

Bloodlines and Bi-lines.....by Bob Grocott(breeding analyst)

The 21st Century Supersires – what do they have in common?

Australian stud dog Top Honcho has dominated the sire ranks in Ireland and the UK since the year 2000. Token Prince did likewise in Australia where his progeny have rewritten the record books for Group racing and breaking track records. His male and female offspring, both sprinters and stayers, have had outstanding success at Group 1 level and obliterated Australian track records over all distances from 300 to 800 metres.

In the USA two sires have dominated so far this century. Molotov started his 5 year reign in 1999 and then Gable Dodge took over as premier sire from 2004 to 2006. The latter sadly passed away only a few weeks ago.

In 2005-06 a new sire phenomenon took the breeding world by storm..... by the name of Brett Lee. Thanks to the wonders of technology, specifically exported frozen semen, he has become the first "world supersire" by producing sensational performers in all three major greyhound racing regions at the same time.

Is this purely coincidental, or do they have crucial common elements?

Firstly, let's look at their sires and sirelines:-

	<u>Sire</u>	<u>Sireline</u>
Top Honcho	Head Honcho	Temlee
Token Prince	Malawi's Prince	Waverly Supreme(Ire)
Molotov	HB's Commander(US)	Cleveland Lad
Gable Dodge	Wigwam Wag(US)	Tell You Why
Brett Lee	Gun Law Osti	Temlee

Top Honcho is the most successful son of the great Head Honcho, who was Australia's premier sire prior to Token Prince. Malawi's Prince was a close second to Head Honcho and was once leading sire at Wentworth Park in NSW, a rare feat for an interstate-based sire in the days prior to frozen semen breeding.

HB's Commander was the USA's premier sire in 1994-1997. Wigwam Wag held the honour in 1998.

We can see from the above that it was very much a case of the leading sire "passing the baton" to one of his sons. For Brett Lee though it was a different story. His sire Gun Law Osti got very few matings in his first years at stud. After seeing the results of his early progeny, like Nowhere to Go and Ultra Dreams, a few of Australia's most astute breeders then used him with excellent results. How ironic then that a once "unfashionable" sire should produce the world's current most fashionable sire.

Both Top Honcho and Brett Lee descend directly from Australia's greatest sireline..... that of Temlee. Token Prince hails from the sireline of Australia's greatest import Waverly Supreme. Both Molotov and Gable Dodge descend directly from Australian sires exported to the USA..... Cleveland Lad and Tell You Why respectively. Tell You Why was premier USA sire in 1968-69 and his subsequent overall influence in pedigrees there has been likened to that of Temlee's in Australia.

Looking now at their dam's sire and sireline:-

	<u>Dam</u>	<u>Damsire</u>	<u>Damsireline</u>
Top Honcho	Rainbow High	Double Summit	Waverly Supreme(Ire)
Token Prince	True Temptation	Amerigo Man	Temlee
Molotov	Mystic Rose(US)	Blendway(US)	Tell You Why
Gable Dodge	CJ Ima Bahama(US)	Dutch Bahama(US)	Tell You Why
Brett Lee	Sobbing Sal	New Tears	Temlee

Again we see the same dominant sirelines to the fore..... namely Temlee, Tell You Why and Waverly Supreme.

Looking now at their dam's tail line:-

	<u>Key name</u>	<u>Other influences</u>
Top Honcho	Touch of Ireland(Ire)	Temlee
Token Prince	Bay Road Queen	Gay Glint(sister of Tell You Why)
Molotov	Devious Lady(US)	Gravel Gertie (Aus)
Gable Dodge	Transpat(US)	Bill's Secretary(Aus) daughter
Brett Lee	Wee Sal	Come on Wonder

Touch of Ireland resulted from the mating here of two Irish imports..... Come on Wonder and La O'Leary. She was then bred to Temlee to produce Touch a Rainbow, the 3rd dam of Top Honcho.

Token Prince's damline is typically referred to as "the Bay Road Queen line". Outstanding sire Just the Best and legendary female sprinters Flying Amy and Tenthill Doll are also from this line. From a world perspective though it ought to be noted as the direct damline of Tell You Why and his many siblings, including Gay Glint and Magic Babe.

