

THE TRIPL³ RF

Thoroughbreds who can demonstrate inbreeding to three different female families within five generations are as rare as hens' teeth - maybe, even "blue hens' teeth".

by Rommy Faversham



GONDOKORO, Zabeel - Kisumu

Thoroughbreds who can demonstrate inbreeding to three different female families within five generations are as rare as hens' teeth - maybe, even "blue hens' teeth".

It really did not take very long for female family inbreeding (FFI) to become my favorite characteristic within a thoroughbred's pedigree. I would say it is because it "checked all the boxes".

Initially it was introduced to me by my close friend and mentor, the late, great Leon Rasmussen whose 'Bloodlines' column in America's primary source of handicapping information, the Daily Racing Form, would long render him the nation's authority on what many punters have found to be the most esoteric of considerations when picking the ponies.

Then, there is also the confidence that this approach provides the most interesting and useful way of studying the history and development of thoroughbred pedigrees. This would involve the creation of links and associations that actually help to explain the transmission of important traits, such as racing quality, throughout the last three centuries.

DOUBLE RFs WHO WON AT LEAST ONE GROUP/GRADE ONE STAKES RACE IN AUSTRALIA, EUROPE AND/OR THE UNITED STATES BETWEEN 2001 AND 2019

Grade/Group One Stakes Winner	Sire	Double RF patterns	Grade/Group One Stakes Victories
ANAMATO	Redoute's Choice	Natalma 5X5X5 and Flower Bowl 5X4	2007 SAJC Schweppes Oaks
BONARIA	Redoute's Choice	Natalma 5X5X5 and Best In Show	2014 VRC Myer Classic
DARIANA	Redoute's Choice	Natalma 5X5X5 Best In Show 5X5	2010 QTC Queensland Derby
ESTEJO (GER)	Johann Cruyff	Flaming Page 5X5 and Natalma 5X5X5	2008 Premio Roma (Ity)
IMPERIAL BEAUTY (USA)	Imperial Ballet	Almahmoud 5X4 and Lalun 5X5	2001 Prix De L'Abbaye (Fr)
JOHAR (USA)	Gone West	Somethingroyal 4X5 and Mixed Marriage 4X5	2003 Breeders Cup Turf (US) 2002 Hollywood Derby (US)
LEFT HAND (GB)	Dubawi	Where You Lead 5X5 and Sunbittern 5X5	2016 Prix Vermeille (Fr)
MALIBU MINT (USA)	Malibu Moon	Raise A Native & My Sister Kate 4X4 and Somethingroyal 5X5	2006 Princess Rooney Stakes (US)
MASTER OF DESIGN	Redoute's Choice	Natalma 5X5X5 and Best In Show 5X5	2012 AJC T.J. Smth Stakes
NORTHERLY	Serheed	Flaming Page 3X5 and Dinner Partner 3X5	2003 VRC Australian Cup 2002 MRC Caulfield Cup 2002 MVRC W.S. Cox Plate 2002 MRC Underwood Stakes 2001 VRC Australian Cup 2001 MRC Caulfield Stakes 2001 MRC Underwood Stakes 2001 MVRC W.S. Cox Plate 2000 WATC Railway Stakes
QUALIFY (IRE)	Fastnet Rock	Flaming Page 5X5 and Natalma 5X5X5X5	2015 Epsom Oaks (Eng)
RED ROCKS (IRE)	Galileo	Sadler's Wells & Fairy King 2X3 and Natalma 4X5X5	2008 Man O' War Stakes (US) 2006 Breeders' Cup Turf (US)
SOUND ACTION	Vettori	Natalma 5X5 and Flaming Page 5X5	2004 ATC Ranvet Stakes 2003 SAJC Schweppes Oaks
TURN ME LOOSE (NZ)	Ifraaj	Natalma 5X5X5X5 and Special 4X5	2016 MRC Futurity Stakes 2015 VRC Emirates Stakes



NORTHERLY, Serheed - North Bell

The proof, however, occurs when enough pivotal instances have taken place within the evolution of the racehorse that the auspicious presence of this particular pattern could hardly be just a coincidence and, in fact, represents a causal effect. In other words, over time it can be shown that female family inbreeding, among both runners and producers of runners, significantly outperforms its opportunities, especially when important horse races are reviewed.

