

# TONY MORRIS



Pedigree analysis  
on **Paco Boy**

**T**HERE can be few more progressive three-year-olds in training than Paco Boy, who notched his sixth win from eight starts with a profoundly impressive display in Saturday's Group 2 Hungerford Stakes at Newbury.

A promising third on his racecourse debut over Kempton's all-weather track last September, he made the expected improvement to lose his maiden tag at Newbury 16 days later, and ended his first season with a smooth victory over older competition at Newmarket.

On his return, at Lingfield in March, he became a Listed winner, showing a fine turn of foot in the closing stages, and the step up to Group 3 company a month later in the Greenham Stakes again found him equal to the task; he was value for more than the three-quarters of a length by which he beat Bobs Surprise.

It is customary for the Greenham winner to have a crack at a 1m Classic next time out, and Paco Boy duly took his chance in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains as a quietly fancied 10-1 shot among a record field of 19.

Ridden from the rear, he encountered traffic problems after making steady progress towards the leaders, and when he escaped from the pocket it was all too late for a serious challenge. Nevertheless, he kept on resolutely, and with the benefit of hindsight it reads like a highly creditable effort, as two places behind him in ninth was Tamayuz, a Group 1 scorer in the Prix Jean Prat and Sunday's Prix Jacques le Marois on his next two outings.

Perhaps, like Tamayuz, Paco Boy was not quite ready for Group 1 company in May, but there can be little doubt that he is now. At Goodwood his winning margin over Stimulation in the Group 2 Lennox Stakes was no more than a neck, but it was cleverly gained in a career-best performance, and the impression he made there ensured that he would start a hot favourite on his return to Newbury for the Hungerford Stakes.

While he was widely expected to win, the manner of his success was quite an eye-opener. Ryan Moore held him up, trusting to his proven powers of acceleration, but even he was surprised by the remarkable turn of foot that the colt produced on demand. In a matter of a few strides, Paco Boy left his rivals for dead, and he extended his advantage throughout the final furlong to record a facile victory by four and a half lengths.

On that showing, the colt certainly merits another chance at the top level, and it was no surprise to learn that the Prix de la Foret, on Arc weekend, was now his prime target, although Goodwood's Celebration Mile on Saturday is a possibility. The Longchamp event is Europe's only Group 1 over 7f open to three-year-olds and upwards, and in 2006 it provided a triumph for another son of Paco Boy's sire in Caradak.

Three different auction firms are able to claim Paco Boy as a graduate of their sales, as he was sold when a foal at Goffs, as a yearling at Tattersalls (Ireland), and at two at Doncaster's April breeze-up.

As a brother to two winners, and half-brother to two more, he warranted close inspection at all of them, but because he does not impress in his slower paces, he changed hands quite cheaply on the first two occasions. He showed to better advantage when he breezed on



Paco Boy runs away with the Group 2 Hungerford Stakes at Newbury, with the promise of even better to come

# Paco Boy turns on the style

Only a matter of time before progressive colt bags Group 1

## SIRE DESERT STYLE

Bred by Ovidstown Investments Ltd in Ireland. Won 5 (6-7f) of 11 starts, viz. 2 out of 5 at 2 years, 3 (Tetrarch S.-Gr3, Ballycorus S.-Gr3, Phoenix Sprint S.-Gr3) out of 6 at 3 years. Also 2nd 3 times (inc. Hong Kong International Bowl-Gr2) and 3rd twice (Phoenix S.-Gr1, National S.-Gr1). RPR 101 at 2, 116 at 3. Earned £188,905.

Ran only at 6f and 7f, equally effective at both. Strong, medium-sized (16.0 hb) individual, game and consistent performer. Won on heavy and dead ground, but best form on sound surface.

Well bred. By a Gr1 sprinter who has sired Gr1 sprinters and milers, out of a Gr1-winning half-sister to the dam of Barathea, Free At Last, Zabar and Gossamer.

To stud at 4. Stands at Haras du Hoguenet, at a fee of €12,000. Sire of 10 crops of racing age, including notable winners: Bachir (Poule d'Essai des Poulains-Gr1, Irish 2,000 Guineas-Gr1), Jessica's Dream (Gr3), Next Desert (Deutsches Derby-Gr1), Caradak (Prix de la Foret-Gr1), Captain Hurricane (Gr2), Cool Creek (Gr2), Mandesha (Prix d'Astarte-Gr1, Prix Vermeille-Gr1, Prix de l'Opera-Gr1), Paco Boy (Gr2).

## DAM TAPPEN ZEE

Bred by N Browne in Ireland. Won 2 (both 7f) of 23 races from 2 to 5 years, viz. 0 out 3 at 2 years, 2 out of 10 at 3 years, 0 out of 6 at 4 years, 0 out of 4 at 5 years. Also placed 4 times. Turform 82 at 2, 85 at 3, 74 at 4, 64 at 5. Earned £4,725.

Quite useful at 2 and 3 years, latterly just a modest handicapper. Seemingly indifferent to ground conditions. Stayed 1m2f, but best form at shorter trips.

