

Buyer Beware – Part 4

Chasing up Ria's & Treasure's sires in 2008

Email to Ms. Betteridge:

June 22 2008 - *"I have not had the time to pursue the question of Ria's and Treasure's sire and you are the only person that can sort this out. Where do we start and I would love to sort this problem out before the end of the year as I know it will take some time. I am sure you will have an idea of where these horses came from and if not you seem to know all the gypsy breeders, so that would probably be the first place to start asking around. I have sent you some photos of Ria and Treasure from different angles to show around just in case you do not have them stored on your computer anymore. Let me now if you need anymore information to help you find out their parentage."*

No reply

July 1 2008 - *"Resending this message from a week ago but did not include the photos this time. If you got the first message with the photos let me know."*

No reply

July 7 2008 - *"Have you got my last two messages re tracing back Treasure and particularly Ria's sire and dam."*

REPLIED

July 10 2008 - *"have been away all of June back for a couple of days then off again for a few am home now for a week so am trying hard to catch up on mails ref info the only place to start really is Bills as he would know I will try to get his no and get hold of him, I do not see him very often nowdays, but will try"*

July 20 2008 - *"Have you found out any more info about Treasure and Ria's sire?"*

July 21 2008 - *"NO NOT YET as just got back myself from a trip to London I am having trouble getting hold of Bill as I have his old number and cannot find his new one, and he has moved."*

Once again away on another trip and here nothing for another month

August 14 2008 - *"Just wondering how you are making out with chasing up the sires of my two gals"*

August 18 2008 - *"i CANNOT GET HOLD OF BILLS NO, he has moved and changed no's, so my advice is contact Terri Marshal in USA and ask her to compare your horses markers with her data base. and see if she can throw some light on it as well, meanwhile I will keep trying to find Bill who will be the link, terri mail address is"*

[ironbridgefarm@sbcglobal.netmailto:ironbridgefarm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ironbridgefarm@sbcglobal.net)

Her only effort was to try and contact Bill telling me that she could not get hold of him. I then emailed Terri Marshall asking her if she can help.

August 18 2008 - *"Are you able to help me at all with my mares if I send you their DNA profiles. Please read message from Andrea, Meadow Farms."*

A bit about what Terri Marshall does in her own words.

"I have DNA profiles for a large number of Stallions from overseas that have been provided to me from various individuals and am continually being provided with additional ones. Many of these have been provided by UK breeders/importers and US members who have traveled overseas for Appleby and to purchase direct. I also can do derivations of deceased stallions or stallions I do not have profiles for. I do this from known offspring when I have enough progeny and their dams to provide me the necessary markers for derivation. I have electronic tools built for analysis and am in the process of building some additional ones that can indicate a 13 or 17 marker match vs any or all DNA profiles.. Derivation is the process of using Progeny and their dams or sires to Derive the markers of the parent that there is no DNA report for. I have derived 90% of the markers on the deceased sires, His Majesty the King, Samson (UK) and Sid's Good Stallion. As more progeny becomes available to me I should be able to get 100% of their markers discovered. I have retired from a long career in data processing and will be developing additional tools to assist the Gypsy Horse Association. In the winter I will work on one that will do coefficients of commonality by percentages"

In simple terms, it is a process of elimination until you get all the markers.

Reply from Terri Marshall

August 20 2008 - *"Kathy (who) ???? Where are you located?? Are you a new member of GHA....? I am not familiar with your farm....or your mares. I can review your horses DNA vs what I have to date; what specifically are you trying to determine?"*

August 20 2008 - *"I am in New Zealand and not sure which society the GHA is but I will not be a member. I purchased 2 mares that were guaranteed by Andrea to be from certain sires. However, they*

are not after checking their DNA with the supposed sires and now I have been left with no way of finding where they have come from. From Andrea's email she has given me the impression that you can search the stallion DNA data base looking for a match, rather than the way the labs will only check your horse against a chosen sire."

August 21 2008 – *"Which Horse registry are you associated with? Who did the DNA checking for you vs. what sires?. Can you email copies of the mare's DNA reports and I will check them vs. what I have?. Also, please provide me whatever info you have about the mares.... regions they came from any anecdotal information will help. I will see what I can do."*

I gave Terri Marshall all the information she requested.

