

DARSHAAN (GB): *Chef-de-Race* (Solid)

Bay horse, 1981 – Shirley Heights (GB)-Delsy (FR) (by Abdos (GB))

October, 2019



Stamina reinforcer

DARSHAAN, a son of Shirley Heights out of the Abdos mare Delsy, was a top-class performer on the racetrack for the Aga Khan. In 1984 he won the French Derby and was the highest rated French-trained three-year-old in the International Classifications (IC) that year, as well as third-highest in Europe, behind El Gran Senor and Chief Singer. Darshaan stood in County Kildare at the Aga Khan's Gilltown Stud farm. He was the leading sire in France in 2003 and leading broodmare sire in Great Britain & Ireland in 2002.

His Group/Grade 1 winning progeny include: **Dalakhani** (Arc winner and European Horse of the year, 2003), **Kotashaan** (winner of five G1 races in the US, including the BC Turf), **Mark Of Esteem** (2,000 Guineas and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes winner), **Hellenic** and **Key Change** (G1 Yorkshire Oaks winners), **Mutamam** (G1 Canadian Stakes winner), **Cerulean Sky** (G1 Prix Saint-Alary winner), **Dilshaan** (G1 Racing Post Trophy), **Olden Times** (G1 Prix Jean Prat), **Mezzo Soprano** (G1 Prix Vermille winner) and **Necklace** (G1 Moyglare Stud Stakes winner). Darshaan is also the dam sire of a host of G1 winners, including Ascot Gold Cup winners **Enzeli** and **Estimate**, **High Chaparral** (Derby and Irish Derby winner), **Marienbard** (Arc winner), **Ebadiyla** (G1 Prix Royal-Oak and Irish Oaks winner), **Zainta** (G1 Prix de Diane winner), **Sendawar** (G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains winner), **Edabiya** (G1 Moyglare Stud Stakes winner), **Islington** (G1 Nassau Stakes, Yorkshire Oaks, BC Filly & Mare Turf), etc.

In addition to such high calibre Group/Grade winners, typically seen at their best at middle-distance to staying trips as mature individuals, the following progeny-winning sample of 434 (3-y-os and above, Great Britain & Ireland) is distributed across the following distance range:

AWD	5f	6f	7f	8f	9f	10f	11f	12f	13f	14f+
11.5	0	1	10	33	21	87	56	125	14	87

Source: *The Statistical Record* (Weatherbys)

Of this robust sample a clear concentration of progeny winners (369, or some 85%) are seen at 10 furlongs or further, with a strong concentration (52%) of progeny winners at 12 furlongs or more, compared with just under 15% at 9 furlongs or less. This is a strong indicator of distance prepotency falling into the Solid/Professional range. The only reason for not including him as a *chef-de-race* earlier was that his own sire Shirley Heights was already doing the job as a Classic/Professional, but now that Shirley Heights is dropping off the edge of CDR influence in many pedigrees, we are secure in introducing Darshaan as the prime individual responsible for reinforcing the stamina influence of his sire. With a clear majority of progeny winners seen at 12 furlongs we place him squarely in the Solid category.

Darshaan's stallion sons High Chaparral and Dalakhani are also on our watch list as new CDRs, but in the meantime Darshaan is included on the official list as a SOLID influence.

LINAMIX (FR): *Chef-de-Race* (Classic/Solid)

Grey horse, 1987 Mendez (FR)–Lunadix (FR) (by Breton (GB))

October, 2019



Middle-distance influence

LINAMIX, by Mendez out of the Breton mare Lunadix was a top-class mile to 10 furlong performer at Group level, including winning the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas). However,

the grey was a source of high-class performers who typically stay further than he did on the racetrack, with a concentration of winning distances for his progeny at around 10 to 12 furlongs. The stallion retired from stud duty in 2007 and died at the Aga Khan Stud in 2016.

His best-performing offspring include, **Sagamix** (Arc winner), **Slickly** (G1 Grand Prix de Paris and Prix du Moulin winner), **Fragrant Mix** (G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud winner), **Reefscape** (G1 Prix du Cadran winner), **Cherry Mix** (G1 winner in Italy and Germany), **Carlotamix** (G1 winner of the Criterium International), **Manighar** (G1 winner in Australia), **Alpine Rose** (G1 Prix Jean Romanet winner) **Rajsaman** (multiple Group & Listed winner), **Martaline** (multiple Group & Listed winner), etc.

During his career at stud Linamix was leading sire in France in 1998 and 2004 and was that country's leading broodmare sire in 2012.

AWD	5f	6f	7f	8f	9f	10f	11f	12f	13f	14f+
10.9	0	1	6	16	10	30	7	24	10	17

Source: *The Statistical Record* (Weatherbys)

In addition to his Group-class winners mentioned above, from a winning sample of 121 (3-y-os and above, Great Britain & Ireland) some 72% of Linamix's winning progeny fall within the 8 to 12 furlongs bracket with a concentration of winners coming at 10 to 12 furlongs, making him a suitable candidate for *chef-de-race* CLASSIC/SOLID status. His influence on the breed continues through such stallion sons as Martaline and Rajsaman.

