

# TONY MORRIS



Pedigree analysis  
**Crowded House**

**W**HEN the Breeders' Cup is staged in California, European raiders have ready-made excuses for failure. A long journey at the end of a long season has provided sufficient explanation for numerous disappointments over the years, and if it was all too much for Dancing Brave, how could any other invaders ever undertake the task with confidence?

But the 2008 European contingent famously disproved Robert Louis Stevenson's dictum that it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive with a tremendous haul of five victories, climaxed in Classic success.

Who would have dared to predict that the rivalry between Raven's Pass and Henrythenavigator, such an enthralling feature of the season in Britain, would again prove to be the principal focus of attention over a different distance on a different surface in North America's most valuable race?

That great occasion in the blazing heat of Santa Anita will live long in the memory of those present, but Saturday also provided some special moments for those on hand in the murkier surroundings of Newbury and Doncaster. The performances of Evasive – a son of Raven's Pass's sire, Elusive Quality – in the Horris Hill Stakes, and Crowded House in the Racing Post Trophy, justly earned favourable notices, giving their connections hopes for Classic glory in 2009.

Evasive needs to do more to become a thoroughly convincing Guineas candidate, but he is clearly on the upgrade and, with a pedigree featuring Miesque as his third dam, who can argue that he is not bred for the job?

Crowded House, profoundly impressive at Doncaster, might also feature as a legitimate contender for the Rowley Mile Classic, and was quoted as short as 8-1 by one bookmaker, but some features of his pedigree background suggest the Derby may prove to be a more realistic target.

Besides, in its first 47 years, the race that was initiated as the Timeform Gold Cup has been won by only one subsequent winner of the 2,000 Guineas – High Top, whose Classic triumph came in 1972.

Reference Point, High Chaparral, Motivator and Authorized all went on to score at Epsom, where Pretendre, Ribocco, Linden Tree and King's Theatre were all placed second.

In addition, Celtic Swing won the Prix du Jockey-Club, when it was run at its proper distance of 1m4f, and Vaguely Noble, the most distinguished of all its winners, capped his career with victory in the Arc. The record clearly shows that Doncaster's end-of-season feature most typically delivers a winner who requires middle distances to excel as a three-year-old.

Crowded House made his debut in a big field for a 7f Newmarket maiden on the July course in August, attracting attention for his impressive physique, and acquitting himself creditably for one so obviously green. He clearly learned a lot from that experience, as only two weeks later he bolted up over 1m at Kempton, finding a telling burst of speed that soon settled the issue.

The lure of the big pot for the Tattersalls Million was hard to resist, although it meant a drop back to 7f, and in a field far higher in quality than is usual for sales races, Crowded House again advertised his potential, going under by only half a length



**Crowded House: showed an impressive turn of foot to win Saturday's Racing Post Trophy**

# Derby trip looks within reach

Trophy winner has a potent blend of stamina and speed

## SIRE RAINBOW QUEST

Bred by Alan Clore. \$950,000 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July yearling. Won 6 (7-12f) of 14 starts, viz. 2 out of 3 at 2 years, 1 (Great Voltigeur Stakes-Gr2) out of 6 at 3 years, 3 (inc Coronation Cup-Gr1, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-Gr1) out of 5 at 4 years. Also 2nd in Dewhurst Stakes, Irish Derby, Eclipse Stakes, 3rd in Prix du Jockey-Club, King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, 4th in 2,000 Guineas. Timeform 130 at 2, 131 at 3, 134 at 4. Earned £482,812.

Medium-sized (16hh), attractive, good mover, somewhat light and leggy in training. Top-class performer in each of 3 seasons, only once out of the frame, effective on any ground except heavy.

Among the best sons of his sire (also got Nashwan, Arazi, Blushing John, etc), a brilliant miler, 3rd in the Derby, responsible for good winners over a variety of distances. Dam a Gr3 winner at 1m4f, half-sister to Slightly Dangerous (Gr3 winner, 2nd in Oaks, dam of Warning, Commander In Chief, Dushyantor, Yashmak, etc).

Died 2007. Stood at Banstead Manor Stud, Cheveley, Newmarket, last advertised fee £25,000. Sire of 20 crops of racing age, inc notable winners: Knight's Baroness (Irish Oaks-Gr1), Quest For Fame (Derby S.-Gr1, Hollywood Turf H.-Gr1), Saumarez (Grand Prix de Paris-Gr1, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-Gr1), Sought Out (Prix du Cadran-Gr1), Armiger (Racing Post Trophy-Gr1), Bright Generation (Oaks d'Italia-Gr1), Raintrap (Prix Royal Oak-Gr1, Canadian International Championship S.-Gr1, San Juan Capistrano H.-Gr1), Urgent Request (Santa Anita H.-Gr1), Rainbow Dancer (Hollywood Turf H.-Gr1, Oak Tree Turf Championship S.-Gr1), Sakura Laurel (Spring Tenno Sho-Gr1, Arima Kinen-Gr1), Sunshack (Criterium de Saint-Cloud-Gr1, Coronation Cup-Gr1, Prix Royal Oak-Gr1), Spectrum (Irish 2000 Guineas-Gr1, Champion S.-Gr1), Fiji (Gamely H.-Gr1, Yellow Ribbon S.-Gr1), Croco Rouge (Prix Lupin-Gr1, Prix d'Ispahan-Gr1), Nedawi (St Leger S.-Gr1), Special Quest (Criterium de Saint-Cloud-Gr1), Edabiya (Moyglare Stud S.-Gr1), Millenary (St Leger S.-Gr1), Crowded House (Racing Post Trophy-Gr1).