August 26 2008 – *"Also, I was under the impression that Andrea had initiated the request that I do a comparison to the stallions whose profiles I have in a database (**to which she has made several contributions**). I would be glad to compare these mares...as long as **all parties** are aware that I am doing so and have equal access to the results. As I said, I would be glad to use whatever DNA information and tools I have to help you; **it will have to be with all parties being advised of the activities up front.**"*

Terri was referring to Ms. Betteridge and she was to be informed of the activities up front, which I found rather odd, but agreed to.

August 26 2008 – *"Andrea should be contacted about you searching for a match, but I trust that is all"*

August 27 2008 – *"Andrea's information about the movement of certain stallions and mares can contribute to verifying the possibilities of a match. (but Andrea had no idea where Treasure or Ria came from and was chasing Bill?) I do not have Lenny's Stallion.. or the Boss' profiles in my database, but will inquire about getting them (but Ms. Betteridge had at least Lenny's) The Boss is on file with the University of Kentucky. If you send me the DNA profile report for your progeny I will review it vs. the Boss confirmed progeny I do have in the Database for commonality."*

Even though Ms. Betteridge had made several contributions to Terri Marshall's stallion DNA profile base Ms. Marshall did not have Lenny's profile on hand???????

August 29 2008 – *"I will spend some time further researching your mares early next week. Treasure has high commonality with my mare Tully.. I have been working on **determining her sire and feel I am pretty close.**"*

This was great news until the next email, which sent me off the wall.

August 29 2008 – *"I have something interesting on Treasure, but need to do some further research. She has quite a few markers that are consistent with other Lion King progeny and grand get even though she does not match Lion King.. That to me would indicate that she probably could be a granddaughter, or niece"*

Here we go again with the "grand daughter" theme that was used on me with Ria Mona Lisa by Ms. Betteridge. Now Terri Marshall was feeding me a line of poppycock. This was the person who was the past registrar of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society, past registrar and now vice president of the Gypsy Horse Association, had a long career in data processing and was the person who was suppose to be highly skilled in deriving DNA by comparison of many profiles. If anyone should know the highly unlikely probabilities of Treasure being a grand daughter or niece of The Lion King "**simply**" because she had a lot of markers in common, it should have been her! As Kentucky and Massey University had already established (**October 30 2007 & November 26 2007**) there is no way you can confirm or even begin to guess that a horse is a grand daughter or grandson unless you have the sire or dams DNA to complete the link. One generation out and the probabilities are enormous. And who was being kept in the know with all this activity searching.....Ms. Betteridge. However I continued with this nonsensical exercise to see where it would take me.

Five days later I get this out of the blue telling me that last year she had already determined Tully's sire as Clannad. Now Clannad has 13 markers on his profile and a 13 marker match is considered a 99.9% guaranteed match.

September 3 2008 – *"Last year I built some a simple analysis tool and **was able to determine that Tully has a 13 marker match to Clannad.** Clannad is currently owned by Greg and Maureen Griffin, of Texas and was imported thru the Coates..who are friends of Tom Harker. Tom Harker owned the mare that was hit by lightning in 2006 and who was reported to be Tully's and Geordie's dam. **Clannad is old enough and has a similar pattern** and it is possible he was at Tom's for awhile visiting mares..*



Immediately I searched for Clannad on the net and came up with Greg and Maureen Griffin's website called Castle Knoll Gypsy Farms. Not only did Clannad have very similar markings to Treasure, but lo and behold the Griffins had posted his DNA profile on their website and it matched all 13 markers!...thank you Greg and Maureen...without that I still would not know today. **NOTE:** It was also because of this I was able to ascertain that Clannad was sired by Tonka and Kentucky confirmed it for me just this year. It also upped the age of Tonka and The Lottery horse by a minimum of four more years in consideration to what they were sold as.

March 24 2010 – “Tonka qualifies as the sire of Clannad without consideration of the dam, and Clannad qualifies as the sire of Rangitira Treasure”

However this put an interesting light on what Terri Marshall was telling me or not telling me. She had said in an earlier email **August 29 2008** that Treasure had high commonality with her mare Tully and that she had determined that Tully had a 13 marker match to Clannad. So obviously she had Clannad's DNA profile in her hands for the last year and common sense or curiosity would dictate to check Treasure's DNA against Clannad. But no this was not done or maybe it was, instead I was being lead to think that Treasure's was a grand daughter of The Lion King due to a few markers in common. The coincidences were far to uncanny and I can only say that either she had lent her ear to Ms. Betteridge or she was not very good at deriving DNA profiles. To finish it all off Terri Marshall ends with this email:

September 1 2008 – “In the winter I will work on one that will do coefficients of commonality by percentages. I have fences to mend and pre-winter farm tasks to get done first. As I said, besides there being commonality with my mare Tully, there is a lot of commonality between Treasure and other Lion King get... the problem there too is that there were a number of Lion King son's overseas and they are still overseas and no DNA has been profiled on them. I will check with Andrea to see what she can come up with on LK son's still in the UK”

How convenient that all the Lion King's sons are still overseas with no DNA profiling. I believe that Ms Marshall was fully aware that Treasure had a match with Clannad as her sire and reported this back to Ms. Betteridge. However she still persisted with the line that Treasure's sire was possibly a son of The Lion King. It would have been far more plausible story to at least tell me that her dam was a daughter of The Lion King, but then that would not match up with Ms. Betteridge' fabrications. Not once during all my conversations with Terri Marshall did she mention anything about Ria's parentage even though I did send a copy of her DNA. I have never received another email from neither Terri Marshall nor Ms. Betteridge since this time.

Bloodline quotes

Let's look at how many statements were made by Ms. Betteridge in regards to knowing bloodlines and how she continually refers to my horses having the proper bloodlines from their supposed sires. AND these are only some of them...there was just too many to include all of them here and the constant talks over the phone about my great bloodlines that she assured I had.

In the beginning I asked repeatedly for the bloodlines of my first two gypsy horses, Treasure and Beau, but never received anything back from any of these repeated requests.

April 1 2005 – “Can you formulate a list of each horse's breeding and lines.”

May 1 2005 – “Would you be able to give me the bloodlines of my stallion and mares but particularity my stallion”

July 7 2005 - “People are emailing and I really need info on the bloodlines of my stallion”

August 6 2005 - “Are you able to give me a list of my stallions sire and dam and maybe a bit further back.”

*August 13 2005 – “the true gypsy horses have years of **known pedigree** behind them”*

*September 10 2004 - I am lucky as living here **I really do know the breeding lines and the herd the horse has come out of**, so no made up stories from the UK I can assure you.*

*October 3 2004 - “but as said you need to have the **best of best** to represent the breed over there”*

*October 10 2004 - “All the blood lines can be traced back through out the family for many generations, to date **one family can give me the breeding through the past 150 years** on all the family stock.”*

*October 20 2004 – “I need to keep a good check on blood lines so I know it will work for you, if you do not know each gypsy's stock properly they will make up the parentage if one is not carefull, hence why **I have a huge database of blood lines which I know is true**, every one keeps asking for it but no way it is mine and I will keep it that way thanks’*

November 11 2004 - *"hush hush is the word though as these gypsy's like you to get all your stock off them which is silly as **we need different blood lines** so it is impossible to get all from same herd !!!"*

Website - *We have traveled the length of Britain and selected the cream of the **crop with known proven bloodlines**. Most of our horses have a **full DNA parentage package**, some going back many generations, also, all the horses come with a veterinary *****height and full health check******

April 29 2005 - *'and **her blood lines and yours will work** if you choose to go that direction"*

October 19 2006 - *"i **HAVE THE OPTION ON** another black Tonka colt, if you hear of any one your side willing to invest let me know as I could get him at a good price I think. and he would work brilliantly with Ria !!! Jack who owns Tonka has Lennys stallion running behind his line, so a Lenny X tonka (talking about the aforementioned black Tonka colt) **would be the exact match as his breeding line !!!"***

November 2 2006 - *"I wanted to make sure the **blood lines worked correctly**, so you can both benefit from each others stock later down the line if you wanted to." (Talking about Mani in Australia who is DNA confirmed out of Tonka.)*

November 11 2006 - *I think you were having a bad day, you would be mad to let Ria go, **the only lenny mares** to come up have been sold for £25k she is the right age now as well. give it more thought before you make such a hasty decision that you later regret. if this is the only mare you ever next import it has to be **the right blood lines**."*

December 4 2006 - *will be good for you to get some bloodlines out there, with Frans Tonka colt and **your lines plus Ria lenny line**, not to mention your **stunning picasso**, you have managed to achieve all the top breeding all the gypsy's have been trying for years to get !!AND "**bloodlines would be terrific** as you would have the **chocolate stallion (The Business) as grandfather on both sides !!!"***