UNBRIDLED'S SONG (USA): *Chef-de-Race* (Intermediate)

Grey/Roan horse, 1993 – Unbridled (USA)-Trolley Song (USA) (by Caro (GB))

October, 2019



More of the similar

UNBRIDLED'S SONG was foaled in 1993 in Kentucky by 1990 Kentucky Derby winner Unbridled out of the Caro mare Trolley Song. As a two-year-old Unbridled's Song won the 1995 Breeders' Cup Juvenile in a near record time on only his third appearance on a racecourse. In his three-year-old season he beat US Champion three-year-old colt Skip Away in the Florida Derby. He went on to win the Wood Memorial a couple of weeks before the Kentucky Derby, but in so doing sustained a quarter crack to his hoof and finished a beaten favourite in the Kentucky Derby itself. Lightly raced at four before being retired to stud in 1997.

At stud the soundness of Unbridled's Song's offspring has been questioned and he has developed an industry reputation for producing speed, precocity and fragility. His Grade 1 winners include: **Midshipman** (winner of the G1 BC Juvenile and Del Mar Futurity), **Unrivaled Belle** (G1 BC Ladies' Classic), **Unbridled Elaine** (G1 BC Distaff winner), **Octave** (Mother Goose Stakes), **Thorn Song** (winner of the G1 Shoemaker Mile Stakes and Shadwell Turf Mile), **Splendid Bended** (Hollywood Starlet Stakes winner), **Zensational** (Bing Crosby Stakes winner), **Political Force** (Suburban Handicap), **First Defence** (Forego Stakes winner), **Buddha** (Wood Memorial Stakes), **Emcee** (Forego Stakes), **Magnificent Song** (G1 Garden City Breeders' Cup Stakes winner), **Songandaprayer** (Fountain of Youth Stakes) and **Marylebone** (winner of the G1 Matron Stakes).

From a small sample of progeny winners (3-y-os and above, Great Britain & Ireland) over 82% are seen at 7 or 8 furlongs. While this is compelling, in percentage terms, the sample size is too small to draw definitive conclusions, except that the same is corroborated by a naturally much larger winning progeny sample in the US and his AWD in GB of 7.9 furlongs is also closely matched by 7.8 furlongs in the US. On this basis, with around an 80% concentration of his progeny winning at either a mile or just shy of a mile, an INTERMEDIATE designation seems the most appropriate, supporting his own sire Unbridled *chef-de-race* designation as a speed influence (B/I).

DUBAWI (IRE): *Chef-de-Race* (Intermediate/Solid)

Bay horse, 2002 – Dubai Millennium (GB)-Zomaradah (GB) (by Deploy (GB))

October, 2019



Split designation

DUBAWI by Dubai Millennium out of the Deploy mare Zomaradah was bred in Ireland at Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stud, one of the only crop of foals sired by Dubai Millennium (who died of grass sickness in 2001). The winner of the G1 National Stakes at 2 and the Irish Guineas and G1 Jacques le Marois at 3, when he was also placed in the Derby. The joint champion 2- and 3-year-old in Ireland in 2004 and 2005 and the top-rated 3-y-o miler in Ireland and France in 2005.

At stud Dubawi sired some 41 G1 winners, comprising: **Postponed, Prince Bishop, Monterosso, Lucky Nine, Mubtaahij, Benbatl, Old Persian, Akeed Mofeed, Al Kazeem, New Bay, Too Darn Hot, Sheikhzayedroad, Wild Illusion, Srikandi, Coronet, Wuheida, Zarak, Erupt, Secret Admirer, Hunter's Light, Night Of Thunder, North America, Tiger Tees, Arabian Queen, Journey, Almanaar, Dubawi Heights, Makfi, Bateel, Kitesurf, Left Hand, Shamal Wind, Waldpark, Poet's Voice, Ghaiyyath, Sobetsu, Red Dubawi, Quorto, Nezwaah, Happy Archer**, and **Willow Magic**, as well as a host of other G2, G3 and Listed winners.

From a larger sample of 245 progeny winners (3-y-os and above, Great Britain & Ireland) the breakdown across the distance range follows.

AWD	5f	6f	7f	8f	9f	10f	11f	12f	13f	14f+
9.2	11	18	32	67	14	36	8	40	5	14

Source: *The Statistical Record* (Weatherbys)

While Dubawi is capable of siring progeny across the distance range (which would normally rule him out as a CDR) he is also showing enough prepotency at 8 to 12 furlongs (some 67.3% of the above sample) to bring him to our attention as a CDR. Within this bracket the stallion is spiking at 8 furlongs and 12 furlongs with a flattening at distances both outside and between these spikes. After due consideration we deem this sufficient to make him suitable for the unusual designation as a split INTERMEDIATE/SOLID in the *chef-de-race* series.

