



75 Years of the Barbados Derby

The horse racing industry in Barbados will on Saturday, August 9, 2014 celebrate a very significant milestone; the 75th Anniversary of The Barbados Derby, its most important and historic race for Caribbean bred horses. The 2014 Barbados Derby is also the 30th Anniversary of sponsorship by United Insurance Company Limited. The Garrison Savannah, with its rich heritage is a more than fitting venue for this celebration.

The Barbados Derby is the Third Jewel in the 'Barbados Triple Crown' of classics which includes the Barbados Guineas and the Barbados Midsummer Creole Classic. The Barbados Turf Club, which in 2005 celebrated its Centenary Anniversary, hosted the first Barbados Derby in 1940 and in its 75 years it has created a number of legends. These icons are among the horses that have won and also in the long list of owners, jockeys, trainers and breeders.

One family that has excelled in the Barbados Derby is the Chandlers of Todds Estate in St. John. The father and son team of Sir John Chandler and William 'Bill' Chandler have between them been responsible for 10 Barbados Derby winners.

These two gentlemen have been owner, breeder or trainer and in some instances, all of the above in these successes.

The human element has been just as diversified as the equine athletes and successful owners, trainers and jockeys have certainly brought international status to this great event.

The first winner of the Barbados Derby, Television was bred in Barbados but was owned in Trinidad by a very popular owner of the day Dr. Cyril Gittens who was also his trainer.

Cyril Barnard of St. Vincent has been the most successful non-Barbadian to win the Barbados Derby. He sent over no fewer than six horses to take the spoils. These animals were bred at his Orange Hill Estate, a coconut growing plantation nestled at the foot of the La Soufriere volcano.

Former South Caribbean Champion jockey turned trainer and breeder, Chally Jones has had resounding success in the Barbados Derby. He rode a record 11 winners and later trained five winners. He was also co-breeder of 1996 Derby winner, Incitatus.

Winners of the Barbados Derby have not been limited to those bred at home. Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Martinique have all enjoyed Derby success at the Garrison Savannah.

Jamaica, Martinique and St. Kitts have all bred Barbados Derby winners. The fillies Secret Habitat and Taalahornee, both bred there but owned and trained in Barbados, won in 1993 and 1995 respectively.

The French island of Martinique has two Barbados Derby winners to its credit. The first was Generator, a filly owned in Martinique but trained in Trinidad.

In 1988 the strangely named colt Kimafoutiesa, bred in Martinique but owned and trained in Trinidad, ploughed through a veritable quagmire at the Garrison to take the top prize.

The island of St. Kitts which in recent times has been unknown as a racing country has produced one Barbados Derby winner. Hayseed, owned by Rosemary Wigley and trained by Barbadian Charles Peirce beat seven opponents to win in 1967.

The international flavour of the Barbados Derby has been enhanced by owners and or trainers with links to France, England, Ireland, Canada, Guyana, Lebanon and Grenada, among others.

Englishman William Cyril Marshall, known to all and sundry as 'Bill Marshall - the Governor', has certainly been the governor of the Barbados Derby, training a record nine winners.

Frenchman Gilbert Yvonet trained Maison Laffitte, March Light and Miss Paris to win in 1963, 1967 and 1968. Miss Paris carried the silks of Guyanese, Joe Fernandes.

French woman Sylvie Beuzelin and her husband Jean Louis have had Derby success with Zarmella and that mare's son Galileo.

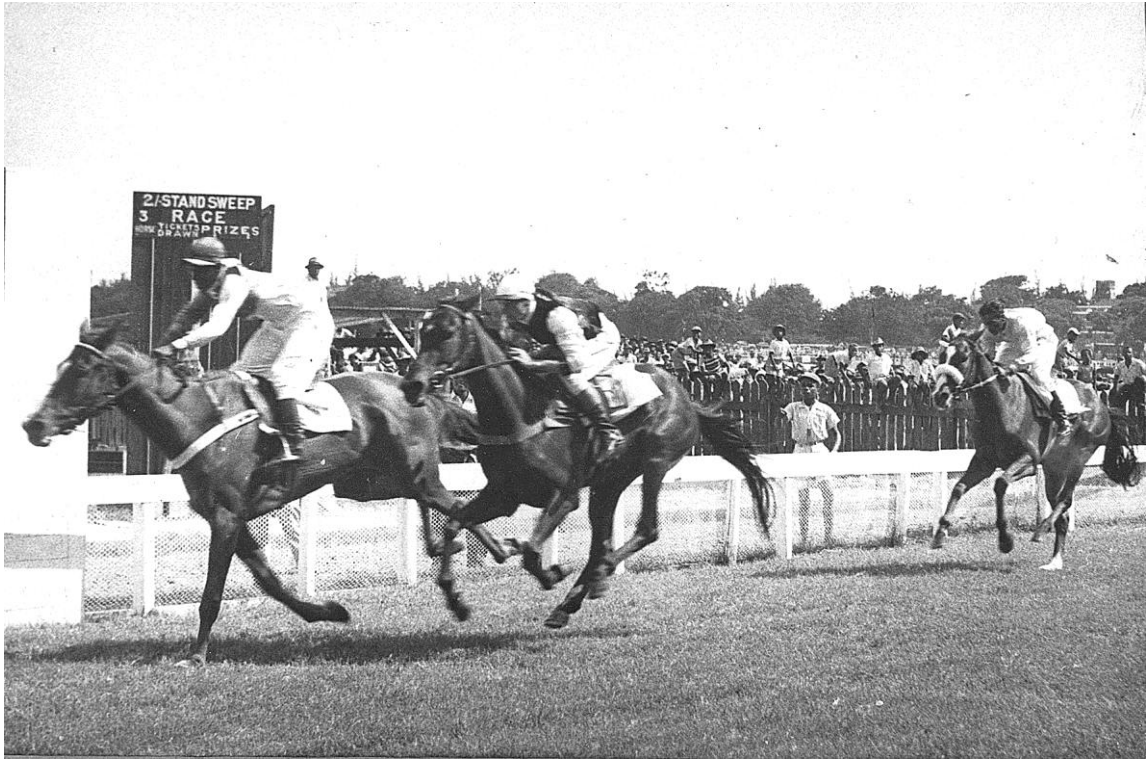
Englishman Freddie Thirkell trained three Barbados Derby winners while Paul Locke, Lord Michael Taylor and Mrs. Gay Smith, all from Britain, have all tasted Barbados Derby success.

