

# Breeding Notes - Scoot Around

When Scoot Around stood the all conquering hero in the winners circle at York, having spread eagled a top field of pacers including his old foe Direct Dream, en route to a new record of 1.57.1, my friend Huw Evans said to me "I don't know where he gets it from"

The man to answer that remark was another friend of mine, but sadly he can't respond. I will try and do it for him.

My father and grandfather have been friends of the Cole family since the 1930's. The late Ted Cole, my mentor in matters breeding, introduced me to the whys and wherefores of breeding in the 1970's. Ted Cole understood horses and breeding. He was adept at picking up mares at reasonable prices in America, always going for solid if sometimes old fashioned bloodlines. It was he who brought over Irish Forrester, who gave us Baroness, Mergendal who is the ancestor of Ocean Dream, She's Away – Prudence, and Miss C – Scoot Around.

The maternal line of Miss C (American name Belle D) has always been 'blue collar' as opposed 'to the Manor born' but producing year after year tough racehorses. In 1969 Miss C produced a filly Leebro Kerry to the cover of Caliburn. Caliburn was by the World Champion 2yo and Jug winning 3yo Bullet Hanover (Adios ex Billy Direct mare). Caliburn was the top sire of his day in the UK, his offspring include Saunders Perilous 1.57 who was a Free For All in the 70's in America, who beat the great Rambling Willie and won over \$300,000 in the process. Caliburn became a good sire in Australia but a great broodmare sire in Britain. The famous Monkroyd horses all trace to the Caliburn mare Monkroyd Girl.

Leebro Kerry when put to Holly Sand bred Kerry's Pride. But who was Holly Sand? He was a product of the 1960's/70's 'Golden Cross' Tar Heel on an Adios mare. A royally bred horse, a tough and fast race horse, he got some good horses here, but excelled 'down under' and went on to be a brood mare sire of some importance. If you research pedigrees on the New Zealand website HRNZ you will find Holly Sand's presence there time and time again in top horses.

Fast forward to 1979 and Leebro Kerry bred Merrie Kerry to Turo Hanover. Now that filly DID have a turn of foot. Tony Lees raced her and she was a speedball, if a bit fiery. Turo Hanover was liked by some, disliked by others. But he was well bred being by Tar Heel from the Shadow Wave mare Time Wave. Had he any good relations? – yes try Shady Daisy, World Champion mare and Shady Character, the sire of the incomparable Shady Romance!

Merrie Kerry was put to Cover Up to produce Merry Go Round. Cover Up had a 1.58.4 record and was a son of the great but lame Columbia George, the leading 3yo of his year. Columbia George is the sire of the great Artsplace. Cover Up broke the Columbia George lameness curse and got tough, fast, sound horses such as Dalestar, Dale Chief and Donisthorpe King. His daughter Cheryl's Dream and Merry Go Round were no slouches, the latter being a good race mare, winning many races and popping a 1.59 around Wolverhampton. However, Cover Up impresses the most as a brood mare sire. The quartet of Scoot Around, Direct Dream, Zidane and Bogie Man are a fearsome foursome.

The easy choice of any breeder west of Offa's Dyke was, for many years, to use Master Scoot. A decent race horse 1.55 by a dominant sire Direct Scooter – the sire of winners of about \$100m and the top racehorses Matts Scooter 1.48.2 and \$2.9m, In The Pocket 1.49.4 and \$1.5m as well as Direct Current, sire of Direct Dream.

Direct Scooter sons sire well. Matts Scooter is the father of Mach Three – winner of nearly \$3m, In The Pocket is the siring sensation of New Zealand and Direct Current is a fair hand in the breeding barn as well. But Master Scoot has another ace in the hole. He might not be from a fancy family, but his grandsire Overtrick, had a huge impact on our breeding when he produced Rajah Lobell. He is the maternal grandsire of Australia's best ever horse – Our Sir Vancealot (\$2m+) winner of three Inter Dominions. He is also the maternal grandsire of No Nukes and Falcon Seelster. Not a bad record for a horse the Yanks didn't like. And to finish off, he was the sire of Armbryst Mystic, who sired the first horse to beat 2 minutes in the UK, Missing Link!

Master Scoot has been a great sire, sending forth dozens of winners, including one of my favourites, American Beauty.

So Huw, if Ted Cole was alive he would tell you that it's a family affair. Put a good maternal line to a succession of well bred horses and anything can happen.

When Scoot Around was conceived all the gene combinations for speed, stamina, guts, gait and character fused in the optimum manner.

My mate Colin Dalby would explain it as a Classic Outmatch.

I would say that Scoot Around is from a successful male line, put to a mare extremely line bred to Adios, Tar Heel, Shadow Wave, Volomite and Billy Direct. He also has no Meadow Skipper blood and like the equally great Direct Dream, he is by a son of Direct Scooter from a daughter of Cover Up.

Les Fell would say it's all down to moving from Tregaron to God's Own Country at Settle, the care lavished on him by Rachael and the driving skill of Alan Haythornthwaite.

Ted Cole would say it was down to him bringing the mare from America.

I'll let you decide.

*Gordon Garnett*

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