And then finally, there is the cherry on top: applying this information to help predict the outcomes of prominent racing venues for both fun and profit. As an example, I can attest to a very gratifying and lucrative return on investment from this approach when placing wagers on the Kentucky Derby and the Breeders' Cup. All of this was detailed in the 1999 tome, *Inbreeding to Superior Females: Using the Rasmussen Factor to produce better racehorses*, co-written by Leon and myself and published by Andrew Reichard and BlueBlood's forerunner, *The Australian Bloodhorse Review*. Of note, since the book's original publication, the only change would be an even greater number of winners, whose female family inbreeding patterns within their pedigrees distinguish them from their opposition, particularly in elite events.

The Rasmussen Factor (RF) is a formula. It simply represents the unit used to measure FFI. An individual is considered an RF or is said to demonstrate the RF when inbreeding to a female ancestor occurs, through different individuals, within five generations of its pedigree. Over at least the past twenty-five to thirty years, the percentage of RFs within the overall population of American thoroughbreds has varied but has most often been somewhere between four and five percent. Concurrently, RFs have totalled about seven percent of Grade One winners in the United States. Over this same time frame, the RF population frequency in Europe and Australia has been somewhat higher than in the U.S. but not at all commensurate with the measures of RF success which include 15.0% and 18.2% of the total Group One winners, respectively.

As a rule of thumb, according to noted pedigree analyst Bill Oppenheim, over the last thirty years, the percentage of international Grade/Group One and Two winners has been only 0.80% (four-fifths of one percent) of total named foals. As such, Group/Grade One winners by themselves would amount to well below half of that or roughly one-third of one percent of the total named foals.

Perhaps, it is worth remembering, the most important, if not sobering, caveat that all pedigree considerations account for no more than a third of a thoroughbred's racing performance(s).

Every so often, a much rarer form of the RF presents itself among pedigrees of note. The DOUBLE RF occurs when the individual's pedigree is shown to have inbreeding to two different families within its first five generations. It is the "four leaf clover" of RFs. A rough estimate of the number of Double RFs foaled in the Australia, Europe and the United States each year figures to be in the range of only several ►►

dozen. These numerical opportunities have been far outweighed by the measures of greatest success they have gained. A striking example is shown in Chart One which lists a total of fourteen Double RFs who have won at least one Group/Grade One Stakes race in Australia, Europe and/or the United States during the first two decades of the twenty-first century. Included are two Breeders' Cup winners, an English classic winner and an Australian Hall of Famer. And then there is the Triple RF, a thoroughbred individual whose five generation pedigree carries duplications of an amazing three female ancestors, all from different families. These ultra-rare pedigrees might be considered to appear "once in a blue moon", except a blue moon occurs approximately once every 2 3/4 years, which is mathematically estimated at probably more than five times as frequent as the random foaling of a Triple RF. Even for a very innovative breeder, it would be a formidable challenge to control the breeding rights to a worthy sire and dam whose five generation pedigrees carry the necessary complementary strains to create inbreeding to a trio of female ancestors, each one descending from a completely different family.

Unfortunately, this writer knows of no viable research method capable of filtering through the three hundred-plus year history of the thoroughbred so as to ferret out all the Triple RFs and distinguish the unremarkable from the elite, a group made up of superior individuals.

Instead, an extended, rather arbitrary, search came up with a total of four distinct matings that would issue six Triple RFs who were clearly superior individuals with a total of five full siblings who were clearly not. Each of these remarkable pairings are worthy of review.

AYRSHIRE (GB) & TROON (GB)

Ayrshire was bred by the 6th Duke of Portland (William Cavendish-Bentinck) who had been known for his uncanny fortune in the purchase of prospective broodmares. A high ranking dignitary in the Royal court of Queen Victoria and her son H.R.H. Edward VII, the Duke served as "Master of the Horse", the guardian of the Royal Stables.

The Duke of Portland's acquisition of Ayrshire's dam, Atalanta, was one of his best as she would become a very influential producer and matriarch. Her best mating was with Hampton, England's 1887 Champion sire which yielded three colts, two of whom won multiple events at top level, one of those the best of his generation.

