

Danehill's most successful son of this season

By: Miloslav Vlcek December 21, 2014

The breeders are likely to disagree who of Danehill's sons at stud today is the best. Many would no doubt name Fastnet Rock and Redoute's Choice, European breeders would mention great achievements of Dansili and Danehill Dancer and Rock of Gibraltar would have their supporters too. Who of Danehill's sons is the best one in the first months of this year - judging by achievements in black type races - is clear enough though. And oddly enough, it is none of the stallions mentioned above.

You may remember him as a horse trained by Sir Henry Cecil, successful both in English and French group races. **Multidimensional** - for it is he of whom we are speaking - showed plenty of talent already then, despite racing only fourteen times in four years of training (and three on the racetrack). He was unraced as a two-year-old, in three his biggest achievement was the victory in the Prix Guillaume d'Ornano (Gr.2) over 2,000 metres in Deauville. As a four-year-old he raced just twice: having won the Class 3 at Newbury he finished fifth in the Champion Stakes. His last season on the racetrack was, at the same time, his most fruitful - he had a total of eight races. He won the Rose of Lancaster Stakes (Gr.3), finished second to Macarthur in the Hardwicke Stakes (Gr.2) and fourth in the Irish Champion Stakes (Gr.1), won by New Approach.

After retiring to stud he was hired by Usha Stud Farm, one of the most successful producers of thoroughbreds in India, where he was active since 2009. The son of the winner of the Lancashire Oaks (Gr.3) and second in the Yorkshire Oaks (Gr.1), **Sacred Song**, covered 63 mares in the first season and they produced fifty foals. Their start was fantastic. **Multidimensional** became the Champion First Season Sire, then Champion Freshman Sire. Last year, in just four weeks, his progeny won the Bangalore Fillies Trial Stakes (Gr.1) thanks to **Amelia**, a week later **Alaindair** won the Bangalore



Multidimensional

Colts Championship Stakes (Gr.1) and he won the Bangalore Derby (Gr.1) three weeks later. The last weekend was similar. On Saturday **Multidimensional**'s daughter **Amelia** won the Major Mehra Memorial Super Mile Cup (Gr.1) and another of his daughters, **Striking**, finished third; his son **Alaindair** won the Indian Turf Invitational Cup (Gr.1). A day later **Artesia** and **Exclusive Colours** took first two positions in the Calcutta St. Leger (Gr.3) and **Keukenhof** won the C.N. Wadia Gold Cup (Gr.2). In total **Multidimensional** has ten black-type winners (of them four are Gr.1 winners) and six more have managed to place in the Indian black-type races.

The story of **Multidimensional**, the hottest sire in India, shows how a good environment can help the stallion in his stud career. The horse arrived at Usha Stud Farm at the time when the stud was looking for a sire to replace the legendary **Razeen** who was twenty-three at the time and who died a year after **Multidimensional** started to be active at stud. Northern Dancer's son **Razeen**, also trained

by Sir Henry Cecil, belonged among the most successful sires in Indian history. He was the champion sire seven times and his progeny has won 102 of Indian classic races so it was no easy task to find a replacement.

When Multidimensional arrived at Usha Stud Farm, there were many Razeen`s daughters among the mares and it was this fact which no doubt helped his successful start. This is best proved by the statistics of his black-type progeny. Of sixteen horses who won or placed in black-type races, eleven are out of Razeen`s daughters and another four who are out of dams by **Steinbeck**, have Razeen as the granddam sire! The winner of the Calcutta 1,000 Guineas, Oaks and St Leger, Artesia, out of the U.S. bred Trois Etoiles by Alysheba, is the only black-type horse by Multidimensional without Razeen`s influence.

If we look at the pedigree of the two stallions, the successful nick should come as no surprise. The pedigrees of Multidimensional`s sire Danehill and that of Razeen are built on similar foundations. Danehill is the grandson of Northern Dancer in the direct line, Razeen is his son. Danehill is out of a dam by His Majesty, Razeen`s dam is the daughter of His Majesty`s brother Graustark and both the granddams of Danehill and Razeen are by Buckpasser! The Multidimensional x Razeen nick is thus characterised by inbreeding 3x4 to Northern Dancer, 4x5x5 to Natalma, 5x5 to Ribot, Flower Bowl and Buckpasser.

The connection of Danehill with mares of Graustark`s influence has proved to be viable even earlier. For instance, one of the best Danehill`s sons, the sprinter **Mozart**, is out of a granddam by Graustark, Graustark`s son Key To The Mint is the damsire of the winner of the German 2,000 Guineas, **Royal Dragon**. Graustark, moreover in connection with Buckpasser, can be found in the pedigree of the five times Gr.1 winner **Duke of Marmalade**. To sum it up, nothing new, just the Indian breeders were able to expand on this affinity and now they harvest the well deserved fruits.

Courtesy: balctypopedigree.com