

JERSEY RACE CLUB

Pony Races Preview 21 April
By Bobsbest

With very few exceptions like Tim Clark, Josh Baudains and David Cuthbert all the successful jockeys riding at Les Landes nowadays are non-local pros who fly in for the day's racing and fly out again. The problem is that there are too few opportunities for local youngsters to get a first foot on the ladder.

That's why pony racing has been such an important addition to the racing scene at Les Landes. For the past couple of seasons there has been a single race day with a couple of pony races, but this year the action steps up with two race days, the first of which is this Sunday. The first two races on the card are for ponies under 138cm and 148cm sponsored respectively by Amy Builders and Heritage Joinery.

The first has attracted six runners and notably girls will be riding five of them, however, don't imagine for one moment that the competition will be any less fierce for that. Victoria Malzard, daughter of trainer Alyson, will be expected to score again on Woody To You, guaranteed to be fighting fit.

For the second race eight of the bigger ponies will line up and it's girl jockeys to the fore again. Mosstown Jojo is touted as a likely winner for the Malzard combination, but in an each-way betting heat – yes the bookies will be laying the odds – there's a whisper that Sasha Butlin's mount Everglade may be able to go a bit.

Whatever the results this will be valuable experience for the young pilots and great entertainment for racegoers. So, come early, the pony races are at 1.15 and 1.30 before the main programme starts at 2.30.