The pedigree forged by the union of Hampton and Atalanta created a trio of pairings between full siblings. Hampton's paternal grandsire, Newminster was crossed, 2X3 with his full sister Honeysuckle who serves as Atalanta's third dam. When a pedigree demonstrates a male ancestor appearing along the tail-male line whose full sister is present along the tail-female line, this unique form of the Ramussen Factor is referred to as the Delta Pattern.

The second and third pairings occurring in the fourth generation of this pedigree include Volley



SIR TRISTRAM, Sir Ivor - Isolt

AYRSHIRE, brown colt 1885 and TROON, 1892

HAMPTON B 1872	Lord Clifden	2 Newminster	Touchstone	Camel	24
			Beeswing	Banter	14a
		The Slave		Doctor Syntax	37
				Ardrossan mare	8
			Humphrey Clinker	8a	
	Lady Langden	4 Volley	Cervantes mare	1	
			Voltaire	12a	
		Kettledrum	Martha Lynn	2h	
			The Baron	24	
			Pocahontas	3n	
Haricot	6 Rataplan	1 The Provost	4b		
	Hybla	8 Otisina	3j		
		Liverpool	11g		
		Otis	3j		
		Gladiator	22		
Queen Mary	Plenipotentiary mare	10			
ATALANTA B 1878	Galopin	Vedette	4 Voltigeur	Voltaire	12a
			Martha Lynn	2h	
		Mrs Ridgway	Birdcatcher	11d	
			Nan Darrell	19b	
			Flying Duchess	Bay Middleton	1s
	Barbelle	3i			
	Voltaire	12a			
	Feronia	Merope	Juniper mare	3i	
			Thormanby	Pantaloons	17a
				Phryne	3h
		1 Alice Hawthorn	Muley Moloch	9c	
			Rebecca	4b	
		Woodbine	6 Stockwell	The Baron	24
			Pocahontas	3n	
			Touchstone	14a	
2 Honeysuckle			Beeswing	8	



Edward VII

Franz, Duke of Saxe-Saalfeld-Coburg
Ernst I, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha
Countess Auguste Reuss zu Lobenstein und Ebersdorf
Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Saxony, Prince Consort
August, Duke of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg
Princess Luise of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg, Duchess of Saxony
Duchess Luise Charlotte von Mecklenburg-Schwerin
George III, King of Great Britain and Ireland
Prince Edward of Great Britain and Ireland, Duke of Kent and Strathearn
Duchess Charlotte Sophie von Mecklenburg-Strelitz
Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland
Franz, Duke of Saxe-Saalfeld-Coburg
Princess Viktoria of Saxe-Saalfeld-Coburg, Duchess of Saxony
Countess Auguste Reuss zu Lobenstein und Ebersdorf

with her full brother, Epsom Derby winner and important sire Voltigeur, as well as the breed-shaping full brothers, Rataplan and Stockwell.

The first of these Triple RFs was the bay 1888 colt Ayrshire, a very good two-year old, winner of the Two Thousand Guineas at Newmarket and the Epsom Derby at three as well as the Eclipse Stakes at four.

The majority of the Duke of Portland’s best horses did, in fact demonstrate FFI. He owned or bred the classic winning RFs Semolina, Amiable, Airs and Graces and Mrs. Butterwick (a double RF).

Ayrshire had a long and successful career at stud including the siring of two Oaks winners. His 1890 full brother Kilmarnock’s best race was a second place finish to that season’s undefeated juvenile champion, and yet Kilmarnock never actually won anywhere as a two or three-year old.

Ayrshire’s 1892 full brother, Troon was a top class miler at three when he captured the prestigious St. James Palace and Sussex Stakes. A year later he was killed instantly while racing, crashing into the rail with its splinters piercing his heart.

THAIS (GB)

Winner of the 1896 English One Thousand Guineas, Thais was bred by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales who succeeded his mother Queen Victoria to the throne in 1901 as H.M the King Edward VII. As noted above, during the first half of his reign, Edward’s “Master of the Horse” was none other than the 6th Duke of Portland.

The mating of Thais’ parents, the St. Simon stallion St.Serf and the Petrarch mare Poetry yielded just one live foal. As with Ayrshire, Thais’ pedigree demonstrates inbreeding to the full siblings Honeysuckle and Newminster, in this case within its interior. The eternal matriarch Pocahontas is inbred 5X5X5, through two strains of Stockwell and one from of his half-brother King Tom. The third inbreeding pattern was duplication of the important mid-eighteenth century matron Rebecca, 5X5.

