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Newsletter

2nd April 2015

Karma – the law of moral causation – is a fundamental doctrine in Buddhism.

According to Karma, nothing in this world, good or bad, happens to a person that he or she does not deserve.

Blake Shinn, or so a Buddhist would tell you, deserved to win the **G1** Vinery Stud Stakes last Saturday.

Exactly why he deserved to win is open to debate. Was it compensation for losing the ride on the short-priced favourite? Is it because of his new-found work ethic or his loyalty to family Lee and Shannon Hope?

Is it because of the inspired ride he gave **Fenway**, placing the filly to absolute perfection in running, as others 'fiddled while Rome burned'?

Or is it nothing to do with Karma – rather the result of Blake's great good luck in being legged aboard a supremely talented daughter of **High Chaparral**?

HIGH CHAPARRAL, indeed, provided not only the **G1** Vinery winner in **Fenway** but also the most eye-catching **G1** ATC Oaks trialist in 4th-placed filly **Ballet Suite**.

Coolmore sires, lest anyone missed the fact, provided the first four home in the **G1** Vinery – **Fenway** (**High Chaparral**), **First Seal** (**Fastnet Rock**), **Thunder Lady** (Mastercraftsman) and **Ballet Suite** (**High Chaparral**).

Prepared by Lee and Shannon Hope, **Fenway** (out of Blue Gum Farm stallion **War's** dam Deedra, by Zabeel) travelled sweetly throughout and kicked clear down the running, packing too much punch for **Fastnet** filly **First Seal**, who although she ran out the 2000m strongly enough to take lengths off the winner and to beat the rest of Australia's best staying fillies, fell agonisingly short.



Fenway - High Chaparral filly is sire's 13th G1 winner

Shinn was emotional after the win as it was a first **G1** win for his stepfather Lee Hope.

"It's the first **G1** winner for the family", he said, "although it's a shame Lee isn't here as he's at home at Kilmore doing all the work."

Shannon Hope, however, was on hand to greet the filly on her return to scale.

"It's a great feeling to get that first Group One," he said. "She's done really well since she's been here. She'll run 2400m no worries and provided she pulls up well, she'll go to the Oaks."

A **\$700,000** Inglis Easter purchase by Colm Santry from the Strawberry Hill Stud draft, **Fenway** runs for Greg and Jenny White's Alpara Lodge and has won two of six starts earning just shy of \$300,000 in prizemoney.

"She has an amazing pedigree and had the amazing physical conformation as well," said Santry, thankfully avoiding use of that appalling cliché 'ticked all the boxes'.

"Greg and Jenny White entrusted me to find them a filly and I thought she was the filly of the year."

The most expensive yearling by **High Chaparral** sold in 2013, **Fenway** comes from John Singleton's favourite family – that of **War**, **More Joyous**, **Tuesday Joy** and **Sunday Joy** – and Colm can be proud of adding her purchase to that of other black-type earners in Shania Dane, Tavernelle, Shalang, etc.



High Chaparral's fabulous yearling filly x Irish Lights

Fenway is the 13th **G1** winner for **High Chaparral**, who also posted a 2yo group-winner on Saturday via the

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Coolmore 'raised and grazed' colt **Last Bullet**, who won the **G3** Breeders Stakes in Adelaide.

There are, moreover, many who believe that **High Chaparral** may well provide the **G1** ATC Oaks winner not in the form of **Fenway**, but rather of daughter **Ballet Suite**, who, running home strongly from the back of the field for 4th, recorded the better 'sectionals'

These **G1** fillies couldn't have come at a better time for the sadly-deceased **High Chaparral**, whose **15** yearlings at Easter include one of the best fillies on sale - out of **Fastnet's** **G1** Guineas winner **Irish Lights** - as well as outstanding fillies out of **G1** winners **Larrocha** and **Merlene**.

The loss of **High Chaparral** has further been highlighted by the recent deeds of awesome Irish-bred son **Contributer**, who gave Godolphin its first **G1** success in Australia for trainer John O'Shea, while one of **High Chap's** daughters also features as the dam of **G1** MRC Futurity Stakes winner **Suavito**.

Contributer had looked ominously good this prep in winning the 1400m **G2** ATC Apollo Stakes and **G1** ATC Chipping Norton Stakes.



Contributer - High Chaparral's dual Aus G1 winner

But after his spectacular **G1** Ranvet Stakes win over 2000m at Rosehill last Saturday-week, the son of **High Chaparral** has now established himself as the biggest threat to **Adelaide's** **G1** Queen Elizabeth Stakes aspirations.

"That was pretty basic, really," said winning jockey James McDonald.

"This horse is superior to any other horse racing in the country."

We might have news for you, James!

Add to **High Chaparral's** list of current stars the Tony McEvoy-trained 3yo **Alpine Eagle**, who landed the **G2** MRC Autumn Stakes over 1800m at Caulfield before just failing, with a flying challenge, to land the **G1** Australian Guineas at Flemington.

A \$240,000 NZ Premier Sale purchase from the Cambridge Stud draft, **Alpine Eagle** (out of Zephyria, by Zabeel) runs for renowned South Australian winemaker Wolf Blass and looks certain to land for his connections a **G1** trophy sooner than later.

High Chaparral also added another string to his bow as broodmare sire when his daughter **Queen Cha Cha** produced talented mare **Suavito** to capture the 1400m **G1** MRC WFA Futurity Stakes at Caulfield.

Suavito is the second **G1** winner for **High Chaparral** as a broodmare sire, joining Northern Hemisphere-bred **Starspangledbanner** colt **The Wow Signal**.

High Chaparral died just before Christmas after covering 146 mares in Australia last spring, so, while there are still three crops of yearlings to go through the ring, now might be a good time to get into those **High Chap** fillies as potential future 'blue hen' broodmares.

SO YOU THINK, however, talented **Contributer**, **Toronado**, **Shoot Out**, **Dundeel** and others may be, is still the benchmark for sons of **High Chaparral**.



So You Think's magnificent yearling colt x Crevette

The **10-time** **G1** winner has his first yearlings on show at the Inglis Easter yearling sale over the next week and just wait until you see his colt from **Danehill's** stakes-winning, **G1**-producing daughter **Crevette**, herself the dam of dual **G1** winner **Cosmic Endeavour** and a sister to **5-time** **G1**-winning international superstar **Fairy King Prawn**.

This is as good a colt as there is on ground - a beautiful, well-balanced, very athletic 'Adonis' with a great temperament and 'extra' action. Get to the ring or to your television or computer when he's in the ring because there will be fireworks!

Lack of space precludes our previewing all **31** yearlings on offer by **So You Think**. But we will make mention of the colts we've seen at this stage out of **Black Minx** (a 'sharper'-looking sort than many), **Danevade** (real 'classic'-looking colt), **Professionelle** (this mare 'never misses') and champion 3yo filly **Faint Perfume** (dual **G1** winner of the Vinery and the Oaks).

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