

Danehill - Purchasepaperchase (Young Generation)

Great as he was as a sire, with **CHAMPION** status in two hemispheres, **Danehill's** influence stretches much further now that his sons are coming on stream.

In Australia **Redoute's Choice** is breaking all previously known records, and is the hottest property around down under.

Another Australian son, **Danehill Dancer**, stands at Coolmore (as did Danehill) and has several sons at stud in Europe.

In Europe and Australia expectations are high for champion

Rock Of Gibraltar, who had a Gr1 winner in his first crop in 2006, Mount Nelson, out of a mare by Selkirk (Sharpen Up).

Danehill's pedigree shows inbreeding 3x3 to the mare Natalma, dam of Northern Dancer and of Danehill's grandam Spring Adieu. Conventional wisdom would suggest that crossing Danehill with mares carrying more of the same (Northern Dancer specifically) should pay dividends. At first glance, a useful approach indeed: Rock Of Gibraltar 3x3 Northern Dancer, Spartacus 3x4, Desert King 3x3, Danetime 3x4, Flying Spur 3x4, Aquarelliste 3x4. And more. At the same time, there are a host of others who do not conform to the theory - could there be other forces at work?

Looking beyond Natalma (and other offspring from her dam Almahmoud, added through a variety of sources) leads to a surprise result - that of genetic sibling interaction from a completely different source. Genetic siblings are best defined as horses whose pedigree backgrounds carry a very large proportion of the same lines, often in a variety of combinations. The effect of combining such genetic siblings close up in a pedigree can be more potent than inbreeding close up in the conventional way, to the same name. For instance, as Buckpasser and Nijinsky's dam Flaming Page are genetic siblings, the combining of Buckpasser with Nijinsky can be more potent than doubling up on either Buckpasser or Nijinsky.

Dramatic successes can be achieved where a large

group of genetic siblings can be identified, and be used in combination. One well-known grouping in European pedigrees is that of Aureole, Alycidon, Borealis, Herculeum, Queen of Light, Acropolis, Feola, Dastur, Tehran, Owen Tudor, and others.

Interestingly, Danehill's best runners lead to another large group of genetic siblings, who appear to throw a wider net than the originally assumed Natalma tribe.

The key horse in the equation is Admiral's Voyage, broodmare sire of Danzig (Danehill's sire). In Danehill's own pedigree, Admiral's Voyage is a genetic sibling of Buckpasser, making for inbreeding 3x3 to the pair. They both carry prominent lines of War Admiral and his sire Man O'War, of Pharamond, of brothers Bull Dog/Sir Gallahad and their sire Teddy. Deeper in the background, each carries ten lines of St Simon - and more.

Significantly, Buckpasser is a leading representative of a very successful genetic sibling trio comprising Tom Fool (Buckpasser's sire), Flaming Page (dam of Nijinsky) and Spring Run (dam of Red God, sire of Blushing Groom). As it turns out, perhaps not unexpectedly, Admiral's Voyage fits in perfectly with the three to make a quartet of important genetic siblings.

The identification of Admiral's Voyage as a notable influence in Danehill leads to a search for others who fit the mould. It turns up the mare Attica, the dam of Epsom Derby winner Sir Ivor (Timeform 135). Another mare, Leven Ones, dam of champion filly Lianga (Timeform 133). Then Nile Lily, dam of River Lady (Timeform 126), who bred Riverman (Timeform 131). And Searching, dam of topmares Admiring and full sister Priceless Gem (who bred Allez France, Timeform 136). All four mares genetic siblings to Admiral's Voyage.

Where From Here

Toreador's future affinity could be linked to the elements of Danehill (Admiral's Voyage & genetic siblings), or to those of Purchasepaperchase (Alycidon clan of genetic siblings) - or both, as it seems that the two certainly don't have a negative effect on each other.

Inbreeding to Danzig should not be ruled out.

