

The Jersey Race Club were rewarded with a bumper turnout at the first September meeting to be held for many years, indeed such was the attendance yesterday the clubs officials must surely give consideration to repeating the exercise next season

The opening race of the afternoon was "The Gone with the Wind Handicap Hurdle" much has been said over the last couple of seasons in regard to the competitiveness and field sizes for jump racing at Les Landes, however these races do add to the attraction of the afternoons sport, yesterday was no exception and it was this year's local Champion Hurdler The Bay Bandit who took the honours courtesy of a two and a half length success from Mr Opulence with long time leader Herbalist fading out of contention to finish a distance behind the front two.

Five furlong sprints at les Landes are normally linked with chaotic starts, however for once the field got off to a level break in "The Bill Shoemaker Record Handicap" although on this occasion habitual trailblazer was unable to make the pace and ran a disappointing race eventually brining up the rear of the field as it was left to his stablemate Spanish Bounty to salute the judge by a fats diminishing head from Chester'slittlegem with Country Blue a further length back in third. Those who backed the winner on the tote were rewarded with odds of 24/1 compared to the 9/1 starting price on the bookies boards.

UK raiders have enjoyed fruitful visits during the course of the season and this continued in "The Animal Health Trust Celebration Mile Handicap" as City Ground ridden by top lady amateur Serena Brotherton and trained in North Yorkshire by veteran Mick Easterby made their long trip over worthwhile, after being held up just off the pace for most of the race the seven year old was sent for home just over a furlong out and drew away from the field to win a touch cosily by tree and a half lengths from Lucifer's Shadow who now finished second in three of his last three races with Kristal Hart a further length and a half back in third.

The conditions for "Good Queen Bess Handicap" meant that only horses trained in the Islands since the 1st July this year and who have not won a race this season were eligible to run, there for punters were unsurprisingly weary in their approach to placing their hard earned cash on the five contestants. Once again Athania decided that she was not in the mood for racing and planted herself at the start, one out the five had to win and it was Up in Flames who led from pillar to post winning by nine lengths from Rocquaine who appears to be trip less with the disappointing favourite Rebel Woman six lengths back in third.

The curtain came down on the seasons sport with the running of "The It Doesn't Matter Any More Handicap" Midnight Sequel who had won the seasons most prestigious handicap at the last meeting "The Clarendon" who was sent off the odds on favourite but despite the urgings of his rider he never looked like getting to the front eventually finishing second two lengths behind River Du Nord with Jackpot five lengths back in third.

After racing the awards for the various season long championships were presented, Mattie Batchelor and Jemma Marshall Men's and Ladies jockeys title, Uk Trainer Neil Mulholland took the trainers title, The Tony Le Brocq trained Mr Opulence won Champion Race horse and one of the Jersey Racing scene staunchest supporters Bunny Roberts collected the Champion Owners trophy although she was quick to acknowledge the efforts of her trainer Karl Kukk during the year.

Whilst there are trophies to collect for these various championship winners to reward their efforts, there are three other Race Club officials who deserve a mention for their efforts over the year, Gareth

Colley took over the unenviable job of Race Club handicapper at the start of the season, this is a position where it appears that you can never please everyone, however it is noticeable that compared with recent seasons there have been hardly any negative comments made with regard to how he has rated horses for their performances leading to the conclusion he must be doing something right. Clerk of the course Mark Evans has produced safe racing ground throughout the season which is no easy task on the cliff top circuit and finally the Race Club secretary Charlotte Dickson's organisational efforts have been rewarded as most meetings have been well attended, as previously stated these three do not receive trophies however they thoroughly deserve the plaudits for their season long efforts although that being said they should not rest on their laurels but begin planning next season as Easter Monday is only six months away!