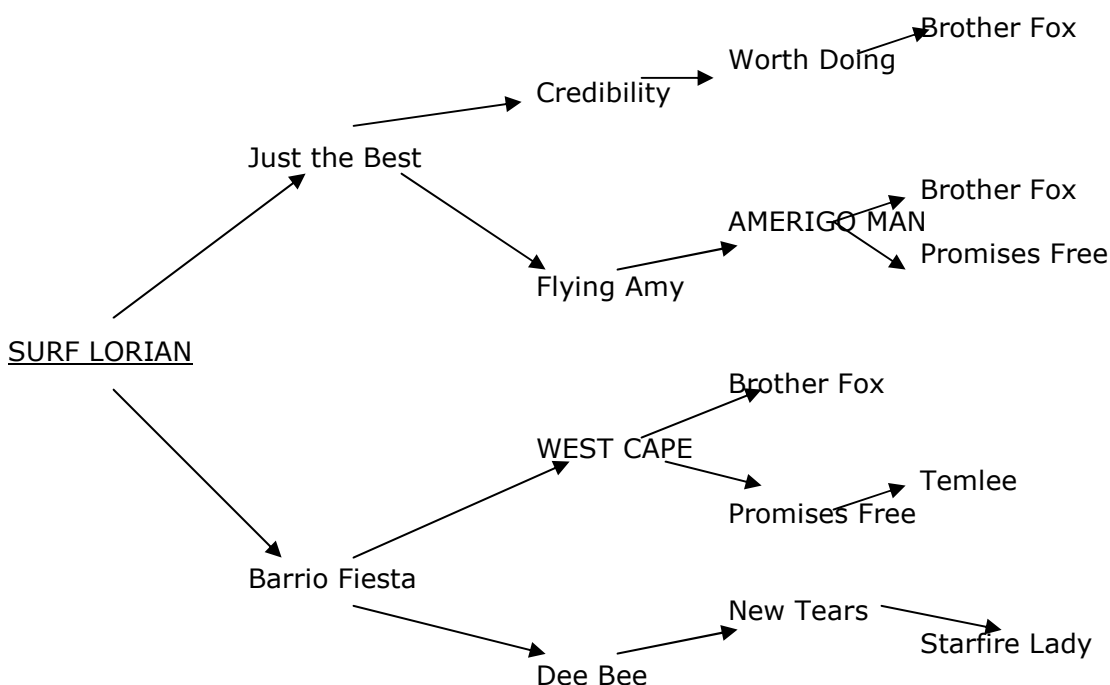


SLATER – a sign of the times?

Australia's latest superdog Slater typifies the changing trend in greyhound breeding in this country. On the surface very little may appear different, but scratch below and it is not hard to find major genetic forces at work.

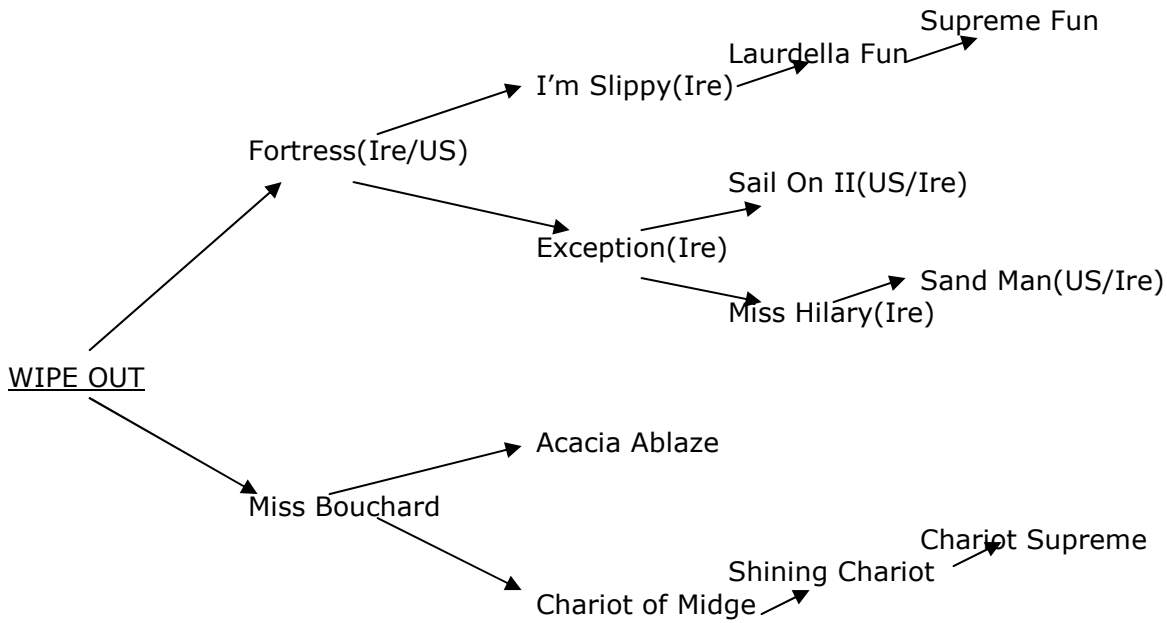
The aim of every breeder is to create a Group 1 winner and Slater's breeder Brett Frolley achieved this when the slashing young sprinter swept all before him in the recent time-honoured National Derby series at Wentworth Park. One week later the dog stepped out again in the Temlee Invitational at The Meadows and emphatically beat the best greyhounds in the country.

