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PEDIGREE
ANALYSIS
Estimate

Cup star puts Ebaziya in a league of her own

ROYAL ASCOT could not completely erase the troubling and even tragic events that had cast a pall over racing in 2013, but it made notable contributions towards lifting the gloom, providing top-class and sometimes exhilarating sport, highlighted most memorably by the splendid victory of Her Majesty's Estimate in the Gold Cup.

Racing could hardly have obtained a more timely and positive boost than those potent images of the Queen's evident joy at having won the most fabled prize at her own race meeting. And the first reigning monarch ever to have achieved that distinction must herself have been thrilled by how conspicuously her subjects shared her joy.

The Queen's patronage of, and most importantly, her passion for the sport has been to its inestimable benefit over seven decades, and we can but hope that this latest triumph will inspire younger members of her family to follow her example and maintain the links with the Turf that royalty instituted almost a century before Queen Anne determined that Ascot would provide an excellent venue for horseracing.

In the early days of the Gold Cup, which was founded in 1807, it was rarely well-contested, and one royal success, for the Duke of York in 1821, was 'achieved' by dint of a walkover. It was not so unusual for fillies to triumph then, and four proved successful in the six years between 1828 and 1833, but once it had become a serious target for the best horses in training, the female of the species found the honours harder to come by.

After the victory of marvellous Beeswing, at the age of nine in 1842, no filly or mare captured the prize until Rupee scored in 1860. Oaks heroine Brigantine won in 1869, and the next two of her sex to triumph were both filly triple crown winners – Apology in 1876 and La Fleche in 1894. In the 20th century the only female winners were Quashed, who beat US Triple Crown hero Omaha in 1936, Gladness in 1958, and Indian Queen in 1991, and we waited 22 more years before the immensely game Estimate defied 13 colts and geldings in a rousing finish a week ago.

Estimate was one of the products resulting from a gift to the Queen by the Aga Khan of the use of six of his mares, with the Royal Studs choosing the stallions. She is now unbeaten in three Ascot efforts, having landed the Queen's Vase in 2012 and another Group 3 event, the Sagaro Stakes, earlier this year. Sir Michael Stoute, who has done a fantastic job with her, must now be thinking in terms of a return to the course for the Long Distance Cup on Champions Day in October. Longer-term, why not bid for a second Gold Cup in 2014? No filly or mare has ever won it twice.

Estimate is an impeccably bred filly, the product of exceptional parents. My records, which I believe to be accurate, show that while plenty of mares have produced three individual European Group 1 winners, including such celebrities as Alidiva, Balidareess, Colorspin, Coup De Folie, Flamenco Wave, Flying Melody, Gazala, Hellenic, Irish Bird, Korveya, Lady Berry, Licata, Sacarina, Set Free, Stilvi, Urban Sea and Zambara, none had produced four until Ebaziya attained that distinction last week.

Ebaziya, who was trained by John Oxx, was a smart performer herself. At

ESTIMATE

b f 4-4-2009

		Tamerlane	Persian Gulf
	Dschingis Khan	Donna Diana	Eastern Empress
		Donatella	Neckar
		Tiepoletto	Scarlet Skies
	Konigskronung	Kronung	Olymp
			Kaiserkrone
Monsun		Literat	Birkhahn
b 1990		Surumu	Lis
		Surama	Reliance
		Authi	Suncourt
	Monasia		Aureole
		Monacensia	Virtuous
			Kaiseradler
			Motette
		Mill Reef	Never Bend
	Shirley Heights	Hardiemma	Milan Mill
		Abdos	Hardicanute
			Grand Cross
	Delsy	Kelty	Arbar
			Pretty Lady
			Venture
			Marilla
Ebaziya		Pitcairn	Petingo
b 1989		Ela-Mana-Mou	Border Bounty
		Rose Bertin	High Hat
		Dan Cupid	Wide Awake
			Native Dancer
			Vixenette
			Pharis
		Albanilla	Tourzima

Bred by H H The Aga Khan's Studs in Ireland

VERDICT

►►A rare Gold Cup winner for her sex, achieving the feat with a display of exceptional gameness under pressure

►►Another triumph for her outstanding sire, who broke new ground for a German-bred horse by getting top-class performers outside his homeland

►►Product of a mare who also has a unique feat to her credit with four individual Group 1 winners in Europe

two she won a 7f maiden at Fairyhouse and was second in the Group 3 Killavullan Stakes at Leopardstown. She trained on at three to collect three Listed events – the Ballysax Race (1m2f) at the Curragh, the Oyster Stakes (1m3f) at Galway and the Trigo Stakes (1m4f) at Leopardstown, and she also reached the frame in two higher-grade contests when third in the Group 2 Blandford Stakes and fourth in the Group 3 Royal Whip.