December 29 2006 - *"she just screams out **Lenny breeding** to me,"*

February 2 2007 - *"**BUT KNOW YOUR BREEDING LINES !!** that is the answer"*

February 3 2007 - *"Fran brought Manni who as you so rightly say is out of Tonka, the tri coloured mare is also out of Tonka but both dams are not related at all. one has Lenny line behind it and the other is a superb mare ie Tri coloured who has another completely different line so hence it is a half brother half sister mating, which is the ultimate in mating and breeding lines, all this is great **if you know your lines and can prove it which obviously in this line we can**. with limited blood lines over there, it is crucial that having this line in Manni is not wasted."*

February 20 2007 - *"hers and your **bloodlines will work perfectly together**, if you need new blood, without having to import from here." (discussing Fran's Mani and Olivia's bloodlines)*

February 23 2007 - *"it is all about **knowing your blood lines and knowing parentage proven stock** that side of the world !!!!"*

February 24 2007 - *"you have the **correct blood lines** to help each other out in the long term. **I made sure of that**."*

March 9 2007 - *"funny things must have started to move as I have had 12 enquires for horses the last 2 days# AND GUESS WHAT LINES THEY ALL WANT !!! **TONKA AND LENNY LINES !!!!** who has **breeding age horses of that line you and me !!***

March 9 2007 - *"you need this blood line" (talking about the Lenny line)*

April 4 2007 - *"a good decision really. should work well your side a Tonka grand kid !!!! and it will give you a **4 generation pedigree DNA verified !!**" (in reference to choosing Marley to breed with Ria and only if Ria had been DNA profiled as well...i.e. 1.The Lottery, 2.Tonka, 3.Marley and Ria, and the 4.resulting foal)*

April 21 2007 - *"I have to say it helps **having so many generations DNA verified of parentage on these lines**, then **no mistakes can be made**. something I really needed to do to make sure **we did not breed to close. by sons or daughters of each line**, mind you one must be aware in my own personal breeding program I always have an outcross to bring fresh blood in, once again **I DNA this to double check**. providing it has the required consistent quality and re-produces the same type and breed qualities"*

Picasso

Now what ever happened with the DNA of The Business matching against Picasso, the resulting colt that was mated with Treasure and The Business in the UK?

I picked up my pursuit of the DNA issue again later in 2007. On **April 14 2007** I contacted Terri Marshall the then registrar of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society , Priscilla of The Gypsy Cob Society of America on **April 19 2007**, Becky Glover of the Gypsy Cob and Drum Horse Association on **April 13 2007** and Karen Stenzel from Aristocratic Horse on **April 25 2007**. I inquired if they had DNA profiles on file of The Lion King (Treasure's sire), The Shogun Horse (Beau's sire?) and The Business (Picasso's sire).

Priscilla from the Gypsy Cob Society of America replied back on:

April 19 2007 – *“Lion King is registered with the GCSA and his DNA is on file with the Univ of Kentucky. I do not know about the other two.”*

Karen Stenzel from Aristocratic Horse asked me to send proof of mating between Treasure and The Business to which I faxed a copy of the CEM reports to her.

May 10 2007 – *“Anyway, in response to your request, if you could forward the paperwork that NZ required to breed your mare to The Business, I would be happy to get you the DNA information.”*

She replied again on:

June 1 2007 – *“I also just received an e-mail from Becky Glover, so right when you fax it, I'll try to get her some DNA samples.”*

This information was immediately faxed to her and then a month later Becky Glover replied with distressing news about Treasure, my first mare who was 100% guaranteed out of The Lion King by Ms. Betteridge.

June 30 2007 – *“I just got the DNA report back on Rangitira Treasure **and Lion King is NOT her sire**. I've had a couple of telephone conversations with Karen and she has not yet agreed to supply DNA on the Boss/Business but I think she will come around.”* But it took another year before she did.

This email was on forwarded to Ms. Betteridge about the distressing results of Treasure's parentage as we read earlier on in Ria's story. I had Treasure retested direct with Kentucky University to be sure there was no mix up of DNA as I sent three DNA profiles direct to Becky Glover. This was not a silly idea as we read earlier on how Ria's DNA between Animal Genetics and Kentucky University was mixed up.

July 9 2007 – *“Will know when I send in her DNA to test again....direct to Kentucky...that way I know that the samples could not be mixed up.”*

Adie from Wimbullan Horses in Australia sent me an email with information regarding Barbara Maeske who had her mare DNA tested against The Business.

August 26 2008 - *“My name is Barb (Maeske),I have a Gypsy mare (Cocoa) out of "The Business" DNA confirmed. She had a filly by the Lottery Horse on 6/25/07”*



I asked Barbara if she can help me track down where The Business' DNA is held on file.

