

# TONY MORRIS



PEDIGREE  
ANALYSIS  
TRADING LEATHER

**W**HAT are we to make of this season's middle-distance three-year-olds now? England's premier Classic was such an oddly run affair that there had to be a doubt about the value of the form, but that did not prepare us for what occurred when the first three renewed their rivalry at the Curragh.

The lifeless display by Libertarian, over a course that should have suited him better than Epsom's switchback, came as a shock, as did the tame effort by the previously unbeaten Ruler Of The World in plodding on to finish a poor fifth.

And along with those dire flops we had to wonder how the 97-rated handicapper Cap O'Rushes, supplemented just to perform a pacemaking role for Libertarian, could finish four lengths off the winner, losing third only in the last 50 yards.

There appeared to be no excuse for Libertarian, but there were ominous signs beforehand for Ruler Of The World who, uncharacteristically, sweated freely in the preliminaries. As for the unconsidered Cap O'Rushes, perhaps we ought to have noted how much better he had been for the step up to a mile and a half at Ascot, where he had finished a close fourth under top weight in the King George V Handicap.

We can at least reflect on another strong effort from Galileo Rock, who consolidated his reputation. Having missed second place by a short head at Epsom, he was clear second-best this time, again suggesting he could be a serious contender for the St Leger.

What we can be more definite about is that the pro tem leadership of the division has passed to Trading Leather, who sat handily from the outset, was always travelling smoothly and forged clear to win with total authority a Classic contested at a proper pace throughout.

The colt's victory, under an impeccable Kevin Manning ride, was a triumph for breeder-trainer Jim Bolger, who had previously saddled only one Irish Derby winner, St Jovite in 1992, another year when the Epsom form was overturned.

Trading Leather is now a winner four times from eight starts, his only disappointing effort having come in the Racing Post Trophy last October, when he made the running and faded into fifth place after being headed. A Group 3 winner over the Rowley Mile at two, he has proved better for opportunities to compete over longer trips this term, winning in Listed company at the Curragh and taking second place in the Dante before last week's success. He would have no trouble lasting the distance of the St Leger, although that race will not feature on his schedule.

In the wake of Saturday's win Bolger remarked: "It doesn't get any better than this," and it was easy to understand why. He not only bred the winner, he also bred the colt's sire Teofilo and that horse's dam Speirbhean. And when he sold Teofilo to Sheikh Mohammed he had been shrewd enough to retain 25 annual breeding rights. A similar deal when he parted with New Approach enabled him to breed Dawn Approach.

Bolger has long been a successful breeder, but the marked rise in the quality of his products in recent years dates from his conviction that Galileo had the potential to achieve star status as a sire. He was that horse's keenest supporter from the start, and his

## Irish Derby hero proves Teofilo offspring can star over middle distances

### TRADING LEATHER

b c 20-3-2010

Galileo	Sadler's Wells	Northern Dancer	Nearctic
		Fairy Bridge	Natalma
		Miswaki	Bold Reason
Teofilo b 2004	Urban Sea	Allegretta	Special
		Danzig	Mr Prospector
		Danehill	Hopespringseternal
Speirbhean	Saviour	Razyana	Lombard
		Majestic Light	Anatevka
		Victorian Queen	Northern Dancer
Sinndar	Grand Lodge	Chief's Crown	Pas De Nom
		La Papagena	His Majesty
		Lashkari	Spring Adieu
Night Visit b 2004	Sinntara	Sidama	Majestic Prince
		Riverman	Irradiate
		Irish River	Victoria Park
Moonlight Sail	Cadeaux D'Amie	Irish Star	Willowfield
		Lyphard	Danzig
		Tananarive	Six Crowns
			Habitat
			Magic Flute
			Mill Reef
			Larannda
			Top Ville
			Stoyana
			Never Bend
			River Lady
			Klairon
			Botany Bay
			Northern Dancer
			Goofed
			Le Fabuleux
			Ten Double

#### VERDICT

- Emphatic victory in a truly run contest gives him leadership of his division
- In company with New Approach, Teofilo is establishing Galileo as a highly successful sire of sires, something which came late to Sadler's Wells
- Product of a good family more notable for its fillies in recent generations

judgement proved spot-on. The now multiple champion sire delivered him Teofilo and New Approach, and his strong support of that pair at stud is enabling him to achieve more great successes.

