

Clang matings acknowledge his dam's inbreeding

by Jane Henning

A STC Silver Slipper winner, Clang (by Bellotto) is a half brother to another Silver Slipper winner in Strategic (by Zeditave).

Both are grandsons of the Golden Slipper winner, Sweet Embrace whose mating with Luskin Star created a 3m x 3m inbreeding pattern to Star Kingdom. Close inbreeding to an individual through two sons (or daughters) rather than through a son *and* a daughter (sex balanced inbreeding) does not have the same level of success in sustaining or increasing the speed element of a pedigree. A respectable racehorse having won three races, two on city tracks, Sweet Embrace's daughter Sudden Impulse really excelled as a broodmare. Inbred mares have a high success rate as broodmares, even if their pattern may not work for them on the track.

Clang's first runners hit the track in late 2000 and it was a relatively uneventful beginning. Mostly Queensland country winners, his early two year olds were seemingly not the outstanding juveniles in the mould of Clang.

There must have been a few showing a high level of ability on the training track however, as Clang's book of mares jumped from the highly respectable 1999 figure of 84 to 128 the following season.

Of course the talk of the town – and we're not just talking Beaudesert, Queensland where Clang stands at Willowbend Stud – is a product of his second crop, Calaway Gal.

A runaway winner at all of her starts to-date, this filly's connections did not share the optimism of hundreds of other owners who have to nominate for the STC Golden Slipper well before their two year olds hit the track.

Not surprising when you realise that Calaway Gal was from at one stage a non-Stud Book Thoroughbred whose family, while not devoid of racing ability, has been largely by unfashionable stallions in the last few generations.

Calaway Gal's tail female family lost its Stud Book status when her fourth dam, Tranquil Dawn was mated to Althrey Don, who is listed in the Australian Stud Book as having entered stud duties in 1970. Tranquil Dawn visited this son of Fighting Don (by Fighting

Fox) in 1968, perhaps as a test mating. Althrey Don stood a few years in Victoria before being sent to Western Australia, where he spent a useful stud career.

Although unofficial test matings are not unheard of, it is curious when one realises that her dam was Tranquil Star, whose 23 wins - 8 in succession - included the VATC Caulfield Cup, AJC Cumberland Plate, VRC L.K.S. Mackinnon Stakes (3 times), VATC Caulfield Stakes, MVRC W.S. Cox Plate (twice), AJC Chipping Norton Stakes, VRC C.M. Lloyd Stakes (3 times), St Leger, Edward Manifold Stakes, VATC St George Stakes (twice), VATC Memsie Stakes, MVRC William Reid Stakes and MVRC Alister Clark Stakes.

It is hard to imagine a daughter of Sunline being put to an unregistered stallion!

Her 1969 produce by Althrey Don was named Seascap, whose only listed produce was Portside Girl (by Starboard Buoy), dam of the handy galloper Calais Boy (by Cheval de Volee), third in the STC Skyline Stakes. His full sister Calais Girl produced three winners, the best of them being Calais Royale (by Captain's Gold), a metropolitan Brisbane winner.

Calaway Gal is Calais Royale's second foal, the first being a winner by Civic Hope.

With no black type until her third remove, how is her dam's mating with Clang structured so that it has sucked the best from the available gene pool?

The most obvious attribute is that Calais Royale carries a daughter of Star Kingdom via her sire, Captain's Gold. You may remember earlier in the article that Clang's dam Sudden Impulse is inbred to Star Kingdom through two sons. The 'sex balancing' of this brilliance influence on the fifth remove may be a dominant influence here.

Combining Mr. Prospector (sire of Bellotto) and Riverman (sire of Captain's Gold) is nothing new – brothers Bosra Sham and Hector Protector (by Mr. Prospector's son Woodman out of a Riverman mare) are proof of success.

Bellotto has rather an unusual distaff pedigree, his dam being by Tatan out of a mare by The Doge, out of a mare by Zacaweista. Tatan is by The Yuvaraj. In Calaway Gal's mating, The Yuvaraj meets with his half sister Equiria, who is granddam of King's Troop. King's Troop appears in Calais Royale's pedigree as grandsire of Cheval de Volee, her damsire.

Cheval de Volee, an Australian bred son of Boysie Boy, was a minor NSW sire. He is a direct descendant of PRETTY POLLY, quite possibly another influence in the success of Calaway Gal. Clang is linebred to Donatello II 5f x 6m, a fellow Pretty Polly family member.

Clang also has a more than useful three year old performing in Singapore. He is Classic Marco, winner of the Listed Singapore Turf Club Lion City Cup over 1200 m in January.

Like Calaway Gal, he carries a daughter of Star Kingdom through his dam. He also reinforces a line in Bellotto's dam – not The Yuvaraj as in Calaway Gal, but his son Tatan. His third dam is Brunhild, who appears in Classic Marco's dam as granddam of Nullabor, damsire of Imagele.

In addition, Classic Marco's dam is inbred to the ill-humored Sostenuto. Questionably also an influence of unsoundness, it is interesting to see that Classic Marco's dam Calm and Content is unraced, although this may be unrelated.

In Classic Marco's mating, Sostenuto meets with his half brother Idomeneo – damsire of Luskin Star.

No doubt Clang's success this season will prompt an even more enquiries for the 2002 breeding season – doubtless at a greater stud fee than the \$4,400 asking last year.