Another angle is provided by the 'Family 7' theory, developed by pedigree analysts down-under. The theory holds that Danehill, like his sire Danzig, gets best results when mated to mares carrying descendants of any of four full sisters (Emma, Maria, Caroline, Maid Of Lune) from way back in the mists of time. The 4x3 Leinster x Donna genetic sibling inbreeding in Purchasepaperchase is relevant here, as the sire of Leinster traces to Emma, while the sire of Donna goes to Maria. The theory suggests adding concentrations of more of the same. Rockefeller (as in Sharpen Up, whose dam is by Rockefeller) is a much favoured line in this context, as Danehill Dancer shows - his dam is by Sharpen Up. Worth noting that successful sires Kris and Diesis are sons of Sharpen Up.

Pick of the Bunch

Suitable mares for Toreador include

1. Mares with Danzig (widespread - National Assembly a nice one)
2. Mares with any of the genetic sibling trio of Tom Fool (Buckpasser), Spring Run (Blushing Groom), Flaming Page (Nijinsky); Dinner Partner (Caesour) is another member of this clan
3. Mares with Riverman, Sir Ivor, Halo (Rakeen)
4. Mares with War Relic (Relic), Searching, Pia Star
5. Mares with any of the genetic siblings Alycidon, Aureole, Borealis, Herculeum, Acropolis, Feola, Dastur, Tehran, Queen of Light
6. Mares with concentrations of Family 7 members, notably through Rockefeller (Sharpen Up, Kris, Diesis - nice one is Crystal de Roche)

A further search throws up War Relic, sire of influential French sire Relic; US sire Pia Star; and Halo, whose grandam is the dam of Natalma (Halo is in turn a genetic sibling of Attica, the dam of Sir Ivor).

Let's look at a sample of Danehill's notable offspring:

- Rock Of Gibraltar - 3rd dam River Lady
- North Light - dam by Rainbow Quest (Blushing Groom)
- Arena - dam by Tawfiq (Blushing Groom)
- Redoute's Choice - dam by son of Bletchingly (damsire Relic), 2nd dam by Nijinsky, 3rd dam by Sir Ivor
- Spartacus - 2nd dam by Nijinsky
- Danehill Dancer - 3rd dam Lianga
- Choiris (by Danehill Dancer) - dam by grandson of Tom Fool
- Flying Spur - 2nd dam by Sir Ivor
- Nothin' Leica Dane - dam by Sir Tristram (Sir Ivor)
- Aquarelliste - 2nd dam by Irish River (Riverman)
- Banks Hill & Dansili - dam by Kahyasi (sire by Nijinsky, dam by Blushing Groom)
- Mozart - 3rd dam Admiring
- Stormy Hill - 2nd dam by Pia Star

As a sire prospect, Toreador gets the best of two worlds of genetic siblings.

Bought for 250,000 guineas as a yearling, he's the eighth foal of his dam Purchasepaperchase, who was Gr1 runner-up in France as a 3yo. Purchasepaperchase is inbred 4x3 to genetic siblings Leinster (grandam of Balidar in her sire-line) and Daphne (her own third dam). Daphne played a significant role, too, in the making of the second dam of Toreador, Tin Goddess. The latter is inbred 3x2 to full siblings Alycidon and Acropolis. Looking at the make up of the sire and dam of Tin Goddess, who are Petingo and Daphne, there's even a case for 1x1 genetic sibling inbreeding, so close are the two related. With Petingo and Balidar's sire Will Somers also genetic siblings, the upshot of it all is that Balidar and Tin Goddess become very close genetic relatives, the pair 2x1 in Purchasepaperchase!

Purchasepaperchase not only was a highclass racer herself (Gr1 second in France), she also bred four black-type runners: Toreador and his full sister Carambola, Handel (by Sadler's Wells) and the best of them all, Matiya, who won the Irish 1000 Guineas and ran second in the English one, then third in the French Oaks. Matiya was by Alzao, the successful Lyphard-sire whose dam Lady Rebecca (by Sir Ivor) is yet another genetic sibling to Admiral's Voyage, making for a strange coincidence in the current context.