"STAR LUMINARY" UPSTAGES REAL EXCELLENCE

The Country's Largest stable has such a surfeit of talent that even when a fancied runner fails in a big race it is, more often than not, a stablemate, who bring the home the prize, This scenario has been played out a number of times and it was therefore not too much of a surprise when Star Luminary upstaged Real Excellence to claim the Bangalore 1000 Guineas (Gr.2)

Star Luminary (Razeen x Averoff) has shown that she was extremely talented when after setting the pace in the Mysore 1000 Guineas for Real Excellence, she stayed on to finish third. This effort was duly noted by her stable who prepared the daughter of Razeen well for this race and entrusted her to the care of Colm O' Donoghue. Perhaps this should have been given more importance than it was by the betting public who were loathe to look beyond Real Excellence for the season's first classic.

Real Excellence has don well in the monsoon, racking up wins in the Hyderabad Fillies Trial Stakes and the Mysore 1000 Guineas before going down to super speed in the Mysore Derby. She has the form to win and was expected to have it easy against a moderate bunch of horses.

Flaming Glory, a one-time classic prospect, was given the task of setting the pace for the Ramaswamy runners and she went at a good gallop from the gates. Real Excellence assumed here customary place at the rear of the field with Chilly Wind and Fairytaleending for company. Real Excellence covered tremendous ground on the outside with a late run byt was still length and a half short at the post. She did however have the satisfaction of heading Rain Splasher out the second place.

Star Luminary gave her sire, Razeen, a good start to the new racing year with this classic win after the previous year's rather barren classic spell for the son of northern Dancer. Star Luminary's best trip seems to be a mile especially as her dam, Averoff, produced here best at this distance. Though she is likely to line up for the Oaks, that race does represent Real Excellence best chance of avenging her Guineas Lots.

STAR LUMINARY SCORES A CLASSIC DOUBEL

Star Luminary (Razeen – Averoff) proved that here win in the Bangalore 1000 Guineas back in November was no fluke when she scored an authoritative win in the Bangalore Oaks (Gr. 2)

It is a fact of Indian racing that January signals the time when the grain is sifted from the chaff as far as the classic crop is concerned. This is the month that sees three centres stage their respective Oaks and Derbies, all run over a trip of 2400 metres, which means that only horses with the right blend of speed. Stamina and courage will emerge triumphant in these classics.

Star Luminary has to fight her way to the top to be noticed by her stable and once there she has not let her connections down, winning both the fillies classics this section in Bangalore and establishing herself as one of the best of her generation and gender.

Prakash has the Genapathy trained filly settled well off the pace in the early stages of this race as Bountiful Heights

and Only Royale went at a cracking gallop in front. In the back stretch Prakash has to move Star Luminary to the outside in order to move up a few places. The pace continued to be strong and with eight hundred metres left Star luminary began to improve here position gradually as did Appessing. Chiquitita Led them into the home straight and Appesing immediately took over. Her lead was short lived as Star Luminary produced a tremendous turn of foot to shoot pass and stretch away to win in great style. Star Luminary thus completed a classic double having earlier won the Bangalore 1000 Guineas. Appesing stayed on to take the runner up spot well ahead of symbol of Speed. Chilly wind finished a distant fourth.

Star Luminary has proved beyond doubt that she can stay a trip and do it well. In this respect she has surpassed her dam, the Grade I winning Averoff who was best upto a mile. Star Luminary will now run in the Bangalore Derby where she is capable of upsetting the best.