

SPLENDID SURPRISE (BANGALORE)

Steinbeck (USA) x Falling Feather (IRE)

Took gargantuan strides forward by landing a classic double at Mysore, winning the Fernhills Place Mysore 2000 Guineas (Gr.3) in superb style by three and a quarter lengths from the very useful Star Team in a very fast time, a fraction short of the record. Victorious next in the Poonawalla Mysore Derby (Gr.1), he enjoyed the run of the race on this occasion, but battled on with great courage through the final two furlongs over the mile and a quarter trip that surely stretched his stamina reserves. Always a worry that this effort may have taken a lot out of him, but, judged on his Guineas win, it would be a shame if he went in the line up at Mahalakshmi.

CAIRNDHU (MUMBAI)

China Visit (USA) x Nairn

Late maturing type, unbeaten in two starts at Pune, Sprang a surprise on debut by upsetting odds – on covenant over six furlongs, somewhat sharp for one out of a Bangalore Oaks winner. Turned the Ganga Melrose Million over the same distance into a one-horse race, bounding clear inside the final furlong to win unchallenged by four lengths. Open totos of improvement, represents top – class connection, and could be the one to give Bourbon King most to do.



YANA (MUMBAI)

Razeen (USA) x Zaya (USA)



The unknown quantity of the race. Ran a stinker on debut, but showed that running to be all wrong when winning the fantasy Ice Cream Juvenile Stakes over (for her) a hardly adequate six furlong trip. Didn't look to be going anywhere for a major portion of the race, but really found her stride inside the final furlong to beat the frustrating sterner Royale by a snug two and a quarter lengths. Represents top-class connections and every possibility that she'll make up into a classic contender.

RUBY QUEEN Impresses in Golconda 1000 Guineas (Gr.2)

Prasad Raju-trained Ruby Queen (China Visit – Maribella) turned in a highly impressive performance to win the Golconda 1000 Guineas (Gr.2) and in the process gave her sire; the Usha Stud based China Visit, his first classic success in India.

Turning for home Suraj sent Ruby Queen surging into the lead and the game filly kept to her task to win in great style much to the delight of the local race-goers who love to see one of their own triumph in the big races at Hyderabad. Ruby Queen was given a standing ovation as she returned to the winner's enclosure. After a good first season much was expected of this filly and she was sent to summer in Bangalore. A training setback put paid to these plans and Raju has to work on the filly from scratch. The improvement is there for all to see and Raju was extremely happy with the outcome. This was my first big purchase and I am thrilled at winning the classic. It is a great feeling he said.

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