

## ***MYSORE CLASSICS THROW UP A 'SPLENDID SURPRISE'***

The recently concluded Mysore season will long be remembered by owner Santosh Lad and trainer M.P. Mahesh as their three year old gelding Splendid Surprise (Seinbeck – Falling Feather) ***claimed a classic double by winning the Fernhil's Palace Mysore 2000 Guineas (Gr.3) and the Poonawalla Mysore Derby (Gr.1)***

It was a true fairy tale in the latter race as Santosh Lad, a first time owner, was making his maiden appearance at a racecourse to see his horse run, Even this visit might have never happened if Lad's good friend Ambarish, popular Kannada film actor and former union minister, has not insisted the make the trip to Mysore.



The race proved to be a thriller from start to finish. Jockey Christopher suffered a bout of cramps as Splendid Surprise was being loaded and seemed to be a considerable discomfort. A few minutes of stretching enabled the rider to remount but this was certainly a cause of worry to all Splendid Surprise's followers.

Star Team with Prakash in the saddle was the favorite even though he had finished second to Splendid Surprise in the 2000 Guineas.

Splendid Surprise's win was on the cards as he had been consistently putting in good performances in spite of poor assistance from the saddle and his win in the 2000 Guineas market him out as a serious classic contender. His subsequent performance in the Derby highlighted his gameness and ability and he could well be vying for top honors in the winter.

***Sanjay Reddy, Racing World, Vol V No.3, December 2008.***

## ***SAFARI ANNEXES CALCUTTA FILLIES TRIAL STAKES***

Trainer Darius Byramji has done exceedingly well to get Safari peak at the right moment. The daughter of China Visit – Safari Girl was highly thought of when she made her debut in the Bangalore winter season. She did live up to expectations, but has the distinction of matching strides with the likes of Fleeting Arrow and own voice. She came into her own during the Bangalore summer season where she reeled off two races on the trot before being packed off to greener pastures, to have a tilt at the Calcutta Classics here. Although the Calcutta Fillies Trial Stakes has eight vying for the first classic race of the monsoon season, the outcome of the race on paper appeared to be a tow horse affair in the form of Safari and Western India based Apollotina. Frankly speaking, the fillies field was extremely short on class and none appeared to be in the same league as that of Safari. Safari went in to race with a good mock race under her belt and on the other hand, the Pesi Shroff nursed Apollotina, the Western India based challenger has a winning run behind her on the local turf. The quote on Safari appeared quite generous taking in view her Bangalore form while Apollotina was being offered at Two's. The Fillies Trial Stakes Field was dispatched for the seven furlong race She's Superb dictated the early pace hotly chased by Safari.

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