



**Allaire (Srinath) winning the Kingfisher Derby Bangalore from Six Speed (Shroff — ralls). Right: Trainer Darius Byramji and Ms. Ameetha Mehra leading in Allaire. — Pics. by V. Sreenivasa Murthy.**



trainee is fast developing into a formidable sprinter. With Al Habib, Shafiq's tally (still unofficial) stands at 998. Alumina put up an improved show and may strike before the season ends. Alylady clearly needed this run while Thanks A Lot is still under critical scrutiny though a margin can be given for his nowhere as an exploratory run.

Activator played up inside the gate so awkwardly that Paul Eddery was forced out of the gate. Closer examination revealed that the rider was indeed slightly hurt. Activator was pulled out of the race. Adding to the confusion was The Chairman, who slipped out of the gate and finished the course riderless. Both Activator and The Chairman were withdrawn. Persepolis drew majority support but this well bred filly buckled under pressure. Tierce put his best foot forward to thwart Ace Beret on whom Martin Dwyer who appeared as confused as some one who has several options open and ends up choosing the worst one. Cleveland ran a disappointing race.

That Whattagirl is not as reliable as her

last win indicated was quickly brought to notice when she packed up without trace in race where Appu's stronger handling of Fereneze was the feature of a tussle between Darashah's ward and Renzino who was weighed down by the extra lead. Two of the most preferred in the bunch, Whattagirl and Ravish were completely shut off the contest. It was the topweighted Neha's Prince who soldiered on bravely till Renzino and Fereneze joined issue. Rakesh appeared to be somewhat light on Ravish who rather reluctantly came nearer Neha's Prince at the finish. It is safer to leave Whattagirl to her ways.

When rivals of the same age group and more or less the same prowess cross path, the determining factor ought to be the handicap. As it transpired Xar simply could not give weight down the line and still hope to land a gamble of sorts. The fast developing Soviet Lake easily contained Pearl Crown's late rally even as Actress not only improved her gate manners but also her record. The heavily backed Xar was lost in the crowd.

Regal Equity's first run has always been his best. On the Derby eve the six year old left some of his younger rivals bitter and low.

By all accounts it was a cracker of a race, the BTC Anniversary Cup. Orabella was pushing her claims at one point in the straight even as Averoff closed in. With Crystal Man staying game a close call was on the cards. It was into this demanding phase that Paul Eddery pitched Regal Equity in. Sheer class told in the end as the Byramji-trained Regal Equity shot past Averoff.

Antecedent made an impressive debut. This smooth striding got abroad kicked off on a winning note when taking on Sendawar whose run here should reassure connections that the gelding is on the right path after breaking down in one of his earlier runs.

Native Tactics defied a 7.5 kg rap to score her second win and in the fine fettle she is in a hat-trick seems a logical conclusion. Accelerating Star showed marked improvement from his last run to this. Lady Chesterford, who graced the wrong end till the turn finished on with

purpose only to be nosed out by Key Witness who was full of running. The grey is better suited for longer distances.

The somewhat temperamental Adamille picked up the Summer Trial Stakes with a measure of comfort. Ryan Marshall rode a neat race as he grabbed the opposition by the throat. Alphabetic ran a suggestive second while Clyde Barrow covered a lot of ground to be third ahead of Soviet Park who completely faded out.

Mallesh Narredu goaded At My Command to a narrow victory over first timer Avocation who went out as a strong fancy. Shroff-ridden Avocation renewed his bid after being passed by At My Command only to go down in a photo finish. Odeon who was running a bit green finished third and is bound to put this feeler to good effect.

Flying Singer and Boss Tweed were runaway winners on a day when fancied runners ruled the roost. What followed the next day was the eclipse of favourites.

**H. S. MANJUNATH**