Her overall record, one of admirable consistency, showed four wins, two seconds, two thirds and a fourth from nine outings for earnings of £39,031. Strong and well-made, she showed progressive form throughout, achieving her highest Racing Post Rating of 112 in her final race, and it did not require much imagination to see her as a valuable asset in the ranks of the Aga Khan's broodmares.

Ebaziya soon showed what a tremendous asset she was, as her first three foals all won at the top level. Her first mating, with Sadler's Wells,

resulted in Ebadiyla, who won the Irish Oaks and Prix Royal Oak. She next visited Kahyasi and the outcome was Enzeli, successful in the 1999 Gold Cup, and he was followed by the Rainbow Quest filly Edabiya, who notched her notable triumph in the Moyglare Stud Stakes.

RETURN visits to Sadler's Wells and Rainbow Quest produced winning daughters in Ebaraya and Elasauna, the latter also achieving a Listed place, and her last foal, delivered at the age of 20, is Estimate, the filly whose Ascot triumph has made her dam unique in the 43-year history of the European Pattern.

Ebaziya had an intriguing pedigree, as both her sire Darshaan and dam Ezana traced back to the same celebrated Boussac broodmare Tourzima, the former in the fifth generation, the latter in the third. Among the other notable performers



Estimate is led in after her thrilling victory in the Ascot Gold Cup

from the family mention must be made of Corejada, successful for Marcel Boussac in the Cheveley Park Stakes, the Poule d'Essai des Poulaches and Irish Oaks, Darara, who won the Prix Vermeille in the Aga's silks, and Darara's own Group 1-winning products, the Lloyd-Webber-bred pair Dar Re Mi and Rewilding.

It is interesting to note that Ebaziya achieved excellent results from liaisons with Sadler's Wells and Rainbow Quest, the pair who chased home her sire Darshaan in the 1984 Prix du Jockey Club. At the latest count those three horses between them have been responsible as sires for the winners of 486 European Pattern races, and as broodmare sires for the winners of 494. For all that Darshaan achieved with such top-class sons as Dalakhani and Mark Of Esteem, his impact has been far more potent through the produce of his daughters.

What more is there to be said about Estimate's sire, the marvellous Monsun? It was some time in 1999 when a German friend told me to keep an eye on a promising freshman sire who had not been a notable two-year-old himself, but who was getting runners of some promise. I duly took note and after that horse had got ten individual juvenile winners, achieving record earnings for a first-season sire, I began to think he could be something special.

After the Deutsches Derby of 2000, in which Monsun's sons Samum and Subiaco finished first and second, I was convinced, and I proceeded to

heap praise on him at every conceivable opportunity. And as he kept getting quality stock, there were plenty of opportunities. It might have seemed a longshot that a horse with an almost wholly German pedigree would flourish internationally, because none had ever done so before, but what a fabulous radical outcross he could offer, if breeders outside Germany were to take notice.

It did not happen immediately, which was hardly surprising, because a son of Konigsstuhl had to seem an off-the-wall recommendation, for all his successes at home. But after Shirocco had won at the top level in Britain and America, and Manduro's campaign crowning him the top older horse in Europe, their sire was widely recognised for what he was – an outstanding progenitor in anybody's terms.

Of course, he was no youngster by the time he was fully appreciated, and he had been blind for several years before his death last September. But he is having a wonderful season posthumously in 2013, and three days after Estimate's victory at Ascot, Novellist became his fourth Group 1 winner of the year in Sunday's Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud. He now stands sixth on the all-time list for winners of European Pattern races, his tally of 106 being exactly double that registered by the next-best German-bred, his own maternal grandsire Surumu, who made very little impression outside his homeland.