

# TONY MORRIS



## PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

### HOT SNAP

**W**E DIDN'T learn much about Hot Snap in her first season, which consisted of just a single start over a mile on the Kempton Polytrack in September.

She naturally attracted attention on account of her impressive pedigree credentials, but she was easy to back at 7-1, suggesting she would need her first taste of competition. That certainly seemed to be the case early on as she was soon outpaced and off the bridle, but from two furlongs out she got the hang of things. Eddie Ahern found her responsive when he asked her to improve, she led at the furlong marker, then stayed on gamely to win by half a length.

That was certainly a promising first effort, and, as a big, rangy, scopey sort, she seemed bound to progress. But the bare form hardly amounted to much, her RPR of 78 indicating she would need to improve by a significant amount if she were ever to match the standard set by her illustrious half-sister Midday.

We were inevitably going to learn rather more about Hot Snap from her second appearance, as Sir Henry Cecil elected to start her off at three in the strongest edition of the Nell Gwyn Stakes in recent years. What we learned was nothing short of a revelation.

Although penalised 3lb for her Group 1 win in last year's Moyglare Stakes, Sky Lantern seemed a worthy favourite, especially as the Hannon team had been expressing confidence about her form and wellbeing. In fact, the Red Clubs filly did her stable proud with a performance that exceeded her juvenile best, but that was only good enough for second place behind the Warren Place contender, whose vastly improved showing took her to the head of the market for the 1,000 Guineas.

Hot Snap was again not 'expected', sent off at 10-1, and in the early stages she was run off her feet, stone last of the 14 and not travelling. But the strong pace up front worked to her advantage, an opening appeared when it was needed, and she began to make up ground three furlongs from home. Racing now with a will, she made smooth progress to take up the running approaching the last, and drew away to score by more than two lengths, while still exhibiting signs of greenness.

This was an extremely impressive display by an inexperienced filly who is bound to improve for the run and will be well suited for the return to a mile in the 1,000 Guineas, a Classic her trainer has already won six times. Only Robert Robson has a better record, and that was in a far less competitive era, one of his nine victories coming in a walkover.

Hot Snap comes from the 13th crop

# Nell Gwyn heroine another feather in the cap of Pivotal

## HOT SNAP

**ch f 29-3-2010**

Pivotal ch 1993	Polar Falcon	Nureyev	Northern Dancer	Nearctic Natalma
			Special	Forli Thong
		Marie D'Argonne	Jefferson	Charlottesville Monticella
	Mohair		Blue Tom Imberline	
	Fearless Revival	Cozzene	Caro	Fortino Chambord
			Ride The Rails	Prince John Wildwood
		Stufida	Bustino	Busted Shipyard
	Zerbinetta		Henry The Seventh Yucatan	
	Kingmambo	Mr Prospector	Raise A Native	Native Dancer Raise You
			Gold Digger	Nashua Sequence
Miesque		Nureyev	Northern Dancer Special	
		Pasodoble	Prove Out Santa Quilla	
Midsummer ch 2000	Modena	Roberto	Hail To Reason	Turn-To Nothirdchance
			Bramalea	Nashua Rarelea
		Mofida	Right Tack	Hard Tack Polly Macaw
	Wold Lass		Vilmorin Cheb	
Bred by Juddmonte Farms in England				

## VERDICT

- ▶▶ Impressive reappearance in first start on grass suggests Classic quality
- ▶▶ Latest star for her ultra-consistent sire, one of Britain's best in recent years
- ▶▶ Stamina limit problematical. Further clues required

by Pivotal, who exceeded expectations first by becoming a crack sprinter and later by becoming an ornament of the British breeding industry.

Home-bred by the Thompsons of Cheveley Park Stud, Pivotal ran only six times, winning two out of three in

recorded victories in the King's Stand Stakes (then Group 2) and the Nunthorpe Stakes, the latter last-stride triumph providing his trainer with a long-overdue first Group 1 success. As he finished only sixth in the July Cup between those runs, it seemed reasonable to suppose the minimum trip suited him best.

Pivotal returned home to begin his stud career at a fee of £6,000, and before he had runners to indicate anything different he was generally perceived as a horse who might sire his quota of decent sprinters. As he was not initially blessed with mares of much quality, it was hard to credit him with higher aspirations. He did not take long to confound those early impressions.

