

TONY MORRIS



PEDIGREE
ANALYSIS
Farhh

More progress expected with Group 1 duck finally broken

ON ALL known form Farhh was clearly the horse to beat in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury last weekend, so the massive gamble on Declaration Of War was hard to fathom. Those who plunged on the false favourite knew their fate soon enough, as Farhh was always travelling smoothly, took command fully two furlongs from home and was never threatened thereafter.

This was a sparkling performance by the lightly raced five-year-old, who holds engagements in both the Queen Anne and the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot and in the Eclipse the following month. He promises to be a formidable contender for whichever targets he is set.

Farhh won his first three races, remarkably in three different seasons.

He began at two with an impressive six-length victory in a July course maiden at Newmarket, but subsequently developed an aversion to stalls and had soundness issues, so that he did not return to action until the end of October as a three-year-old, when he scored readily in a 20-runner handicap over the Rowley Mile.

After seven more idle months he reappeared in the Thirsk Hunt Cup, was backed as though defeat was the remotest of contingencies and duly routed his 15 rivals, winning by six lengths. That was an exceptional handicap performance, establishing him as clearly of Pattern race calibre, and indeed he has competed only at Group 1 level since then.

It has taken him a while to win one, but he performed consistently in his five other runs as a four-year-old. He finished third to So You Think in the Prince of Wales's Stakes, was a close second to Nathaniel in the Eclipse, then chased Frankel home in the Sussex Stakes and Juddmonte International, before missing by only a head against Moonlight Cloud in the Prix du Moulin.

Farhh certainly wasn't winning out of turn in the Lockinge, when his performance was clearly on a par with his best efforts in 2012. His division is less competitive this year, so further top-level victories are to be expected.

Farhh is the 17th individual European Group 1 winner for Pivotal, whose early crops included two fillies – Golden Apples and Megahertz – who scored multiple top-level triumphs in the States. A lightly raced sprinter

FARHH

b h 4-3-2008

Polar Falcon	Nureyev	Northern Dancer	Nearctic Natalma
		Special	Forli Thong
		Jefferson	Charlottesville Monticella
	Marie D'Argonne	Mohair	Blue Tom Imberline
Pivotal (ch 1993)		Caro	Fortino Chambord
	Cozzene	Ride The Trails	Prince John Wildwook
Fearless Revival		Bustino	Busted Ship Yard
	Stufida	Zerbinetta	Henry The Seventh Yucatan
		Surumu	Literat Surama
Lando	Acatenango	Aggravate	Aggressor Raven Locks
		Sharpman	Sharpen Up Miss Manon
	Laurea	Licata	Dschingis Khan Liberty
Gonbarda (b 2002)		Shirley Heights	Mill Reef Hardiemma
	Slip Anchor	Sayonara	Birkhahn Suleika
Gonfalon		Windwurf	Kaiseradler Wiesenweihe
	Grimpola	Gondel	Zank Goldhenne
			Bred by Darley

VERDICT

►►Impressive Lockinge victory suggests he could turn out to be one of the season's star performers

►►Equally effective at a mile and 1m2f and seemingly indifferent to ground conditions

►►Yet another fine advertisement for a long-established German female line

whose best wins came in the King's Stand and Nunthorpe Stakes, the now 20-year-old Cheveley Park resident was initially perceived as a horse who might serve small breeders well as a source of cheap speed, but he has far exceeded expectations to become one of the mainstays of British breeding.

He has regularly delivered high-class performers over a variety of distances, and having covered at only £5,000 in 2001, he moved swiftly upmarket to

command a fee of £85,000 in 2007 and 2008. This year he is advertised at £45,000, and as successes are still coming thick and fast, he represents excellent value at that. The Lockinge was the 90th European Pattern race to fall to one of his progeny, which leaves him behind only Rainbow Quest (96) and Mill Reef (92) among British-based sires.

Apart from his two seasons in training with Sir Mark Prescott,



Farhh: further top level victories could come his way this season

Pivotal has spent his entire life at Cheveley Park, where he has been joined by two of his Group 1-winning sons in Kyllachy and Virtual, and more recently by a Group 1-winning grandson in Mayson, who is the product of one of his daughters.

Bred by Darley, who have owned a stake in Pivotal for several years, Farhh is the product of an outcross mating, there being no duplications in the first five removes of his pedigree. However, the celebrated Birkhahn, who was campaigned in both East and West Germany and won 16 of his 22 starts, features in the fifth generation as broodmare sire of Derby hero Slip Anchor, and is four times a presence in the sixth generation, all in the background of Farhh's dam Gonbarda.

Gonbarda, bred and raced by Gestut Auenquelle, joined the ranks of Darley broodmares after having distinguished herself as a three-year-old in Germany.

Rated second-best of her sex there, she notched Group 1 victories over males in the Deutschland Preis in Dusseldorf and the Preis von Europa in Cologne, both over 1m4f. In the World Thoroughbred Rankings for 2005 she was assessed on 112, 10lb below the top filly, Divine Proportions.

Gonbarda is still considered the best daughter of her sire Lando, who had seven Group 1 victories to his name, four at home, including the Derby and two editions of the Grosser Preis von Baden, two in Italy, and, most famously, in the Japan Cup, the last-named a triumph hailed as a landmark event for German racing and breeding.

The best son of Acatenango, who also had seven Group 1 wins on his cv, Lando had an unusual feature in his pedigree, his paternal great-grandsire Literat and maternal great-granddam Liberty being full brother and sister, consecutive products of liaisons between Birkhahn and Lis.

Gonbarda represents one of the oldest established German families, her tenth dam in tail-female, the Galopin mare Glenayes, having been imported from England as a four-year-

old in 1893. Glenayes made her mark as a broodmare by delivering Ganges, winner of the top two-year-old event, the Preis des Winterfavoriten, in 1904, but there were no more notable successes for the family for several generations, a revival beginning in the 1960s, when Geck won the Austrian Derby, Gluck took the Zukunfts Rennen and Golfstrom scored in the Grosser Hansa Preis.

A CLASSIC victory came at last in 1985, Windwurf's daughter Grimpola, who had two crosses of Birkhahn in her third generation, winning the Schwarzgold Rennen, Germany's 1,000 Guineas. And it is Grimpola who has been key to raising the family to a new level, first at home as the granddam of Gonbarda, then internationally as granddam of Irish Derby, Tattersalls Gold Cup, Coronation Cup and Ascot Gold Cup hero Fame And Glory, and third dam of Farhh. Fame And Glory's dam Gryada is three-parts sister to Gonfalon, the dam of Gonbarda.

Grimpola came to England to join Lord Howard de Walden's broodmare band at Plantation, the plan being to repeat the success the stud had enjoyed with its previous purchase from Germany, Slip Anchor's dam Sayonara. It was stud manager Leslie Harrison's belief that, like Sayonara, Grimpola would be a suitable match for Shirley Heights and his sons, so in her first seven years as a broodmare she went to Shirley Heights four times, to Slip Anchor twice and to Darshaan once.

The results were not so impressive as those obtained with Sayonara, as only one achieved even Listed-placed status, and Grimpola was repatriated to Germany, the experiment being deemed a failure. But one generation later that assessment could be revised. Grimpola's unraced daughter by Slip Anchor, Gonfalon, became the dam of Gonbarda, and Gryada, her winning fourth Shirley Heights product, delivered Fame And Glory.