



VERRY ELLEEGANT is a poster girl for the Rasmussen Factor. Her long priced win in the 2021 Melbourne Cup was part of an avalanche of wins in the world's biggest races at huge priors by runners with the RF.

NOT-SO-INCIDENTAL PERK

Meant as a measure of female family inbreeding within a thoroughbred's pedigree, the RF has shown to be an uncanny method of identifying some of the world's longest priced winners in the biggest of races.

by Rommy Faversham

When the frontrunners in this year's 148th running of the Kentucky Derby set a totally unrealistic pace, the contest, as they say, "fell apart". As a result, the longest shot on the board, a colt without a starting berth only a day earlier picked up the pieces and scored at 80/1 - the second biggest upset in the classic's storied history.

The winner, a striking chestnut, Rich Strike, by Keen Ice, turns out to be a particularly well-named individual once his five generation pedigree is examined. Featured are three strains of the essential matron Gold Digger (5X5X5), two through her crowning achievement, the great Mr. Prospector and another through his much less known full brother, Search For Gold. Meeting the criteria (inbreeding to a superior female through at least two individuals within five generations), Rich Strike's eleventh hour invite meant there were two different RFs in this year's twenty horse field.

When the dust had settled, the winner needed every pixel on the tote board to record his gargantuan payoffs. And, oh yes, Rich Strike was another bombshell of a Derby hero who manifested the Rasmussen Factor.

In our 1999 book, *Inbreeding to Superior Females*, my late, great mentor Leon Rasmussen and I surely must have evoked some incredulity when we introduced female family inbreeding as a unique pedigree handicapping phenomenon. From 1976 to 1997, we found RFs had a 77% ROI (return on investment) in the Kentucky Derby. For good measure, The RFs' returns from their collective win mutuels in the Breeders' Cup during the same period were also successful (57% ROI). The key caveat was that these kinds of healthy returns appear to occur most frequently in races of the highest class. Tables 1 through 3 evaluate the results from wagering to win on racehorses demonstrating the Rasmussen

Factor since our book was published (by Andrew Reichard) almost a quarter of a century ago. The tables' three races, the Kentucky Derby, the Melbourne Cup and the Prix l'Arc De Triomphe, arguably represent the most prestigious trio of racing venues in the world. Table 1, it seems, has some simply outlandish results. In the last twenty-five years, betting the RF has generated more than five and a half times return on investment (559% ROI). The last four years have featured Derby winners Rich Strike and Country House who had the second (80/1) and third (60/1) longest odds in its 148-year history, respectively. Both were RFs.

Five RFs won the 25 runnings including Triple Crown winner Justify. Nine of the Derbies had no RF entrants. The average was 1.25 RF per field. Finally, RFs averaged 7.1% of the fields and won 20% of the time.

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For completeness sake, I went back and reviewed the five generation pedigrees of every Kentucky Derby starter since the race's inauguration in 1875. The first 148 runnings (through 2022) have included a total of 210 starters whose pedigrees have demonstrated the Rasmussen Factor. These 210 RFs have been part of 198 total entries. As such, a two dollar ticket to win on the lot would cost \$396.00. The yield included twenty of the highest priced winners in Derby history with the \$396.00 wagered returning \$675.70, a 71% return on investment.

Table 2 charts the RF's wagering performance in the Melbourne Cup since the book's release almost 25 years ago.

In the race that stops the nation, RFs have had a return on investment well above sea level (+25%) but nowhere near the Derby. At an average of 3.4 RFs per running, the much larger number of wagers, compared with the latter, tend to mathematically limit the possibilities. It seems, around one RF per race, regardless of its odds, seems to create the best opportunity for outrageous returns. From 1997 to last year, RFs made up 15% of the Cup fields and captured 40% of them.

RFs have won the last three Melbourne Cups. I covered last November's heroine Verry Ellegant (at 16/1) and her Formula One inbreeding to Cotehele House in depth earlier this year. At the moment, she appears on course in her attempt in late fall to become the first horse to capture what would be a sensational Melbourne Cup / Prix l'Arc de Triomphe double.