August 26 2008 - *“I have a two year old colt out of The Business and have been trying to get him DNA verified for over a year now through Becky Glover and Karen from Aristocratic Horses. So far no luck and was wondering if you could help me on this issue. Thanks.”*

She replied:

August 26 2008 – *“When I got Cocoa tested I went through GVHS”*

August 27 2008 - *“I got my mare Cocoa DNA confirmed through the University of Kentucky. Hope this helps you. Barb”*

I finally contacted Barbara Sneider the registrar of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society and she confirms the above adding that The Gypsy Cob Society of America shares DNA with them.

September 12 2008 - *“I did find out that The Business DNA is on file at the U of KY in the Gypsy Cob Society of America files.”*

Eventually through the help of Barabara Sneider, I received the following “**unbelievable**” news. As I still had no idea who the sire for Ria Mona Lisa was I decided to check her against the Business as well.

January 13 2009 - *“Received the reports today. **Picasso Pendragon and Ria Mona Lisa are not sired by The Business. Rangitira Treasure does qualify as the dam of Picasso Pendragon**”.*

I was in complete disbelief at this, due to the fact that Treasure and The Business were mated under strict quarantine regulations as set out by New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (NZMAF) and Defra, the UK counter part. I paid an additional \$2500 to mate my mare Treasure with The Business, just before she was exported to insure that I would have a “second quality bloodline” to cross back with to begin a foundation herd down under. Now I had a colt and I had no idea who he was sired by and to make absolutely sure of this match I asked Barber Sneider if she had not mixed him up with another horse.

January 13 2009 - *“Can you verify to me that we have tested against The Boss, (named changed by Karen from Aristocratic Horses) originally called The Business, aka The Chocolate Palomino owned by Joe Buckley sold to Aristocratic Horses through Andrea from Meadow Farms in 2005 and not the sire of this aforementioned stallion as his name was also The Boss. Karen caused alot of confusion by changing his name to his sire.”*

Her reply:

January 14 2009 - *“Correct it was checked against The Boss/The Business, not his sire. I don't believe his sire is at the U of KY even if we wanted to check it to him.”*

For the next 6 months I racked my brains about who Picasso could have been bred with as Ms. Betteridge had no stallions on her yard at the time, except The Business who was supposedly mating with my mare Treasure under strict New Zealand Biosecurity CEM laws. There is no way that any of the of gypsies would have lent her a stallion and I began to believe that she put some old Clydesdale across my mare. It was not until June of that year that the answer came to me one day when working in my native bush. When it hit me in my head I was so sure of what I had just realised, that I immediately stopped what I was doing and went down to the house to pull out my DNA files. What I found was beyond disbelief. Picasso's DNA profile was a **CONFIRMED** match against Treasure his dam and **Mr Beau Jangles**, my imported stallion that was waiting in Ms. Betteridge yard to enter quarantine with Treasure once she had finished mating with The Business! To be absolutely sure I then confirmed my finding with Kentucky as per the message sent to Karin Davies.

June 25 2009 - *“Could you please perform a parentage test on the following horse Picasso #H08-17422. Thank you. If possible I need the results before the end of next week.”*

Sire: Mr. Beau Jangles #H08-17420

Dam : Rangitira Treasure #H07-15243

Reply back form Karin Davies:

July 6 2009 - *“Yes it does pass parentage”*

This was the final knife in my back, the rudest insult as of yet and finally the last straw to push me over the top. I could have let it go that Beau was only just 13.3 ^{1/2} hands, instead of the 14.3 she stated he would mature to on his passport, as he is such a phenomenal stallion regardless of his size. I could have let it go that Treasure was not out of The Lion King, as she continually throws heavy foals with great feather, even if most of them are solid colts. I could have possibly let it go that I overpaid for Treasure “in foal” to The Business and lost her foal under suspicious circumstances with no compensation forth coming. I could have even let it go, though it was getting more and more difficult with everything pointing to foul play, that I paid an exorbitant amount of money for an 7-8 month old filly, Ria Mona Lisa, that was “supposed” to be sired by Lennys' stallion. And then to boot she sent her over empty after more money was paid to get her into foal to a 15 month colt. **BUT** this was beyond my ability to cope with any more. Not only had I lost another valuable foal for my breeding program, but I could have easily saved myself \$2500 for CEM testing and mated Treasure and Beau once in New Zealand with the same results! And most insulting of all, I was now severely restricted in utilising Picasso in my breeding program, due to his close lineage with Mr. Beau Jangles and Treasure. Hence I had to purchase another stallion in 2009 to compliment my breeding program and that cost me far more than what I will recuperate when I sell Picasso on. Twice I missed out on a very much desired bloodline from The Business. He is now deceased and I can only imagine the progeny that Treasure would have given me if she had borne a foal from him. I had two opportunities and both times the rug was pulled from underneath my feet!

