

Acclamation half-brother to the likely winner of the Albany, Sandiva. And a Hannon-trained runner for the Magniers leaps off the page. Roger Varian's Elkaayed is running as the Telescope surrogate, having twice been respectfully placed behind that Derby absentee. Whichever race he contests nothing among the three-year-old colts (save Remote) may be a worry to this finely bred son of Distorted Humour and half-brother to a Breeders' Cup Marathon winner.

Roger Varian thinks the world of Elkaayed: my personal favourite for the week comes on the concluding, day, the Saturday, in the next to the last race, the Duke of Edinburgh Handicap. Opinion is a horse difficult not to like. He has only run twice over this mile and a half trip – the first at Ascot when he was hopelessly obstructed. He's half-brother to the useful Fox Hunt, whose biggest victory came at Meydan – over Opinion Poll.

Opinion was 'runner-up' on his last outing – the Lingfield gallop in which Telescope declared himself unready for the Derby, but which suggested that Sir Michael Stoute's four-year-old was very much prepared for Royal Ascot.

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IN GERMANY: Classic winner Akua'da and Diana-Trial winner Ars Nova head the fillies

Gestut Brummerhof, one of the leading breeders and consignors in this country enjoyed classic success in the Group II German 1,000 Guineas when their homebred Shamardal filly Akua'da landed this classic—and her first stakes event for that matter—after having been unplaced in the Group III Karin Baronin von Ullmann-Schwarzgold-Rennen last time out.

As a juvenile she broke her maiden at first asking and then ran second in the Group III Preis der Winterkonigin. Second place in the classic went to Gestut Haus Ittlingen's Pivotal filly Calyxa.

Gestut Brummerhof acquired Akua'da's dam, the Listed placed Sadler's Wells mare Akua'ba, at the end

of 2009 when she was in foal to Shamardal. Her next foals are a two-year-old filly by Monsun, a yearling filly by Tiger Hill and a filly foal by Monsun again. Akua'ba is a granddaughter of the The Minstrel mare Land of Ivory, the dam of the juvenile Group I winner Heart of Darkness, with the latter's half-sister Ivory Coast producing the multiple group and stakes winning Lando entire Ivory Land.

While Akua'da was taken out of the German Oaks, another filly made her mark on the market for this fillies' classic at Dusseldorf at the first weekend in August. Stall Salzburg's Soldier Hollow filly Ars Nova produced a strong finishing run in the Group II Diana-Trial at Hoppegarten over 2000 metres to land her first stakes victory after clearly relishing the longer trip.

Bred by Gestut Karlshof, Ars Nova is the third group winner bred from the winning Surumu mare Asuma, a daughter of the four times classic-winning Czech champion mare Arva, who is also the dam of Asuma's Slovenske Derby winning own brother Arvan.

Ars Nova is one of two major classic fancies this year for the Gestut Auenquelle based young sire Soldier Hollow, who enjoyed a great weekend and another great Sunday this weekend when Gestut Schlenderhan's homebred colt Ivanhowe romped home to victory in great style from the Halling colt Empoli and the Mount Nelson colt Orsello, thus stamping himself as the official favourite for the upcoming German Derby on July 7th at Hamburg. Ivanhowe was bred from the German Oaks runner-up, the Sternkonig mare Indigo Girl, tracing back to the German Oaks heroine Indra.

Ars Nova is the second group winner for the Gestut Auenquelle-based young sire Soldier Hollow, who enjoyed a great weekend. He is now the sire of 12 stakes performers, headed by last year's German Derby hero and champion Pastorius, winner of the Group I Prix Ganay on his seasonal debut this year – Ars Nova, the Listed sprint victor Dabbitse, the further stakes winners Sworn Sold, Dessau and Old Pal, who ran third in the Listed Polar Mile Cup recently.

CHRISTA RIEBEL

RACING IN INDIA—The Niarchos-bred Danehill stallion Multidimensional sired a classic winner from his first crop when his Pesi Shroff-trained daughter Amelia, out of the Razeen mare Adamile, won the Bangalore 1,000 Gns at the southern city on Sunday. The favourite Starry Eyes, also by Multidimensional, was disappointing; Tejano's daughter Beauty Is Truth was second and another Shroff charge, bred, like her, at Vijay Mallya's Kunigal Stud, Mariinsky, was third. The Manjri Stud-bred Trance, another from her sire's first

crop, that of Phoenix Tower, was fourth. Amelia was bred at Ameeta Mehra's Usha Stud, where Multidimensional stands, and is part owned by the stud owner, along with Mrs Berjis Desai, Rakesh Junjhuwala and Mehernoosh Deboo. Amelia's dam Adamile was a classic winner herself and was out of the British-bred Last Tycoon mare Climbing High, from the Snowtop-Icing family.

