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# Races cut to half a mile for safety reasons

BY INTERNATIONAL RACING BUREAU 6:07PM 8 FEB 2009

Report: Switzerland, Sunday St Moritz: 'White Turf' meeting

AS if horse racing on a frozen lake wasn't bizarre enough in itself, the first of this year's three 'White Turf' meetings at St Moritz had an extra twist when all three races involving British-trained horses were reduced to just half a mile.

The far side of the course had water on it and was ruled unsafe, hence the reduction in trip.

The John Best-trained Princess Rose Anne fared best at the revised distance, finishing third under Steve Drowne in the opening Grosse Preis Handels & Gewerbeverein St Moritz, which was framed as a 51/2f race.

Princess Rose Anne ran well to be beaten nearly two lengths behind Rushing Dasher, ridden by his trainer Nathalie Friberg.



John Best: both runners ran well  
PICTURE: Mark Cranham

Drowne and Best also teamed up with Hucking Hero, fourth to the former John Gosden-trained Star Pattern, who was ridden by Robert Havlin for trainer Miroslav Weiss in the GP American Airlines St Moritz.

The Mark Johnston-trained Swiss Act was sixth of seven behind Vlavianus in the GP Guardaval Immobilien.

They were able to run the first trotting race over 1m - a reduction of just 110 yards - but the second was also cut to half a mile.

However, the skijoring in which the Johnston-trained Luberon would have made his debut pulling his new owner Harald Kronseider on skis, had to be abandoned altogether.

Several jockeys failed to make it to the course and Joe Fanning picked up a spare ride on the Hungarian-trained Spinning Crystal who finished fourth.

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