

**ARIMA RACE CLUB**  
**RACE DAY REVIEW**  
**DAY 45 SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

**The Brians rule in the saddle in 2010**

BRIAN BOODRAMSINGH booted home the last two winners of the penultimate round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season at Santa Rosa Park, Arima, to virtually lock down the champion apprentice title for the season. The youngster began the 45th round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season with a handy five-length lead over the only other contender, but Prayven Badrie closed the gap to four when he passed Boodramsingh and Most Definitely close home en route to a 3/4-length triumph over 1,350 metres in with 8/1 shot Hurricane Lee. The \$10,000 Optional Claimer was the fourth of a seven-race card, and after Boodramsingh finished second again in the following event with 17/1 outsider Mirror Image to odds-on favourite Ksar Ghilane, he dropped the curtain on the day's programme in style. First, Boodramsingh guided Exquisite Touch to an almost all the way success and held last year's Carib Brewery Guineas winner Santa Rosa Boy at bay for almost the entire homestretch to win the Restricted Handicap by 1 ¼ lengths.

It was the first time that Ruthven Smith's American-bred three-year-old had raced over two turns and a welcome return to form by the chestnut filly who had failed to find the board in her last three stars after a third and two victories in her first three. Handsome Warrior, an odds-on favourite after being no better at 7/2 in the betting in seven previous career starts, could only finish third in the 1,750-metre contest. Boodramsingh displayed his skills again in the finale as with a 'wall of horses' battling at the top of the pack when they turned home, he managed to push out Brazilian Beauty – who had narrowly beaten out The Conqueror in the race for favouritism – for a half-length success and his 34th triumph of the year. Honourable Mention, Unbridled Way and Zipitup and Explorer were all not far away in third through seventh, respectively, in the 1,200-metre contest for locally-bred three-year-olds.

But the run of the race came from Painted Buddha, who despite missing the break, running very wide for a long time and having to weave in and out to find racing room from the far turn, came storming down the stretch to almost catch the winner. The grey son of former Kentucky Derby contender Buddha was sent off at odds of 40/1 in his first outing since he beat just one horse on debut almost six months earlier. The Conqueror did not beat a single horse this time as the Maniram Maharaj-owned and trained son of former Gold Cup hero Adawar ended up eighth. With just the Boxing Day holiday card to come on Monday, it will take a minor miracle for Badrie to pass Boodramsingh in the 2010 standings as he is not only six winners behind his fellow one-kilo claimer, but also way behind on the list of second places. It should be noted, however, that Boodramsingh secured 236 riders for the season, 35 more than Badrie, whose mounts have earned close to \$900,000, more than \$200,000 less than Boodramsingh's. In the overall jockeys' race, two-time defending champ Ricky Jadoo has no chance to catch Brian Harding.

And the multiple champion jockey increased his lead to 15 winners when he pushed out Chloe's Gold for his rode 51st winner of the season. The 1,200-metre contest for locally-bred juveniles climaxed with the two highly regarded newcomers battling it out in pulsating fashion and Russell Ramsammy-bred and owned daughter of Western Envoy held off B's Passion to prevail by 3/4-length. Third-placed finisher Galveston was a distant seven length adrift and the final time was a very impressive 1:12.80 seconds. Harding should also get home ahead of Jadoo in the monetary race as his mounts have earned close to \$2,500,000 while the runner-up is approaching \$1,900,000. John O'Brien, who saddled Exquisite Touch, is certain to take both the wins and monetary category among the trainers by a very long way. The defending monetary champ has 59 winners, 23 more than his closest rival Harriram Gobin, while O'Brien charges have earned more than \$3,500,000.

Glenn Mendez, who saddled the most winners last year, is in third with 34 winners and a distant second in the monetary category with over \$1,650,000. Mendez had little chance to defend his title this year because of a suspension, but he saddled the winner of the feature event this time when High Mas prevailed for the second time in succession when the American-bred three-year-old won an Allowance by 1 ½ lengths. Personal Exchange, who had beaten High Mas in their previous two clashes over 1,750 metres, had to settle for second going 400 metres less, while Santa Rosa Classic winner Dionysus again proved that he is one of the most improved horses in training by finishing only half-length back. The real disappointment of the day's second race was Dionysus' Douglas Bennett-trained stable companion as Mission King finished a tame fourth in his first race in six weeks.

Last year's Republic Bank Derby runner-up beat only Wispy Cut, one of the stars of the early part of the season who has struggled with injury since and now finished way back in his only two starts since late April. It must have been a bitter-sweet occasion for Dayne Harford as he owns both High Mas and Wispy Cut. Allan Madoo did not lead in a winner, but the defending champ has already done so 20 times for the season and has a three-length on Zanim Meah-John going into Boxing Day. The monetary category is a neck-and-neck battle at the moment. The Poon Tip Stud Farm has a marginal lead, but Tres Amigos will win going away if Bruceontheloose takes the First Citizens Gold Cup for the second successive time on Monday. The first prize in the country's richest and most prestigious open staying race is \$300,000 and if 'Bruce' collects this sum he will become the first horse in the history of local racing to surpass \$2 million in career earnings. The Jetsam Awards will not be presented until early next year, but even without a victory in the Gold Cup, Bruceontheloose should be named Horse of the Year for second consecutive year.