

**ARIMA RACE CLUB**  
**RACE DAY REVIEW**  
**DAY 27 SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010**

**'Tune' plays to big \$\$\$**

TAP TO THE TUNE came storming down the homestretch to score a breath-taking victory on a day of upsets at Santa Rosa Park, Arima. Owner Derek Chin, a former Arima Race Club (ARC) president, expected to win the feature event of the eight-race card, but not with the American-bred four-year-old. However the stable's other entrant Storm Street looked a shadow of the horse which was unbeatable in 2008 and the first half of last season and finished a very disappointing fifth of six in the Handicap 1 & Lower Handicap. Storm Street has now raced four times since returning from a nine-month absence in April and another dismal showing has certainly left fans and connections wondering if the 2008 Horse of the Year will ever get back to the top again. His stable companion is certainly headed in that direction, but the distance of 1,200 metres was expected to be two sharp against the likes of Sweet Alex, Mister Kingston and two-time Stewards Cup winner Storm Street.

But Tap To The Tune displayed a devastating finishing kick to just get up in the last few strides to deny Mister Kingston victory by half-length. The classy and consistent locally-bred four-year-old seemed to have it sewn up mid-way down the 'stretch after collaring a dying favourite Sweet Alex. As usual, this American-bred six-year-old attempted to make all the running, but for the second time the heavy burden of 58.5 kilos proved too much. Sweet Alex ended up third in what was his worse finish on the main course since he returned from a ten-month layoff in October. The John O'Brien-trained runner, who passed \$400,000 in career earnings with this effort, has only won twice in his comeback, but he has placed second on five occasions, including in the Stewards Cup in late November. The only time Sweet Alex has failed to finish in the top three in his comeback was when he placed eighth in the Sian's Gold Sprint in his turf debut on New Year's Day. Mister Kingston was ninth in that 1,100-metre contest, but has also not failed to finish in the top three since.

The Gerry Harding-bred and owned gelding, who placed fourth in last year's Stewards Cup, has won twice, placed third twice and finished second on three occasions. Until recently, Tap To The Tune had also been a model of consistency, finishing in the top three seven times in a row. He then went off the boil with two fifth-place performances, but this tremendous effort puts him back on track to threaten the top class horses later in the year. And Tap To The Tune's victory over the 1,200-metre distance continued to display his versatility as the Chester Roberts-trained inmate has already prevailed over 1,100 metres and twice over 1,350 metres. He has also narrowly been beaten into second over 1,750 metres and finished only a length adrift – in third – of repeat winner Raging Halo, despite having a troubled trip when he made his turf debut over 1,600 metres in the Grade I Champagne Stakes on April 17.

Tap To The Tune scored at odds of almost 16/1 to become the fourth upset winner in five races on the 27th round of the ARC's 2010 Season. It all began in the third event when Eye See Dee came with a late run to deny Todo Bien and favourite Zarkosy in the 1,100-metre contest for West Indian-bred three-year-old maidens. Kavita Persad's son of Unbridled Optimism had first caught the eye when he finished strongly a month earlier to grab second at odds of 80/1. Eye See Dee followed up that effort by placing fourth over 1,750 metres at 23/1, so by his standards this effort at almost 8/1 was not a real shocker. Dave Gaff, who had scored his first triumph for the season the week before with 18/1 shot Explicit Denial, was aboard. Right after, Regional Princess prevailed at 9/1, but it seemed a much bigger upset as Golden Millennium was considered virtually "tied by the post" in the 1,750-metre contest for West Indian-bred three-year-olds. The 2/5 favourite, who had placed fourth in the Oaks Stakes last time out on July 3 in only the third start of her career, was always fighting an uphill battle and finished 3 ½ lengths behind Suraj Hayban's Jamaican-bred filly in second.

Stormtracker then completed a hat-trick of upsets when Clyde Rambaran's six-year-old finished very strongly in the fifth event to zoom past favourite Prince Lara and Carib Time en route to a two-length triumph in the 1,200-metre \$7,500 Optional Claimer at the surprisingly generous price of 30/1. Coolo Breezo, sent off at 5/2, restored order for a while before Tap To The Tune disrupted it again in the penultimate and feature event. Still, it was not a bad day for favourites as two scored (Indian Izzi, Sirius), two finished second (Golden Millennium and Prince Lara) and two (Sweetmutacat and Royal Baby) lost their chance by missing the break. Even-money choice Indian Izzi opened proceedings by dropping to his lowest level ever and beating a bunch of \$10,000 Optional Claimer by more than two lengths in a 1,100-metre contest.

And Sirius brought down the curtain on the card when he beat a Conditional Handicap D field by 1 ½ lengths in a 1,200-metre contest. This five-year-old is bred and owned by Zanim Meah-John, who had finished one-two in the second event when second favourite Sattriya beat newcomer Montejo by just over three lengths. Sweetmutacat recovered from a slow start to finish third in the 1,350-metre contest for three-year-old maidens, but Royal Baby had given away much more distance (close to 20 lengths) and had no chance to catch Coolo Breezo and the four others in the Conditional Handicap B over the same distance. Shawn Samuel won the first and last events with the favourites, but the three-kilo claimer had to share the spotlight in the saddle with Sheldon Rodrigo, who booted home Sattriya and Tap To The Tune.

Jose William-Samaroo saddled both Meah-John's winners and was the only trainer to score more than once. Racing continues at Santa Rosa Park on Monday August 2 when the spotlight event on the Emancipation Day holiday card will be the Midsummer Classic for West Indian-bred three-year-olds. This 1,900-metre Grade I contest will be the second leg of the local triple crown, and Grand Riviere, Treasure Hunt, Sam's Hero and Go For The Gold, the first four finishers, respectively, when the series began with the Carib Brewery Guineas on May 31, are expected to do battle again. Also among the 18 with fifth stage subscriptions paid are the rapidly improving I'm Coming Baby and Back On Top.