Of note, the Rasmussen Factor cannot claim to have come even close to the best returns for a betting angle in the Melbourne Cup. That honor goes to the placing of win bets on horses

TABLE 1 - Wagering on all starters with the Rasmussen Factor in the Kentucky Derby

YEAR OF WIN	# OF STARTERS	# OF STARTERS WITH THE RF	RF WINNER (RF pattern) - \$2 win
2022	20	2	RICH STRIKE (Gold Digger 5X5X5) - \$163.60
2021	20	0	
2020	18	3	
2019	19	1	COUNTRY HOUSE (No Class 4X4) - \$132.40
2018	20	2	JUSTIFY (Yarn & Preach 4X4) - \$7.80
2017	20	2	
2016	20	3	
2015	18	2	
2014	19	0	
2013	19	1	
2012	20	0	
2011	19	1	
2010	20	2	
2009	20	0	
2008	20	0	
2007	20	5	STREET SENSE (Natalma 5X4) - \$11.80
2006	20	3	
2005	20	0	
2004	18	0	
2003	16	0	
2002	18	0	
2001	17	2	
2000	19	1	
1999	19	3	CHARISMATIC (Somethingroyal 4X4) - \$64.60
1998	15	1	
474			34 (7.1%) five winners \$380.20

Betting the 34 RFs = \$68.00 which returned \$380.20
 $380.2 / 68 = 5.59$ or a **559% return on investment**

RICH STRIKE, Chestnut colt, 2019



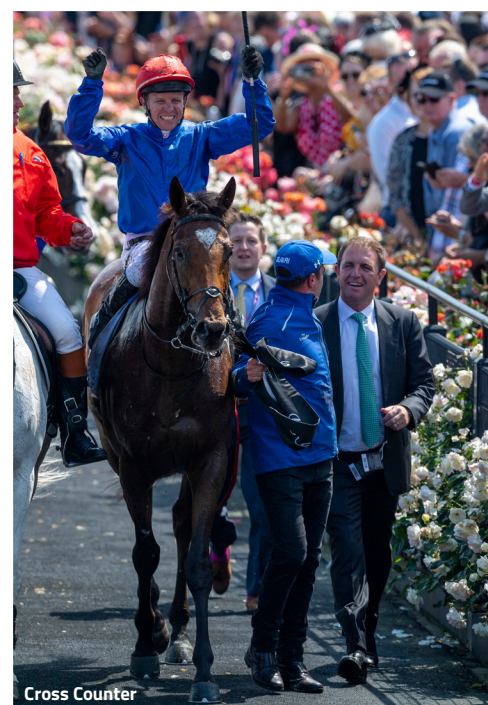
KEEN ICE B 2012	Curlin	Smart Strike	2 Mr. Prospector	Raise a Native	8f
			Classy 'n Smart	Gold Digger	13c
		Sherriff's Deputy	Deputy Minister	Smarten	A23
			Barbarika	No Class	23b
	Medomak	Awesome Again	Vice Regent	Mint Copy	10c
			Blushing Groom	Prime Prospect	22d
		Wiscasset	Primal Force	Roberto	12c
			Kris S	Sharp Queen	10a
GOLD STRIKE Br 2002	Smart Strike	2 Mr. Prospector	Tara Roma	Lyphard	17b
				Chic Shirine	13d
		Classy 'n Smart	Raise a Native	Native Dancer	5f
			Gold Digger	Raise You	8f
	Brassy Gold	Dixieland Brass	Nashua	Sequence	3m
			Smarten	Cyane	16b
			No Class	Smartaire	A23
				Nodouble	A1
		Panning for Gold	Classy Quillo	23b	
			Dixieland Band	Northern Dancer	2d
			Windmill Gal	Mississippi Mud	4m
				Gallant Romeo	23b
				Windmill Hill	13c
		Apple Pan Dowdy	2 Search for Gold	Raise a Native	8f
				Gold Digger	13c
				Bold Commander	8c
				Apple Bomb	A14

TABLE 2 - Wagering on all starters with the Rasmussen Factor in the Melbourne Cup

YEAR OF WIN	# OF STARTERS	# OF STARTERS WITH THE RF	RF WINNER (RF pattern) - odds
2021	23	10	VERRY ELLEGANT (Cotehele House 4X4) - 16/1
2020	23	4	TWILIGHT PAYMENT (Special 5X5) - 25/1
2019	24	6	CROSS COUNTER (Special 5X5) - 8/1
2018	24	6	
2017	23	5	
2016	24	6	
2015	24	6	
2014	22	4	
2013	24	2	
2012	24	2	
2011	23	1	
2010	23	5	
2009	23	4	SHOCKING (Natalma 5X5X5) - 9/1
2008	22	3	
2007	21	1	
2006	20	6	DELTA BLUES (Almahmoud 5X5) - 16/1
2005	23	3	MAKYBE DIVA (Natalma 5X5X5X5) - 9/2
2004	24	2	MAKYBE DIVA (Natalma 5X5X5X5) - 5/2
2003	23	1	MAKYBE DIVA (Natalma 5X5X5X5) - 7/1
2002	23	2	
2001	22	1	
2000	22	2	
1999	24	1	
1998	24	1	JEZABEEL (Round Table & Monarchy 4X4) - 6/1
1997	22	2	MIGHT AND POWER (All Moonshine 5X5) - 7/2
	574	86 (15%)	ten winners \$215.00

Betting the 86 RFs = \$172.00 which returned \$215.00
 215 / 172 = 1.25 or a **25% return on investment**

In the race that stops the nation, RFs have had a return on investment well above sea level (+25%) but nowhere near the Derby. At an average of 3.4 RFs per running, the much larger number of wagers, compared with the latter, tend to mathematically limit the possibilities.