What really happened over there is anyone's educated guess, but I did retain emails from an old account that gave me some clues as to possibilities. I have re-organised the quotes first off for clarity of

comprehension. If need be the full statements are listed below for you to read. You can reference the quotes by the dates stated.

We know that both Treasure and Beau were to enter quarantine on June 2 2005 but was postponed to June 9 and Bill brought The Business and Treasure over to Ms. Betteridge yard to begin the swabbing for CEM testing.

May 9 2005 – *“quarantine starts 2nd June”*

May 9 2005 – *“bill is bringing the stallion down and treasure today to start swabbing”*

May 25 2005 – *“they have postponed quarantine - See below Image and note last line as stating they began quarantine on June 9”*



We know that Ms. Betteridge was also attending Appleby Fair that year, right when she was in the middle of a huge move and at the same day that my horses needed to be in quarantine.

May 9 2005 – *“the date of quarantine not only is the weekend we are moving but also when Appleby is on I believe. nothing like pressure I reckon!!”*

We know that I suggested to Ms. Betteridge to wait rather than rush.

Tuesday, May 10 2005 – *“I think it would be wise to wait rather than rush all this through and then cost me more in the end because something was missed.”*

We know that Mr. Beau Jangles arrived at Ms. Betteridge yard and all chaos broke loose with horses breaking out everywhere.

May 11 2005 – *“stallion arrived got in with my 2 mares sassy and kirby !!!! Django went mad as this new boy knicked 2 mares, sassy jumped out TYPICAL it was the one that is difficult to catch, she popped over fence and went off next door GREAT, after an hour I caught her by which time Kirby and your boy decided they were best buddies and there was no way he wanted me knicking her, sp round and round they went kicking and bucking one finger up at me !!!!”*

Treasure and The Business were still present at this time and the property is not very big with no electric fencing to retain stallions.

We know that Danny had bought her place and was never there. She still had her mares, Django her young colt, plus my two and The Business on her yard at the same time.

May 20 2005 – *“Danny now owns our place but he is never there so hence why we go in to do yours when we water ours.”*

Ms. Betteridge did not live on this property, there is no house. She was living about a 15 minute drive away at 10 Bower Lane, Maidstone, Kent at the time.

We know the date of her move to her new premises in Shatterling Canterbury.

May 21 2005 – *“WE MOVE IN 27th”*

May 25 2005 – *“start moving tomorrow”*

We know that she originally decided to take my horses to her new yards as she and Bill were going away as Appleby was coming up, June 2 –8 2005

May 25 2005 – *“I will have to take them with us some how as we have then now moved into Appleby week and I need to go away and Bill is also away”*

We know that my stallion Beau was to stay in full livery because her new premises had no spare secure paddocks.

May 25 2005 – *“your stallion will have to stay in on full livery as we do not have spare secure paddocks.”*
But I was never charged for any livery services as I believed both my horses remained at the old yards with very little supervision, while Ms. Betteridge was attending Appleby.

We know that she was moving for four days until June 29th and had only another 3 days before she left for Appleby on June 1.

Wednesday, May 25 2005 – *“we have 4 days of moving, then have only 3 days before I leave for Appleby”*

We know that IRT protocol clearance could not be signed off until two days before my horses left for quarantine on June 8th or 9th

Wednesday, May 25 2005 – *“been up there today to get clearance but cannot get it signed until a couple of days before they leave”*

We know that my horses were supposed to be picked up on Wednesday, June 1 or June 2 to travel to Ms. Betteridge’s new premises in Canterbury, but needed to be signed off by the vets first before they could leave.

Tuesday, May 31 2005 – *“horses being picked up Wednesday (June 1) or Thursday, they wanted to pick them up tomorrow (Wednesday, June 1) but needed to get vets signed off”*

We know that she was going to drive back to Maidstone in the morning to get paperwork signed off, but it never happened until after she returned from Appleby Fair on June 10.

Tuesday, May 31 2005 – *“morn will fly back to Maidstone in the morning and get paperwork signed,”*

I receive no correspondence until ten days later on June 10, as Ms. Betteridge was attending Appleby Fair during this time.

