

Once again it was waterproof and broolly conditions for the hardy racing enthusiasts who ignored the morning's damp conditions and headed out west to Les Landes yesterday afternoon were rewarded with a dry afternoon as the early rain relented just before racing got under way with the running of the feature hurdle race on the Race Club's calendar.

This year's **Champion Hurdle** was sponsored by **Anthony and Sandra Taylor** saw five runners go to post with much of the pre race interest being whether Honest Nev's mare Fine The World would consent to race after her mulish behaviour at the previous meeting, fortunately there was no repetition of her idiosyncrasy as she jumped off with the rest of the field as the starter let them go. Pre race favourite Landolino was sent straight into the lead by Jockey Jamie Goldstein and was never headed, having given the seven year old a breather between four and three out which allowed both last year's Champion Hurdler Anfield Road and Fine the World to close Goldstein smoothly pulled clear approaching the home turn and was looking around for non existing dangers approaching the second last hurdle eventually passing the post a distance clear of the remainder of the field, Fine the World kept on gamely to come home second two lengths clear of Anfield Road.

The winner owned by Lavender Racing and trained by Joan Le Brocq in effect is still a novice as this was only his third outing over the jumps, but he has impressed with his quick and precise jumping on all three outings and gives the impression that there is still more improvement to come although he appears to enjoy the present ground conditions.

Second race of the afternoon was **The Balmoral Properties Handicap** named after the race sponsors and run over the minimum distance of five furlongs. On this occasion the field got off to a level start with Jemma Marshall taking up the early running on Kersivay with less than a couple of lengths covering the rest of the field, Marshall was able to keep the Alyson Malzard trained six year old at the head of the field and passed the post three quarters of a length ahead of stablemate Spanish Bounty who was ridden by the winners regular pilot Mattie Batchelor, Anna Galeria put in her best performance of the season to date two and a half lengths back in third.

The remaining three races were all won by horses that are showing improvement as the season progresses, firstly Grey Panel who won **The Cecilia Campbell Memorial Handicap** the Tony Le Brocq trained four year old was once again an impressive ride by young Tim Clark who again poached a couple of lengths off the remainder of the field on the turn for home to eventually win by four lengths from La Verte Rue with another improver Rebel Woman five lengths back in third. This was fourth time that Grey Panel has saluted the judge this season and his sole defeat this year came on Sarnian soil at L'Ancrese.

Jemma Marshall and Alyson Malzard completed their doubles on the afternoon's card with Pas D'Action's facile six lengths win in **The Jersey Race Club Thanks Its Loyal Supporters Handicap** over seven furlongs finishing six lengths clear of Toggle with the ever consistent Secret Assassin, who would appear to be in need of an act of kindness from the handicapper if he is to get his head in front again as he approaches the veteran stage, a length and a half back in third. A four year old Pas D'Action was given two runs earlier in the season in order to gain a handicap mark but is now taking advantage of what appears to have been a lenient opening rating although it should be noted both his wins have come on rain softened going.

Final race of the afternoon was subject to a bit of wishful thinking being having been titled **The Summer Must Come Soon Handicap** saw jockey Jamie Goldstein complete a first and last race double when coasting home on the Christa Gilbert trained Major Maximus. The five year old finished six lengths clear

of Neuilly with King Kenny two and a half lengths back in third. This was the Major's third win of the season and like the winners of the previous two races gives the impression that he could well win more races as the season continues.

With four meetings of the season to go the numerically large yard of Alyson Malzard heads the trainers championship with seven wins just one ahead of Angie Corson and the three horse stable of Tony Le Brocq. Jamie Goldstein and Tim Clark head the male jockey's title race with six winners apiece two ahead of Mattie Batchelor whilst Jemma Marshall now heads the female equivalent with four winners.

Next meeting is the annual evening meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July with a 6:30pm start