



FLOORS CASTLE

SCOTTISH BORDERS



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ATTRACTION 2001 Bay Mare Efisio out of Flirtation

Attraction is in many ways the British version of Seabiscuit, whose remarkable rags to riches exploits in the United States in the 1930's took America by storm; a wonderful story that has been resurrected by a best-selling book and a blockbuster film.

In authentic Seabiscuit style Attraction is hardly bred in the purple, by a run of the mill commercial stallion out of a non-winning mare, and also like him, she possesses far from perfect forelegs and had a peculiar and ungainly galloping action. That she also returned in 2004 from a potentially serious injury is another thing she has in common with Seabiscuit. Further, she is a trailblazer and is blessed with a lion sized heart.

Attraction's 2 year old campaign was spectacular; she was invincible among her age and sex winning 5 straight races including impressive wins in the Queen Mary at Royal Ascot and the Cherry Hinton. As a result she was rated the champion 2 year old filly in Europe. However in August 2003 x-rays on her knees revealed some quite significant bone changes, which resulted in advice from a leading Newmarket vet to retire her.

Fortunately for all concerned Mark Johnston, her trainer and himself a qualified vet, recommended that an attempt be made to train her as a 3 year old, and after 2 months box rest she went back into training in December 2003. Her 3 year old career was unbelievably even more spectacular as she went on to make history as the first filly in 82 years to complete the English / Irish 1000 Guineas double, making all the running in both cases.

The fairytale was set to continue, as her next race was the Group I Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot racing on a round course for the first time. The end result was the same, as yet again leading from the front she ran her rivals ragged, missing out on the course record by 0.03 seconds, and thereby completing a perfect 8 for 8 record.





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A month later she took on the older fillies and tasted defeat for the first time, finishing 2nd to the brilliant multiple Group I winning filly Soviet Song. A disappointing trip to Deauville and very soft ground resulted in her worst performance to date, but this was followed by a rousing battle with Soviet Song in the Matron Stakes in Ireland ending up in a ½ length defeat. The season culminated in a fitting climax to a magnificent campaign with a victory in the Sun Chariot at Newmarket. Attraction won 4 Group I races in the year, the only filly in the world to do so, and was again crowned Champion 3 year filly in Ireland.

The decision was taken to keep her in training as a 4 year old, and inevitably the superlative record of the two previous seasons could not be maintained.

Attraction travelled across the world to take on the unbeaten Silent Witness in Hong Kong in May 2005, a race billed as “the Monster v. the Freak” by the local press, but the oppressive heat and humidity proved too much.

Attraction’s 2005 campaign ended on a wonderful high by returning to Leopardstown for the Matron Stakes, where she dominated her field in typically exuberant style notching up her 5th Group I success. She retired to the paddocks in October 2005 after a minor injury prevented her running in her final race.

Her record of 10 wins, including 5 Group I’s from 15 starts places her up with the very best in recent years, and she is certainly the finest racehorse ever bred in Scotland. In true Seabiscuit style, what Attraction achieved reflects colossal credit on herself and her trainer. Having overcome adversity and the conformation critics who said she would never make a racehorse, she confounded everyone. Her huge talent was only superceded by her gigantic popularity both locally and nationally as the public’s favourite horse in training.

Attraction retired in October 2005 and has proved almost as successful at stud as she did on the racecourse; all 6 of her foals to race are winners including Fountain of Youth, a Group 3 winner who is now standing at stud, Cushion a daughter of Galileo group placed in the US, and Huntlaw winner of 4 races in 2016. Her yearling colt by Frankel realised 1.6 million guineas at Tattersalls in October 2016, so his racing career will be awaited with great interest. He is to be trained by Mark Johnston, so a welcome return to Middleham for the family.



Frankel out of Attraction