We know that Ms. Betteridge had everything signed off by the vets on June 10th and she herself refused to verify that at no time did the horses mix with others while swabbing was going on. She got the vets to verify the statement instead, stating that was unfair on them.

June 10 2005 – *“horses leave tomorrow, had every thing signed off by vet today that took a while plus IRT asked for the vet to write a letter stating that at no time did the horses mix with others while swabbing was going on !! I did ask if I could not do that bit, as it was a bit unfair to ask vet as they did not live on yard for the time !! but anyway got vets to do it.”*

We know that that it takes Ms. Betteridge over an hour to travel between her new premises and her old yards and she was grateful that Danny was loading my horses saving her the trip.

June 10 2005 – *“it takes me over an hour to get there in my little jeep !!! Danny is going to be there to load in morning to save me another trip thankfully.”*

We know that Treasure was confirmed 14 days in foal by IRT putting her insemination date at approximately June 3, when Ms. Betteridge was at Appleby.

Friday, June 17 2005 – *“They believe that she is about 14 days in foal. IRT”*

So in conclusion my horses never left Ms. Betteridge’s old yard which she did not own anymore and was over an hours drive away from her new premises. She was in a state of chaos during the move and it was suggested to Ms. Betteridge not to rush as it may be better to wait for the next quarantine date so nothing was missed. My horses were supposed to be moved to her new premises but this was not done, possibly from lack of time or too much red tape. So they were left at her old yards where there was very little or no supervision during this period as Danny was never there and she was off to Appleby Fair between June 1 and June 8. The yards were not safely suitable to retain stallions with mares present at which there was at least two, The Business and my boy, Beau. Ms. Betteridge asked not to sign the forms stating that the horses had not mixed with others and got the vets to sign it instead, even though she admitted that they did not live on the yard either. IRT then confirmed Treasure in foal at about 14 days on June 17, putting her insemination date at approximately June 3, just when Ms. Betteridge was attending Appleby Fair and leaving my horses to be attended by Danny who was never around. I ask you, what do you think happened?

Lastly, when I attended Horsemonden Fair in 2009, I ran into Ms. Betteridge who was with her friend Jayne, the tall lady with long hair. It was quite by accident and she introduced me to Tom Price at the time. I had compiled a book of all my horses that I had back home and when she was going through it she stopped at the pictures of Picasso as a yearling and young colt and asked *“Who is the sire of that boy?”* Her question was so blatant and revealing that it caught me off guard for a few moments before I could compose myself and reply *“The Business”*. I knew if I had told her truth I was unsure where the conversation would have headed and I did not want to confront her there in front of other people. I

quickly realised that she possibly knew as well that he was not from The Business and something had gone astray with the mating of Treasure and The Business. She knew full well who Picasso was as I sent her many photos of him over the years and I am sure she had viewed my webshot page that had many photos of him all over it. Here is a list of the times that I sent her photos of him.

Sent 4 pictures to Ms. Betteridge of Picasso

August 20 2006 – “Sent you some photos of the little boy or should say BIG BOY!!”

Reply

August 22 2006 – “THANKS FOR YOUR PIC. he looks absolutly fantastic you need to egt him out there and send pictures out he is wonderful well done”

September 8 2006 – “i CANNOT BELIEV THE SIZE OF YOUR COLT

seems that chocolate stallion really does throw huge foals, my filly and colt by him are huge great chunky things like your guy”

December 5 2006 – “What did you think of Picasso's feather for 6 months old? Honest opinion please.”

Reply

December 6 2006 – “picasso is stunning and he has heaps of feather, so no worries there”

January 20 2007 – “Picasso 7.5 months old, look at the size of him !!”

May 9 2007 – “more photos of Picasso and Beau.

May 12 2007 “It is Picasso's birthday tomorrow and we are having a horsy party!!! Will send photos and all.”

Closing

Well where do I go from here? You have read my story and I am positive you have detected a large range of emotions in this sad and maddening, but true account. How do I finish this rather long rendition of my bad experiences with Ms. Betteridge? This is the woman who for the past 4-5 years has been shouting at the top of her lungs that everyone else is lying, cheating and swindling people due to the gypsy horse craze, whilst for the past few years has been campaigning around collecting DNA to keep everyone else honest. All the time I thought I was dealing with an honest breeder, but in reality Ms. Betteridge is just another dealer and not a very honest one either.

