

MALZARD READY FOR D’ACTION **SUNDAY’S JERSEY RACING PREVIEW**

By Mark Johnson *

Multiple Champion Channel Islands Trainer Alyson Malzard has made a quiet start to the 2015 season (just one winner from 20 runners so far this year puts her currently fourth in the trainer’s league table) but it is usually about this point in the campaign that the Malzard team finally find their stride.

Mrs Malzard is due to send out seven runners from her St Ouen’s yard, adjacent to Les Landes Racecourse, at this Sunday’s Jersey race meeting when a total of 39 horses are declared to contest the five races on the card (first race 2.30).

Four of the Malzard squad turn out for the Blookstock Advisory Services Handicap (3.05) over 7 furlongs but one of them has very much made this race his own in the last few years. **PAS D’ACTION** is simply a standing dish in this race having won it in 2012, finishing runner-up in 2013 and then winning it again last year by half-a-length from stablemate **SPANISH BOUNTY**.

The distance of this race, seven-eighths of a mile or 1400m, is generally regarded as the most specialist distance in the whole of horse racing (often sapping the stamina of sprinters stepping up in distance or all happening too quickly for “milers” stepping down in trip) so a horse who is at his optimum at this distance is hard to find. **PAS D’ACTION**, owned by Guernsey Race Club President Jim Jamouneau, is that horse.

Of his nine career wins, eight have been achieved over this exact course and distance and also all but one of his victories have come when ridden by his regular pilot Jemma Marshall.

At the weights **PAS D’ACTION**, who was an excellent second in the Jersey Guineas here at the last meeting, once again may have stable companion **SPANISH BOUNTY** to fear while English-trained raider **ADMIRABLE ART** also enters calculations but is best on soft ground.

Feature race of the day is the Hawk Family Office 2015 Warwick Vase (3.40) over 1¼ mile. The Malzard runner here is **CARRERA** who looked a little unlucky in the run when runner-up to **LUCIFERS SHADOW** over a slightly shorter trip, on his Jersey debut, at the last meeting. Although his overall profile of just one win from 26 career starts isn’t encouraging he may be worth giving another chance to at the expense of ten-times Les Landes winner **GREY PANEL** and dual Jersey Derby winner **MAJOR MAXIMUS**.

Last year’s Jersey Derby winner **ROSSETTI**, another Aly Malzard trainee, will try something different on Sunday - he will make his jumping debut in the opening Maiden Hurdle (2.30) in which his four

rivals include last year's Warwick Vase winner BECK'S BOLERO (also making his jumps debut) and recent French import CAPTAIN JAMES whose new trainer Christa Gilbert had her first ever treble as a trainer at the last meeting.

It would be no surprise at all if Gilbert had another successful day on Sunday and perhaps two of her winners a fortnight ago, **LUCIFERS SHADOW** and **AUSSIE LYRICS** can score again.

LUCIFERS SHADOW actually won the extended mile Handicap (4.15) on this card twelve months ago by five lengths and must have every chance of following up at the chief expense of the luckless English-trained POLYDAMUS who is still seeking his first ever career win at his thirty-third attempt.

Most impressive of the Gilbert-trained winners a fortnight ago was **AUSSIE LYRICS** who won with considerably more in hand than the official winning margin of two lengths would imply. He looks capable of defying top weight in the concluding 1¾ mile Handicap (4.50).

- 2.30 Rossetti
- 3.05 Pas D'Action (Nap)
- 3.40 Carrera
- 4.15 Lucifers Shadow
- 4.50 Aussie Lyrics

2015 Channel Islands Leading Jockeys (After 3 meetings - 15 races)

Jockey	Rides	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Prize Money	R.O.I
Mattie Batchelor	14	6	5	2	£15,745	-£2.59
Jemma Marshall	10	3	2	0	£7,030	+£5.00
Freddie Tett	6	2	0	0	£2,920	+£1.00
Philip Prince	12	1	1	3	£3,370	-£7.50

2015 Channel Islands Leading Trainers (After 3 meetings - 15 races)

Trainer	Runners	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Prize Money	R.O.I
Tony Carroll (E)	5	3	2	0	£7,285	+£2.42
George Baker (E)	6	3	1	1	£5,660	-£0.43
Christa Gilbert (J)	5	3	0	1	£4,695	+£4.50
Aly Malzard (J)	20	1	5	1	£5,535	-£14.50

*International racing commentator, and RacingUK TV presenter, Mark Johnson will be calling the action at Les Landes on Sunday.