

Common Land: Making a profound impact

Specials: By: Storm Again

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Common Land was one of the most influential sires to stand in India. Though speed was his forte which he inherited to his progeny, he also had an Indian Triple Crown winner through Almanac from his very first crop.

He sired several classic winners including Artaius, Prima Facie, My Pet, Cordon Rouge, Regal Star, Aspirtant, Etna, Oncidium, Perfect Timing, Own Ordain, Twilight Lady, Welly's Wonder and Accomplish. More than the classic winners that he sired, Common Land is more famously known for producing nine Sprinters Cup winners, a feat not bettered by any other stallion in India so much so that there is a clamor to rename the Grade I Sprinters Cup which is held during the Invitation Cup weekend as Common Land Cup.

The demand is certainly justified because no stallion has had such a profound impact on the sprinters cup directly through his progeny and through his daughters who have had winners in this race through Fire Arch and Polar Falcon. Oncidium last by a whisker to Recardo in the Sprinters Cup held at Chennai which incidentally was ridden by legendary jockey M Jagdish during his twilight years.

Common Land (GB) undoubtedly gave a big boost to the Usha Stud Farm in establishing its credentials as the leading nursery in the country. While Grey Gaston set the stud farm on course for a classic conquest through his progeny, Common Land helped to establish the nursery further.



Common Land (GB)

Common Land (GB) (By Klairon out of Short Commons by Hard Tack)

Common Land was a high class two-year old who was sent out by his trainer Michael Jarvis to win the Gr 1 Grand Criterium International d'Ostende after placing second in Gr 3 July Stakes. When he was imported by Usha Stud in 1977, he was one of the best performed horses to come to India having been rated 119 by Timeform.

The son of Klairon, Common Land has also proved to be a useful classic broodmare sire. Common Land died in December 2000 at the age of 28 but in the 23 years that he stood at the Usha Stud Farm, he had made a profound impact on Indian breeding scene. His progeny which had speed as their forte blazed the Indian tracks. His late owner Maj Pradeep Mehra, used to call him "Greenfingers" because shrubs and trees, which no one remembered planting, grew profusely in his paddock.

Common Land (by Klairon out of Short Commons by Hard Tack) left a rich legacy at the Usha Stud Farm which has always been successful in importing top class stallions which have contributed to raising the profile of the Indian bloodstock.

Source: Indian Stud Book

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