Cross Counter



Makyebe Diva



Might and Power

who were trained by the late, great 'Cups King', Bart Cummings. From a total of 89 starters, Cummings conditioned the winners of twelve runnings which translated to an 85% ROI. Table 3 charts the RF's comparable performance in the Prix l'Arc de Triomphe. The Arc fields averaged 2.4 RF starters per running, but with smaller field sizes than the Melbourne Cup both made up about the same overall percentage.

RFs comprised about 15% of the Arc fields taking almost a third (32%) of them resulting in a rather satisfying return on investment of 272%. The windfall was led by three RF winners over 20/1. Last October's shocker was German-bred and trained Torquator Tasso who went off at 80/1, the third longest winning odds in the Arc's illustrious history. Named after a 16th century Italian poet, his five generation pedigree is another demonstrating the Formula One pattern, in this case via the 3X4 cross of the full sisters, Alya (Ger) and Allegretta (GB).

Inbreeding to the family of super-sire Galileo's grandam Allegretta has in recent years become one of Europe's most effective patterns of female family inbreeding. This was covered in detail in the May 2018 issue of Bluebloods.

Let's be clear. Numbers aside, the idea that any sort of breeding theory could actually identify an exaggerated share of winners in the world's biggest races, particularly those that come in at boxcar prices, is indeed far-fetched. Maybe even lunacy. Just the same, I hope it continues.

It kind of reminds me of that old Woody Allen joke. You know, a guy walks into a psychiatrist's office and says, "Hey Doc, my brother's crazy. He thinks he's a chicken!" The therapist replies, "why don't you try getting him some help?". "I would", the guy admits, "but I need the eggs".



TABLE 3 - Wagering on starters with the Rasmussen Factor in the Prix l'Arc de Triomphe

YEAR OF WIN	# OF STARTERS	# OF STARTERS WITH THE RF	RF WINNER (RF pattern) - odds
2021	14	3	TORQUATOR TASSO (Alya & Allegretta 3X4) 80/1
2020	11	2	SOTTASS (Special 5X4) - 7/1
2019	12	3	
2018	19	5	
2017	18	3	
2016	16	4	
2015	17	6	
2014	20	7	
2013	17	3	
2012	18	2	SOLEMIA (Lalun 5X5) - 33/1
2011	16	2	DANEDREAM (Natalma 5X5X5) - 20/1
2010	19	3	WORKFORCE (Special 5X4) - 6/1
2009	19	1	
2008	16	3	ZARKAVA (Flaming Page 5X5) - 13/8
2007	12	3	
2006	8	2	RAIL LINK (Natalma 5X5X5) - 8/1
2005	15	0	
2004	19	3	
2003	13	2	
2002	16	1	
2001	17	2	SAKHEE (Lalun 4X5) - 2.2/1
2000	10	0	
1999	14	1	
1998	14	0	
1997	18	0	
	388	61 (15.7%)	eight winners 166.1

Betting the 61 RFs = 61 euros which returned 166.1 euros
 $166.1 / 61 = 2.72$ or a **272% return on investment**

TORQUATOR TASSO, Chestnut colt, 2017

ADLERFLUG Ch 2004	In the Wings	Sadler's Wells	Northern Dancer	Nearctic	14c
			Fairy Bridge	Natalma	2d
		High Hawk	Shirley Heights	Bold Reason	19b
			Sunbittern	Special	5h
	Aiyana	Last Tycoon (IRE)	Mill Reef	Hardiemma	22d
			Sea Hawk	11	
		2 Alya	Pantoufle (GB)	3f	
			Try My Best	9e	
		Lombard	Northern Dancer	2d	
			Sex Appeal	8f	
TIJUANA Ch 2011	Toylsome	Cadeaux Genereux	Mill Reef	22d	
			Irish Lass	8c	
		Treasure Trove	Agio	9h	
			Promised Lady	1d	
	Tucana	Acatenango	Anatevka	7a	
			Espresso	9h	
		Turbaine	Young Generation	8d	
			Brig o' Doon	13e	
		Sharpen Up	Sharpen Up	5i	
			L'Anguissola	10b	