

If racegoers thought that conditions at this seasons two previous Jersey Race Club meetings had been unwelcoming and could only improve this time round, they were sadly wrong as the weather fluctuated between light and driving rain throughout the afternoon racing, which as a result led to a near deserted Les Landes as the hardy souls who decided to go racing took shelter.

However the prevailing rain did not curb the enthusiasm of the young riders who took part in the two pony races sponsored by Amy Builders Ltd that preceded the normal five race card. In the first event over four furlongs for ponies under 138cm the winners of last year's inaugural event Woody To You and rider Victoria Malzard once again led from pillar to post with Sophie Cawley on Ku Hi Charisma giving chase throughout to finish a never nearer seven length second, Hayden Runacres on Morwyn Tanya Maid back was back in third, with Amber Sahai on Poetry In Motion and Jamie McIntosh on Foxglove making up the field of five.

The second race for ponies over 148cm run over five and a half furlongs saw the lead change in the final furlong as Tom Marett on Free Destiny came with a well timed challenge to beat the partnership of Lily Dodd and Colbar Magic Max who had led from flag fall by four lengths, Paris Benest on Arctic Platinum finished third with the remainder of the field made up by Anais Cooke on Bay of Waves, William Cawley on Wild Orchid and Victoria Bennett on Ballymac.

The afternoon's thoroughbred action opened with "The George and Leonora Sullivan Perpetual Hurdle" a conditional hurdle race for horses who had yet to win a jumps race, four went to post with the Joan Le Brocq trained Landolino being sent off a hot odds on favourite. Landolino would of have been conceding a stone or more to his rivals if the race had been on the flat so in theory had the look of the afternoons banker if taking to hurdling, this he did in some style giving jockey Jamie Goldstein an armchair ride winning by over thirty lengths from the more experienced hurdler Reach Out with the appropriately named Les Landes back in third.

Second race of the afternoon "The David Picot Memorial Handicap" over seven furlongs saw Jemma Marshall pick up a winning spare ride due to Pas D'Action's intended rider Josh Baudains being one of a number of jockeys who together with race course commentator Lee McKenzie arrived late at the course due to travel problems. The Alyson Malzard trained winner who was having only his second run in a handicap got the better of stablemate Spanish Bounty in the afternoons closest finish of the afternoon to win by half a length with Fast Freddie two and a half lengths back in third.

Having missed the previous winner Baudains arrived in time to gain quick compensation winning the afternoon's feature event "The Jersey Bookmakers Warwick Vase" on the Christa Gilbert trained Major Maximus. The five year old has started the season in a rich vein of form having placed at the Easter meeting and winning last time out. Yesterday he responded instantly when Baudains asked him for his effort to win going away and crossing the line five lengths clear of Superduper with Vamos a further length back in third. Josh Baudains is currently learning his trade at the stables of Jo Hughes in Lambourn and has caught the eye of some of the UK racing press and media during the winter at the all weather tracks.

Tim Clark is another young local rider who is learning his trade in the UK under the astute guidance of Newmarket trainer Sir Mark Prescott, and he completed the afternoons soggy action with a fourth and fifth race double for trainer Tony Le Brocq, firstly in "The C I Racing and Hunt Club Handicap" on Grey Panel. The four year old had been considered a surprise winner at the Easter meeting but showed that it

was no fluke, passing the post ten lengths clear of Uniform Ruby who had won last time out in Guernsey with Toggle a further four lengths back in third.

Le Brocq and Clark then went on to complete a fine double in "The Geoffrey Edwards Memorial Handicap" with Fine The World saluting the judge some eighteen lengths clear of Laing Shinning with Neuilly two lengths back in third. As so often happens as ground conditions deteriorated during the course of the afternoon events winning margins became exaggerated as the ability to handle the soft going came into play, therefore the form of these races may not be replicated as the season progresses and the ground firms up, although it was pleasing that the afternoon saw three winners for the two local jockeys.

No doubt Race Club officials will be hoping conditions will improve for the remainder of the season, which continues with The Jubilee Meeting on Monday 4th June.