

TONY MORRIS



Pedigree analysis on **Saddex**

LAST week's announcement that Sadler's Wells had retired from stud duties did not mean that the 27-year-old supersire was about to assume a lower profile. On the racecourse it remained business as usual, and on Sunday came yet another notable landmark in his fabulous career with the 300th victory by one of his progeny in a European Pattern event.

Fittingly, that success came at the top level, and in the Premio Presidente della Repubblica, one of the relatively few such races at 1m2f or more not previously won by a Sadler's Wells product. Saddex's triumph was the 105th at Group 1 level, but even that does not tell the whole story to date. There have also been 15 Grade 1 victories in North America and two in Australia.

Saddex was bred by the Niarchos family, among the keenest supporters of Europe's greatest-ever sire since his retirement to Coolmore in 1985, but was culled at the 2004 Deauville October yearling sale for only €115,000, around 77,000gns at the time.

Another offered from the same stud in that catalogue was Linda's Lad, who fetched €130,000 (about 87,000gns), and also went on to Group 1 glory, in his case in the Criterium de Saint-Cloud. Of the 43 others auctioned from that crop, 28 fetched higher prices, the subsequent triple Oaks winner Alexandrova being the most sought-after of her sex as a 420,000gns Tattersalls purchase.

Backward at two, when he started only once, Saddex was soon off the mark as a three-year-old, collecting a little race over 9.5f at Hannover in mid-April. After a third at Group 3 level in Frankfurt, he notched Listed victories at Dortmund and Bremen before reaching a creditable fourth place, little more than two and a half lengths behind the winner, Schiaparelli, in the Deutsches Derby at Hamburg. He later had Schiaparelli well behind him when third to Prince Flori in the Grosser Preis von Baden, and concluded his campaign as short-head runner-up to the filly Karavel in a Group 3 contest at Hoppegarten.

Saddex showed improved form at four last year, winning his first three races. He had no more than a head to spare over Bussoni in the Gerling Preis at Cologne in April, but two months later he took a second Group 2 event in clear-cut fashion, giving weight to some smart rivals, including Vison Celebre, Mountain High and Champs Elysees. Back on home territory in August he graduated in Group 1 company with another solid performance in the Rheinland Pokal at Cologne.

Punters gave Saddex little chance in his bid as the only German-trained representative in the Arc de Triomphe, but he again did himself credit, reaching a respectable sixth place, some six lengths behind Dylan Thomas. He was again the lone raider from his nation in the Japan Cup, but on ground far firmer than he had ever encountered in Europe, it was no surprise that he failed to get into contention.

Saddex would not be the first of Sadler's Wells's stock to reach his peak as a five-year-old, and he gave every indication that he had improved again when he divided Duke Of Marmalade and Sageburg on his reappearance in the Prix Ganay. He went under by only half a length, with Sageburg two lengths in arrears, and the latter's



Saddex: his Group 1 victory in Italy on Sunday was the 300th European Pattern success for his legendary sire

Wells reaches another peak

Improving German horse scores milestone win

SIRE SADLER'S WELLS

Bred by Swettenham Stud & Partners. Won 6 (7-10f) of 11 starts, viz. 2 (inc. Beresford S.-Gr3) out of 2 at 2 years, 4 (Irish Derby Trial-Gr2, Irish 2,000 Guineas-Gr1, Eclipse S.-Gr1, Phoenix Champion S.-Gr1) out of 9 at 3 years. Also 2nd in Gladness S.-Gr3, Prix du Jockey-Club-Gr1, King George VI & Queen Elizabeth S.-Gr1. Timeform 110p at 2, 132 at 3. Earned £576,500.

A top-class performer from 8-12f, handsome, tough, courageous, consistent. Superbly bred. By the most successful sire of modern times out of the dam of Fairy King, Tate Gallery, Fairy Gold, Hermitage, Perugino, etc. Dam (unbeaten Gr3 winner) half-sister to stakes winners Nureyev (also an exceptional sire), Number and Bound.

To stud at 4. Retired. Stood at Coolmore, Pethard, County Tipperary; last fee private. Sire of 21 crops of racing age, including Gr1 winners: Braashee, French Glory, In The Wings (3), Old Vic (2), Prince Of Dance, Scenic, Salsabil (5), Opera House (3), Rumyon, Saddlers' Hall, El Prado, Johann Quatz, Masad, Barathe (2), Fatherland, Fort Wood, Intrepidity (3), Carnegie (2), King's Theatre (2), Northern Spur (2), Moonshell, Muncie, Poliglote, Chief Contender, Dance Design, Darazari, Luna Wells, Cloudings, Ebadiyla (2), Entrepreneur, In Command, Kayf Tara (4), Dream Well (2), Greek Dance, King Of Kings (2), Leggera, Commander Collins, Dalapour, Montjeu (6), Saffron Walden, Aristotle, Beat Hollow (4), Subtle Power, Galileo (3), Imagine (2), Milan, Perfect Soul, Sequoyah, Sligo Bay, Ballingarry, Black Sam Bellamy (2), Gossamer (2), High Chaparral (6), Islington (4), Quarter Moon, Sholokov, Alberto Giacometti, Brian Boru (2), Doyen, Powerscourt (2), Refuse To Bend (4), Yesterday, Quiff, Yeats (3), Playful Act, Alexandrova (3), Linda's Lad, Saddex (2), Listen.

