

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

CORONATION S.-G1, £241,200, Royal Ascot at York, 6-17, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:36.59, gd/fm.

1--▲**MAIDS CAUSEWAY (IRE)**, 126, f, 3, by [Giant's Causeway](#)

1st Dam: **Vallee des Reves**, by **Kingmambo**

2nd Dam: **Venise**, by **Nureyev**

3rd Dam: **Virunga (Fr)**, by **Sodium (Ire)**

O-Martin S Schwartz; B-The Vallee des Reves Syndicate; T-Barry Hills; J-Michael Hills; £139,896. Lifetime Record: 10-4-4-1, £350,996. *3rd G1SW for sophomore sire (by Storm Cat).

Click for the [Racing Post chart](#) or the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).

ST JAMES'S PALACE S.-G1, £225,000, Royal Ascot at York, 6-14, 3yo, c, 1mT, 1:37.18, gd/fm.

1--**SHAMARDAL**, 126, c, 3, by [Giant's Causeway](#)

1st Dam: **Helsinki (GB) (SP-Fr)**, by **Machiavellian**

2nd Dam: **Helen Street (GB)**, by **Troy (GB)**

3rd Dam: **Waterway (Fr)**, by **Riverman**

(50,000gns yrl '03 TATHOU). O-Godolphin; B-Brilliant Stable; T-Saeed bin Suroor; J-Kerrin McEvoy; £130,500. Lifetime Record: Hwt. 2yo Colt-GB, MG1SW-Fr, 7-6-0-0, £1,099,290.

Click for the [racingpost.co.uk chart](#) or the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).

When Giant's Causeway's first yearlings reached the sales ring in 2003, this remarkable racehorse appeared to have virtually everything going for him, with one possible exception: the record of his father Storm Cat as a sire of sires.

Although Storm Cat had 90 stallion sons listed in the 2003 *Blood-Horse Stallion Register*, he had yet to come up with a son anywhere near as effective as himself.

It might have been different had Harlan lived longer, but the likes of Tabasco Cat and Mountain Cat hadn't made the hoped-for impact, while Catrail had also done little to advertise Storm Cat's eldest stallion sons during his stay in Ireland. Even though Hennessy, Forest Wildcat, Storm Boot and Tale of the Cat had all given hints that they might take higher rank, the overall mass of evidence wasn't convincing.

Perhaps that's why Giant's Causeway's yearlings met with mixed fortunes at the sales, bearing in mind that they had been conceived at a fee of Ir100,000gns during his only season in Ireland.

When I assessed the first-crop sires for *TDN* in the spring of 2004, my comments on Giant's Causeway included:

"The universal admiration he generated on the track didn't extend to all of his first yearlings, with some judges complaining that he hadn't stamped his stock. I recall similar complaints about two other stallions. One, Caerleon, became champion sire in 1988 with only two crops on the track, and the other, Warning, headed a strong team of new sires in 1993!

"I expect Giant's Causeway to silence his critics in the best possible way. With over 130 youngsters, he has numbers very much on his side and he has every right to sire quick-maturing individuals, having won all three of his juvenile starts, beginning in July."

It makes an interesting exercise to look at the record of some of these sales yearlings. At the top end of the scale were Mona Lisa, a 1,250,000-guinea purchase, who was third in the G1 Coronation S. last week; and Noble Causeway, the \$1,150,000 colt who was second in the G1 Florida Derby. My Typhoon, a stakes-winning turf filly, was another very high-priced purchase, at 1,800,000 guineas as a weanling.

But it was the yearlings down at the other end of the scale which helped Giant's Causeway complete another magnificent Group-1 double at last week's Royal York meeting. Shamardal, who was so impressive in adding the St James's Palace S. to his pair of French classic successes, had been the cheapest of the Giant's Causeway yearlings which found a buyer at the Houghton Sale, selling for only 50,000 guineas. And Maids Causeway, who showed such courage in grabbing victory in the Coronation S., was ignored at Tattersalls' December Yearling Sale to the extent that this Marston Stud filly was knocked down unsold at 25,000 guineas.

Just why Maids Causeway attracted so little attention is hard to tell. Perhaps she hadn't fully recovered from whatever prevented her meeting her engagement in the October Yearling sale.

Caulfield cont.

11TH JUNE - 4C. **LIMEHOUSE** WON THE **BROOKLYN H.-G2** BY 1 1/2 LENGTHS.

19TH JUNE - 3F. **CHERRY HILL LADY** WON THE **ADENA SPRINGS OAKLEY S.**

Impressive 2yo winners in the last 3 weeks include **FEDERER** (won a MSW at Churchill Downs by 2 L.)

& **GRAND MAGICIAN** (won a MSW at Calder by 3 1/2 L.).

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Or perhaps buyers were deterred by some flaw in her conformation. But if she has a flaw, it hasn't been serious enough to prevent her racing regularly at a high level, on all types of ground, from soft to firm. As a veteran of nine races, she was the most experienced filly in the Coronation S. field and she embodies all the toughness and fighting qualities which made her sire such a favorite.

