



*CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH*

Article by Lindsay Ferguson

## Foundation Sire **CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH**

ASH Reg: 3390

The mixed farming country near Clifton, in the Darling Downs region of Queensland, has long been the heart of that state's polo playing and breeding. If you know anything about Queensland polo then you would have heard of their greats such as Stuart Cooke, Marshall Muller, Ron Bell, Jim McGinley and Ken Telford.

**T**hen, of course, there is the Gilmore family. It is because the Gilmores were often mounted on horses from the family of CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH, his siblings and his progeny, that many a match was won.

The history of this Foundation Sire revolves largely around his breeder and owner, Eric Clarke. He was a keen horseman, who died about ten years ago, but we are fortunate to have friends and neighbours who know the story of Eric and his horses. Ken Telford was such a friend and neighbour, who lived just across the creek in the tight-knit community of polo people at Clifton, about 40

kilometres south of Toowoomba. Ken was a master horseman of the district in those days, and one of Australia's great polo players of the 1950s and 1960s. In a sport where players are rated with a handicap from -2 to 10 goals, Ken was one of the few near the top – an '8 goal' player. He travelled widely across the country with the sport, also spending some time playing in England and New Zealand.

Ian Glasby, of the Holmrose Stock Horse Stud, also lives in the area. He recalls hearing much of the discussion about these horses as a kid, standing about the chaff-cutter when Eric used to regularly drop in to pick up his lucerne feed from the Glasbys.

Eric, a bachelor, was in a farming partnership with his brother on a property near Clifton. It is said that as much as Eric loved horses, his brother hated them – so there were some constraints on the number of horses Eric kept on the property. Nevertheless, he was a keen breeder with a couple of broodmares. His horses were of Thoroughbred blood – commonly two-mile, staying types, standing at about 15.2-15.3 hands. Eric was big into hacking and travelled far and wide to compete. His horses won at the Royal shows in Toowoomba, Brisbane and Sydney, and possibly most places in between.

Alan Gilmore was another neighbour and keen Australian Stock Horse breeder. His brother Jack also bred quite a few horses, but with seven sons, keeping horses up to them proved a challenge. One of the five sons who rode is Andy Gilmore. He explains, 'Uncle Alan gave us a good start with our horses. He was very particular, but we had a good relationship and he provided horses for the five of us to use.'

CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH was bred by Eric Clarke. Ian Glasby describes him as 'a lovely-natured horse that stood about 15.1 or 15.2 hands high'. Derek Gilmore describes him as 'a beautiful-looking horse, fine-skinned, that did well and had a great temperament.' He was broken-in by Ken Telford, who played him in polo for a few seasons.

When Ken was involved in a bad motor vehicle accident that left him unable to play, CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH was returned to Eric and put to stud. The stallion was classified and branded with the Society's 'A'. Given the situation with his brother, Eric would loan the stallion to anyone who wanted to breed from him, so he moved around a lot, leaving his stamp on the horses of numerous breeders.

As a sire, his progeny were known for their speed and great temperament. In conformation, many of them inherited the slightly long back of their sire. They were versatile, and used in everything from pony club and hacking to polo, polocrosse and campdrafting. 'He produced a lot of very good polo ponies that were easy to work with that also had a real affinity for the game', said Derek Gilmore. John Merritt, of Chinchilla, who played one of the daughters of CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH, explained that the Warwick polocrosse community also thought a lot of him as a polocrosse sire.

On his sire's side, we see the start of the legal theme in the names of some Australian Stock Horse families in Queensland. His sire was the Thoroughbred, Summing Up. He was one of the many racehorses bred by the well-known Barnes family at their



**A well performed grandson of CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH: RIFLEMAN (ABBEY - FS HSH/CINDERS MELODY - FM HSH). Ridden by Ian Glasby in both photos.**

property 'Canning Downs' in Warwick. Summing Up was bought by Wally King at the yearling sales and raced successfully in Queensland before retiring to stud.