Interestingly, King Edward’s own pedigree was a 2X2 Delta Pattern as his paternal grandsire was a full brother to his maternal grandam. Overall, patterns of FFI have been a rather common attribute in the breeding of many royal families. Starting with William the Conqueror in 1066, 19 (forty-five percent) of the pedigrees of England’s 42 ruling monarchs have demonstrated the Ramussen Factor. Five of these were Double RFs. The “sport of kings”, indeed.

SUMITAS (GER)

Perhaps, the easiest way to breed a Triple RF is to develop the sire-producing female families one plans to ultimately duplicate. Such was the case with Sumitas, bred by leading German nursery Gestalt Fahrhof who was responsible for the development of both our subject’s and his sire’s female families

By convention, all individuals who descend from the same German family have names beginning with the same letter as their common

THAIS, Brown filly, 1893

ST SERF Br 1887	St Simon	Galopin	Vedette	4 Voltigeur	2h
				Mrs Ridgway	19b
			Flying Duchess	The Flying Dutchman	3i
				Merope	3i
		St Angela	1 King Tom	Harkaway	2
				Pocahontas	3n
		Adeline	Ion	4d	
			Little Fairy	11c	
	Feronia	Thormanby	Windhound	Pantaloone	17a
				Phryne	3h
			3 Alice Hawthorn	Muley Moloch	9c
				Rebecca	4b
Woodbine		1 Stockwell	The Baron	24	
			Pocahontas	3n	
		2 Honeysuckle	Touchstone	14a	
			Beeswing	8	

POETRY B 1881	Petrarch	Lord Clifden	2 Newminster	Touchstone	14a
				Beeswing	8
			The Slave	Melbourne	1a
				4 Volley	2h
		Laura	Orlando	Touchstone	14a
				Vulture	13a
	Torment		Alarm	19a	
			Glencoe mare	10	
	Music	1 Stockwell	The Baron	Birdcatcher	11d
				Echidna	24
			Pocahontas	Glencoe	1t
				Marpessa	3m
		One Act	3 Annandale	Touchstone	14a
				Rebecca	4b
Voltaire			12a		
Extravaganza			Burletta	23a	

SUMITAS, Black colt, 1996

LOMITAS Ch 1988	Niniski	Nijinsky	Northern Dancer	Nearctic	14c
			Flaming Page	Natalma	2d
		Virginia Hills		Bull Page	4m
			Tom Rolfe	Flaring Top	8f
			Ridin’ Easy	Ribot	4l
	La Colorada	1 Surumu		Pocahontas	9h
				Ridan (USA)	5h
		3 La Dorada	Literat	Easy Eight	16b
			Surama	Birkhahn	1j
				Lis	7b
SUBIA Blk 1991	Königsstuhl	Dschingis Khan		Reliance	16h
				Suncourt	19
		Königskronung	5 Kronzeuge	Neckar	4r
				Kaiserkrone	5h
			Love In	Crepello	16d
	1 Surata	Lagunas		Tudor Love	9e
			Ile de Bourbon	Persian Gulf	2i
		Surama	Donna Diana	Eastern Empress	1e
				Neckar	4r
				Donatella	6e
		Tiepoletto		Tornado	1s
				Scarlet Skies	2c
			5 Kronung	Olymp	8a
				Kaiserkrone	5h
				Nijinsky	8f
				Roseliere	4i
				Literat	7b
				Love In	9e
				Tantieme	20a
				Relance	16h
				Hyperion	6e
				Inquisition	19

matriarch. Sumitas’ third dam Surata was also the dam of his sire’s broodmare sire Surumu, a German Derby winner and six-time Champion sire (at Fahrhof). All were bred and raced by Gestut Fahrhof.

Love In (GB), third dam to Sumitas’ sire, Lomitas (Ger) was exported to Gestalt Fahrhof where she forged an influential clan that included German Derby winner Lagunas (Ger), sire of Sumitas’ grandam, Surata (Ger).