RACING IN NORTH AMERICA—The four-year-old Ermyn Lodge-bred Byron filly Byrama, a daughter of the Darshan mare Aymara, ran out a decisive winner of the Gr 1 9f Vanity Hcp at Hollywood Park on Sunday.

Letter from Ireland

from VALENTINE LAMB

YOU have to hand it to Jim Bolger, the master of the surprise when it comes to targets for his big race hopefuls. This has been the case with both New Approach and now his son Dawn Approach. Back in 2007 New Approach had been such an impressive winner of the trainer's pet race, the Dewhurst Stakes, that he been installed winter favourite for both the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby.

Then 12 days before Newmarket, he told the assembled hacks at Glebe House, almost perversely, that New Approach was not being aimed at the Derby but instead the preference was for the Irish Classics and added: 'I've never won an Irish 2,000 Guineas and I would like to win one.' After narrow defeats in both Guineas to Henrythenavigator, Bolger, never one to let the shortage of days between races to worry him, declared the son of Galileo at the five-day stage for Epsom. Out poured the vitriol from the hacks both before and after his well-timed victory, causing the trainer to later admit he had rather enjoyed the outbursts.

Well, to a lesser extent, it has happened again with Dawn Approach, who looked as if he were going to have a long rest after his runaway antics in the Derby earlier this month. Theories that the unbeaten 2,000 Guineas winner had been stung by a bee, couldn't find his usual pacemaker, Leitir Mor, and proved that he could not stay 12 furlongs were all bunkum, although his trainer said he collided with another horse coming out of the stalls and that 'set him alight.'

It was decided after Epsom that he would be taking a long rest and Bolger announced that 'he definitely will not be going to Royal Ascot,' and that the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood on the last day of July was a possible target. Then last Tuesday, as Dawn Approach appeared to be glowing with good health, it was

decided to make the St James's Palace Stakes this Tuesday as hopefully his return to grace. Also it was announced that he would be reunited with his old pal Leitir Mor, who showed his well-being with a game victory in the Group 3 Ballycorus Stakes at Leopardstown last Thursday.

ENTHUSIASM

The stable's typical change of plans was greeted more with enthusiasm than indignation by the hacks this time, as the race promises to be a highlight of the meeting with Dawn Approach likely to be opposed by Magician and Toronado. The former left his two-year-old form well behind with an easy victory in Chester's Dee Stakes and then showed true class when landing the Irish 2,000 Guineas. There was a scare last Thursday when minor bruising was sustained, but he has been reported since to be in fine fettle. However an able deputy in Mars has been put in as an intended runner and his slightly balked run in the Derby was full of promise, although it is slightly surprising his trainer has decided to switch him back to a mile from 12 furlongs.

Also likely in contention is Toronado, who was strongly fancied to beat Dawn Approach in the Guineas, but strangely compounded in the Dip. Rider Richard Hughes is adamant that he is back to his best. So now we have one rising star against a pair of former saints turned sinners looking to win back their halos. Interesting.

It is now fashionable to say that last year's top three-year-old Camelot, winner of three Classics, was best in a bad crop and he had defeated nothing of note. This theory was firmly franked when the son of Montjeu was comfortably beaten by the year older Al Kazeem in the Tattersalls Gold Cup at the Curragh last month. Afterwards trainer Aidan O'Brien said that he had gone easy on the colt, which had been unwell during the winter. He intends to take his revenge on Al Kazeem in the Prince of Wales's Stakes on Wednesday, but he will have to do it in style to knock the knockers.

Everyone has a story about the much adored Henry Cecil, so here goes. He was being interviewed on BBCTV by the diminutive Willie Carson after yet another winner at Royal Ascot. He was obviously tiring of the somewhat mundane questions. So he looked down at the former jockey from his great height and said: 'Why are you dressed like a railway porter?'

QUOTE

'He was a gentleman'—BHA chairman Paul Roy on Henry Cecil. Not always to his ladies he wasn't.

RACING IN INDIA—Usha Stud's Danehill horse Multidimensional completed a classic double with his first crop when his son Alaindair, out of the Razeen mare God's Grace, won the Bangalore 2,000 Gns in southern India on Sunday by a wide margin. Burden of Proof's son Acclaimed was second and Rebuttal's son Ace Bucephalus third. The winner is trained by Altamash Ahmed for Usha boss Ameeta Mehra, Nevill Devlaliwala and Gaurav Sethi.

