

UK raiders once again enjoyed a successful afternoon at Les Landes winning three out of the five racers including the feature event "The Brady and Gallagher 40th Anniversary Champion Hurdle". Five went to post for this year's renewal with the Neil Mulholland trained The Bay Bandit being sent off the long odds on favourite, Constanzina made the early running and still led jumping three from home down the back straight but then faded out of contention before being pulled up, this left Mr Opulence in front but The Bay Bandit eased into the race under Mattie Batchelor took the lead between the final two hurdles eventually passing the post two lengths in front of his challenger with the Agapanthus finishing a further eight lengths back in third.

Winning trainer Mulholland completed a quick fire double on the afternoon's card when Novabridge won The George and Leonora Handicap run over the minimum distance. With nine sprinters going to post the start was always going to be crucial and after a couple of failed attempts by the starter to get the field to line up for all to get a level break when he finally let the field go a number of the jockeys appeared to be caught napping. Novabridge was quick away before being settled back in third by his rider Michael Burn before regaining the lead turning for home and although Purley Queen, who was one of the horses that lost several lengths at the start was making late ground Novabridge never appeared in danger of getting beaten eventually winning by three lengths from Purley Queen with Chester'slittlegem running her best race back of the season six lengths back in third.

The third UK based winner of the afternoon came in the following "Hatstone Lawyers Handicap" when the Natalie Lloyd-Bevis trained Wicked Tara led from pillar to post, having never beaten a rival home in any of her racecourse appearances the four year old was racing off a handicap mark of just thirteen but on her debut for her new trainer showed a huge improvement on all past form to hold off the challenge of favourite Lucifer's Shadow by two lengths with Jackpot eight lengths back in third. Due to the winner's previous poor form the winning trainer was invited into the steward's room after the race to explain the reasons for this improved display, they accepted her explanation that the four year old had matured since her arrival in the yard and had been showing signs of improvement in her training the explanation was accepted but they also ordered that Wicked Tara be tested by the vet.

The first locally trained winner of the afternoon came in "The Building a Better Working World Handicap sponsored by EY (formally Ernst & Young) when the Tony Le Brocq trained Grey Panel burst through on the inner rail under Tim Clark to win by three lengths from Athania with Rebel Woman a length and a half back in third. This was the winning stables fourth winner of the season and puts them into second place in the Champion Trainer table one behind Neil Mulholland which is no mean feat as they only have three horses in the yard!

Final race of the afternoon produced another local winner as veteran King Kenny saw off the challenge of four UK and one German trained horse in the field of eight. The raider from Germany was Sworn Mammy who had been so impressive on her previous visit to Les Landes at the first June Meeting however yesterday she failed to sparkle having been pushed along at the rear of the field for most of the race eventually finishing fifth, at the business end of the field King Kenny burst to the front just over a furlong from home to win by ten lengths from Evergreen Forest with River Du Nord a further two lengths back in third.

Next meeting's feature event is The Jersey Derby which is on Sunday 27th July.