

# TONY MORRIS



Pedigree analysis  
**Midday**

**I**N former times, when there were recognised specialist sprinting lines in the breed, we knew exactly what we were going to get from one of their number when they retired to stud: more of the same.

Even when their progeny had won more than 100 races – which did not happen so often in the days of restricted books – the average distance of the races won by horses like Denturius and Panorama would always be less than 6f. It was long odds against any runner with Gold Bridge (sire of Denturius) close up in its pedigree managing to last 1m.

Things are different now. There may still be the odd propagator of cheap speed, normally a chance-bred individual, who can only get offspring capable of scoring over sprint distances, but such horses lack class, cannot transmit class, and soon disappear from pedigrees.

Nowadays we have become used to the idea that most stallions, whatever their aptitude in their own racing careers, can and do sire progeny who excel in a different area. We might generalise about the attributes that they tend to pass on, but we cannot depend on the average distance of races won as a reliable guide to the attributes of any one individual.

Oasis Dream is a case in point. He was a sprinter, as was his sire and paternal grandsire before him, and to a degree he has conformed to type: with three crops of racing age, his stamina index stands at 6.8 furlongs. He has become most notable as a sire of speedy stock, and of the 15 Pattern or Graded races they have won, 12 have been at 7f or less.

Those results are pretty much in keeping with the racing record of a horse who won the Middle Park Stakes in good style to earn the title of Europe's champion two-year-old colt, who followed up with successes in the July Cup and Nunthorpe Stakes to be acclaimed as the champion three-year-old sprinter of Europe, and who failed in his only venture beyond sprint distances, down the field in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

But Oasis Dream the apparently natural sprinter was out of a mare by Dancing Brave, out of a mare by Mill Reef, out of a mare by Busted. His dam was an unraced sister to an Irish Oaks winner in Wemyss Bight, who herself produced a Derby third in Beat Hollow, and one of her half-sisters was the dam of Reefscape and Coastal Path, both placed in the Ascot Gold Cup.

In fact, the mating that resulted in Oasis Dream, between Green Desert and Hope, was designed principally with the aim of injecting speed into a female line that had become decidedly stamina-orientated. The union fulfilled its purpose, duly delivering speed in excess of stamina, but those staying factors remained present in his genotype and were always going to be expressed from time to time during his term at stud.

Those factors have found expression in Midday. Henry Cecil never imagined that she would turn out to be a sprinter, and never ran her in a sprint. He had trained her mother, Midsummer, who ran only three times, always at middle distances, and showed respectable form, and he had trained Midsummer's half-sister Reams Of Verse, whose own sire Nureyev tended to transmit speed rather than staying power, but who had been one of his eight Oaks winners.

The master of Warren Place saw Midday as a prospective middle-distance performer from the beginning, started her off in a 7f



MARK CRANHAM

The drop back to 1m2f in the Nassau Stakes did not hinder Midday from scoring at a soggy Goodwood

# Filly who belied her sire's sprint history

Nassau Stakes winner should pay her way at the top level

## SIRE OASIS DREAM

Bred by Juddmonte Farms in Britain. Won 4 (5f-6f) of 9 races, viz. 2 (inc. Middle Park S.-Gr1) out of 4 at 2 years, 2 (July Cup-Gr1, Nunthorpe S.-Gr1) out of 5 at 3 years. Also 2nd in Haydock Park Sprint Cup, 3rd in King's Stand S. RPR 121 at 2, 131 at 3. Earned £433,737. Smallish (15.3hh), strong, attractive individual. Top-class sprinter, best of his age in Europe both seasons in training. Below form only effort over 1m at Breeders' Cup. Best suited by fast ground.

Very well bred. Probably the best son of his sire, a high-class sprinter, now successful as a sire of sires (Cape Cross, Invincible Spirit, Desert Style, Khelefyf, etc). Half-brother to Poule d'Essai des Pouliches winner Zenda (by Zamindar). Dam once-raced sister to Irish Oaks winner Wemyss Bight, herself dam of Beat Hollow. Granddam daughter of Sorbus (placed 2nd in 3 Classics). Same family as Weaver's Hall (Irish Derby) and Sixpence (champion 2yo filly in Ireland).

Stands at Banstead Manor Stud, Cheveley, Newmarket at a fee of £30,000. Sire of 3 crops of racing age, inc. notable winners: Aqlaam (Gr2), Captain Gerrard (Gr3), Main Aim (Gr3), Starlit Sands (Gr3), Visit (Gr3), Young Pretender (Gr3), Midday (Nassau S.-Gr1), Naaqoos (Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere-Gr1), Sri Putra (Gr3), Arcano (Gr2), Misheer (Gr2).

## DAM MIDSUMMER

Bred by Juddmonte Farms in Britain. Raced only at 3 years, won 1 (1m3f) of 3 races. Also placed 2nd and 4th in Listed races. RPR 101. Earned £18,210.

