

Seven mares in a Rowe

– the Rowe Cup of 21 May 1994

BY BEE PEARS

The 1994 Rowe Cup was held in slushy, showery conditions, but the popular Diamond Field handled it with aplomb to beat two outsiders, the mares Breton Abbe and Chiola's Gem, with the great Pride Of Petite coming fourth. There were four other mares in that field – Elizabeth Bay (seventh), Ribtec (eighth), Lily The Pink (ninth) and So Long Eden (thirteenth).

What happened to these mares in terms of their breeding careers? Twenty years on, let's review their progress in the order they crossed the line in that 1994 Rowe Cup.

Breton Abbe

Second placegetter Breton Abbe (breeder: P J M Coleman, Mrs P L C Nairn) finished her career in New Zealand and Australia with 13 wins and \$175,748 in stakes, and was then exported to North America where she raced on for another couple of years, 8 more wins and US\$53,157. Breton Abbe carried her talent for many years. She won her first race as a 2yo at Akaroa, and her last win was at Pocono Downs in America as a 9yo.

She had three foals that I can track down: a 1999 filly called Kiwi Song by a Supergill son called Super Ben Joe, who has won \$43, 577; an Angus Hall colt called Four Starzzzz Gus who did well as a youngster but was moved on for just \$5000 at the Harrisburg Mixed Sale in 2005; and a 2003 Angus Hall filly called Inverness.

Both Inverness and Kiwi Song are being bred from. Kiwi Song has been bred to a son a Muscles Yankee called Iron Duke, resulting in a 2011 filly foal called Iron Princess, who trotted as a 2yo for \$19,776 to date, a colt foal called Lone Valley Cody, and a 2013 filly foal called Iron Duchess. Inverness has had a filly called Our Miss Abby who won her first start in a \$15,000 trot as a 2yo by four-and-a half lengths and has been a consistent performer for breeder/owner Sawgrass Farms around Balmoral Park.

Chiola's Gem

Chiola's Gem (breeder: R F Hunt, M K Chubb, G R Mason, D K Gibbons) was also a 5yo when she started in the Rowe Cup. It was her best year for racing, gathering 4 wins, and although she raced on for another couple of years for Dave Gibbons, she couldn't find that form again. She retired with a record of 75 starts for 7 wins and 11 places and \$63,541.

She started her broodmare career for breeders Mrs K H Gibbons and J Dryden in great fashion with three foals who were winners but, like her, they were late starters and needed time. Her first foal, Sunny Gem by Sundon, gained 5 wins and was retired to breed but died in 2010 after only two foals, both winners.

Chiola's Gem's second foal was the incredibly durable Sundon gelding Sunny Stone, who raced here 87 times for 8 wins, before being sold to Australia and racing there another 68 times before retiring in November 2012 with just over \$100,000. Her 2005 Malabar Maple gelding Me An Kel is another durable campaigner. He left New Zealand as a 5yo with 5 wins and 18 places under his girth strap,

and went on to race in Australia for a total of 94 starts to date, 16 wins, 24 places and just over \$120,000. He had a cracker run of form last April/May at Globe Derby, and last raced in June 2014 as an 8yo.

It looks like her 2007 foal Unico Pegasus by Pegasus Spur (bredder: D Gibbons) is following the family programme , with 4 wins here before heading to Australia where he has already added another 2 wins and 3 places in what could be an extended career for the “young” 7yo.

Pride Of Petite

The Pride Of Petite story has been well covered in many publications. Her broodmare record is good – 5 winners from 8 foals – but I think everyone has been holding their breath to see a really solid racing and breeding female branch (or two) pick up the flame carried so brilliantly by Petite Evander and her daughter Pride Of Petite.

Will the answer lie with daughter Our Dainty Lady who is finding form as she matures? Or a grand-daughter like Petite One, the Angus Hall filly from the good mare Petite Sunset? Or Regal Petite, the Majestic Son filly from the non-winning Petite’s Pride?

Thanks to breeder Frank Weaver and others (and of course to Pride Of Petite herself for leaving plenty of fillies), there is a fascinating wealth of family branches to follow for the future.

Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay (breeder: Kenwood Stud Ltd.) was a good race mare, mostly as a 3 and 4yo. By the end of her racing career she had accumulated 8 wins and \$66,565, and she has proved a lovely broodmare for the Darrahs, the owners/breeders.

Her first four foals have all been later starters but solid performers – Iwi Robb (4 wins), Iwi Alex (10 wins, \$107,511), Iwi Fawkes (4 wins here then exported to Australia for a total of 9 wins, 19 places) and Iwi Trouble who likewise sold on to Australia and finished in 2012 with 10 wins, 45 places and over \$80,000.

Currently racing is her 2008 Thanksgiving foal Iwi Baldy who, like Iwi Fawkes (by Straphanger) duplicates the Elizabeth Bay/Count Bay connection on the maternal line to the great Arpege family.

Ribtec

Ribtec was the next mare home in that 1994 Rowe Cup. She was bred by National Bloodstock Ltd, and raced until she was a 7yo for 9 wins and 14 places. She has produced 6 filly foals but her daughter Ribtecler (breeders: Mrs G H Bezzant, Mrs R M MacAulay) is the only one that shows up at all. She got 5 wins and 23 places and has been bred from by Paul Smith with much love but little financial reward yet (see August issue of Harnessed).

Lily The Pink

Carl Middleton drove the US-bred Lily The Pink to ninth place in the Rowe Cup, a couple of months after her fourth in the Interdom Grand Final . She ended up with 100 starts and 13 wins and \$93,635. Her dam Working Girl was an American bred mare, and Working Girl’s later foal Miss Whiplash has produced an outstandingly consistent quality line of performers in New Zealand for the Parkers. However a couple of Lily The Pink’s daughters have also kicked on as broodmares – especially Another Starlet who has had 12 foals for 9 winners for breeder Millburn Farms including the good Millburn Michael, Pink Diamond, and Another Love. This classy breeding line is covered in detail in the August issue of Harnessed.

So Long Eden

Although placed thirteenth in the field, So Long Eden (breeder: NZ Bloodstock Ltd) was a very talented trotting mare and went on to have a stellar season the following year, including winning the 1995 Rowe Cup. She ended up with 16 wins and \$161,575 to her name. However her breeding career appears a bit of a disaster, with none of her 7 foals making it to the races. However two daughters, Savage Garden (by Continentalman) and Eva Longoria (by Love You), both bred by R F Cleaver, have started their own breeding careers.

The full field of the 1994 Rowe Cup, in finishing order, was: Diamond Field, Breton Abbe, Chiola's Gem, Pride Of Petite, Southern Man, Gorbachev, Elizabeth Bay, Ribtec, Lily The Pink, Fraggie Rock, Count Isa, Bunty's Pride, So Long Eden, Native Ellick, and Darz Dream.

Diamond Field's half-sister Tarbella Robyn is the dam of broodmare gem Rob The Nest who has left a number of very talented foals for Neil Munro and Garry Allen including Thedonsson, Galleons Assassin, and King Of Strathfield. And Count Isa's full sister Isa Countessa is the grandam of Australasian mile record holder Flying Isa.

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