

# TONY MORRIS



**PEDIGREE  
ANALYSIS**  
**Al Kazeem**

## The best company will hold no fears for Charlton's improving entire

**L**AST weekend was the busiest of the season so far for Group 1 action in Europe, and all five of the top-level events produced excellent performances.

Magician, reverting to a mile after his Group 3 win at Chester over an extended mile and a quarter, gave a dominant display in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, indicating the variety of options open to him. Also at the Curragh, Just The Judge proved a ready winner of the equivalent fillies' Classic after her narrow, and perhaps unlucky, defeat at Newmarket.

Over at Longchamp there was a notable double for Monsun, with five-year-old Maxios confirming his recent improvement with victory in the Prix d'Ispahan and Silasol, previously front-running heroine of the Prix Marcel Boussac, proving amenable to different tactics with a last-to-first triumph in the Prix Saint-Alary.

Bur perhaps pride of place should go to Al Kazeem. Any horse who can lower the colours of a triple Classic winner deserves recognition, and it was something special for that feat to be achieved, comprehensively, by a lightly raced former invalid having his first start at Group 1 level.

Camelot, with a 2,000 Guineas and a brace of Derbys to his name, had come back successfully in the Mooresbridge Stakes after his own health scare over the winter, so he was inevitably at long odds-on for the Tattersalls Gold Cup, in which two of his only three opponents were no-hopers.

But Al Kazeem came from Beckhampton as a serious rival, and when James Doyle's well-timed challenge brought him upsides the favourite, the raiding party's hope turned to confidence. Clearly going much the better, the five-year-old did not need to be asked a serious question to settle the issue, drawing away to win by a length and a half.

This was only the tenth race of Al Kazeem's career, which has been one of admirable consistency since his introductory run as a 40-1 outsider in a Newbury maiden in October 2010. He showed promise even then, finishing fifth of 17, and underlined it little more than a fortnight later when winning another 17-runner Newbury maiden in good style, with the first two leaving the rest in a different parish.

The colt showed steady improvement through his three-year-old campaign, when he recorded a comfortable victory under top weight in the London Gold Cup, again at Newbury, before performing with credit as runner-up in three Pattern events – to Sea Moon in

### AL KAZEEM

**b h 15-4-2008**

		Mr Prospector	Raise A Native
	Seeking The Gold	Con Game	Gold Digger
		Shareef Dancer	Buckpasser
Dubai Millennium			Broadway
	Colorado Dancer		<b>Northern Dancer</b>
		Fall Aspen	Sweet Alliance
Dubawi (b 2002)			Pretense
			Change Water
	Shirley Heights		Mill Reef
	Deploy		<b>Hardiemma</b>
		Slightly Dangerous	Roberto
Zomaradah			Where You Lead
	Jawaher		Dancing Brave
			Lypard
		High Tern	Navajo Princess
			High Line
			Sunbittern
	Shirley Heights		Mill Reef
			Never Bend
			Milan Mill
Darshaan			Hardicanute
	Hardiemma		Grand Cross
	Abdos		Arbar
			Pretty Lady
Delsy			Venture
	Kelty		Marilla
			Nearctic
Kazeem (b 1998)		Northern Dancer	Natalma
			Victoria Park
	The Minstrel		Flaming Page
		Fleur	
Kanz		Rough'n Tumble	Free For All
			Roused
	Treasure Chest		War Relic
		Ilitis	We Hail
			Bred by DJ and Mrs Deer

### VERDICT

- ▶▶ Assuredly in the big league now after beating Camelot fair and square
- ▶▶ Top-class form at a mile and a quarter and a mile and a half and effective on any ground
- ▶▶ Still lightly raced and may well progress further

the Great Voltigeur, to Green Destiny in the Arc Trial and to Beaten Up in the St Simon Stakes. Further progress was to be expected.

Sure enough, Al Kazeem achieved a new personal best when he reappeared in the Group 2 Jockey Club Stakes at four, trouncing several high-class rivals in a performance suggesting he had a future at the top level. Unfortunately, he came out of that Newmarket contest with a stress fracture of the pelvis and his season was over after that one run.

