

A tiger in the tank

- Do Cup class mares leave top class foals?

BY BEE PEARS

Making the New Zealand trotting Cup field is a tough assignment, and extra tough for mares. Over the years we have seen some wonderfully competitive mares make that grade and, in some cases, excel in and even win the race.

In the past 20 years 22 individual mares have made it into the New Zealand Cup field, the last of them being Kiwi Ingenuity in 2010. On their day they carried the weighty expectations of owners, punters, commentators and admirers. Inevitably expectations followed them into the breeding paddock when they finished their racing career. How have the results turned out so far?

It is easier to get a line on the older mares, where there are more generations of progeny to assess how well the family is building. And of course every season brings new foals on the ground, new qualifiers and new performances. This is a snapshot of these broodmares right now, as the 2014 New Zealand Cup is about to be run. For a more comprehensive summary on all the mares please check the Articles page on my blogsite b4breeding.com.

Roll of Honour

Firstly, a tip o' the hat to the mares who made it into the field in the past 20 years, with the date and placing of their Cup race/s:

Tigerish (4th in 1994 and 8th in 1995), Blossom Lady (5th in 1994 and 6th in 1995), Victor Supreme (9th in 1996), Anne Franco (9th in 1997), There's A Franco (4th in 1998), Kate's First (5th in 1998 and 4th in 1999), Silk Brocade (9th in 1998), Adio Routine (13th in 1998), Under Cover Lover (8th in 1999 and 4th in 2000), Kym's Girl (3rd in 2000 and 1st in 2001), Chloe Hanover (8th in 2000), Kliklite (15th in 2000), Flight South (8th in 2001), Shortys Girl (3rd in 2002), Mainland Banner (1st in 2005 and 9th in 2006), Alta Serena (2nd in 2005), It's Ella (3rd in 2006 and 14th in 2007), Imagine That (10th in 2006), Foreal (15th in 2007), Bachelorette (8th in 2008), Kiwi Ingenuity (7th in 2009 and 10th in 2010), and Nearea Franco (13th in 2009).

That's an impressive list of mares – but how many of them have become successful broodmares? Who is leaving a legacy beyond her own lifetime?

Let's get to the "awards" ...

Tigerish

Success comes in different forms. For the breeder, getting good price when selling offspring, or developing a classy family over several generations can be just as important as getting one highly talented individual from a mare.

Tigerish is a mare that has done all of that, and deserves the gold medal. A lot of the credit does to her breeders, Lindsay and Pam Turner. Her colts have sold very well at the yearling sales - Lord Tiger for \$52,000, Hezatiger for \$100,000, Top Notch Tiger for \$87,500, Justa Tiger (a tough top grade performer who went on to win \$162,222 and has stood at stud) for \$50,000, and Mac Tiger for \$46,000.

Her first foal was filly Tiger Turner who was 2yo Pacing Filly Of the Year. Sadly Tiger Turner died after leaving four foals – the only colt was All Tiger who was sold as a yearling for \$90,000 and went on to win 13 times and earn \$287,267 before being sold to America in 2010.

With the Turner's keeping or sharing in many of her filly foals, Tigerish had a great chance to establish one or more strong branches to carry on –already a grand-daughter Tiger Tina (from tiger Turner) achieved 12 wins and stakes of \$119,631 before starting her own breeding career.

Under Cover Lover

The silver medal goes to 1999 Cup contender Under Cover Lover. Her first five foals were fillies but sold very well as yearlings - Affairs Of State for \$90,000, Art Lover (sold privately), Exotic Lover for \$62,000, Fortune Lover for \$55,000, Under The Odds for \$70,000, then two colts: High Valour for \$26,000 and Grand Cru for \$58,000. That's a good return for a run of fillies.

The value of her filly foals has been as much in their potential breeding career as any racetrack success, although success has come. Affairs Of State was second in both the 3yo Sale Series Fillies Final and the Nevele R 3yo Fillies Final, and Exotic Lover won the 2yo Sales Series Fillies Final and was second in the 2yo Sires Stakes Fillies Final. Exotic Lover has kicked on as a broodmare (Abraxas and Speights Girl, both multiple winners). Affairs Of State has produced three winners to date including the talented Chachingchaching and the 4-win Highsocietygirl, both by Mach Three.

On the Affairs Of State branch, an Art Major great-grand-daughter of Under Cover Lover called Stopandstare was bought by Mark Purdon for a paltry \$14,000 at the 2013 yearling sales, and she's already had three wins at trials and a first start for a third.

Kliklite

Kliklite gets the bronze medal because the quality of her line is already reaching into the third generation. Her third foal, Top Tempo raced from a 2yo to a 5yo to gain 11 wins from 44 starts and bank \$239,262. She was bought by Lauriston Park Australia in 2009 and has been a lovely broodmare for them, including Musical Delight (11 wins from 18 starts and \$248,910) and Queen Of Pop (2 wins from 4 starts to date including the Australia Pacing Gold 2yo Fillies Final Group 1 earlier this year). Kliklite has had mainly colt foals since, although there are now a couple of fillies on the ground who could add even more to her legacy.

Packed with potential

Close up for fourth is a group of younger mares who have already produced an eye-catching foal that can compete at the top level and put a family on the map again.

Nearea Franco finished racing with 11 wins from just 34 starts and \$441,405 to her name. Bred from by Spreydon Lodge, her first born is the extraordinarily talented Nike Franco by McArdle, who has

been massively successful in Australia with 12 wins from 16 starts as a 3yo last season, including the Queensland Oaks.

Foreal's 2011 Art Major colt is the very talented Field Marshal who was good enough to make the 2014 Australasian Breeders Crown finals and get a very credible third. Her first foal, Madiba Magic, sold for \$80,000 at the 2011 yearling sales and has 3 wins and 7 places to date.

Alta Serena's broodmare career gets a huge boost with her first colt Hughie Green having four wins from just five starts and making this year's field for the New Zealand Sires Stakes 3yo Final.

The others

Running on strongly after a slow start is the mare Victor Supreme, who has produced two \$100,000 plus performers, Supremacy and Victors Delight. Another of her daughters (Pocket Conquest) has produced 10-win mare Pennsylvania and the talented filly Ideal Quest.

Flight South, There's A Franco, Shortys Girl and Kym's Girl have also produced some good solid performers, and the next generation will be worth following.

Mainland Banner and Kate's First have perhaps carried the biggest reputations to the broodmare paddock, but the end results have been less than hoped for. Kate's First's progeny sold well, and in that sense she was successful, but their performance on the track has been average. Mainland Banner has also been just average as a broodmare, but now has left two well-bred filly foals for Glenferrie Farms in Australia.

Several Cup mares were the outstanding member of their family, indeed of several generations of their family – and they have not managed to achieve a family upgrade as broodmares themselves. Anne Franco, Silk Brocade, Adio Routine and Chloe Hanover fall into that category.

Blossom Lady died after only three foals (two are 2-win mares now producing), and Bachelorette died before she could produce any foals.

BEE PEARS is a small-time breeder and a writer on standardbred breeding, including the popular www.b4breeding.com blog