

JERSEY RACE CLUB

Preview Easter Monday Fixture 2015

By Bobsbest

After a harsh winter, the scene is set for dry and sunny weekend for the opening meet of the Jersey Race Club. All the races are sponsored and it is great to have the support of so many local and UK owners and trainers. With a record number of 43 runners, including 11 for the feature race, the racing will be competitive and exciting. Gates open at 12 noon so come along and have a bite to eat and soak up the atmosphere prior to the first race which is off at 2.30pm. `Honest Nev` and the other bookies will be there to take your bets or you might get better odds at the TOTE!

The new season opens with the President's Hurdle, sponsored by the Club's new chief Anthony Taylor and his wife. Sadly it seems jumping is still the cinderella and it would be a walk-over were it not for the UK raiders ~~some trainers and owners seem keen to do without~~. Karl Kukk's Steely runs from 10lb out of the handicap and can have little chance. Red Four has won a Doncaster fillies' maiden hurdle and more recently an amateurs' flat race at Windsor. She has to give 3lb to The Bay Bandit, a regular and winning raider from Neil Mulholland's increasingly successful yard. He had a recent warm-up on the flat and will be hard to beat.

The Cunningham Handicap sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham is a mile and a half race for horses rated up to 65. The Baker and Mulholland yards are joined by those of fellow raiders Tony Carroll and Sue Gardner. Having won a maiden fillies' race when with Charles Hills, Movementneverlies has not been able to repeat the success and is now in the care of Karl Kukk. She looks to have it all to do under top weight and is best watched. Four Nations hasn't had much racing of late, but anything George Baker sends must be respected. Passionate Affair won for Tom Dascombe, but drew a blank with Jamie Osborne and now Alyson Malzard trains him for the Club President. Placed 5 times in 13 starts, he should be good enough to pick up a race or two. Lion's Charge is an 8 year old maiden; San Quentin did manage to win a little handicap on the sand at Lingfield last November, which is better form than most of these boast. If the going is on the soft side Major Maximus has the form to show them all a clean pair of heels.

The Jersey Bookmakers Handicap over 7 furlongs will challenge the starter with 11 lining up near the horseboxes. Informality lacks sufficient runs to qualify for a handicap mark so carries automatic top weight and should be watched. Baltic Prince carries a penalty for his Kempton win last month and

may be a cut above these rivals. Benoordenhout won twice for Jonathan Portman and is now with Tony Le Brocq whose small yard has enjoyed great success. Brown Velvet was 1 for 7 with Hugo Palmer and now joins Alyson Malzard. Greek Islands doesn't look a star, but he's a winner and had a pipe opener early last month in which he didn't run at all badly.

The Liberation Brewery Handicap sponsored by a regular supporter of the Club, is a mile and a quarter race featuring multiple winner I'm Harry. Four times successful in seven attempts at Les Landes, he hasn't run since last July, so a paddock inspection is recommended. Rossetti has looked very good on occasions while Joan Lowery's colours make a welcome return on newcomer Fourni, twice a winner in Ireland and likely to make her mark at Les Landes. Completely unfancied, Hawaiian Freeze was noted making significant progress over a shorter trip on the last day of the 2014 season and she is likely to lose her maiden tag for trainer James Moon before long.

The Bloodstock Advisory Services Handicap, sponsored by another loyal Club supporter, closes the card with a low level handicap for horses rated up to 50, over an extended mile. They may lack quality, but these modest affairs provide some of the most competitive races and this is another pin-sticker's delight. It is widely believed that 3 year olds can't win at Les Landes, but Destiny's Shadow will try to change that although she's beaten only one rival in five starts. Another of Dark Angel's offspring, Lucifer's Shadow, may be capable of keeping the prize at home.

Selections:

The Bay Bandit
Major Maximus
Baltic Prince
Rossetti
Lucifer's Shadow