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PEDIGREE
ANALYSIS
Flintshire

THE Juddmonte Farms website reminds me that in January 2001 I committed the following to print: "Danehill's foal tally is now numbered in four figures, but I wonder how many have bred a better runner than Abdullah's Dansili? Don't bet against his becoming Danehill's best stallion son."

I make no claim to clairvoyance, those words having been prompted by a desire to indicate how desperately unlucky Dansili had been never to win a Group 1 race, and to draw attention to the fact he would be able to count on the staunch support of his home team, whose broodmare band was the equal of any in the world. He was still a month away from covering his first mare, but he was surely going to be granted the chance to reach the top.

Twelve years on, the identity of Danehill's best stallion son is still open to argument. Dansili now has the winners of 88 European Pattern races to his credit, three fewer than Coolmore's Danehill Dancer, while each has a sire's title to his credit – Dansili in France in 2006 and Danehill Dancer at home in 2009. And there is another to consider in Redoute's Choice, twice champion in Australia and a welcome addition to the ranks of French stallions in 2013.

What we can say for certain is that Dansili is a remarkable sire. In his first six seasons he never covered for a fee higher than £12,500, but he achieved outstanding results with mares from a variety of backgrounds, proving he could get speedy youngsters, proficient milers, and high-class performers over middle and staying distances.

His continued success as he came to attract more distinguished outside mares meant his fee in 2013 reached a new high of £80,000. And his connections can now celebrate the arrival of a new star in Flintshire, his impressive winner of last Saturday's Group 1 Grand Prix de Paris.

Dansili won five of his 14 races, never above Group 2 level in the Prix du Muguet, but he finished in the frame seven times at the top level – second in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, the Sussex Stakes and the Prix de la Forêt, third in the Prix Jacques le Marois, the Prix du Moulin de Longchamp and the Breeders' Cup Mile, and fourth in the Prix Jean Prat. He was particularly unfortunate not to sign off with a victory at Churchill Downs, where he met horrendous traffic problems and finished like a train to be beaten a neck and a nose.

When he quit racing, we regarded Dansili just as one of the most gifted sons of his sire. He was the first foal of Hasili and we had yet to learn about the worth of the other half of his pedigree. In the years that followed we recognised him as brother to Banks Hill, Intercontinental, Cacique and Champs Elysees and half-brother to Heat Haze – all Group 1 or Grade 1 winners. And he was the most highly rated of the males. The success he has achieved is no mystery.

Dansili was a specialist on the racecourse, 12 of his races being at a mile, the other two at 7f and 1m1f. But there has been plenty of variation in the distance requirements of his stock, who are all bays, bar the odd grey. While Fire Lily was very much a sprinter, Illustrious Blue was best over long distances, notching a Group 2 victory in the 2m Goodwood Cup, and others have thrived

Dansili back in spotlight with Grand Prix hero

FLINTSHIRE

b c 4-4-2010

		Northern Dancer	Nearctic
	Danzig	Pas De Nom	Natalma
	Danehill	His Majesty	Admiral's Voyage
			Petitioner
	Razyana	Spring Adieu	Ribot
			Flower Bowl
Dansili			Buckpasser
b 1996			Natalma
	Kahyasi	Ile De Bourbon	Nijinsky
			Roseliere
Hasili		Kadissya	Blushing Groom
			Kalkeen
	Kerali	High Line	High Hat
			Time Call
		Sookera	Roberto
			Irule
		Northern Dancer	Nearco
			Lady Angela
Sadler's Wells		Natalma	Native Dancer
			Almahmoud
	Fairy Bridge	Bold Reason	Hail To Reason
			Lalun
Dance Routine		Special	Forli
b 1999			Thong
	Shirley Heights	Mill Reef	Never Bend
			Milan Mill
		Hardiemma	Hardicanute
Apogee			Grand Cross
	Bourbon Girl	Ile De Bourbon	Nijinsky
			Roseliere
		Fleet Girl	Habitat
			Fleet Noble

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VERDICT

►►Very progressive colt, winning France's real Derby with considerable elan

►►Following in the hoofprints of his sire's son Rail Link and may well be of similar calibre

►►Represents a new high for his family after three successive generations were thwarted at Group 1 level

over intermediate trips.

It is also noticeable that once Dansili's products have attained Pattern or Graded status, they frequently go on to add further successes at that level. Rail Link and Bewitched won four, Harbinger and Emulous five, Proviso six, and, most remarkably, the durable Famous Name racked up 13.

Dansili's two most notable sons are Rail Link and Harbinger, who both achieved higher Racing Post Ratings than their sire's 126, the former reaching a peak of 128 in his 2006 Arc de Triomphe win, the latter running to a mark of 135 when he spreadeagled his 2010 King George rivals and won by 11 lengths.

Rail Link's route to the Arc took in victories in the Group 3 Prix du Lys, Group 1 Grand Prix de Paris and Group 2 Prix Niel, so it was no surprise to learn from Andre Fabre that Flintshire, with the first two of those races already in the bag, will now enjoy a summer's rest and make the Niel his last stepping-stone en route to the Longchamp showpiece on October 6.

Flintshire is still inexperienced, with only four runs behind him, and while the word earlier in the season was that stable companion Intello was by some way his superior, the manner of his victory in the Grand Prix de Paris might lead one to suppose he may have caught up with the Prix du Jockey Club hero now. He quickened up sharply when Maxime Guyon asked for his effort, winning with any amount in hand, and only Ocovango, hampered just as he had been at Epsom, had the semblance of an excuse.

Fabre, now trainer of 12 Grand Prix de Paris winners, does have one concern about an Arc bid for Flintshire,

'Flintshire is the sixth Pattern winner by his sire out of a Sadler's Wells mare'



Flintshire: taking the same route as 2006 Arc winner Rail Link

who would not want soft ground. But he can always fall back on Intello, Ocovango and Sky Hunter as he seeks his eighth victory in Europe's championship event.

FLINTSHIRE is the sixth Pattern winner to have been sired by Dansili out of a Sadler's Wells mare, after Passage Of Time, Father Time, Testosterone, The Fugue and Thomas Chippendale, but the stallion has found success with the daughters of a wide variety of other horses, mares by Darshaan and Rainbow Quest also featuring with multiple scorers.

The dam of Flintshire is Dance Routine, who was a runner of some distinction herself, saddled by Fabre to land three races over middle distances, including the Group 3 Prix de Royaumont and the Group 2 Prix de Royallieu. She also proved competitive in Classic company, chasing home Bright Sky in the 2002 Prix de Diane. Flintshire is her fourth foal and the best so far, improving on the record of his brother Dance Moves, a Listed

winner at Longchamp and Vichy.

One of Dance Routine's sisters, Concentric, won in Listed company at Chantilly and was Group 3-placed, and another, Light Ballet, was also Group 3-placed after having won her maiden. Their Barathean half-brother Apsis was twice a Group 3 winner before embarking on a career at stud, while their Rainbow Quest half-sister Space Quest won at Listed level.

Dance Routine's dam Apogee earned Group 3 honours in the Prix de Royaumont and was one of several winners out of the Oaks and Irish Oaks runner-up Bourbon Girl, whose sire Ile De Bourbon, like Northern Dancer, features in both halves of Flintshire's pedigree.

Bourbon Girl, foaled in 1984, was the first of her family to have been bred in the name of Juddmonte Farms. She, daughter Daring Miss and granddaughter Dance Routine all had near-misses in Group 1 company, but the family now has its long-elusive top-level scorer in Flintshire, who may yet attain greater glory back at Longchamp in the autumn.