On Summing Up's sire line we see that he was by the Australian-born stallion Evidence, by Law Maker, by Phalaris – a grandson of Cyllene (GB 1895). A taproot

sire of our breed, Cyllene's main influence was through his son Polymelus, and on to his sons Phalaris and Silvern. Summing Up's dam was Streak (AUS 1938), who was by the Australian Stock Horse taproot sire, Rivoli (Aus 1919). Rivoli's ability of producing stakes-winners (12), skipped a generation in this case, with Streak



**A well performed grandson of CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH: GILGANNON MR MINSTRAL - HSH (STAR BLACK MINSTRIL - FS HSH/CINDERS MELODY - FM HSH)**

never winning a race. Streak did however produce the gelding Spellman in 1946, a sprinter whose favourite distance was 5 furlongs (1000 metres). Spellman won two Queensland Turf Club (QTC) principal races in 1950 and another two in 1952, including the JHS Barnes Stakes. Another of Streak's foals, Mayrah (1955), produced the filly Bogan Rea (1966), who won the 1200m STC Frederick Clissold Handicap in 1971, the year before Gunsynd.

The dam of CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH was the brown mare Dawn, another horse bred by Eric. She came about after Eric purchased her dam, Bonnie, at a Toowoomba horse sale. She was a 'good sort of blood mare', Eric had said. Bonnie's sire, Had I Wist (Aus 1915), won eight QTC principal races over 7-12 furlongs between 1918 and 1920. His sire is Syce, who is by Cyllene. While it is not clearly seen in the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book, CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH has this Cyllene ancestry on both sides.

Dawn's birth was perhaps a bit of luck, as her Thoroughbred sire True Gun was a rig, and according to the Thoroughbred rules, ineligible to breed. However Eric knew the owner, who was happy for him to cover any 'good sort of mare.' Eric was also happy to get the service, as True Gun was by another champion Queensland racehorse, Warwick Gun (Aus 1918). By Seremond (29 stakes-winners for 62 stakes-wins), he won three QTC principal races over 9-12 furlongs. Dawn became one of Eric's successful show hacks.

She had two full sisters and one of them, Gem, was Reserve Champion at the Sydney Royal Show. Wally King's daughters did a lot of the show riding for Eric. Gem's progeny include the gelding CARWOOLA SOCKS, by Summing Up, as well as the gelding Sportsman and the mare Twinkle. These three horses were broken-in by Ken Telford and were part of his polo string, playing in top tournaments around the eastern states. Another of Gem's foals was TIFFANY, also by Summing Up, who was bought by Peter Blundell.

The other full sister to Dawn was the unregistered horse Laurel, who was sold to Colin Imhoff. A visiting player from New Zealand commented that 'she was the best mare I have ridden, that ever looked through a bridle.' She won Best Pony at the Queensland Gold Cup tournament in 1956 and 1957, as well as many other prizes after that.

CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH had a full sister, CLARKES TWILIGHT, who produced four progeny. The fourth of these was the mare WILLANDON J TWILIGHT, by RIVOLI RAY - IS HSH. Ian Glasby owned her and bred two good horses from her, with the second being a grey colt, HOLMROSE CHANCES, by BLUE MOON MYSTIC - IS HSH. This colt sired two foals for Ian, and after being sold, sired another seven in the last few years for the Australian Agricultural College Corporation at Longreach.

As a sire, CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH produced only 55 registered foals, but equally as many have gone unregistered, as

many were born prior to the establishment of the Australian Stock Horse Society. Given the way he moved about at stud, we see a number of stud prefixes in the list of progeny. Significant amongst those is Gilgannon (Alan Gilmore), Holmrose (Ian Glasby) and also Hampton Park (the prefix of Eric Clarke himself). Many of the mares to which CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH was bred have little or no recorded pedigree in the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book. While this affected the quality of some of his stock, it did not prevent him from producing some outstanding offspring.

His first crop of registered foals, with a birth date recorded, appears in 1968. GILGANNON GERMAINE was born then, and proved to be a good sort of polo mare that was sold to the Taylor Brothers. Derek Gilmore and his brother Gary played a 1974 filly named WOODBURY DELIGHT. 'She was 'beautiful – easy to play', said Derek.

From New South Wales, Alan Gilmore acquired the mare TE ANAU, because of her ancestry going back to Young Valais. Known as Anna, she never played polo but proved to be a good cross for CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH, with his first foal out of her being the mare GILGANNON BUTTONS, born in 1976. This bay mare receives high praise from the Gilmores. Derek describes her as, 'top of the tree'; 'an absolute machine'. GILGANNON BUTTONS played low goal polo whilst a two year old and just got better with age, being played by both Jim and Stuart Gilmore. Stuart considered her to be, 'one of the best mares that I played – outstanding', he said. She won prizes at the Sydney Royal Show tournaments and scores of Best Pony prizes at the highest level. She bred well too, with some of her progeny now in Argentina.