Molotov descends directly from Gravel Gertie, the daughter of two Australian exports..... Handy Andy and Dawn Tullera. She and her litter sisters are among the most influential US dams of all-time.

Gable Dodge's damline is fundamentally of US origin but outcrossed regularly to mainly imported Irish sires. The only direct Australian influence was in the 1940's via Bill's Secretary, the son of Aussie expatriots All Chance and Louise Micawber.

Brett Lee's damline is typically referred to as "the Wee Sal line", but it's origin is fundamentally Australian and shared by many Aussie legends including Rapid Journey, Head Honcho and Awesome Assassin. In Brett Lee's case the most recent outcross influence in his damline is Irish import Come on Wonder, the sire of his 4th dam Wandering Cloud.

What is the back-bone of their pedigrees?

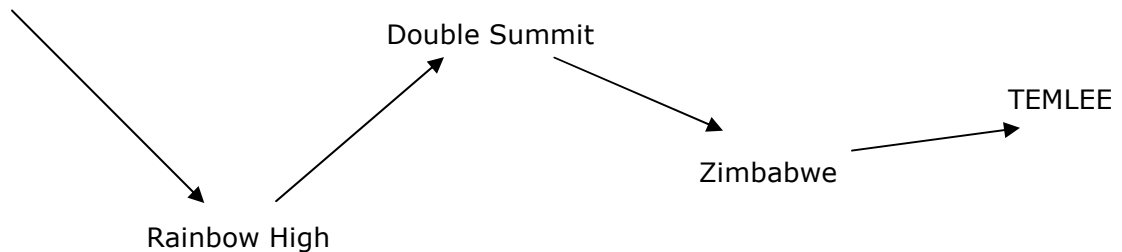
A major component of a sire’s breeding which is often overlooked is their “spine”. Many breeding experts focus on the role of “superior” females and consider it the genetic key to the transference of those so-called superior genes. They argue that a female is able to pass these on via both her sons and daughters, whereas a male can only pass them on via his daughters.

We have seen above where our supersires come from outstanding tail female lines. In essence the tail line is purely mother to daughter transference. The back-bone or spine of a sire’s pedigree is the damsire line. It is basically the mother/son/daughter trail. Let’s see what it looks like for our 5 supersires:-

	<u>Damsire</u>	<u>Damsire’s dam</u>	<u>Aussie origin</u>
Top Honcho	Double Summit	Zimbabwe	Temlee
Token Prince	Amerigo Man	Promises Free	Temlee
Molotov	Blendway	Buzz Off	Handy Andy
Gable Dodge	Dutch Bahama	Dutch Debit	Rocker Mac
Brett Lee	New Tears	Starfire Lady	Temlee

Personally I consider the spine of a sire’s pedigree as important as any line. From the above table we can see that all 3 Aussie-bred supersires have the same spine..... that of Temlee. In each case a daughter of Temlee (Zimbabwe, Promises Free and Starfire Lady) is the dam of their damsire. Using Top Honcho as an example:-

TOP HONCHO



In summary then the “damsire spine” of each sire is as follows:-

	<u>Spine</u>
Top Honcho	Double Summit/Temlee/Mister Moss/Magic Babe
Token Prince	Amerigo Man/Temlee/Mister Moss/Magic Babe
Molotov	Blendway/Kunta Kinte/Lucky Bannon/Great Valor/Pageant/Handy Andy*
Gable Dodge	Dutch Bahama/Woodward/Rocker Mac*
Brett Lee	New Tears/Temlee/Mister Moss/Magic Babe

Handy Andy was an Australian export and has been described as the greatest damsire in US history. Likewise Rocker Mac was also an Aussie export who won 7 straight US sire premierships, a feat which has never been matched.

As stated earlier Magic Babe, Tell You Why and Gay Glint are siblings. Their breeding and that of Rocker Mac are closely related. Rocker Mac is by Chief Havoc and his damsire is Roccabright. The famous siblings have Chief Havoc as their damsire and Roccabright as 2nd damsire. Handy Andy shares some common ancestry as well.