Sumitas’ pedigree also carried two complementary strains of the (non-Fahrhof) matriarch Kaiserkrone (Ger) who appeared in Sumitas’ pedigree as the dam of Kronzeuge (Ger) and third dam of Königsstuhl (Ger), a two-time

leading sire and the only horse to annex the German Triple Crown.

An undefeated German juvenile champion with facile victories in his first five starts including the 1999 Mehl-Mulhens-Rennen (German Two Thousand Guineas), the British Racing Post referred to Sumitas as “the best horse bred in Germany for many years”. Starting about that time however, victories against Europe’s top company started to become more difficult. Sumitas was performing well but having to settle for runner-up honors in Group One events in Germany, England and Italy.

At age five, Sumitas was sent to the Bobby Frankel barn in the U.S. where he competed ►►

on both coasts capturing a couple of nice stakes including the Knickerbocker Handicap, a nine-furlong Grade Two turf event at Belmont Park. Sumitas had two full brothers. Neither of any distinction.

ZABEELIONAIRE AND GONDOKORO

The fourth mating found to yield Triple RFs was that of Zabeel (NZ) and Kisumu in New Zealand. Australian Guineas winner Zabeel was by the foundation sire the great Sir Tristram, a six-time leading sire in Australia. Zabeel, in turn, was a multiple champion sire as both a sire and broodmare sire in both New Zealand and Australia.

Group 2-placed dam Kisumu was purchased for \$67,500 as a yearling. From the very beginning of her role as a producer, Zabeel, in New Zealand, was deemed Kisumu’s most appropriate mate. She was delivered to Cambridge Stud for Zabeel’s services every year of her breeding career which was sadly cut short when the Carnegie mare died from an paddock accident in the summer of 2013. Zabeel died two years later at age twenty-nine.

The union was, then, limited to four foals, two males, both gelded early on and a pair of fillies. It was the first two foals who became Kisumu’s two Group One winners. Zabeelionaire (NZ) was sold for \$250,000 at the 2010 Inglis Easter yearling sale and would go on to capture the 2012 SAJC Australian Derby (G1). A year later, Kisumu foaled a full sister named Gondokoro who would win the 2013 BRC Queensland Oaks (G1). The remaining gelding and filly did not distinguish themselves.

This brilliant mating was the brainchild of Trevor and Terrie Delroy, owner of Western Australia’s small but highly successful Wyadup Valley Farm, nestled between the Margaret River and the Indian Ocean.

Zabeel was, in fact, the absolute perfect stallion choice if the goal was to inbreed to the family of the individual (Vali, the tail-female line), while the sire’s family (anchored by Zabeel’s third dam, Derna) is actually a branch of the family of his sire’s broodmare sire, Carnegie. And there’s more. To my mind, this is taking female family inbreeding to an art form.

In the end, FFI is certainly not the “golden goose” of pedigree theory. There are plenty of RFs who can’t get out of their own way. The majority, in fact, will never win a stakes. This probably goes for Triple RFs as well, and yet they are so rare there is really no way to prove just how valuable, much less interesting, their pedigrees have been.

Footnote: We recently compiled a list of distinguished, elite double RFs as per the table right, which includes several distinguished thoroughbreds many of whom excelled both on the racetrack and in their stud careers.



GONDOKORO, bay filly 2009 and ZABEELIONAIRE, bay gelding 2008

ZABEEL B 1986	Sir Tristram (IRE)	Sir Ivor	Sir Gaylord	Turn-to	1w
			Attica	Somethingroyal	2s
		Isolt	Round Table	Mr. Trouble	13b
			All My Eye	Athenia	8g
				Princequillo	1b
	Lady Giselle (FR)	1 Nureyev	Northern Dancer	Knight's Daughter	2f
			Special	My Babu	1w
		3 Valderna		All Moonshine	6e
			5 Val de Loir	Nearctic	14c
			Derna	Natalma	2d
KISUMU B 2003	Carnegie (IRE)	Sadler's Wells	Northern Dancer	Forli	3b
			1 Fairy Bridge	Thong	5h
		3 Detroit	Riverman	Vieux Manoir	10e
			Derna	Vali	5h
				Sunny Boy	16a
	Shana (GB)	Darshaan	Miss Barberie	Miss Barberie	16c
			Shirley Heights	Mill Reef	22d
		Vivre en Paix	Kelty	Hardiemma	1l
			1 Nureyev	Abdos	1e
		5 Veda	Special	Delsy	13c
			Vali	Northern Dancer	2d
				Special	5h
				Snob	7e
				Vali	5h