TE ANAU [Anna] was sold to Graham Stallman, who was another keen breeder. She then produced a full brother to GILGANNON BUTTONS, named OAKDENE COMMODORE. Stuart played him also and remembers him as 'honest and fast, with a great temperament. He played very well but not right at the top level like his sister.'

CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH sired five registered stallion sons. The only one with recent descendants is the stallion GAYMOUNT GAYTOWN. Owned by L & D Beutel, he produced eight foals. Tom Burbury, now of Cambooya, used to regularly travel past a paddock where he spotted a little chestnut filly by this sire. 'She took my eye as she had fire in her veins', he said. 'I enquired, negotiated, and then bought her as a five year old, naming her ARRAMORE RENCA. She was agile, perfectly balanced, smooth and easy-going to ride – I couldn't fault her. I

put the polocrosse ball in front of her and she took to it immediately', said Tom. She has now produced three good mares by GLEN LEE RIVOLI HAWK, with all of them producing foals into the fourth generation, some of which are now campdrafting.

Another line that has carried on now into the third generation started with the bay mare GEORGIE KID, bred by Peter Cleary of Warwick. John Merritt liked the look of her as she performed prior to the Dalby sale in 1977 and 'had to have her'. He paid the second top price that year of \$2,200. It was only later on that he heard about her family and realised the quality of the mare he had bought. 'I play polocrosse for Chinchilla and occasionally played in the top team, largely due to the horse's ability – I was really pleased to own her', said John. She produced two foals that have bred on, and John is still playing polocrosse on her progeny. 'I don't sell my horses but like to register them all, using our Bilyarra prefix, because I like the breed', he said.

Of the fillies of CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH is the overall stand-out. *[This mare will be the subject of next issue's Foundation Horse article.]* She was a champion polo pony and broodmare, producing ten foals who have acquitted themselves well in the fields of polo, campdrafting and hacking. Her progeny include Ian Glasby's stallion RIFLEMAN (by ABBEY - FS HSH) and Clem Barnett's stallion GILGANNON MR MINSTRAL - HSH (by STAR BLACK MINSTRIL - FS HSH).

Another of his 1970 drop fillies whose descendants continue on today was bred by Peter Mutch. MUTCHS VERONA had two foals, the second of which was KEMMIS CREEK CLARE (by QUIDONG ABSALOM - HSH), bred by G Ross in 1988. She has produced eight foals, including a number by MCNAMARA ACROBAT - HSH. The

Dunn Family Partnership have bred a number from her, including BEAUVIEW ACTRESS, who was well placed in a number of classes at the ASHS National Championships in 2004 and 2006.

Ian Glasby also bred six Holmrose horses by CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH, with a number of campdraft winners being the result.

So what makes this horse a Foundation Sire? Let's examine the evidence. Strictly speaking it's a numbers game, with more than 1,000 descendants being required. But how was that number achieved? As with any sire, the success of his progeny relies heavily on the quality of the mares put to him, and the ability of the owners of the offspring to take them to the top. CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH did well with both these variables.

No doubt his good conformation played

a large part in his success as a polo and polocrosse sire, but that is only part of the reason. The verdict is clear – with his top-class Thoroughbred bloodlines, he inherited speed that he then passed on to his progeny. Not only that, as Stuart Gilmore goes on to explain, 'a good temperament is the most important thing in polo. They must be able to gallop, then stop and turn, so they can't afford to let themselves get caught up in the heat of the game.'

Combining that fine balance of physical and mental ability in their offspring is not something all sires can do. With 1,393 descendants to his credit so far, I don't think that we have seen the end of the winning combination of characteristics that this Foundation Sire and his family have contributed to the Australian Stock Horse breed. You be the judge. 🐾

## CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH

**Colour:** Brown **Height:** 15.2hh

**Lifespan:** approx. 20yrs (1962-mid 1980s)

**Breeder:** Eric Clarke, Spring Creek, Clifton QLD

**Performance:** Polo

**Progeny:** 55 registered progeny, the most notable being the mare CINDERS MELODY - FM HSH



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| CLARKES DAYLIGHT - FS HSH<br>ASH Reg: 3390 | summing up 02  | evidence 02 | law maker 02      |
|  |                |             | houbigant 02      |
|  | dawn 28        | streak 02   | rivoli 02 - WH    |
|  |                |             | splitting head 02 |
|  |                | true gun 02 | warwick gun 001   |
|  |                |             | lady euclid 01    |
| bonnie 21                                  | had i wist 001 |             |                   |
|  | unknown dam    |             |                   |