

The Jersey Race Club held their annual ladies day fixture at Les Landes yesterday afternoon with four of the five races on the card once again being sponsored by Ladbrokes.

The exception being the afternoons feature event The Coutts & Co Channel Islands Handicap, this race was restricted to horses with a handicap mark of 55 or under and saw seven go to post. Fast Freddie got off to his normal speedy start and was soon clear of the field with Vamos leading the chase, it was starting to look as if Freddie had stolen a crucial advantage as he came into the home straight some six lengths clear of his pursuers but approaching the final furlong the Brendan Powell trained UK raider Jackpot who had been some twelve lengths off the leader in last place turning for home came storming through to win by three and a half lengths from the long time leader with Vamos a further seven lengths back in third. The winner ridden by the trainer's daughter Jenny was winning on her eleventh racecourse appearance and had not even been placed in her ten previous outings.

The afternoon started with a rematch of the main protagonists from this year's C I Champion Hurdle, this time in The Ladbrokes Odds On! Reward Card Handicap Hurdle, the Sir Alex Ferguson UK trained runner If I had Him had just got up on the line to beat Landolino in the Champion and on a strict line of form it appeared that placing's would be reversed with Landolino being six pounds better off on this occasion. However If I Had Him's jockey Mattie Batchelor took his charge into the lead approaching three out and steadily pulled away to record an impressive eight length win over his main rival with Nordic Affair bringing up the rear a never closer seven lengths back in third.

Pas D'Action has been something of a revelation this season and once again took full advantage of the leniency he has been shown by the handicapper to take The Ladbrokes Odds On Big Three Coupon Handicap over seven lengths, confidently ridden by Laura Pike the Alyson Malzard trained five year old took the honours by three lengths from stablemate Spanish Bounty with First Cat the same distance back in third. As previously stated it is hard to fathom out the handicapping rational of the winner as yesterday he was racing off a mark of just one pound higher than he started the season even though this was his fourth success of the year together with three second placing's, it will be interesting to see how this effort is rated!

Another one of this seasons handicapping peculiarities meant that dual Jersey Derby winner Major Maximus was receiving weight from both Moose Moran and Neuilly in The Ladbrokes Ladies Day Handicap. Ridden by his regular veteran pilot David Cuthbert Major Maximus took over proceedings passing the furlong marker and such was the ease of his win Max passed the post some two and a half lengths clear of Neuilly despite Cuthbert not being able to ride a finish due to a slipping saddle which meant that horse and rider parted company some fifty yards past the finishing line, thankfully his rider was soon back on his feet and was able to accompany his charge into the winners enclosure.

Final race on the card was The Ladbrokes Oddsfather Handicap which with the field turning for home looked to be at the mercy of the two UK trained raiders I'm Harry and River Du Nord as they led the charge for home, however they were both mugged in the final fifty yards by the late challenge of Tony Proctor aboard the Guernsey trained Garden Party who won by a neck from I'm Harry with River Du Nord fading in the closing stages to finish five lengths away in third. Two punter had many reasons to thank Proctor for his well timed finish as it meant they shared the Tote Jackpot of £2,500

With just the traditional closing meeting of the season on August Bank Holiday Monday remaining Alyson Malzard appears to have the trainer's title in the bag as she is four clear of her main pursuers, while the jockeys title looks as if it will go to the wire with Mattie Bachelor and Tony Proctor on nine wins apiece, added to that both the Champion owner and Champion Race Horse are still up for grabs.