Showed quite smart form in brief career. Stayed 1m4f. Well bred. By a high-class miler and excellent sire. Half-sister to 9 other winners, inc. Reams Of Verse (Oaks), Elmaamul (Eclipse S., Irish Champion S.), Modernise (Gr3), Modern Day (Gr3), High Walden (Listed), Novellara (Listed) and Modesta (Listed).

Dam unraced half-sister to 6 winners, inc. Zaizafon (Gr3; dam of Zafonic and Zamindar). Granddam won 8 races, inc. 1 Listed. Good family, upgraded to top-class during term at Juddmonte. To stud at 4 and dam of: Spring Season (2005 f by Dansili; unplaced in only start), Midday (2006 f by Oasis Dream; Gr1 winner). Slipped to Beat Hollow in 2007, but has a yearling colt by Monsun and was covered by Oasis Dream in 2008.

## CONCLUSIONS

Thoroughly game, honest middle-distance performer who should continue to pay her way at Group 1 level.

## MIDDAY

b f 21-3-2006

	<b>Northern Dancer</b>	Nearctic Natalma
Danzig	Pas De Nom	Admiral's Voyage Petitioner
Green Desert	Sir Ivor	Sir Gaylord Attica
Foreign Courier	Courtly Dee	<b>Never Bend</b> Tulle
Oasis Dream (b 2000)	Lyphard	<b>Northern Dancer</b> Goofed
Dancing Brave	Navajo Princess	Drone Olmec
Hope	Mill Reef	<b>Never Bend</b> Milan Mill
Bahamian	Sorbus	Busted Censorship
	Raise A Native	Native Dancer Raise You
Mr Prospector	Gold Digger	<b>Nashua</b> Sequence
Kingmambo	Nureyev	<b>Northern Dancer</b> Special
Miesque	Pasadoble	Prove Out Santa Quilla
Midsummer (ch 2000)	Hail To Reason	Turn-to Nothirdchance
Roberto	Bramalea	<b>Nashua</b> Rarelea
Modena	Right Tack	Hard Tack Polly Macaw
Mofida	Wold Lass	Vilmorin Cheb

Bred by Juddmonte Farms in Britain

Goodwood maiden, and had his faith in her stamina confirmed, up to a point, when she became one of Oasis Dream's few (to date) winners over 1m as a two-year-old. Her battling qualities were also on display that day over the Rowley Mile, when she prevailed by a short head over Three Moons in a quick time.

This term Midday has raced only over middle distances, beginning with a promising second in mixed company over the extended 1m2f of the Blue Riband Trial Stakes at Epsom. Beaten just over a length by Debussy, she proved that she had trained on and had the potential to make her mark at a higher level.

The Listed Lingfield Oaks Trial drove that point home, as she seemingly relished the longer trip – 1m3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>f – and romped home by six lengths to earn herself a tilt at the Epsom Classic. She needed to find a lot more improvement in a brief space of time to prove a real factor there, but she did just that, failing by only a head to become her stable's ninth Oaks winner; indeed, a different set of stewards might have ruled in her favour at the inquiry into Sariska's wayward course around the three-furlong marker.

After the Irish Oaks, won in a canter by Sariska, any notion that Midday might be the equal of the Fitzroy House star would be hard to justify, but there can be no doubt that the Cecil filly was compromised by the swampy conditions on the Curragh that day. Her distant third place in no way represented her true capabilities.

**H**AVING produced her best performance over 1m4f, Midday faced a different challenge back to a little less than 1m2f for the Nassau Stakes at Goodwood, where foul weather in the hours leading up to the race created soggy conditions again. But soft ground on the Sussex downlands is not to be compared with a County Kildare bog, and her trainer's conviction that she would probably cope was famously vindicated in a clear-cut triumph over Rainbow View.

The family to which Midday belongs has flourished remarkably since her third dam Mofida was acquired by Juddmonte from Robert Sangster in 1981, carrying a foal by The Minstrel. Mofida had herself seemingly outrun her pedigree, as one of the few good daughters of dual Guineas hero Right Tack from a family regarded as representing cheap speed; her maternal grandsire was Vilmorin, a son of Gold Bridge.

But as a winner of eight races, one in Listed company, she was worth good opportunities at stud in Sangster's view, and Juddmonte was similarly inclined to give her the benefit of any doubts there might be. The foal she carried at the time of her purchase was Zaizafon, who became a Group 3 winner and found further fame as the dam of Zafonic and his brother Zamindar.

The first mating arranged for Mofida after she joined the Juddmonte broodmare band was with Roberto, and the outcome of that liaison was Modena, who was unable to race, but who delivered ten winners, headed by Eclipse hero Elmaamul and Oaks heroine Reams Of Verse. On Saturday, Reams Of Verse's grandson, the highly regarded Zacinto, launched a double for the family with his Goodwood victory 35 minutes before Midday's great triumph.