

## RACING POST

### Stellar cast ensures exciting times for Breeding Capital

Rachel Pagones, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008

SHE will not have a foal herself this year, but Exciting Times lends the spirit of her name to the second round of foals produced for Breeding Capital, the equine investment fund set up by Simon Marsh and partners two years ago.

The fund owns four mares, plus a half-interest in Leto, a half sister to last year's Oaks winner Light Shift. All the mares are kept at Watership Down Stud, the Berkshire nursery managed by Marsh for Lord and Lady Lloyd Webber, and where Musicanna gave the investors their first equine dividend of the year on January 30, when producing a colt foal by Pivotal.

It was the first foal for the Group 1-placed daughter of Cape Cross, who won the Listed Atalanta Stakes before finishing third in the Sun Chariot Stakes for trainer James Fanshawe in 2005. The following year she was third in another Group 1, the Falmouth Stakes, and was picked up at the Tattersalls December Sales by Breeding Capital for 320,000gns. The seven-year-old now travels to Germany for a date with the country's standout sire Monsun.

Due to foal next is Leto, who will also be having her first produce. The daughter of Diesis proved a shrewd 250,000gns buy at the same December Sales, as her subsequent Classic-winning sibling had landed only a maiden at the time. However, the Niarchos bred was already a half-sister to the eminent runners Shiva and Limnos, so her Galileo foal, due early next month, will have all the pedigree you could ask for.

The foal will be bred on the same cross as St Leger victor Sixties Icon, who was sold by Watership Down Stud as a yearling. Leto will be covered next by Dansili, who is also the sire of the foal Bayalika is expecting in May. A 525,000gns purchase, Bayalika, a descendant of European champion three-year-old filly Behera, is the dam of last year's 2,000 Guineas runner-up Vital Equine. She has a yearling colt by Invincible Spirit, and will be bred to Oasis Dream this year.

Private purchase Silent Heir, an Australian-bred daughter of Sunday Silence, is due to Oasis Dream. The Juddmonte stallion is also the sire of her first foal, the Group 3 winner Young Pretender. Now a three-year-old trained by John Gosden - a Breeding Capital shareholder - for Princess Haya, Young Pretender won last year's Prix La Rochette. His dam next visits Danehill Dancer. As for Exciting Times, the dam of Grade 1 winner Gorella has been rested ahead of a rendezvous with Galileo.