

Post Race Write Up 26.06.15

The fifth meeting of the racing season took place on perfect racing ground officially described as Good, Good to Firm in places.

The feature race of the day, The Quilter Cheviot Handicap over 7 furlongs also produced the best finish of the day. Generously sponsored by one of the Race Club's longest standing sponsors Quilter Cheviot who were entertaining 350 of their clients at the meeting. The field got off to a good level break, and were taken along early by Movementneverlies under Tom Garner. Turning into the home straight and Spanish Bounty kicked on under the treble seeking Mattie Batchelor, closely followed by the other Malzard runner Pas D'Action under Gemma Marshall, and it looked like the two market leaders would fight out the finish between them. However Mark Lawson had other ideas, and his persistence on the Corson trained Chester'Sittlegem started to pay off as the mare started to pick-up against the stands rail and came with a rattling late run to collar Spanish Bounty 50 yards from the finish to eventually win going away by a length at odds of 6/1, with Pas D'Action back in third.

The evening opened with The El Presidente Handicap Hurdle over 2m 1 furlong, with a small but select field of 3 after Reach Out was declared a non-runner. The race looked a match between the last time out winner Agapanthus under Mark Quinlan, and the last time out faller Rossetti under the evergreen Mattie Batchelor, with Rossetti just shading it in the betting at 4/5. The third runner Dalmo under Tom Garner was looking to end a run of disappointing efforts since coming to Jersey. Rossetti jumped out in front, with Mattie Batchelor no doubt keen to let the gelding have a good view of his hurdles. After the first circuit Rossetti was still the comfortable leader, and jumping slickly and fluently was showing no ill effects from his fall at the last meeting, he was followed by Agapanthus and Dalmo who travelled noticeably better than in his previous races. Turning down the back for the final time and it was obvious that Rossetti was travelling much the better of the trio out in front, and after the third last the other two runners were off the bridle. Turning into the straight Rossetti had travelled powerfully into a commanding lead, and all he had to do was negotiate the final two obstacles which he duly did for 5 length win from Agapanthus, with the improved Dalmo back in third. It is hard to see past Rossetti for the Champion Hurdle at the next meeting such was the ease of this win.

The second race was the La Vallette Handicap over 5 furlongs generously sponsored by La Vallette Investment Management, for which a field of 3 went to post. The odds on favourite was Country Blue under Mattie Batchelor, with Kersivay under Gemma Marshall next in the betting and Frankie M the outsider of the 3. Country Blue jumped off in front, followed by Kersivay and Frankie M who was roused along from the start. Turning into the straight and the Malzard trained Country Blue was obviously travelling much the better, and stretched away to beat Kersivay by an easy 3 1/2 lengths, with a further 4 1/2 lengths back to the improved Frankie M. The result meant doubles on the day for trainer Aly Malzard and jockey Mattie Batchelor.

After the disappointing fields for the first two races it was pleasing to see competitive fields of 7 runners for the 4th and 5th races. The 4th race over 1 mile 1 furlong saw the Jersey trained Carrera second in his last 5 races installed the 11/8 favourite to break this sequence, closely followed by the English George Baker trained Ancient Greece. The field got off to a good level break, and Herbalist showing none of the stubbornness of the previous meeting led a closely packed field at a good pace. As they turned into the straight Carrera was sent for home, with the pack in pursuit, and staying on from the rear was the lightly weighted French import Captain James under Alice mills. With a furlong to run it was still Carrera out in front, but Captain James was beginning to eat into the lead and eventually passed the once again bridesmaid Carrera to win going away by a length at odds of 9/2,

with a further 5 lengths back to Ancient Greece in third. This was a much improved run from the winner who must be one to follow for the remainder of the season.

The fifth and final race of the day was The Ravenscroft Handicap over 1 mile 4 furlongs. The two English runners, I'm Harry at 11/10 and the 8 year old maiden Lion's Charge at 9/4 headed the betting with the Gilbert trained Aussie Lyrics at 5/2 looking to put a disappointing run last time out behind him. As is normal the field was led by the Kukk trained Steely under Tom Garner, with the rest of the field tightly packed behind. Heading down the back straight and the so far disappointing Fourni had already cried enough at the back of the field. Turning into the home straight Steely had been headed, and the field was led into the straight by bottom weight King Kenny under Josh Browning, but behind him the grey Aussie Lyrics was travelling powerfully under Freddie Tett and he drew upsides with just over a furlong to run. Given his head in the final furlong the grey went on to win by 4 lengths from an improved King Kenny, while running on back in third was the last time out winner Eightfold under Mark Lawson. The result made it a double on the day for trainer Christa Gilbert.

Right on cue the mist rolled in 10 minutes after the last race, but this didn't stop the party's continuing inside the marquees at this popular evening meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone for the Champion Hurdle meeting and a bumper 6 race card on Sunday July 12th.