SHAMARDAL (USA): *Chef-de-Race* (Intermediate/Classic)

Bay horse, 2002 – Giant's Causeway (USA)-Helsinki (GB) (by Machiavellian (USA))

October, 2019



A concentration of milers

SHAMARDAL by Giant's Causeway out of the Machiavellian mare Helsinki was an emphatic winner of the G2 Vintage Stakes and G1 Dewhurst Stakes at 2 (when trained by Mark Johnston in England) and French Guineas, French Derby, and G1 St. James's Palace Stakes winner at 3 (trained by Godolphin's Saeed bin Suroor).

He stands at Sheikh Mohammed's Kildangan Stud in Ireland and is the sire of the brilliant two-year old **Pinatubo** (winner of all six of his outings at 2, including two G1s and a G2, comprising the G1 Dewhurst Stakes, G1 National Stakes and G2 Vintage Stakes), **Lope de Vega** (French 2,000 Guineas and French Derby), **Mukhadrum** (winner of the Eclipse Stakes), **Able Friend** (multiple G1 winner of the Hong Kong Mile, Steward's Cup, Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup, Champions Mile), **Dan Excel** (Champions Mile winner), **Lumiere** (G1 Cheveley Park Stakes winner), etc.

AWD	5f	6f	7f	8f	9f	10f	11f	12f	13f	14f+
8.0	31	36	49	70	18	49	3	11	1	4

Source: *The Statistical Record* (Weatherbys)

Of the wider winning progeny sample of 272 (3-y-os and above, Great Britain & Ireland) some 68.4% feature in the bracket of 7 furlongs to 10 furlongs, with a notable spike of almost 26% of winners coming solely at 8 furlongs, with equal minor spikes balancing on either side of the mile, at 7 furlongs and 10 furlongs. This suggests Intermediate prepotency, with just enough of a concentration at 9-10 furlongs to pull us into a split INTERMEDIATE/CLASSIC designation.

FASLIYEV (USA): *Chef-de-Race* (Brilliant)

Bay horse, 1997 – Nureyev (USA)-Mr P's Princess (USA) (Mr Prospector (USA))

October, 2019



All about prepotent speed

FASLIYEV, by Nureyev out of the Mr Prospector mare Mr P's Princess, was bred in the United States and trained by Aidan O'Brien in Ireland. He retired unbeaten after just five races (including two G1s and a G3) after sustaining injury when being trained for the G1 Dewhurst Stakes. He was the highest rated two-year-old of 1999 and European champion two-year-old.

He began a career at stud with Coolmore in Ireland, from where he was shuttled to Australia for the 2001, 2002 and 2004 southern hemisphere seasons. He was sold in 2007 to Japanese interests and stood at the Yushun Stallion Station from 2008 until his death (from a severe diaphragmatic hernia) in Japan aged 16. As a stallion he sired over 500 winners, including some 38 stakes winners, including **Carry On Katie** (G1 Cheveley Park Stakes winner), **Happy Holiday** (Australian horse of the year), **Chineur** (G2 King Stand Stakes winner), **City Leader** (G2 Royal Lodge Stakes winner), **Amico Fritz** (G2 & G3 winner in Germany) and **Lady Deauville** (G3 winner in Germany and multiple Listed race winner in GB and France), etc.

AWD	5f	6f	7f	8f	9f	10f	11f	12f	13f	14f+
7.0	82	64	75	69	15	15	4	7	0	2

Source: *The Statistical Record* (Weatherbys)

Of a large progeny-winning sample of 333 (3-y-os and above, Great Britain & Ireland) no less than 87% are seen at distances from 5 furlongs to 8 furlongs, with over 66% coming at 5-7 furlongs. This is as compelling a case as you could wish for in support of BRILLIANT *chef-de-race* status, from a profile showing an exaggerated prepotent bias toward speed.

STEVE MILLER is an author, correspondent, columnist and bloodstock analyst, based in London. He has also been a thoroughbred owner – having had successful horses in training with Mark Johnston (Flat) and the late Toby Balding (National Hunt). He has written on horse racing and breeding issues for *Raceform Update* and writes a regular column of big-race previews on the Flat, based on the Dosage system, for the *Racing Post Weekender*. His observations on the thoroughbred racehorse have appeared over the years in the *Sporting Life*, *Racing Post*, *Pacemaker & Thoroughbred Breeder*, *the Blood-Horse*, *Raceform* and *Timeform* publications and the BBC. He worked in close collaboration with Dr Steve Roman since the inclusion of Sadler's Wells on the *chef-de-race* list in August 1998. Certain examples of his analytical work on racing and breeding are referenced in Steve Roman's book *Dosage: Pedigree & Performance* (pub. by Russell Meerdink).