What is it about Slater's breeding that helped to make such a brilliant greyhound? Let's start by looking at his sire:-



All four grandparents of Surf Lorian are from the Temlee sireline, as was the case with the great Head Honcho. Also his damsire West Cape and his sire's damsire Amerigo Man are brothers, creating a 3x2 breeding pattern to Temlee daughter Promises Free. For good measure his second damsire New Tears is out of Starfire Lady, another Temlee daughter.

So Surf Lorian is absolutely saturated with Temlee blood. What sort of dam might well be suited to him then? Let's now look at Slater's dam Wipe Out.



Wipe Out has classic outcrossed lines. Her sire Fortress(Ireland) stood in the US and proved himself as the most successful import there in recent decades. Her dam Miss Bouchard is a daughter of outstanding Australian sire Acacia Ablaze, who is often referred to as a "colonial outcross" as his pedigree is completely devoid of any Temlee or Waverly Supreme blood. Her second dam Chariot of Midge is from the Waverly Supreme/Laurdella Fun sireline, the same as Fortress.

For the above reasons Wipe Out was an ideal genetic partner for Surf Lorian.

Is this sort of combination of bloodlines common? The answer is that it is becoming more and more so. One only has to look at the Group 1 winners in 2006 to see such a pattern emerging:-

2006 Group 1 Wins	\$'000	Sire	Damsire	Damsire line
Bettys Angel (2)	200	Brett Lee	Hotshot	Colonial outcross(Acacia Ablaze line) US import(son of Fortress, Supreme Fun line)
Miss Spicy (2)	175	Just the Best	Fortified Speed	Temlee
Superman (2)	150	Brett Lee	Head Honcho	Temlee
Edie Beauchamp	140	Token Prince* Awesome	Deannes Dancer	Son of Irish import(Grove Whisper)
Jaimandy Coops	125	Assassin	Droopy's Sandy	Irish import
Pure Burst (2)	100	Token Prince*	Hotshot	Colonial outcross(Acacia Ablaze line)
Suave Fella	100	Modern Assassin	Black Shiraz	Temlee
Brother Knows Closing	50	Solve the Puzzle	Just like Ned	Temlee
Argument	50	Exceptional*	Black Shiraz	Temlee
Cromlah Bale	50	Brett Lee	Farloe Melody	Irish import
Fenceline	50	Light of Fire	Farloe Melody	Irish import
Immortal Love	50	History Lesson	Light of Fire	Temlee
Jindarra Flame	50	Go Wild Teddy	Golden Currency	Waverly Supreme/Supreme Fun line
Train a Journey	50	Primo Uno	Golden Currency	Waverly Supreme/Supreme Fun line
Bothing	50	Carlisle Jack	Solve the Puzzle	Temlee
Endless Pit	50	Dallalla	Moral Standards Awesome	Irish import
Miss Brook	50	Ballistic Jet	McLaren	Waverly Supreme/Supreme Fun line
Quidame	50	Flying Penske**	New Tears	Temlee
Sargent Major	50	Stately Bird	Bobniak	Son of Irish import(Farloe Melody)
	<u>1590</u>			

There were 23 Group 1 races in 2006, with 4 greyhounds each winning two Group 1 events. Total prizemoney was \$1.590 million and Betty's Angel was the leader with \$200,000 in Group 1 earnings. Brett Lee was the leading sire, with his progeny collecting \$400,000.

Of the 19 individual winners 15 of them were by sires from the Temlee sireline. Two others were by Token Prince who is from the Waverly Supreme/Supreme Fun sireline. Closing Argument's sire Exceptional is from that line also. Quidame was the sole 2006 Group 1 winner to be sired by an import, in her case by the US sire Flying Penske.

Overall then the Temlee sireline sired 79% of earnings, the Waverly Supreme line 18% and imports 3%. The reality is that these numbers directly reflect the breeding choices made to available sires some 3 to 4 years ago.

Where the real surprises occur is in the breeding of the broodbitches who produced these Group 1 winners. Bear in mind that the population of available broods broadly reflects past breeding sire choices and so one could reasonably expect around 70-75% of females to be by sires from the Temlee sireline, and that a similar percentage of Group 1 winners be thrown by those females. The reality is otherwise, as the table below shows:-

Damsire Line	Wins		Earnings	
Temlee	8	35%	500	32%
Supreme Fun(Waverly Supreme + Fortress)	5	22%	325	20%
Colonial outcross(Acacia Ablaze line)	4	17%	300	19%
Irish Import	4	17%	275	17%
Son of Irish import	<u>2</u>	9%	<u>190</u>	12%
	<u>23</u>		<u>1590</u>	

We can expect to see further changes in the next couple of years as the increasing influence of US sires and wider choice of outcross options begins to take a greater effect.

The message for breeders then is becoming very clear. To produce outstanding progeny capable of winning Group 1 races much more consideration needs to go into the balance of outcross required, whether it be colonial, import or both. Otherwise it may be a case of "going to the same well one too many times". For those breeders who have Temlee-line females they may need to look seriously at incorporating sireline diversity into their stock if it is not already present close-up. On the other hand those breeders with daughters of imports should be most encouraged by what Brett Frolley achieved when he bred Wipe Out to Surf Lorian and produced a champion by the name of Slater.