## DAM WIENER WALD

Bred by WS Farish in Kentucky. \$175,000 Keeneland July yearling. Unplaced in all 5 starts, 3 at 2 years, 2 at 3 years. Earned \$200. Worthless as a runner, but half-sister to 6 winners, and out of a very good mare who won 2 Gr2s and was half-sister to high-class runner and outstanding sire Storm Cat.

To stud at 3 and progeny include: Argent Du Bois (1996 f by Silver Hawk, dam of Gr1 winner Ticker Tape), On Reflection (1999 c by Rainbow Quest; Listed winner, Gr3-placed), Riotous Applause (2003 f by Royal Applause; Listed-placed winner), Heron Bay (2004 c by Hernando; winner), Crowded House (2006 c by Rainbow Quest; Gr1 winner). She has a yearling filly by Royal Applause, and a colt-foal by Cape Cross.

## CONCLUSION

Strongly progressive, high-class performer with a fine turn of foot. Should relish middle distances at 3 years.

## CROWDED HOUSE

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	Nasrullah	Nearco
	Red God	Mumtaz Begum
	Blushing Groom	Menow
		Boola Brook
		Rialto
		Wild Violet
	Runaway Bride	Tudor Minstrel
		Emali
Rainbow Quest (b 1981)	Aimee	Plassy
		Vanille
	Herbager	Escamillo
		Fidgette
I Will Follow	Raise A Native	Native Dancer
		Raise You
	Where You Lead	Mossborough
		Duke's Delight
		Native Dancer
		Raise You
	Mr Prospector	Nashua
		Sequence
Woodman	Gold Digger	Tom Fool
		Busanda
	Buckpasser	Swaps
		Glamour
Wiener Wald (ch 1992)	Intriguing	Nearco
		Lady Angela
	Nearctic	Native Dancer
		Almahmoud
	Natalma	Bold Ruler
Chapel Of Dreams	Secretariat	Somethingroyal
		Crimson Saint
	Terlingua	Bolero Rose
		Crimson Saint
		Bolero Rose

Bred by Car Colston Hall Stud in England. 75,000gns Tattersalls October 1 yearling

against Donativum. And if there were any doubts about the merits of the winner, they were dispelled at Santa Anita some six hours after the Racing Post Trophy.

Crowded House's Doncaster triumph may not have been achieved in quite such spectacular style as that of Vaguely Noble 41 years earlier, but both won by reason of an impressive switch into overdrive that swiftly quelled all opposition. When a staying-bred two-year-old produces that kind of acceleration at Group 1 level, it is generally indicative of superior class.

But are we correct in labelling Crowded House 'staying-bred'? It is easy to generalise in the case of a son of Rainbow Quest, a horse who has 20 crops at the races and is known for a preponderance of stock successful at middle distances and beyond. This fellow does have some speedy influences in his background, and we should not automatically assume that stamina tests will suit him.

Rainbow Quest, who died in July last year, was a rare racehorse, rated in the 130s at two, three and four. We remember him best for his Group 1 wins as a four-year-old in the Coronation Cup and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (on the disqualification of Sagace), but it was his consistency over three seasons at the top level in a particularly competitive era that made him stand out.

He finished second in the Dewhurst and Irish Derby to El Gran Senor, and to Pebbles in the Eclipse, and his third places came behind Darshaan and Sadler's Wells in a fabled edition of the Prix du Jockey-Club, and behind Petoski and Oh So Sharp in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

**T**HE model racehorse began with a flourish at stud, getting winners of the Derby (Quest For Fame), the Irish Oaks (Knight's Baroness) and Arc (Saumarez) in his first crop. Although he could not maintain that sort of pace throughout his long innings, there were plenty of other celebrities to come, with such as Spectrum, Nedawi and Millenary among his later Group 1 scorers.

His racing stock have been less conspicuous in recent years, while his reputation as a broodmare sire has soared, and we might have been excused if we had assumed that Fashion Statement, successful in last year's Oaks d'Italia, would be his final major winner. There are probably too few runners to bring up a century of Pattern wins, but his current score of 91 places him tenth on the all-time list, one behind Mill Reef and two behind Lyphard.

The reasons why we cannot be sure that Crowded House will relish 1m4f are to be found in his tail-female line. Third dam Terlingua was a flying machine, sister to high-class sprinter Pancho Villa, and half-sister to Royal Academy, who was equally adept at 6f and 1m, but would not have cared to go further.

In addition, grand-dam Chapel Of Dreams was most effective up to 1m1f, and was a three-parts sister to Storm Cat, noted for speed as both runner and sire.

But the weight of evidence still seems to favour Crowded House's chance of lasting the Derby distance. His brother On Reflection stayed well enough to win in Listed company over 1m2f and to be placed at Group 3 level over 1m7f. His dam's other winner by a staying sire, Hernando's son Heron Bay, has proved his ability over 1m6f.