The 2014 United Insurance Barbados Derby offers a total of \$68,000 in stakes and with subscriptions could total over \$75,000.

United Insurance Co. Ltd. will contribute \$30,000 to the purse and will be presenting trophies for all of the races on the day's card.

Both the Barbados Turf Club and sponsors United Insurance are planning to make this dual anniversary extra special.

This article is the first in a weekly series leading up to United Barbados Derby Day 2014 Saturday, August nine. These stories will relive the history of this great race and serve as a reminder of times past to some and be a source of information to others.



St. Vincent-bred filly Best Wishes, owned and bred by Cyril Barnard and ridden by Eric 'Sonny' Holder beating Usher in the 1951 Barbados Derby.

30 Years of United Derby Sponsorship

The 2014 United Insurance Barbados Derby may be months away but the excitement that is already rising in the local horse racing industry could in the next few weeks reach fever pitch.

This year is the 30th Anniversary of United's sponsorship of what is one of the most prestigious sporting events and both the Company and the Barbados Turf Club are planning a day to be remembered.

United Insurance Company Limited, under the leadership of the now late Thomas "Tommy" Peirce, took up the sponsorship of the Barbados Derby in 1985 from Mackeson Stout.

With this new endorsement, the already high profile of the island's premier horse racing classic rose to an even higher level.

United's first action was to inject a sizable cash contribution into the prize money thus making the Barbados Derby one of the richest races at that time. This contribution has increased over the years with the company now donating \$30,000 towards the total purse.

The filly Happy Style in 1985 launched United's sponsorship of the Barbados Derby with an exciting victory under young apprentice jockey Darwin Clarke. This was a particularly satisfying success for owner-breeder George DeVere Davis who had been criticized for 'sending a boy to do a man's job.'

Victory in the inaugural United Barbados Derby for Mr. Davis was also the beginning of a run of successes which saw horses he bred and owned finishing first on three other occasions. He also bred the 2006 Triple Crown winner Zouk.

This year's 30th running of the United Derby will have total stakes money of \$68,000 with subscriptions expected to push the actual payouts near or above the \$100,000 mark. Without subscriptions, the winner will receive \$37,400; second \$15,640; third \$9,520 and fourth \$5,440.

The Company has, in its 30 years of association with horse racing, pumped over one million dollars into the industry. Management says its association with the Barbados Derby is not only the fulfillment of United's corporate duty but also a commitment to the development of horse racing in the island. It is one of the ways it gives back to the community that has helped it become one of the leading general insurance businesses in the Caribbean.

The United Barbados Derby has had a most positive impact on the local horse breeding industry. With this brilliant star to shoot for, breeders and owners have been acquiring top bloodlines to breed from. This has resulted in four winners of the Barbados Triple Crown, made up of the Barbados Guineas the Barbados Midsummer Classic and the United Barbados Derby.

Coo-Bird took the title in 1989, Incitatus in 1996, Zouk in 2006 and Areutalkintome in 2009.

The Barbados Turf Club has expressed its gratitude to United Insurance Company Limited for its long time support of the local horse racing industry in general and the Barbados Derby in particular.

BTC President Sir David Seale says: “The sponsorship of the Barbados Derby by United Insurance Company Ltd has been most welcomed by the Barbados Turf Club and Racehorse Breeders in particular.”

According to him, the Turf Club’s partnership with United Insurance Company limited has proven to be a winning combination.

