



PEDIGREE  **DYNAMICS**

Giant's Causeway

Whilst I have mixed feelings on the impact of the so-called 'shuttle phenomenon' on Australian breeding, there is no doubt that it has its upside.

Ten years ago, Australian breeding enthusiasts would make treks to the U.S. and Ireland to see animals of the stature of Giant's Causeway. Now they are presented on our doorstep like Christmas parcels, and usually stand for significantly less than you would pay for a service to them in the other hemisphere.

Having viewed Giant's Causeway myself a few weeks back, I can report that he indeed looks the champion athlete that he is.

Unbeaten as a two year old, his juvenile year was crowned with a Group One win in the Prix de la Salamandre. As a three year old, Giant's Causeway was phenomenal, emulating Nijinsky II in his achievement of winning five Group One races in one season – in fact in just ten weeks!

By Storm Bird out of a Rahy (by Blushing Groom) mare who is out of a Roberto mare, from my perspective Giant's Causeway presents with a more diverse pedigree than most of the shuttle sires.

Speaking of a performance comparison with Nijinsky II, it also looks as if he will work extremely well with him genetically.

Storm Bird is bred on a Northern Dancer / Bull Page pattern, one that is also present in **NIJINSKY II**'s pedigree. Stakes winners bred on this cross include some related to Coolmore's camp – High Yield carries this cross as does Thunder Gulch's best performed filly, Spain. Another of his progeny, Shot of Thunder, also carries with

pattern. Breeders wishing to utilise the success of this cross in matings with Giant's Causeway will be sending mares by such sires as **ROYAL ACADEMY, WESTERN SYMPHONY, YEATS, QUEST FOR FAME, UMATILLA** and **SUCCESS EXPRESS**.

ROYAL ACADEMY'S daughters not only carry Nijinsky II, but as he is also a half brother to Storm Cat's dam, they create some highly dynamic inbreeding to Crimson Saint involving both a son and a daughter – the best pattern when reinforcing so closely.

Nijinsky II also works well with Blushing Groom, grandsire of Giant's Causeway's dam.

Nijinsky's three-quarter brother The Minstrel is known to work well with Storm Bird. Daughters of **MASTERCLASS, PALACE MUSIC** and his son **NATURALISM** are therefore appealing.

Storm Cat also enjoys a great reputation with the Mr. Prospector line. Storm Cat's son Hennessy confirms this nick - four of Hennessy's thirteen stakes winners carry Raise a Native, including the champion, Johannesburg. Another two carry Mr. Prospector's sire, Raise a Native. Australasian broodmare sires such as **WOODMAN, STRAIGHT STRIKE, ZOFFANY, GEIGER COUNTER, BELLOTTO, EL MOXIE** and **FLYING SPUR** are candidates.

UMATILLA has several high class daughters worthy of Giant's Causeway. Stakes winning mares such as Umaline, Lisa's Game, Princess Marengo, Li Lo Lill, Umatune and Kim Uma should love the Iron Horse. Bred on a Mr. Prospector / Nijinsky II cross, he also carries Sir Gaylord.

Storm Cat's damsire Secretariat loves the presence of Sir Gaylord in broodmares. As well as Umatilla, **SIR TRISTRAM** line mares also deliver, as do daughters of **IMPERIAL PRINCE, BLUEBIRD, FLYING SPUR** and **HURRICANE SKY**.

RIBOT is another who has worked well with Storm Cat. **DANEHILL**, whose damsire His Majesty is by Ribot, looks appealing.

The duplication of Hail to Reason in Giant's Causeway's dam also calls for mares by **DANZIG's** sons. His damsire Admiral's Voyage is a close relation of Hail to Reason.

Stakes winning daughters of **EL MOXIE** such as Rainbow Bubbles, Bright Light and Private Nip look outstanding with Giant's Causeway. He not only contributes Ribot and Mr. Prospector, but is also out of a daughter of NATALMA, dam of Northern Dancer in Giant's Causeway. Further line breeding to prepotent females is created when Tom Rolfe in El Moxie meets with Chieftain in G.C. – both are sons of POCAHONTAS.