

Appropriately it was the mare Lady Petrus who saluted the judge when landing the afternoons feature race for one of the Jersey Race Club's most loyal supporters on their annual Ladies Day meeting at a blustery Les Landes yesterday.

The Coutts & Co Handicap run over a mile and a quarter also produced the afternoons closest finish as the Bunny Roberts owned Lady Petrus saw off the challenges of both Jackpot and Rebel Woman to win by a neck and a head. The nine year old mare trained by first season trainer Karl Kukk and ridden by Philip Prince had shown that she was still enjoying her racing by finishing second on her last two runs and on this occasion was running over her optimum trip.

The winning owner, trainer and jockey combination made it a quick fire double on the afternoons card in the following "**Ladbroke's Ladies Day Handicap**" when First Cat got the better of Pas D'Action by two lengths with Fast Freddie a further ten lengths back in third. The one eyed seven year old who at times last season had not looked the easiest of rides has been a model of consistency this season as he has not finished out of the first three for his new trainer who could not have a better testament for advertising his training abilities in his quest to attract new owners to the stable!

The training career of the latest recruit to the local racing scenes training ranks James Moon, got off to a less auspicious start in the opening race. This was to have been a four runner hurdle but due to the high winds playing havoc with the wings of the hurdles the course stewards took the decision to remove the jumps on safety grounds and run the race over two miles on the flat. Winner of the previous meetings hurdle race Reach Out was a non runner, then the race was reduced to a match when the Moon trained Pomander who had been retired to the paddocks and not raced for three years proved reluctant to go down to the start and when asked to line up planted herself and steadfastly refused to race. As for the race itself the first circuit was run at a pedestrian pace with hot favourite Mr Opulence giving a lead to Up in Flames they eventually started racing six furlongs from home and although Up in Flames got alongside his rival turning for home Richard Hobson asked Mr Opulence for a bit extra and they eased away to win by six lengths. This win puts Mr Opulence clear in this season's Champion Horse table.

The "**Ladbroke's Life Handicap**" over five furlongs once again saw one or two jockeys attempting to get a flyer which led to a false start as starter Mark Evans quickly recalled the field, second time round the field got off to a level break and it was the well backed favourite Novabridge who set the early pace but his supporters were binning their tickets as Purley Queen went clear of his field entering the final furlong to pass the post four lengths in front of Chester'slittlegem with Kersivay just a head back in third. The winner probably appreciated the overnight rain which had eased ground conditions whilst the runner up has now been placed in his last three races and could well finally get his head in front when returned to seven furlongs or a mile.

Final race of the afternoon saw another nine year old take the honours as King Kenny won "**The Ladbroke's Clarity Machine Handicap**" as in the Jersey Derby Rossetti was sent into an early lead but on this occasion his rivals stayed with him and he was a spent force at the business end of the race, in another close finish Nora Looby just got her charge to see off the challenge of UK raider Midnight Sequel by a neck, the pair finishing ten lengths clear of Herbalist.

With two meetings remaining both the Champion Trainer and Jockey championship titles are both wide open with Neil Mulholland one winner ahead of Alyson Malzard in the former whilst Mattie Batchelor and Philip Prince are on eight winners a piece three ahead of Freddie Tett in the latter.

Next meeting on Bank Holiday Monday August 25th features the running of the seasons top handicap race The Clarendon, with eight of the twelve entries having already won at Les Landes this season it looks be one of the hottest renewals this race has seen for many seasons.