

THE DHEERAJ ARMA INDIAN OAKS

A 'romantic' afternoon at the reces – The sound of hooves. The cheers of winners. The sighs of losers... It's all part of a day at the races.

Sunday the 18th was a special day, and walking onto the lawns of the Mahalakshmi grounds on a sunny Sunday afternoon to the sound of music was a good start.



Sipping a strawberry daiquiri under a silken shade listening to Latin sounds amongst others, almost took my mind off racing.

It was the ladies' day at the races. The Ladies' Derby as the Oaks is also known, was to be run. And eleven fillies were all set to challenge the favorite, Desert Lightning, who has just won the first Classic of the Mumbai

Season, the Indian 1000 Guineas. In the race, the Kolkata challenger **Romantic Liaison** got beat, but having been upstaged in that race, she was obviously all geared upto make amends. The Vijay Singh-trained filly turned the

tables when she, literally run away with the Dheeraj, ARMA Indian Oaks (Gr. 1).

All the Rage set the early pace with Romantic Liaison (Razeen – Veena's Pet) settling into second place. The order remained the same until they turned for home, when



jockey C. Alford set Romantic Liaison in action and the filly responded, taking the lead. Thundering Power tried hard to catch up with the leader but ended three lengths behind the winner. The Deepak Khaitan-owned filly hung out in the straight, but did not cause any interference and won the race in 2min 34.04 sec.



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