

DAMON IN DEAUVILLE

Saturday's session had not finished when we went to print yesterday but the Aussie flag has continued to fly high and we are really making our presence felt on the international stage. So much so that I have suggested to Arqana that they replace the US dollar on the bidding board with the Australian dollar.

Paul Fudge who was at the sale with Treve Williams purchased lot 152 - a winning Dansili filly from an Aga Khan family for €110,000 under his Waratah Thoroughbreds banner. Mr Fudge is accumulating a sensational select band of broodmares with serious international pedigrees. Only a few lots later, at lot 161, Fudge was the successful bidder on a gorgeous Galileo filly who was a real princess for €350,000.

Anthony and Selena Mithens Rosemont Stud ended up with four purchases so far this sale. They added lot 187, a stakes winning Pivotal mare in foal to Fastnet Rock for €85,000 and then lot 199 a stakes winner and dam of a stakes winner for €75,000.

Rosemont will now have three stakes winners and one stakes place-getter for their Victorian farm. It proves there has been some real value buying at this sale.

After the sale it was a quick costume change and we regrouped at 21 for the now traditional Aussie dinner. A table of 22 was assembled of mainly Aussies but a few ring-ins like Hubie & Flossie de Burgh who invited themselves along!

Dinner started very subdued after such a long day. We dined on 'jambon et fromage' crepes. Low fat of course . . . NOT! Fillet de boeuf and washed that down with Veuve Clicquot and some magnificent 1987 red from Bordeaux, kindly donated by Angus Gold. He gets an invite back.

When the main course finished, restaurant owner and part time DJ David pumped up the music and we were singing along to American Pie, Cecilia, The Eagles. The next thing you know, the wine donor was dancing on the tables with none other than our own Jenny Mc Alpine. Even the Tatts rep can't stay away from Deauville!

Anthony Mithen, who was very serious during the sale, but by night his inner frustrated rock star came out to play in a most amusing manner. Mitho grabbed the microphone swiveled his hips, not with much rhythm, and did his own impersonation of Robbie Williams. Not satisfied with the traditional air guitar he invented his own version that involved his leg, now it's known as the leg guitar move. Embarrassed wife Selena slunk lower into her chair whilst the crowd called for Mitho to get off.

Aussie convert Louis le Metayer knocked Mitho off centre stage & had the floor to himself ably assisted by Capucine from the FRBC. They swirled twirled dipped and boogied around the floor in true Fred Astaire style his bouffant blonde locks did not seem to move an inch though. If anyone has ever seen Louis dance it is truly impressive and a sight to behold. They received



Mithen, myself and Capucine

a standing ovation.

Heidi, my trusty long-suffering assistant who speaks fluent French, has come over to help out at the sales and at this stage of the night at 21 many people were requiring assistance. At the top of this list was Terry Henderson who required help getting down off the table after singing word for word Brian Adams' Summer of 69 – not done in tune I might add.

Chairman of TINA Mr Adrian Hancock proved that South Australian's have real stamina and at this stage of the night had completely forgotten about poor Peter Watson. In fact his memory had gotten so bad that he had completely forgotten his own name.

What the Kiwi's proved was that they can dance all night. Guy Mulcaster was awarded the worst dancer award.

The night finished at half past . . . half past what I am not sure. Some unnamed people kicked onto the night club that is Regine's and have not been looking their best since.

It was a quiet day at the sales on Sunday. Gary Mudgeway secured two weanlings to pin-hook back here next year, so he can come and do this all again next August.

Hopefully Sunday night will be quiet. I am then taking my troops to the D-Day beaches and a quick trip to the Aga Khan Studs, and the Wertheimer's stud, where we are all hopefully of seeing Goldikova, and then finally for a morning in Chantilly where we will see some track-work.

As for me, I am heading for Paris for a couple of quiet nights where I will do my Christmas shopping. I will then be heading straight home for rehab or perhaps to the fat farm.

Signing off for 2011, Damon in Deauville.



All a blur at 21