

Racegoers at yesterday's Jersey Derby meeting merely needed to browse their race cards prior to the 2013 running of the Race Club's most prestigious race of the season in order to get a hint of the result as this year's renewal produced a mirror image result of last year's race.

Major Maximus who had carried all before him last season came into the race off the back of two outings most notable for showing lack lustre form having not been sighted at the business end added to that the seven year old was then scratched from his next two intended engagements due to unsuitable ground conditions, however after the rainfall of the previous twenty four hours Major Maximus rewarded the patience of trainer Christa Gilbert by trouncing his rivals under the tender handling of the trainer's father veteran local jockey David Cuthbert. Early pace to the race was set by the ultra consistent Neuilly but as the field approached the home turn the eventual winner took charge of proceedings and simply cantered away from his rivals to pass the post an easing down five lengths winner from Landolino with Neuilly plugging on at one pace to take third a further ten lengths adrift. Disappointment of the race was Moose Moran who never who failed to produce his best form and failed to beat a rival home.

There was a dramatic start to the afternoons proceedings as only two of the four runners who set out at the start of the opening Mrs Tiggy-Winkle Hurdle completed the course, the unfathomable Vamos who appeared to be resorting to hurdling as a last resort by connections never appeared to be enjoying the task and was eventually pulled up approaching two from home, then just as punters were bracing themselves for a driving finish red hot odds on favourite Bollin Fergus made a howler of the last ejecting jockey Tony Proctor out the side door which left last year's winner of this event to meander home to a facile twenty length victory over National Monument.

Second race of the afternoon The Plantagenet Handicap run over five furlongs saw the five runners spread across the width of the track just over a furlong from home having been led into the home turn by trail blazer Kersivay, however he was quickly swallowed up by the rest of the field and it was his stable mate Country Blue who had hinted that he was finally getting used to the Les Landes track at the previous meeting who saluted the judge a length and a half clear of Lucifer's Shadow with Fast Freddie five lengths back in third.

The Episode Fund Handicap produced a one two for trainer Angie Corson when Rebel Women saw off the challenge of stable mate Becks Bolero by two lengths with one of this seasons improvers Pas D'Action a length back in third, what probably helped the winner on this occasion was that the eventual winner was ridden much closer to the pace in the early stages of the race compared to some of her previous outings and when jockey Matt Lawson asked her to quicken she duly obliged. Given the ease in the going most punters considered Pas D'Action as the afternoon's banker, whilst he kept up his record of not being out of the first three this season he never looked like getting his head in front.

It was a case of gamble landed in the concluding Bloodstock Advisory Services Handicap, River Du Nord who had previously been trained locally by her part owner John Mercier before being sent to the UK to embark on a hurdling career returned to her more familiar surroundings after failing to impress in her schooling and as a result failing to see the race course in the UK under the guidance of her new trainer Mrs Sue Gardener. Freely available at odds of 10/1 before her odds tumbled to a starting price of 7/2 she had her supporters counting their winnings well before she passed the post an easy five lengths clear of favourite Garden Party with Lady Petrus the same distance back in third.

Not for the first time this season the tote jackpot was not won as Rebel Women's win meant that no tickets still stood going into the final race of the afternoon this means a jackpot pool of £1,400 will be carried over to the ever popular Ladies day meeting on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August.