only beaten one and a quarter lengths and a head when third to the multiple Group 1 stars Noble Mission and Magician in the Group 1 Tattersalls Gold Cup at the Curragh in 2014, this trio finishing 21 lengths clear of the fourth.

Her wins include the Group 3 Blue Wind Stakes at Naas and the Listed Trigo Stakes at Leopardstown, both over ten furlongs, and in the first of those she beat the Group 1 star La Collina by two lengths. She is trained by Joe Murphy and was bred by Tally-Ho Stud.

The listed-placed miler Croi An Or (dam by Exbourne), a Rossenarra Stud-bred multiple winner for the Tommy Stack stable, is another of note, as are Gay Kelleway's six-times winning mare Yojojo (dam by Blues Traveller), the Paul Green-trained five-times sprint winning filly Beau Mistral (dam by Fayruz), and Kimbay (dam by War Chant), a sprinter who won four of her six starts for the Noel Lawlor stable in 2014, beaten by just a head in the two races she lost.

Mamma Giovanna (dam by Dr Devious) may not be as well-known know to Irish and British racegoers as those other horses are, but she is known in Italy when her wins include the Listed Premio Archidamia Memorial Manuela Tudini over 10 furlongs at Capannelle.

Sgomma (dam by Statue Of Liberty), another filly, has also excelled in that country with a double-digit total of wins to her name, and by the start of February 2015 the four-year-old colt Under And Over (dam by Efisio) was up to five wins in that country.

Windsor Knot is a dual-purpose sire and from just a handful of runners under National Hunt rules he has been represented by the Limerick hurdle winner Windsor Queen (dam by Cadeaux Genereux), who also won over 10 furlongs on the flat at Roscommon, and, of course, the excellent Flaxen Flare (dam by Slew O' Gold).

He has won twice at around nine furlongs on the flat but his four wins over obstacles include the Grade 3 Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle at the 2013 Cheltenham Festival.

The Gordon Elliott trained six-year-old was runner-up to Gilgamboia in the valuable Grade B boylesports.com Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown last year, shortly before finishing fifth in the Grade 3 Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle on a return visit to the Cheltenham Festival. Other notable efforts for him include his third place finish behind Jezki and Caid Du Berlais in the Grade 2 WKD Hurdle at Down Royal as a four-year-old, and fourth place in the Grade 1 4YO Juvenile Hurdle at Aintree.

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When he can produce results like these from so few runners, just imagine what Windsor Knot could achieve with increased support!

As one might imagine of a son of Pivotal, Windsor Knot comes from a notably successful female family.

The Argentine Grade 1 winner Miss Pinky (by Numerous) and that country's classic placed colt Rod (by Numerous) appear in a branch of the second generation of his family, and the Grade 1 placed, Group 3 Norfolk Stakes winner and stakes sire Faliraki (by Prince Tenderfoot) was a half-brother to Windsor Knot's stakes placed grandam Tea And Roses (by Fleet Nasrullah).

His third dam Super Flower (by Super Sam) was a half-sister to the juvenile champion and stakes sire Typhoon II (by Honeyway), who won the Coventry Stakes and Richmond Stakes in 1960 and was runner-up in the Prix Morny, and that horse's siblings include Drury Nell (by Bold Lad IRE), a stakes placed mare from whom the US Grade 1 winner King's Drama (by King's Theatre) and the Group 1 Irish 1000 Guineas heroine Nighttime (by Galileo) descend.

The dual Grade 1 winning filly Convenience (by Fleet Nasrullah) is among the many other pattern scorers and Group 1 placed horses who appear under branches of the fourth generation of the family, and although she, King's Drama, and Nighttime are very distantly related to Windsor Knot, their presence, along with that of the other talented horses on the page, show that Windsor Knot's pedigree is one that has strong roots.

In 2014 his yearlings made up to €22,000 at auction at Goffs, and from just three foals offered last season one made €10,000 in Fairyhouse.

Windsor Knot, sire of Euphrasia and Flaxen Flare, has proved his ability to get high-class performers, and it will be fascinating to see the results he can get from stronger support.