Bolger guided Teofilo through an unbeaten juvenile campaign that established the colt as the best of 2006 in Europe. That was the year in which Teofilo and Holy Roman Emperor looked a cut above their rival colts, and Coolcullen was also home to the best juvenile filly around, Finsceal Beo.

Teofilo showed progressive form throughout that season, when he raced only over seven furlongs, finishing with a Group 1 double in the National Stakes and the Dewhurst, with Holy Roman Emperor as his runner-up on both occasions. Such was his breeder-trainer's belief in Teofilo's quality that at season's end he was predicting Triple Crown glory for the colt.

That was tempting providence, of

course, and it turned out we had already seen the last of Teofilo as a racehorse. An injury in the spring put him out of action, and although the months that followed brought occasional expressions of hope he might return, it was not to be.

**T**EOFILO was the first notable example of the efficacy of the Galileo-Danehill cross, which would soon come to be regarded as a recipe for delivering outstanding success. It reached its apogee in the wonderful Frankel, but Cima De Triomphe, Golden Lilac, Roderic O'Connor, Maybe and Intello have also scored at Group 1 level, and there are doubtless more to come.

We'll never know what Teofilo might have achieved had he been able to race at three, and what others bred on the same cross have done provides no real clues as to what his optimum distance might have been. These are still early



Trading Leather and Kevin Manning after their Irish Derby success

days in his stud career, but he seems to be emulating his sire in getting stock who may excel over a variety of trips.

Trading Leather is his first top-level winner at a mile and a half, Parish Hall having recorded his first big win in the 7f Dewhurst Stakes, and both Loch Garman (in the Criterion International) and Sunday's Prix Jean Prat winner Havana Gold have had their most notable triumphs over a mile.

Trading Leather's dam Night Visit, bred by Gainsborough, never saw a racecourse. She is a daughter of the dual Derby and Arc winner Sinndar, who got the dual Group 1 winner Shawanda in his first crop and the three-time Arc runner-up Youmzain in his second, but breeders have tended to give him less respect than he deserves. In his last season in Ireland in 2005 he covered only 29 mares.

Trading Leather is the third foal and second winner out of Night Visit, whose first, the Chevalier colt Gleadhradh, won a respectable 7f maiden at Dundalk as a three-year-old, but never ran to that level again. The mare's dam Moonlight Sail was a sister to the admirable Hatoof, heroine of a 1,000 Guineas, a Champion Stakes and

a Beverly D Stakes, and to another Grade 1 scorer in Irish Prize, a gelding successful as a five-year-old in the Shoemaker Mile at Hollywood Park.

They were out of Cadeaux D'Amie, a daughter of Lyphard who won twice and was twice placed third in Group 3 company – at two in the Prix d'Aumale and at three in the Prix Vanteaux. Useful as she was, Cadeaux D'Amie retrieved just a tiny fraction of her purchase price as a yearling at Keeneland in July 1985, when her illustrious sire was a minor factor in the bidding reaching the heights of \$925,000.

What made the filly so attractive in the ring was her distinguished half-sister Mrs Penny, who has long featured as one of my all-time favourite fillies. Trained by Ian Balding for Eric Kronfeld – later the breeder of Zenyatta – that ultra-game, classy and consistent daughter of Great Nephew had cost only \$40,000 at Saratoga, but she recorded three Group 1 victories, in the Cheveley Park Stakes, the Prix de Diane and the Prix Vermeille, was placed in both the Newmarket and Curragh Guineas, and ran Ela-Mana-Mou to three-quarters of a length in the 1980 King George.