“Sponsorship began at a time when the Barbados Racehorse breeding industry was in decline and it was their support of the prestigious “United Derby” that encouraged local horse breeders to expand their breeding operations providing more employment for those who work in the industry,” he said.

Sir David has extended best wishes to the sponsors and says he is looking forward with great expectations to the 30th running of the United Barbados Derby.

The management of United Insurance Company Limited has reiterated its pleasure in again sponsoring the Barbados Derby.

“At United, we believe that contributing positively to the communities in which we operate is just as important as offering protection for the things our clients hold dear.”

The company says this is why it supports a wide range of activities and partners with organisations across its 14 territories. United has supported sports, in particular, for over 30 years, including youth cricket, basketball, sailing, horse-racing, chess and golf.

30 years of United Derby Champions

This year's United Insurance Barbados Derby not only marks the 30th Anniversary of sponsorship of this premier sporting event by that company but also provides the opportunity for the crowning of more horse racing champions.

This great classic, with its tremendous prestige and rich history, has over the years produced several champions. These top performers represent the very elite of the sport with some holding the status of legends here in Barbados and beyond.

Two United Insurance Barbados Derby winners that stand out are Coo-Bird and Incitatus. These "Triple Crown" winners are still today the subject of great debate and sometimes even heated arguments as to which was the better horse.

Coo-Bird holds the record for the most wins by any horse. In his seven year career he won 23 of his 53 starts and earned just over half a million dollars in prize money. Coo-Bird actually won 25 races but was disqualified twice.

Incitatus wrote his name indelibly in history when he romped to victory in the 1997 Sandy Lane Barbados Gold Cup.

Incitatus after winning the Gold Cup was sent to Canada where he raced with success becoming the first West Indian bred horse to win in graded company in North America.

Owner-Breeder George DeVere Davis, known to most people as 'Vere", has registered outstanding success in the United Insurance Barbados Derby. He has bred five winners, four of which carried his colours to victory.

Davis' Happy Style holds the distinction of winning the first Barbados Derby under United Insurance Company Limited's sponsorship. He had back to back winners with Coo-Bird and his half brother Ginger Dove in 1989 and 1990 and he was back in the winner's enclosure with Oba Dove in 2002.

Most Barbadian horsemen dream of breeding the Triple Crown winner but George DeVere Davis did even more. He bred Coo-Bird who won in 1989 and Zouk who took the title in 2006. While Coo-Bird won in Davis' silks, Zouk was owned in partnership by Richard Edwards and Mrs. Angela Simpson.

It could be said that celebrated trainer Bill Marshall made the United Insurance Barbados Derby his very own. "The Governor" as he was dubbed, saddled a record nine winners.

Chally Jones has the distinction as a jockey of winning the Barbados Derby a record 11 times. His role since the race has been sponsored by United Insurance has been that of trainer and breeder.

As a trainer, Jones has had to abide in the shadow of Bill Marshall, saddling five winners to "The Governor's" nine.

Chally Jones, as a breeder, has much to be proud about. At his Blue Ribbon Stud Farm, located at Neil's in St. Michael, he has produced alone or in partnership, three United Insurance Barbados Derby winners, including two Triple Crown winners.

Jones' first Derby winner as a trainer came with the filly, Paddy Bird, which was bred in partnership with his wife Diana. Incitatus, who took the Triple Crown in 1996, was bred in partnership with Jean Louis Beuzelin but it was all Chally with the 2009 Triple Crown winner, Areutalkintome.

There is another Jones who has made quite a name for himself in the United Insurance Barbados Derby. This time it is Chally's son, Jonathan.

"Jono", as he is known, has won five of the last 30 editions of the United Insurance Barbados Derby.

His first Derby success was astride Overdraft which was trained by his father and owned by Trinidadian Herbert Gonsalves.

He was back in winner's row the very next year with Winsome Lass which finished second but was promoted to first after the winner Indian Jewel was disqualified.

Jono Jones' next Derby successes came on Zarmella and Incitatus in 1994 and 1996 respectively and Alaska Pete in 2000.

Jockey Anderson Trotman, could be contemplating the possibility of catching and even passing Jono Jones as the top rider in the United Insurance Barbados Derby. So far, he has won the race three times and as he is still at the peak of his career could put his name in the history books.

The United Insurance Barbados Derby has also had its champions among the breeding stock. The stallion Happy Boy has sired four winners of the classic, with the now legendary Nosferatu producing just one less.

Rare Dove holds the honour of being the top broodmare on the United Insurance Barbados Derby Honours list. She foaled back to back winners Coo-Bird and his half brother Ginger Dove in 1989 and 1990.



George DeVere Davis Top Owner and Breeder celebrating with the 1989 United Insurance Barbados Derby Cup. Joining in the occasion are from left to right the now late Thomas "Tommy" Peirce of United Insurance; the late Governor General Sir Hugh Springer; George Challenor of United Insurance; winning trainer now the late Bill Marshall and successful jockey Venice Richards.