



**PEDIGREE**  **DYNAMICS**

***NOBLE BIJOU'S AFFINITY WITH THE FANTASY FAMILY***

The Phantom Chance (NZ) could be described as a professional racehorse with enduring high class ability, specialising in middle distance events.

His most recent success as a rising seven year old was the 2400m wfa P.J. O'Shea Stakes (Group 2) at Warwick Farm on 1st June. This \$175,000 event boosted his record to eleven wins from 36 starts and over \$1.57 million.

Taking into consideration the fact that The Phantom Chance is full brother to the equally successful racehorse The Phantom, it is obvious that his inherent racing talent is no genetic hiccup.

His sire Noble Bijou, himself an unraced son of the outstanding middle distance/stayer Vaguely Noble, was a consistent producer of classic winners and longer distance performers.

The Phantom Chance's dam The Fantasy and her full sister The Twinkle were also high class middle distance performers. They are half sisters to the equally talented mare The Dimple, who incidentally, as a daughter of Noble Bijou, is a three quarter relation to The Phantom Chance.

The Fantasy is by Gate Keeper, the winner of two minor races in England over twelve furlongs at three years. Gate Keeper's grandsire Alycidon was one of the best stayers of modern times, while his dam was a daughter of Precipitation, a sire who possessed plenty of stamina.

The Fantasy is actually *inbred* to the great Alycidon, as he is not only her great grandsire, but also appears close up in the pedigree of her damsire Mellay. Precipitation's dam DOUBLE LIFE happens to also be direct ancestress of the Champion New Zealand sire Mellay, thereby reinforcing this successful line.

Obviously, The Phantom Chance's pedigree is very generously sprinkled with stamina influences. At first glance in fact, it would appear that the mating which produced The Phantom Chance invited the production of a 'two mile plodder'.

A closer analysis of the pedigree of The Phantom Chance however, reveals the

creation of some interesting patterns and family buildups which go a long way towards confirming that it is a recipe of stamina plus speed which produces outstanding middle distance racehorses.

The apparent glut of stamina influences in The Fantasy is redeemed by the fact that the duplication of Alycidon comes through a son (Alcide) / daughter (Meld) combination. 'Sex balancing' to dominant ancestors - even stayers - close up in a pedigree appears to have the dynamic effect of boosting the speed element in a mating.

In addition, Alycidon creates a 'nick' reversal to Noble Bijou's great grandsire, Aureole. Alycidon is by Donatello II from a daughter of Hyperion, while Aureole is by Hyperion from a daughter of Donatello II. This is also a good speed lift to a dour pedigree.

Aureole, incidentally, has the same third dam as The Fantasy's grandsire Alcide - the prepotent matriarch ALOE.

Another dynamic pattern created in this mating involves the reversal of Vaguely Noble's Hyperion / Nearco cross. A complimentary Nearco / Hyperion cross is provided by Mellay, The Fantasy's damsire.

The Phantom Chance's tail female line stems from the English mare The Hammock, who was exported to New Zealand in the 1870's. It appears that The Phantom Chance's branch of this family did not fire up until The Kurd (1961), dam not only of The Phantom Chance's second dam The Pixie (Southland Guineas winner), but also the stake performers The Wink, The Vision (both by Noble Bijou) and The Dove. She is also granddam of several more black type performers.

A likely explanation for The Kurd's prepotency is that she is inbred 4 x 4 through a son and daughter to that outstanding sprinter and progenitor, The Tetrarch. It is interesting to note that The Tetrarch is reinforced in the pedigrees of The Phantom Chance's sire (Noble Bijou), damsire (Gate Keeper) and second damsire (Mellay).

In the bigger picture, there is also significant linebreeding to some of today's most important taproot mares.

Vienna and Donatello II in Vaguely Noble meet with two lines to Donatello II in The Fantasy, providing four lines to the amazing English racemare, PRETTY POLLY. By way of a genetic pick-me-up, Tehran, present in The Fantasy's dam's pedigree, traces to MIRANDA, a sister to PRETTY POLLY.

Alycidon is further reinforced by the presence of Turn-to in the pedigree of Noble Bijou. Both trace to the highly influential ancestress, MARCHETTA.

Royal Charger meets with Nasrullah, Fair Trial and Kurdistan - all descendants of the enduring influence LADY JOSEPHINE.

Vaguely Noble's inbreeding to Bahram plus Admiral Drake and Sir Gallahad III in Noble Bijou are joined by fellow CONCERTINA family member Bois Roussel, plus another line to both Sir Gallahad III and Bahram through The Fantasy.

The pedigree of The Phantom Chance is far from being a 'phantom chance'. Noble Bijou over the The Kurd and her female descendants has been a marriage made in horsey heaven. His joinings with The Fantasy (producing The Phantom and The Phantom Chance), her dam The Pixie (producing The Dimple), a half sister to her dam (producing The Fledgling), and her second dam The Kurd (producing The Wink and The Vision) display an almost incestuous affinity with this line.

Now that Noble Bijou is no longer on offer however, it will be interesting to watch the fortunes of this old New Zealand family. Like any successful line, careful planning married with a good dose of luck should help maintain its genetic strengths.

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