RACING IN NORTH AMERICA—Juddmonte's 3-y-o First Defence filly Close Hatches, out of the Storm Cat mare Rising Tornado, a granddaughter of Monroe, beat the favourite Dreaming of Julia by 7 ¼ lengths to win the Gr 1 8 1/2f Mother Goose Stakes at Belmont. Moyglare's 4-y-o Invincible Spirit colt Speaking of Which, out of Suitably Discreet by Mr Prospector, won an allowance at Monmouth. Orion Moon, a 4-y-o daughter of Manduro out of the German-bred Platini mare Okocha racing for her breeders Chevotal de la Hauquerie in France, won an allowance at Belmont.

RACING IN ITALY—The Gp 3 10f Premio Mario Incisa Della Rocchetta for 3-y-o fillies was won Singspiel's daughter Licia, who is out of the Intikhab mare Love Money. Kitten's Joy's Ramsey-owned daughter Shirley's Kitten was second and the Dubawi filly Mangiapregaama third.

RACING IN GERMANY—The 6-y-o Medicean horse Neatico, out of the Sadler's Wells mare Nicola Bella, won the Gp 3 Grosser Preis der Wirtschaft at Dusseldorf on Sunday.

RACING IN SPAIN--French raider Ares d'Emra wins top mile test

A pulsating finish saw the handsome French-bred 3 y-o Desert Style colt Ares d'Emra get up in the final strides to beat the gallant and classy 5 y-o horse Cielo Canarias (Exceed and Excel – Summer Dance by Sadler's Wells) to win the Premio Memorial Claudio Carudel, the mile championship of the Madrid spring meeting, run on Sunday at La Zarzuela racecourse.

In what proved a slowly run race in the initial stages, Cielo Canarias found himself leading the field almost from the start, with Ares d'Emra tracking him closely alongside favored Abdel (by Dyhim Diamond). Two furlongs from the post Cielo Canarias kicked from home and he valiantly kept the lead for most of the straight but Ares d'Emra, under a forceful ride by Czech jockey Vaclav Janacek, never wavered in his pursuit and just put his nose in front when it mattered.

A Listed winner and placed in France, Ares d'Emra was last seen on the racecourse when unplaced behind Intello in the Prix de Jockey Club. The drop in distance and class proved fruitful for him here, although he had no easy task in Madrid. Bred by J. Boitteau, he is trained in France by Christian Delcher and is owned by Ahmad Mouknass and Anthony Forde. Forde, in whose already well known blue and yellow silks Ares d'Emra ran in Madrid, has been one of the top owners in Spain since La Zarzuela reopened in 2005. Ares d'Emra, a big and good looking bay who carries a lot of condition, is out of the German-bred mare Belua, by Lomitas.

Manuel de Luque

Latest from Australia

In the final Group One of the season on Eagle Farm's closing day of their Carnival, the five year old mare Red Tracer (Dane Shadow – Kisma by Snippets) put her Group One jinx well and truly away in the box when winning the Filles & Mares wfa 1400m Tattersalls Tiara [registered as the Winter Stakes] on heavyground by two and a quarter lengths.

So often the bridesmaid in these Group Ones, on Saturday she had the ground and the draw in her favour and looked terrific in the preliminaries. An own-sister to the Galaxy winner of 2010, Shellscape, this was her tenth Group One appearance and she made no mistake this time, holding off the four year old Streama (Stratum – Pensiamo by Sovereign Red, NZ), with a short head back to the NZ-bred Savabeel five year old Floria.

The 1200m Gp3 WJ Healy Stakes saw the four year old Howmuchdoyouloveme (Written Tycoon by Last Tycoon's course record holding son Iglesia) successful again where he got the better of Holy Roman Emperor's Baltic Warrior by one and three quarter lengths. The winner's dam Betula Belle is by Celtic Swing (GB)

In the 1400m Listed two year old race, Enquare (Stratum – Skewiff by Mookta) won her second race when getting home by one and a half lengths from the Canny Lad gelding Cannyzing. This was just compensation for her short head third and her neck second places behind Queensland's form filly, Missy Longstocking in the Hampden Stakes here and the Lancaster Stakes at Doomben.

At Randwick where the going was heavy to start the day and got progressively worse, they managed to get three races completed and two of them were 1200m juvenile events, before deteriorating underfoot conditions prevailed and racing was abandoned.