She withheld DNA, blindly sold me horses with guarantees of particular bloodlines, yet took no precautions to insure they were even correct, even when she had the opportunities to do so. When she was caught out she quickly blamed the gypsies. She exaggerated heights, training levels of the horses, twice disregarded New Zealand Biosecurity laws for CEM procedures and made a complete muddle of mating resulting in no foals whatsoever. Regardless of where the fault lies, it was Ms. Betteridge's final responsibility to insure what she was telling me was correct. It was her whom I was dealing with. All payments went to her bank account and all correspondence was directly with her. She was making profit from these sales on top of all the other fringe benefits.

She was continually lecturing me and everyone else about bloodlines and knowing where your stock came from. She was well aware of the misadventures that were already rife when I approached her back in 2004 as an honest breeder to import some horses.

With the money I spent to import 3 horses down under I could have imported 12 top quality ones into the US. So having horses from the right bloodlines had a huge impact on my purchasing decisions and was incredibly important to get it right for the betterment of the breed down under. I spent the money to import what I thought were horses with top quality bloodlines and now I find that I do not even have a second stallion to cross back with, herby causing me more financial outlay to find yet another one.

To give you an idea how costly it is to import to New Zealand, visit this page on my website <http://www.brightwatergypsyvanners.com/horses.php?page=89> and make sure you have a calculator handy. Do not convert our New Zealand dollar back into your currency as our cost of living index is far higher as well. New Zealand is the most expensive place in the western world to import horses mainly due our economic climate, devalued dollar and obviously the distance.

If I was bitter then Ms. Betteridge would be in court today with huge lawyer's cost pending with the possibilities of having to sell up her home. Some have told me to ask for a public apology and others have told me to ask for financial compensation as well. But that would only drag the issue out even longer and I want it behind me now. However, I still have no idea who Treasure's dam is, nor whose Ria's sire and dam are and Beau's sire is residing in South Sea on End, which is not too far away from

Canterbury. I do not think it too much to ask if she could track down their sires and dams and send me the DNA. I have listed all the information on the bottom that she needs to do this job.

In the end there really was no excuse for this...it was the classic brush off...we've got your money now go away and that is exactly how it was for me and many others. We live in a world where there is much deceit and most of it goes either unnoticed or unpunished as most of us do not have the time nor the resources to tackle these problems head on. Well I decided to tackle this one head on.

In finishing, I am not only in disbelief of my own writings, but incredibly angry for what has been done to me. Ms. Betteridge has caused me much grief over the years and an incredible financial loss that I incurred through her deliberate misguided actions, whether intentional or not. Nonetheless, I can not hate her, as that is only a reflection of myself and realise that to forgive and forget is the only way to release this appalling nightmare from my conscience. Holding onto that anger has only been detrimental to myself and I have held onto it far too long now, so it is time to let go. I dearly hope that Ms. Betteridge has some sort of conscience and will not continue in her ways, as it is dishonest and unjust. I believe that people can change and it is about time that she tries to better herself in all her future endeavours throughout the gypsy horse world and likewise. I can only hope that she accepts my forgiveness and will move forward from here.

It has been suggested to me to put up a forum inviting other like souls who have had similar stories to tell. I am of two minds to do this. First I do not want it to end up being a forum where people vent their anger without the necessary back up that I have provided here, nor a forum that turns into a slinging match. However, if some good could come of it, kind of like a Gypsy Watch Dog website, then maybe there is something to benefit out of this after all. I will let the emails tell me which direction to go.

THANK YOU for Listening

I just want to give a big thank you to all people who tried to help me find DNA for my mares and stallions and had no gain whatsoever in doing so. Thank you to them all.

Barabara Sneider of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society
Loretta Rawlings
Tom Price
Tom Lowe – Beau's breeder
Jimmy Smith
West Hill Ranches
Becky Glover of the Gypsy Cob and Drum Horse Association
Priscilla Cox of the Gypsy Cob Society of America
Kathryn Graves & Karen Davies of Kentucky University
And anyone else that I may have forgotten.

Bloodlines of my horses purchased from Ms. Betteridge that I have already tracked down so far.

Mr. Beau Jangles

Sire - unknown still – said to be in the area of South Sea on End and contact Tom Lowe or his father
Dam - Second to None, DNA confirmed– now owned by Tom Price

Rangitira Treasure

Sire – Clannad – DNA confirmed
Grandsire – Tonka - DNA confirmed
Great Grandisre – The Lottery Horse - DNA confirmed
Dam – Unknown, possibly from Tom Harker's herd

Ria Mona Lisa

Sire – Unknown
Dam – Unknown

And to brighten up your day a shot of Appleby smiling!