We saw nothing of Al Kazeem again until April at Sandown, where he showed no signs of rust for his 11-month absence, recording a comfortable win in the Group 3 Gordon Richards Stakes, and he

continued to thrive and work well at home, prompting his trip to Ireland last weekend. It seems safe to say now that, if he remains injury-free, he should be able to hold his own for the rest of the year in the best company at a mile and a quarter to a mile and a half. His trainer thinks highly enough of him to believe he may be a legitimate contender for the Arc.

Al Kazeem comes from the second crop of Dubawi, the best product of Dubai Millennium's only season at stud. The sire is a horse we remember for an unblemished first season that closed with an impressive three-length victory in the National Stakes, and for the two further Group 1 triumphs he recorded at three, in the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the Prix Jacques le



**Al Kazeem: the lightly raced former invalid made his first Group 1 start a winning one at the expense of dual Derby winner Camelot**

Marois. He failed to stay when third in Motivator's Derby, and was perhaps a shade unlucky when runner-up to Starcraft in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, which in 2005 was staged on the Rowley Mile.

Small – under 16 hands – but well made and admirably honest, he was in his element when there was give in the ground, his only poor effort coming when the turf rode firm for the 2,000 Guineas. Damage to a hind leg ligament prevented his scheduled sign-off in the Breeders' Cup Mile and he was retired to Dalham Hall Stud with solid pedigree credentials to back up his fine racing record.

Out of an Italian Oaks winner, and from the family of In The Wings and High-Rise, he was not going to lack patronage in his first few seasons.

**T**HIS is the fifth year in which Dubawi's progeny have been active on the racecourse, and he has been represented by 24

individual winners of 38 European Pattern races. Nine of those winners came from his first crop of 118, and a dozen from the second of 115. None has yet emerged from his fourth crop, conceived at his lowest fee of £15,000. He stood at £25,000 for his first two seasons at Dalham Hall and €40,000 when switched to Kildangan for 2008's coverings.

While Dubawi deserves credit for what he has achieved so far from mares of less than blueblood quality, was it a bit early to bump him up to £75,000 in 2012, when the third and fourth crops, well down in numbers, could hardly be expected to match the record of the first two? Perhaps. But breeders have provided exceptional support last year and this, allowing the hope there will be more Makfis and Al Kazeems to come from him.

While the mares who have provided Dubawi with his strong start were not of outstanding quality, it should be noted that nor were they of the low grade such as Pivotal and Indian Ridge had to make their names with in recent times. Kazeem, the dam of Al Kazeem, may have retired a maiden after three starts for Barry Hills but she had plenty of pedigree, sufficient to warrant meaningful investment in her as a broodmare. And she duly delivered winners by Royal Applause and Averti before her happy liaison with Dubawi.

Kazeem is a daughter of Darshaan, an outstanding sire and even more outstanding broodmare sire, his daughters now having produced winners of 175 races in the European Pattern, a tally second only to that of mares by Sadler's Wells. Moreover, she is a sister to Treasurer, who won in Ireland and later finished third in Grade 2 company in the States, and half-sister to Kansk, a son of Top Ville who won at up to two miles.

They were out of the high-class Kanz, successful in the Group 3 Princess Elizabeth Stakes and runner-up in the Group 1 Yorkshire Oaks. A daughter of The Minstrel, Kanz was produced by Treasure Chest, who delivered two other stakes winners in Diomedea (by Sea-Bird) and Gold Treasure (by Northern Dancer), and became granddam of the brothers Gint Of Gold and Diamond Shoal, multiple Group 1-winning stars for Paul Mellon and Ian Balding in the 1980s.

Treasure Chest was herself a sister to My Dear Girl, America's champion two-year-old filly of 1959, when she recorded major victories in the Gardenia and Frizette Stakes. For all her failings as a runner, Kazeem came from a family that has flourished at the top level over several generations, and it comes as no great shock she now has a Group 1-winning son.