

HELISSIO HAS SOME HIDDEN TREASURES

by Jane Henning

Widden's new coup comes in the tall, rangy shape of Helissio. Winner of five Group One races and two Group Two's from his eight career wins, the jewel in his crown was the prestigious Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Helissio does not resemble his sire Fairy King, a 15.3 hh compact type. Helissio's damsire Slewpy (a son of Seattle Slew) is however, a scopey 16.2hh animal, while his second damsire Val de L'Orne was a "tall, stately" 16.2 hh horse.

While Fairy King is well known as a sire on the international stage, the immediate sire elements through his dam Helice - Slewpy and Val de L'Orne and even Helissio's third damsire Cutlass, may be unfamiliar to many Australian breeders.

From both a linebreeding and a 'pattern' breeding point of view however, there are many hidden treasures to be exploited in this pedigree.

Owners of mares by **GEIGER COUNTER** should have particularly high success in matings with Helissio.

Fairy King's tail female line is the famous GOODY TWO SHOES family, the other noteworthy descendants of which include Fairy King's brothers Sadler's Wells and Tate Gallery and three quarter brother Nureyev plus Ridan, Lt. Stevens, Yeats, Open Day, Windsor Slipper, Charles O'Malley, Val de Loir, Lorenzaccio, Thatching, Thatch, Geiger Counter, Cutlass, Middle Kingdom and Fox Myth.

Three of these, Charles O'Malley (damsire of Blenheim), Val de Loir (sire of Val de L'Orne) and Cutlass, reinforce Fairy King in Helissio. Perhaps this strong linebreeding to GOODY TWO SHOES provides a key to his extraordinary racing ability.

Geiger Counter further boosts this prepotent family, being a half brother to Fairy King's second dam, Special. In addition, his inbreeding to Nasrullah provides two more lines to Blenheim, who works very well with the genetically similar GOODY TWO SHOES descendant, Dalmaty. Both are by Blandford and have GOODY TWO SHOES and St. Simon within two generations through their dams.

Geiger Counter's sire Mr. Prospector traces to FRIZETTE, also ancestress of Helissio's pedigree influences Seattle Slew, Djeddah and Tourbillon (twice).

YEATS and **RUSTIC AMBER** (and other sons of Thatching such as **PUISSANCE** and **ARCHWAY** in the future) also provide their daughters with high potential for compatibility with Helissio, primarily because of their strong **GOODY TWO SHOES** influences. Daughters of Thatching are already working well with Fairy King in Europe.

Champion Western Australian sire **MAROONED** (Mill Reef - Short Rations by Lorenzaccio) has stakes winning daughters who also deserve to be mated with Helissio. His sire Mill Reef has a pattern of Nasrullah over Princequillo. Slewy has two Nasrullah / Princequillo combinations in his pedigree and should appreciate the reinforcement of this recognised nick in Mill Reef.

Another pattern repetition contributed by Mill Reef involves Princequillo over Count Fleet - a cross present in Slewy through his damsire Prince John.

Add to this the fact that Mill Reef's sire Never Bend is a half brother to Fairy King's damsire Bold Reason and that Marooned's damsire Lorenzaccio is a **GOODY TWO SHOES** member and you have a very powerful cross.

Fairy King's damsire Bold Reason is an ancestor to target for linebreeding. He traces to **SUNSHOT**, also taproot mare of sires such as Never Bend (as in Mill Reef discussed above), Solferino (present in Sovereign Edition), King of the Tudors, Grand Chaudiere (present in Snippets), Brookfield, Windsor Lad and Wolver Hollow.

Both Mill Reef (by Never Bend) and Wolver Hollow's potential compatibility with Helissio are supported by European statistics revealing the success of their daughters with his sire, Fairy King.

DON'T SAY HALO mares should also help get Helissio off to a good start.

Hail to Reason is triplicated 5m x 8f / x 4m in this cross, however the most desirable feature is the strong reinforcement of predominant females.

Don't Say Halo's sire Halo provides a line to **ALMAHMOUD**, also second dam of Northern Dancer in Helissio. Halo's damsire Cosmic Bomb is a half brother to the dam of Prince John (damsire of Slewy), while Never Bend in his third remove is a half brother to Fairy King's damsire, Bold Reason, both being out of **LALUN**.

Don't Say Halo's second dam Never Hula is bred on a Princequillo / Nasrullah cross therefore, like Mill Reef, lending a pattern repetition to boost those in Slewy.

Incidentally, **HULA CHIEF**'s second dam is a sister to the second dam of Don't Say Halo and hence provides some of same attributes in a cross with Helissio.

Helissio's future should be long and fruitful with several new sires available to cooperate in the ensuing years. Fellow Widden residents **SILLERY** and **CHARNWOOD FOREST**, as well as **BRIEF TRUCE**, **HECTOR PROTECTOR** and **SPECTRUM** could work on a tit-for-tat basis with Helissio down the track by either covering Helissio's daughters or providing daughters for his book.