MAIDS CAUSEWAY (IRE), f, 2002

Giant's Causeway	Storm Cat	Storm Bird	Northern	
			South Ocean	
	Terlingua		Secretariat	
			Crimson Saint	
	Mariah's Storm	Rahy		Blushing Groom
				Glorious Song
		Immense		Roberto
				Imsodear
Vallee Des Reves Unraced 5Fls, 1GSW	Kingmambo	Mr. Prospector	Raise a Native	
			Gold Digger	
	Miesque		Nureyev	
			Pasadoble	
	Venise Unraced 14Fls, 2GSW	Nureyev		Northern Dancer
				Special
		Virunga (Fr) 10Fls, 2GSW, 1SW		Sodium (Gb)
				Vale (Fr)

The lack of interest in the young Maids Causeway is all the more surprising in view of the quality of her female line. She is the third foal of Vallee des Reves, an unraced mare whose bloodlines were sufficiently impressive for her to fetch 320,000 guineas as an in-foal three-year-old. That price placed her joint-fifth on the list of high-priced mares at the 1999 December Sales.

Being in foal to Danehill no doubt contributed to Vallee des Reves' popularity, but she also had several other factors in her favor. For a start, she is by the accomplished Kingmambo, and two of her half sisters, the high-class Nureyev filly Verveine and the minor winner Vanishing Prairie, had produced group winners.

This female line has served the Wildenstein family extremely well over the years, Vallee des Reves being out of a half sister to the very good French colts Vacarme and Vin de France. Her second dam, the Classic-placed Virunga, was a half sister to Vitiges, who numbered the Prix Morny and the Champion S. among his successes.

The family has continued to flourish since Vallee des Reves' sale in 1999. Verveine and Vanishing Prairie now have a total of five group winners to their credit, including the Grade/Group-1 winners Volga, Vallee Enchantee and Vespone.

Vallee Enchantee, together with her talented brother Vassilievsky, is by Peintre Celebre, which means that she has the distinction of being inbred 2x3 to Nureyev. Vallee des Reves is also closely inbred to this magnificent stallion, the inbreeding being 3x2 in her instance, through Nureyev's daughters Miesque and Venise. Inbreeding to Nureyev can't have been done all that often, but it has also produced the German Oaks winner Silvester Lady (3x3).

SHAMARDAL, c, 2002

Giant's Causeway	Storm Cat	Storm Bird	Northern Dancer	
			South Ocean	
	Terlingua		Secretariat	
			Crimson Saint	
	Mariah's Storm	Rahy		Blushing Groom
				Glorious Song
Immense			Roberto	
			Imsodear	
Helsinki (GB) SP-Fr, 5-1-0-1, \$23,101 5Fls, 1Ch, 1GSW	Machiavellian	Mr. Prospector	Raise a Native	
			Gold Digger	
	Coup de Folie		Halo	
			Raise the Standard	
	Helen Street (GB) Ch. 2yo Filly-Eng 14Fls, 1Ch, 1GSW 1SW, 2SP	Troy (GB)		Petingo (GB)
				La Milo (GB)
	Waterway (Fr) 9Fls, 1GSW			Riverman
				Boulevard (Ire)

Maids Causeway's emergence as a first-rate performer is yet another reason for hoping that Kingmambo is able to cope with the arthritic condition which has been so troublesome this year.

Kingmambo is also the broodmare sire of Suzuka Mambo, winner of the very important Tenno Sho this spring, and of Indigo Cat, another stakes winner at the Royal meeting last week. Kingmambo is also attracting attention as a sire of sires, thanks to the efforts of King's Best and the French-based first-crop sire Kingsalsa. Dubai Destination, his winner of the 2003 Queen Anne S., is going to be one to keep an eye on.

To get back to Giant's Causeway, European breeders will no doubt regret his move to Kentucky. However, his record so far suggests that he is probably in the right place, as Shamardal, Maids Causeway, My Typhoon, Noble Causeway and the Group-placed French filly Naissance Royale are all out of mares by sons of Mr. Prospector. There is also a black-type earner out of a mare by Mr. Prospector. We mustn't forget, though, that the classic-winning Footstepsinthesand is inbred 4x3 to Blushing Groom and 4x5 to Northern Dancer, while Shamardal has several lines to Almahmoud.

My *TDN* colleague Bill Oppenheim is probably right to say that we should forget about Giant's Causeway's winners-to-foals percentage now that he is established as a prolific source of Group 1 performers. I still feel it is an aspect of Giant's Causeway's record which needs to be kept under close scrutiny, as there may be lessons to be learned. Although his number of winners from his first crop is now heading towards 40, that means there are still nearly a hundred which haven't won (I should quickly point out that British- and Irish-based stallions usually have considerably lower percentages of winners than their American counterparts).

Perhaps part of the explanation is that stallions like Giant's Causeway, with good conformation and a well-earned reputation for durability, often receive more than their fare share of mares which are lacking in those departments. No matter how good a stallion is, he can't reasonably be expected to right all the wrongs.