TABLE 3 - ELITE DOUBLE RF's

- Mellay - influential sire
- Matrice - influential sire
- Grosvenor - influential sire
- Pakistan - influential sire
- Northerly - champion racehorse
- Sir Tristram - influential sire
- Roberto - influential sire
- Tudor Minstrel - champion racehorse/sire
- Nimbus - Epsom Derby winner
- Intermezzo - St Leger winner
- Empery - Epsom Derby winner
- Trillion - influential mare
- Eau D'Etoile - influential mare



The great triple RF competition

Bluebloods is delighted to announce a fabulous new competition. This idea was suggested by our esteemed contributor, Rommy Faversham who co-authored the book *Inbreeding To Superior Females: Using the Rasmussen Factor to produce better racehorses*.

The book was co-authored by the great Leon Rasmussen, we were proud to publish it, with the first edition being a complete sell-out. We did a limited run reprint a few years ago, and you can still purchase a copy by calling our office on 07 5658 1950 during business hours. Ask for Christie. The book explains everything you need to know about Female Family Inbreeding (FFI) and more particularly about the Rasmussen Factor (RF). It has a bright orange cover which has resulted in its nickname "The Big Orange Book" or BOB for short. BOB is now a star of the screen as it can clearly be seen on the bookshelf in a scene in the hit new Australian movie "The Dry" starring Eric Bana which is set mostly in Victoria's Wimmera and surrounding districts.

But back to the competition. There will be prizes, there will be intellectual gymnastics, there will be fun.

ITEM 1

Please let us know of any other successful triple RFs apart from the ones mentioned in this month's article by Rommy Faversham.

**Best horse wins the prize of an RF book plus a free copy of our most recent publication
Great Thoroughbred Sires Of The World-Update, the Modern Era.**

ITEM 2

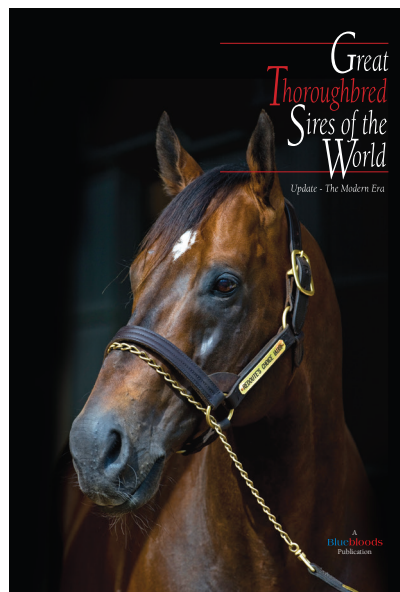
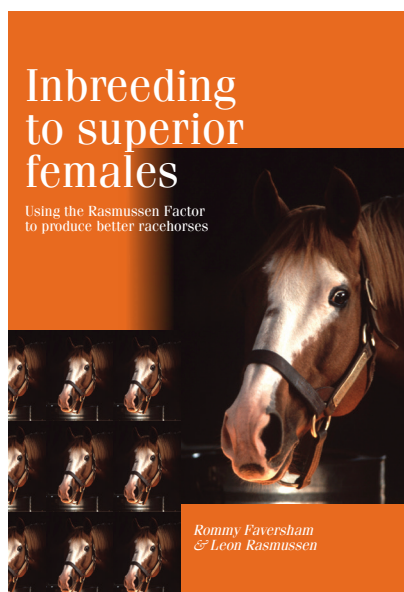
Design the best and most interesting triple RF mating using your own mare which is an actual mare currently registered in the Australian Stud Book.

Best entry wins an RF book and Great Thoroughbred Sires Of The World-Update, the Modern Era book.

ITEM 3

Please let us know of any double RFs within the last 50 years who would qualify to be on TABLE 3 - ELITE DOUBLE RF's, on opposite page.

Best entry wins an RF book.



Entries must be sent by post or email, no phone calls eligible.
Judging will be by a panel consisting of Rommy Faversham, David Bay and Andrew Reichard. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the results.
Entries remain open until 30/06/21.