

Saturday racing returned to Les Landes after a break of many years, although no doubt Race Club officials will be slightly disappointed with the sparse crowd, those who did attend were rewarded with a near perfect evening with racing taking place against the backdrop of the other islands in clear view, on an evening like Saturday this stunning scenery is unrivalled by any other racecourse in the UK.

The card opened with the three runner "Big Bucks Is Coming Next Meeting Hurdle" which advertised the appearance of one of the most prolific staying hurdlers in history who will be parading at Les Landes on Friday 20th June. In truth to compare the three contenders on Saturday with Big Bucks would be like comparing Petticoat lane with Harrods! The art of a good training is to find the race to suit the horse and on Saturday the stable of Tony Le Brocq succeeded in their quest, having run over hurdles on three occasions prior to his arrival in Jersey, Mr Opulence's race form summary had shown a tendency of not being fluent in the jumping sphere, however on this occasion he showed no such inclination and had the race at his mercy half way down the back straight eventually coming home a facile eighteen length winner from hurdling debutant Steely who finished half a length clear of the most experienced hurdler of the three Reach Out.

Second race of the evening saw the running of the "Geoffrey Edwards Memorial Handicap" the finish of which saw Pas D'Action just holding off the renewed challenge of stablemate Spanish Bounty by half a length with Fast Freddie an eye catching length and a half away in third. Disappointment of the race was Purley Queen who won at the last meeting over five furlongs but failed to reproduce the form over what would of appeared to be a more suitable trip, especially in the light that she finished two lengths behind Country Blue who was running over a trip that would appear to be beyond his range.

The feature race of the evening was The E D Capital Warwick Vase, five runners went to post and early betting seemed to indicate a big run was expected from Up In Flames who had previously run under UK trainer Martin Keighley before transferring to the local yard of Alyson Malzard, as he did at the previous meeting Up In Flames blazed a trail from the off but those who had followed the early money were soon ripping up their tickets as he faded out of contention eventually finishing a tailed off last, meanwhile at the business end of the race Becks Bolero gave his trainer Angie Corson her first winner of the season courtesy of a two length win from First Cat with King Kenny two and a half lengths back in third. Whilst not wishing to downgrade Becks Bolero's win punter should take heed of the performances of the three who followed him home. First Cat has now run three consistent races this season and on this occasion was running over a trip that would stretch his stamina, it is a case of the opposite with regard to King Kenny who finished third, as whilst this sort of trip would not of been a problem a couple of years ago, these days he needs a tougher test of stamina and would be a serious contender over one mile four furlongs, the form of Sweet Liberta should be ignored as she patently resented the application of blinkers, she will no doubt be seen to better effect later in the season although connections must be frustrated as they try to discover the secret to this temperamental filly.

At the Easter meeting the Christa Gilbert trained five year old Lucifer's Shadow failed to sparkle however on this occasion he showed his rivals a clean pair of heels in the "What's New Pussycat Handicap" eventually passing the post five lengths clear of Athania with Rocquaine a further two lengths back in third. What the Race Club's new handicapper makes of the winner's performance will be most interesting as both the second and third seemingly ran their best races for some time whilst race favourite Grey Panel who eventually fished fourth put in a lacklustre display.

The final race of the evening "The Graceland Handicap" produced simply one of the most stunning displays witnessed at the course for many years, it was also tinged with irony (tongue in cheek) at the

end of a week of the D Day celebrations as our local equine fraternity were unable to hold off the raid of the German trained Sworn Mammy who outclassed her four rivals in the two mile event, held up at the back of the field until four furlongs from home the seven year old simply ghosted passed his rivals as if they were standing still winning hard held by fifteen lengths from the odds on favourite Landolino, with this display in mind any future runners from the Herr Storp yard will be worth noting as they obviously do not come over to enjoy the scenery even given the aforementioned idyllic conditions of Saturday.

Next renewal is the annual Friday evening meeting on 20th June with the first race due off at 18:30.