

## SERBIAN HAS GIANT ASPIRATIONS

Very few buyers were looking for stallion prospects during the session, but Dragoljub Markovic found one to take back to his Surcin Stud in Serbia.

A businessman whose interests have included large-scale chicken egg production, Markovic paid 36,000gns for **Giant Love (Lot 1335)**, a colt by **Giant's Causeway** with a stallion's pedigree.

Foaled by **Morning Devotion (Affirmed)** his half-siblings include such stellar names as **Balanchine, Romanov** and **Red Slippers**. The first of that trio won two Classics (Irish Derby and Oaks), the second was placed in two Classics (Derby and Irish 2,000 Guineas), while the third produced a Classic winner in **West Wind (Prix de Diane)**.

Giant Love could not match those feats, and after costing \$250,000 as a yearling and 95,000gns as a breezer he won just two modest races for trainer Mark Johnston, collecting little more than £13,000 in prize-money.

That counts for nothing in an emerging racing nation like Serbia, because his bloodlines are a precious commodity.

Iva Vitanovic, a racing journalist and commentator, who has been at Tattersalls this week, said: "*We have three active racecourses in Serbia – one in Belgrade has a dirt surface while the other two are turf – and 50 racing days. The prize-money is poor, but Serbian racing is the best in the Balkans.*"

"*A stud book was opened earlier this year which means Serbian-trained horses can run in other countries, and Serbian buyers have been very active at British sales this year. About 50 horses have been bought, comprising 20 yearlings and 30 in training.*"

"*Mr Markovic is one of the biggest owners in Serbia. This horse [Giant Love] will race from a yard near Belgrade run by multiple champion trainer Dusko Pajic and then stand at stud. He will be the first son of **Giant's Causeway** to be based in Serbia.*"