DAM REMOTE ROMANCE

Bred by Flaxman Holdings Ltd in Kentucky. Ran only at 3 years, won 2 (7f-1m) of 6 races. Earned F\$85,000.

Handicap-calibre performer, successful in minor events at Vittel and Clairefontaine, out of her depth in better company at Chantilly and Deauville. Stayed 1m, untried at longer trips. Very well bred. Half-sister to Gr1 winners Chimes of Freedom (by Private Account; dam of leading US sprinter Aldebaran) and Denon (by Pleasant Colony), to Gr1-placed Listed winner Imperfect Circle (by Riverman; dam of champion miler Spinning World, grand-dam of Arc de Triomphe 3rd Sagara), to Gr1-placed winner Piquetno (by Private Account; dam of dual Gr3 winner Dietrich) and to 4 lesser winners.

Dam Gr1-winning 2-y-o, half-sister to Gr1-winning stayer Chief Contender (by Sadler's Wells). Granddam Listed-placed sister to Malinowski (Gr3) and Monroe (Gr3; dam of Masterclass, Diese and Xaar), half-sister to Blush With Pride (multiple Gr1 winner; grand-dam of Jazil, Rags To Riches and Casino Drive). Exceptional family on 2 continents.

To stud at 4 years and dam of: Sabia (2002 f by Sadler's Wells; unraced), Saddex (2003 c by Sadler's Wells; dual Gr1 winner), Basic Mind (2006 c by Domedriver; unraced to date). She has a yearling colt by Cape Cross, and was covered by Galileo in 2007. Barren to Singspiel in 2004, no return to Cape Cross in 2005.

CONCLUSION

Admirably consistent performer, now up to holding his own in top international company at 1m2f and 1m4f.

SADDEX

	B	H	3-3-2003
Nearctic	Nearco	Pharos	Nogara
Northern Dancer	Lady Angela	Hyperion	Sister Sarah
Natalma	Native Dancer	Polynesian	Geisha
Sadler's Wells (b 1981)	Almahmoud	Mahmoud	Arbitrator
Bold Reason	Hail To Reason	Turn-to	Nothrdchance
Fairy Bridge	Lalun	Djeddah	Be Faithful
Special	Forli	Aristophanes	Trivisa
Riverman	Thong	Nantallah	Rough Shod
Irish River	Never Bend	Nasrullah	Lalun
Irish Star	River Lady	Prince John	Nile Lily
Remote Romance (ch 1997)	Klairon	Clarion	Kalmia
Northfields	Botany Bay	East Side	Black Brook
Aviance	Little Hut	Nearctic	Natalma
Minnie Hauk	Sir Ivor	Occupy	Savage Beauty
	Best In Show	Sir Gaylord	Attica
		Traffic Judge	Stolen Hour

Bred by the Niarchos Family in England. €115,000 Deauville October yearling.

victory in Sunday's Prix d'Ispehan underlined the merit of the form.

His own win at the weekend in Rome was secured by only a head over Pressing, but he had a shade more in hand at the finish, and this second proof that he was capable of top-class performance at 1m2f provided a further indication of his progress. On softer ground over 1m4f he may well show to better advantage again, and prove that he can be competitive with Europe's top performers.

By aptitude, Saddex can be considered a typical scion of the Sadler's Wells clan, but we should not forget that his sire is only one half of his pedigree, and recognise that he is also very well connected on the distaff side. His dam, Remote Romance, was not herself a runner of much distinction, and the two little races she won were over distances that would not bring out the best in her son.

She never contested a race beyond 1m, the trip over which her sire Irish River was a champion in France, while her dam, Aviance, scored her best win over 6f in the Phoenix Stakes, and finished quite close up when sixth in Oh So Sharp's 1,000 Guineas. We might infer from that evidence that Remote Romance was what she was bred to be, albeit far inferior to both of her parents as a miler.

BUT things are never quite so simplistic in thoroughbred breeding. The record shows that Irish River got notable winners over a wide range of distances, from pure sprinters to stout stayers; he had a few top-class milers, but some of them, like Hatoof and Brief Truce, were by no means specialists at the distance.

As for Aviance, her daughters Chimes Of Freedom and Imperfect Circle emulated her by being effective and high-class sprinter-milers, but she also produced Denon, third in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, but later a better horse as a four-time Grade 1 winner in the States over longer trips. And Aviance was herself half-sister to Chief Contender, a son of Sadler's Wells who found his true metier over extreme distances, claiming his best win at 2m4f in the Group 1 Prix du Cadran.

Saddex comes from an outstanding tail-female family, but it is not one whose representatives all fit neatly into a category signifying speed or stamina. Aviance's dam Minnie Hauk plied her trade at 7f and 1m, as did her brothers Malinowski and Gielgud, but sister Monroe was more effective at shorter distances, and her son Xaar, by the speedy Zafonic, comfortably got 1m2f in top company.

Among the half-sisters to that group, unraced Sex Appeal became dam of Try My Best and El Gran Senor, the latter being a Classic winner at 1m and 1m4f, while Blush With Pride won a Kentucky Oaks and is renowned now as the grand-dam of such as Peeping Fawn (out of a Sadler's Wells mare) and the last two winners of the Belmont Stakes, Jazil and Rags To Riches.

When mated with daughters of Irish River, Sadler's Wells has got Pattern-class winners at all distances between 7f and 1m4f; it is not a cross which allows a ready prediction of the product's optimum trip. Only the individual can elucidate that point by his or her performances on the racecourse.