

Jersey Race Club

Preview April 21 2013 fixture

By Bobsbest

The success of George Baker's raid on the Easter Monday fixture appears to have triggered increased interest among United Kingdom trainers. For Sunday's meeting Baker returns with both his winners and in addition Gary Moore's West Sussex stable will be triply represented while Brendan Powell brings a single raider from his Upper Lambourn yard.

Ongoing financial constraints – only one race has attracted an external sponsor – means the Race Club has to put up the prize money for four races and horses will be competing for even less than usual with just £760 going to the winners of the support races. Still, the Club has been admirably inventive in the naming of races with three of them commemorating events that occurred on Aprils 21st past. So we have the Heartbreak Hotel Handicap Hurdle - Elvis Presley's first number one record topped the charts on that date in 1956; the Henry VIII Handicap – he was crowned king on April 21st 1509; and of course Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Handicap.

The main race of the day however is the Jersey Guineas and, thanks to the generosity of Anthony and Sandra Taylor, it carries a prize of £1,460 to the winner with a further £840 being split between the second and third.

I'm Harry bolted away with a low level handicap at Easter and this is a much tougher assignment, but he gave weight all round that day yet drew clear from a furlong and a half out and George Baker had other options for this son of Two Thousand Guineas winner Haafhd. Good Luck Charm will run for Gary Moore and the Heart of the South syndicate, many of whom will be there to cheer him on. Five times runner up this 4 year old gelding broke his duck at Kempton last November and won't be out of his depth here. Seven locals take on this duo and it must be said many Jersey trained runners looked distinctly wintry in their coats and a shade backward in condition at Easter so they will need to have come on in the last three weeks. Spanish Bounty owns the best form, while King Kenny won last year's renewal and Major Maximus was one of 2012's biggest improvers; he had King Kenny well behind last time, but the latter now enjoys a 7lb pull. The rest make little appeal and the home side will do well to defend the prize.

The Heartbreak Hotel Hurdle sees If I Had Him, owned by Sir Alex Ferguson, take on Fine The World and Landolino again. The latter gets an 11lb pull, no less, but he was very disappointing at Easter finishing a tired last. Fine the World is 8lb better in and she was an honourable second on that occasion despite being reluctant to line up. She can be mulish, but if getting off on level terms she should get much closer this time. Amen is part of the Gary Moore raiding party and is a maiden after ten runs. He is particularly well bred and was a very expensive yearling before going into training with Aiden O'Brien for whom he showed nothing in three runs. He hasn't shown much so far for his present connections, but trainer's wife Jane Moore was hopeful he'd improve with eight hurdles to jump. "We'd really like to win a race with Amen", she said, "I know he was an expensive yearling, but we didn't give much for him and his owners are great enthusiasts". Deepika was tailed off on the flat at Easter and although she has bits and pieces of form in the French provinces it's hard to know what they amount to. Azaria, also given a warm up on the flat last time appears the better of Alyson Malzard's pair.

Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Handicap is a grand title for a modest sprint. The last time we saw Copper Falls at Landes was on August Bank Holiday 2012 when, as a 3 year old, she beat Spanish Bounty a head with the rest well in arrears. She's done little since and the figures suggest she can be wayward having refused to race and been pulled up; however if she turns up in anything like the form she showed here last year she'll be hard to beat. Old High Voltage is a favourite of mine, but at 12 we've probably seen the best of him while Fast Freddie and his stablemate Toggle - last year's winner - and Kersivay are capable enough when on song. Very interesting is Lucifer's Shadow who ran a race full of promise on his local debut when third behind Pas D'Action and not knocked about.

The Henry VIII Handicap over a mile and a half is probably more difficult than it would seem at first sight. Neuilly started 2013 in the winning mode she finished 2012 and she was most impressive shrugging aside the opposition over this trip last time. Lady Petrus was second that day and is now 6lb worse off while National Monument is 11lb better in but was beaten out of sight. Beck's Bolero beat Sweet Liberta and Sissi Guihen over a slightly shorter trip and both are better off; there was a lot to like about Sissi Guihen's run that day, she gets the trip well and on her best form arguably has the beating of Neuilly.

The card closes with The Last Race Handicap and it is named not for this particular event, but for a season-long campaign to raise prize

money for the very last race of the year on August Bank Holiday. This is a low level handicap over 9 furlongs for horses rated 55 or below and usually these are trappy affairs when it comes to finding the winner. Gary Moore's Lightning Spirit has won twice, at Kempton and Brighton, over a mile and sets the standard. The principal local flag bearer is Grey Panel, a prolific scorer for Tony Le Brocq's stable and he gets 16lb from the raider. The rest are basically disappointing, but there was support for La Verte Rue last time and Rebel Woman did win twice last season.

Selections

If I had Him
Lucifer's Shadow
Good Luck Charm
Sissi Guihen
Lightning Spirit