

ARIMA RACE CLUB
RACE DAY REVIEW
DAY 23 SATURDAY 26TH JUNE 2010

Punter takes home over \$170,000

DROYAL PROSPECT returned to winners' enclosure in style and at least one person must have left the track feeling like a million bucks after the 23rd round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season at Santa Rosa Park, Arima. Supporters of Ghana would surely have gone home celebrating the African team's progress to the quarterfinals of the World Cup, but no one could have been happier than that single punter who won the second of three HI-5 betting races. That person collected \$172,106.40 - one of the biggest amounts for a single payout in the history of local racing - for holding the only correct HI-5 ticket in the fifth event of the seven-race card. That massive sum included a single-winner bonus and carry over in the region of \$70,000 each. And it was surprising that just one punter got it right as the 1,100-metre event for three-year-old maidens was won by the favourite Trinity Fire, with third fancy Becquerel and second favourite Lizabella finishing third and fifth, respectively.

Sattriya, who like Becquerel is owned by Zanim Meah-John and trained by Jose William-Samaroo, turned in a grand performance at odds of 14/1 and just failed by a neck to catch a tiring Trinity Fire before the wire. Letsbetonit, whose name encourages you to give her a chance, may have been the spoiler for other potential HI-5 winners as she finished fourth at longer odds than 40/1. Trinity Fire is trained by Sharon Ferreira, who had just celebrated in the race before when her other charge Candy Alert won the \$15,000 Optional Claimer over a distance of 1,200 metres by 3 ½ lengths. This was the first victory by the four-year-old daughter of Western Envoy in the seven starts since she looked like a world beater by impressively winning on her Boxing Day (December 26) debut. Candy Alert was bred by Ferreira and husband Gerard, a former ARC president, and both she and Trinity Fire are owned by this pair - known as the Humming Bird Stables.

Top jockey Nobel Abrego, who has booted home over 1,000 winners in his career but rarely competes these days, was aboard Trinity Fire to complete his first double in a very long time. The Panamanian opened the card by getting DRoyal Prospect back on the triumphant path after more than a year with a very comfortable 2 3/4-length success in the Restricted Handicap. Eto finished well to grab second in the 1,750-metre contest from favourite Marathon Man, the fourth-placed finisher in last year's Republic Bank Derby. This year's classic aspirant Another Challenge was a very disappointing fifth of six after the Jamaican-bred three-year-old had won the only other time he faced older horses. D'Royal Prospect, who would have prevailed by much further if he were pressed by Abrego, was scoring for the first time since he completed a hat-trick of wins in late April last year.

Three strong performances, including a couple close-up seconds to Blackstone Street followed but Charles James' American-bred chestnut got injured on his turf debut on August 31 and this was only his third start since he returned at the end of March. Abrego had to share riding honours with Christopher Jadoo, whose double included a dead-head in the day's penultimate event. This occurred when the judge could not separate overwhelming favourite Special Ransom, partnered by the nephew of two-time defending champion rider Ricky Jadoo (who was sitting out the day), and the Rajpaul Rajkumar-ridden Becausewecan in the 1,350-metre contest for West Indian-bred three-year-old maidens. In addition to being successful in the event just before the last, Jadoo also celebrated in the race just after the first when he guided second favourite Decisive Point to beat leading fancy Samaan Field by a length in the 1,750-metre contest for \$35,000 Optional Claimers.

Both Jadoo's winners are handled by champion trainer Glenn Mendez, who joined Ferreira and Juan Mosca with two winners apiece. Juan Navarro's 16/1 shot Fernando prevailed in the third race - an 1,100-metre contest for locally-bred four-year-old and over maidens – for Juan Mosca, who closed off the day's proceedings when favourite Scent OfMoney held off second favourite Naturelly Classy to win the 1,200-metre affair for \$7,500 Optional Claimers by just over a length. The American-bred four-year-old is owned by Shivam Maharaj and the son of ARC president Kama Maharaj joined the lengthy list of double winners as Decisive Point had also prevailed in his colours. Racing continues at Santa Rosa Park on Saturday when Grand Riviere, who has won seven of eight career starts, is set to return to face her fellow fillies over 1,800 metres in the Oaks Stakes in her first start since defeating the colts in the Carib Brewery Guineas on May 31.