

Tobie's Flyer

Trainer Tobie Spies celebrated a cracking start to his SA Champions Season campaign at Greyville on Friday evening when the lightning fast Potala Palace filly Singforafa went all the way to beat her stablemate Me Time in the R200 000 Gr3 Strelitzia Stakes.

The daughter of Ridgemont Highlands' massive value Singspiel sire Potala Palace, who is set to stand this season again for a fee of R5000, made it two wins from four starts when she burst away from her field under Craig Zackey to score at 10-1 by 1,25 lengths in a time of 65,92 secs.

Her more experienced stablemate Me Time made good late headway to hold off the Cape raider and favourite Vandah's Spirit, who had every chance.

Bred by NJ Swart from the thrice winning Whistling Wood mare First Whistle, the winner races in the silks of the trainer's Grandson Xander Spies, who has proven a lucky owner.

She took her stakes earnings to R199 500 and was described by jockey Craig Zackey as one of the quickest fillies he has ridden.

Gr3 Strelitzia Stakes (2yo fillies) 1100m

Winner Singforafa was very quickly 2 lengths clear, setting the pace; kept on strongly

Runner-up Me Time (3rd best handicapped) raced 5th; was bumped and cramped 1000m; ran on

Third Vandah's Spirit raced at the back 8 lengths off the pace entering the straight; ran on very well

Time: A relatively slow time on the day, this comparatively was the second slowest of the five sprinting events. We gave the runner-up (prev 76/85/76/73) 83 which makes the winner (prev 74/84/69) 87 and the third (prev 74/65/82) 84

87	1	0.00	SINGFORAFA	(3)	58.0	C Zackey	10/1
2 b f Potala Palace - First Whistle (Whistling Wood)							
83	2	1.25	ME TIME	(2)	58.0	M Yeni	14/1
2 b f Gimmethgreenlight - What About Me (Tiger Ridge)							
84	3	2.55	VANDAH'S SPIRIT	(4)	60.0	A Marcus	53/20
2 b f Trippi - Mana Mou (Captain Al)							
78	4	3.05	Naoshima	(5)	58.0	S Veale	14/1
81	5	3.45	Miss Honey	(8)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	5/1
72	6	5.05	Yessiricanboogie	(7)	58.0	W Kennedy	53/20
67	7	6.80	Elnora	(1)	58.0	L Hewitson	55/1
50	8	12.30	Her Royal Majesty	(6)	58.0	B Jacobson	4/1
Time: 65.92s (59.93s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) SP Total %: 116%							
1st T: T Spies O: Mr X Spies B: NJ Swart							

Potala Palace Strikes Gold

A first stakes winner for Ridgemont Highlands based Gr1 winner Potala Palace, Palace Of Dreams turned on the jets at the 200m as the leading group of the more fancied Fly Away and Gin Fizz started buckling under their exertions.

With a contemptuous glance to each side, Ryan Munger registered a personal 100th winner of the season and swept clear in style to beat the Ruffian Stakes runner-up and favourite Gin Fizz by a half length in a time of 64,84 secs, with Emerald Tiara staying on quietly for third,

Bred by Highlands, Palace Of Dreams is by Potala Palace (Singspiel) out of the Spectrum maiden Cheery Berry Bim.

She is the first stakes winner for her Gr1 winning sire Potala Palace, a son of world champion racehorse and top sire Singspiel. The latter is responsible for numerous high class performers, including champion Solow, Breeders' Cup winner Lahood and French Oaks winner Confidential Lady.

Potala Palace, who is from the same family as the likes of Fairy King, Nureyev, Reform and Sadler's Wells, earned over R600 000 on the track and won both the Gr1 Premier's Champion Stakes and Gr3 Joburg Spring Challenge Stakes when trained by Mike Azzie.

She cost just R15 000 at the BSA National 2yo Sale and made it an eye-catching first win and 2 places from 3 starts for stakes of R170 000.

Gr3 Pretty Polly Stakes 1100m

Winner Palace Of Dreams (3rd best handicapped) raced 7th; led 100m; won going away

Runner-up Gin Fizz (best handicapped) raced 3rd; led 400; narrowly beaten

Third Emerald Tiara raced 8th; ran on; had to switch 400m & 150m

Time: Although comfortably the slowest of the three 1100m races, the time in itself was a reasonable one. We gave the runner-up (prev 89/84) 89 which makes the winner (prev 75/77) 84 and the third (prev 81/81) 88

84	1	0.00	PALACE OF DREAMS	(8)	57.0	R Munger	45/1
2 b f Potala Palace - Cheery Berry Bim (Spectrum)							
89	2	0.50	GIN FIZZ	(5)	60.0	G Lerena	12/10
2 b f Soft Falling Rain - Espumanti(GB) (Dansili)							
88	3	0.75	EMERALD TIARA	(1)	60.0	L Hewitson	71/10
2 b f Gimmethgreenlight - Jewel In Her Crown (Jallad)							
77	4	4.55	Fly Away	(4)	60.0	L J Ferraris	5/2
76	5	4.85	What You Are	(6)	60.0	R Simons	18/1
66	6	5.85	Singforafa	(2)	57.0	C Zackey	6/1
68	7	7.60	Me Time	(3)	60.0	M Yeni	15/1
55	8	11.70	Seemyvision	(7)	60.0	D Schwarz	55/1
Time: 64.84s (58.95s avg/1000m, or 61km/h) SP Total %: 116%							
1st T: R Francis O: Mr R Francis B: Highlands S: TD Andrews							