Quite well bred. Half-sister to Listed winners Cape Town (by Desert Style; also Classic-placed) and Regiment (by Shaadi), to Listed-placed winners Green's Ferneley (by Taufan) and Lammastide (by Martinmas), and to 2 lesser winners. Granddam 2yo winner, sister and half-sister to 6 other winners, inc. Penny God (champion in Hungary and Austria).

To stud at 5 and dam of: Tappen Lady (1992 f by Doulab; placed), Mawingo (1993 c by Taufan; winner), unnamed (1995 f by Balla Cove; unraced), Super Performance (1996 g by Mujadil; winner), Zacholiv (1998 f by Desert Style; winner), Fuel Cell (2001 g by Desert Style; winner), Xarzee (2003 f by Xaar; unplaced), Paco Boy (2005 c by Desert Style; Gr2 winner), Tartan Turban (2006 c by Invincible Spirit; winner). Barren to Dancing Dissident in 1994, slipped to Paris House in 1997, no return to Flying Spur in 2000, barren to Cape Cross in 2004, no return to Invincible Spirit in 2007.

## CONCLUSIONS

Progressive colt who promises to become his sire's fifth Group 1 winner. Seems ideally suited by 7f, but stays 1m well.

## PACO BOY

b c, 24-3-2005

	Northern Dancer	Nearctic Natalma
Danzig	Pas De Nom	Admiral's Voyage Petitioner
Green Desert	Sir Ivor	Sir Gaylord Attica
Foreign Courier	Courtly Dee	Never Bend Tulle
Desert Style b 1992	Derring-Do	Darius Sipsev Bridge
High Top	Camenae	Vimy Madrilene
Organza	Runnymede	Petition Dutch Clover
Canton Silk	Clouded Lamp	Nimbus Kepwick
	Yellow God	Red God Sally Deans
Pampapaul	Pampalina	Bairam Padus
Sandhurst Prince	Silver Shark	Buisson Ardent Palsaka
Blue Shark	Well Armed	Persian Gulf Armentieres
Tappen Zee ch 1986	Sing Sing	Tudor Minstrel Agin The Law
Mummy's Pet	Doubly Sure	Grey Sovereign Sweet Nothings
Rossaldene	Palestine	Fair Trial Una
Palestra	T.S.F.	Mieuxce Marconigram

Bred by Joan Browne in Ireland. €16,000 Tattersalls Ireland December yearling, 30,000gns Doncaster April 2yo.

Town Moor, but was still far from expensive when Peter Doyle secured him for Richard Hannon's stable at 30,000gns.

Desert Style was never quite top-class, the fact that he was named Europe's champion three-year-old sprinter indicating only that 1995 was not a vintage season for three-year-old sprinters. He did not even contest a Group 1 event that year, and his three victories all came in Group 3s – the Tetrarch and Ballycorus Stakes (both 7f), and the Phoenix Sprint (6f). He was equally effective at both distances, and gave his running whatever the underfoot conditions.

Although he lacked a win at the top level, Desert Style had been placed third in both the Phoenix and National Stakes as a juvenile, and he had a pedigree which gave him plenty of appeal as a prospective stallion. He could cash in on the popularity of his sire, Green Desert, and on his relationship to Barathea, the product of a half-sister to his dam. The reasonable initial Ir3,000gns fee ensured that he would obtain good patronage from Irish breeders, in numbers at least.

The record shows now that Desert Style has not been a consistent sire of high-class performers, but he has got six sons and one daughter who have won at a higher level than he achieved himself, four of them in Group 1s. In addition to the aforementioned Caradak, Bachir won both the Longchamp and Curragh Guineas, Next Desert took the Deutsches Derby, and the versatile Mandesha won the Prix d'Astarte over 1m, the Prix Vermeille over 1m4f, and the Prix de l'Opera over 1m2f.

**A**ND we should not overlook Cape Town, a son who did not win a Pattern race, but who was placed in seven, including a third in Bachir's Irish 2,000 Guineas. Now based at Far Westfield Stud in Warwickshire, he is a close relation to Paco Boy, being out of that colt's granddam, Rossaldene.

Bachir and Cape Town came from Desert Style's first crop, sired at Corbally Stud, but from 1997 onwards the stallion's home was Morrinstown Lattin, until his recent transfer to the Haras du Hoguenet, a change of base for which the exploits of Mandesha were chiefly responsible.

Paco Boy is by far the best of the three siblings sired by Desert Style from the Sandhurst Prince mare Tappen Zee. The filly Zacholiv won only a couple of minor events at Cork as a three-year-old, while the gelded Fuel Cell's successes came at Folkestone, Lingfield (in a claimer), Southwell and in a claiming hurdle at Wetherby.

Fuel Cell notched his Flat wins between 1m and 1m2f, but Paco Boy's aptitude at 7f is something he shares with both of his parents and with his sister. Zacholiv's wins came at that distance, and although Tappen Zee was able to get 1m2f in modest company, her only wins, at Limerick and Tralee as a three-year-old, were both over 7f. And that was also the trip favoured by Cape Town, whose most notable win came in the Free Handicap.

Although Paco Boy's record currently suggests that 7f is his optimum distance, he clearly stayed 1m in the Poulains, so the Foret is by no means his only top-level option in the coming months. If he is sent to the US, as has been mooted, he might well prove effective at up to 1m1f there.