There were three top-level winners in Pivotal's first crop, and while Kyllachy conformed to the expected type, emulating his sire in the Nunthorpe at four, Golden Apples collected three Grade 1 wins between 1m1f and 1m2f in the States, and Silvester Lady took the Preis der Diana over 1m3f. Here was real quality – and a reminder Pivotal had not been bred to excel over 5f; his dam Fearless Revival and granddam Stufida had been proficient over 1m2f, the latter having been sired by St Leger winner Bustino. That stamina was now coming out in a number of Pivotal's progeny.

The second crop of only 36 underlined that point, Chorist becoming a Group 1 winner over 1m2f in the Pretty Polly Stakes while

Megahertz attained equivalent status in California, where the best of her nine Graded victories came in the Yellow Ribbon Stakes at the same distance. Meanwhile, Pivotal had had three seasons at the reduced fee of £5,000 before his merit became apparent, the quality and quantity of his books rose, and the charge for his

**Hot Snap:** half-sister  
to top-class Midday

services increased, peaking at £85,000.

Pivotal first featured on the Anglo-Irish sires' leaderboard in 2002, reaching ninth place. He dropped back to 16th the following year, but has never been lower than 11th on the list since then, once ranking third, once fourth, once fifth and three times sixth, including the last completed season. That is consistency in spades, and he has been represented at the top level by sprinters, milers and middle-distance performers, including Classic winners of both sexes in the last two categories.

Only Rainbow Quest (96) and Mill Reef (92) rank above Pivotal (89) for progeny wins by an English-based stallion in the European Pattern, and we must expect him to overhaul them before long.

We know that Hot Snap gets a mile well and might expect her to get 1m2f, although we can't take that for granted. Her trainer will not have forgotten that Fairy Footsteps, supposedly stoutly bred for a Guineas winner, appeared to have the Oaks at her mercy, yet she failed to last even the intermediate distance of the Musidora. That may be why he favours the Coronation Stakes, rather than the Oaks, as Hot Snap's next race after the 1,000 Guineas.

Of course, Hot Snap's half-sister Midday, also by a top-class sprinter in Oasis Dream, failed by only a head against Pivotal's daughter Sariska in the 2009 Oaks, and she went on to victories in the Yorkshire Oaks and Prix Vermeille to underline her merit at 1m4f. But the pair are different fillies, and different physical types, so we can't draw conclusions about Hot Snap's staying power from the evidence of Midday's performances.

WHAT we can be sure about is Hot Snap will tell Sir Henry at home how she should be best deployed, and he will act accordingly.

Hot Snap's dam Midsummer was herself a useful winner over 1m3f and half-sister to one of Warren Place's Oaks winners in Reams Of Verse. Eclipse victor Elmaamul and 2,000 Guineas hero Zafonic are others from the family, which has been strikingly upgraded in recent generations from a time when it was noted chiefly for precocious speed.

Third dam Mofida was as tough as old boots, winning five out of 15 races as a two-year-old, later proving smart in handicaps and occasionally running creditably in Pattern company. Her dam was just a plater, and few in the family showed any form beyond sprint distances. The class and stamina are additions largely attributable to judicious matings effected since Mofida joined the Juddmonte broodmare band.



**RACING POST**.com/bloodstock

Our dedicated  
bloodstock  
website has  
everything  
you need in  
one place

# Study, Search, Select.

Search previously sold lots for all upcoming breeze-up sales by simply clicking on the catalogue, then index and previously sold lots

BLOODSTOCK – WE'VE GOT IT COVERED

Tattersalls Guineas Breeze-Up Sale 2013

132 lots

Dates: 3 May 2013 Sales Co: Tattersalls

CATALOGUE INDEX

Sires | Previously Sold Lots | Vendors

				Previous 1 2 3 Next		
LOT #	COL	SEX	BREEDING	PRICE	SALE NAME	BUYER
71	B	C	Indian Haven Middie 's Pearl	25,000 EUR	Tattersalls Ireland September Yearlings 2012	Tom Malone
72		C	Roman Ruler Magnificent Lady	13,000 USD	Keeneland September Yearlings 2012	Jim McCartan
73	B	F	Oratorio Margot	0 GNS	Tattersalls October Yearlings Sale (Book 2)	Not Sold
75	B	F	Giant 's Causeway Measure	35,000 GNS	Tattersalls Craven Breeze-Up Sale 2013	Vendor
77	B	C	Pastoral Pursuits deaujour	15,500 GBP	Doncaster Premier Yearlings 2012	R. O'Sheen Bloodstock