

Beautiful sunshine and perfect fast going greeted race goers and horses at the Jersey Race Clubs second meeting of the season.

The first race of the day was The Hawk Family Maiden Hurdle over 2 miles. 3 went to post in a race restricted to horses who have not won a hurdle race. Best of the 3 on flat form was the James Moon trained and Richard Hodson ridden Hawaiian Freeze, winner over 1m4f last season, however Passionate Affair was sent off the ½ odds on favourite. As to be expected the field jumped off at a sedate pace as all were keen to get a good sight of the first hurdle which saw Passionate Affair on the inside jump this upsides Hawaiian Freeze on his outside. For the first circuit all horses jumped well, with the lead alternating between Passionate Affair and Hawaiian Freeze, with Gunpowder Gertie sat 3rd. Heading out on to the final circuit and the pace quickened with Passionate Affair and Hawaiian Freeze still upsides jumping well, approaching 3 out Gunpowder Gertie under Shaun Payne cried enough. This left the two leaders to battle it out over the final two obstacles with Hawaiian Freeze eventually staying on strongest to score by 4 lengths at 2/1.

Second race of the day was The Bloodstock Advisory Services Handicap over 7 furlongs, with a near capacity 11 runner field. The Karl Kukk trained Valmina a winner over 5f at the last meeting was sent off the 2/1 favourite under Nick Slatter. Despite the large field at this notoriously tricky start the field got off to a good break, and the habitual front runner Country Blue under Mattie Batchelor blitzed the field along at a furious pace which he maintained turning in to the straight, but the challengers were queueing up in behind and stamina soon came in to play as the English trained Tax Reform took over from the fading Country Blue. Tracking this one through was Pas D'Action under Gemma Marshall and approaching the furlong marker he passed the leader, and eventually went on to win at 4/1 by a length with Tax Reform 2nd and the favourite Valmina 3rd. This was good form by the Alyson Malzard trained winner who generally runs best with cut in the ground.

Feature race of the day was The El Presidente 2016 Warwick Vase for which a select field of 8 went to post. After one false start, Steely under Philip Prince was driven straight in to the lead, with the Tony Le Brocq trained Benoordenhout under Tim Clark sat second, and close up behind Larch and Major Maximus. Approaching the 4f mark Steely who had been driven for the majority of the race was passed by the second who took up the running and led into the straight, while the disappointing Aussie Lyrics who had moved into 2nd under heavy driving began to fade. In behind the Shaun Payne ridden Black Night tried to mount a challenge, and he was followed through by the Christa Gilbert trained Major Maximus. Despite Black Night trying close the gap Benoordenhout stayed out stoutly to win by two lengths at 5/1, with Major maximus running well on unfavoured ground in 3rd.

Fourth race on the card was the Plantagenet Handicap over 1 mile, for which a field of 10 went to post with last time out winner Grey Panel sent off the favourite. The field got off to a level break with Captain James under Mark Quinlan on the inside of The Angie Corson trained Fast Freddie under Nora Looby who was soon sent off into the lead. Close up behind sat Admirable Art on the inside of Lucifer's Shadow and First Cat out wide. Fast Freddie led into the straight but was soon passed by Lucifers Shadow under Alice Mills, with Admirable Art gradually responding to his jockeys urgings beginning to stay on. Approaching the furlong marker the Tony Carroll trained Admirable Art went past the leader and then literally sprinted clear to win going away by 8 lengths at 7/2, with Lucifer's Shadow running well to take second from long-time leader Fast Freddie.

The final race of the day was The Hawk Family Handicap over the maximum flat distance in Jersey of 1m 6f. Favourite at 11/8 was the Tony le Brocq trained Mr Opulence, and a field of 6 went to post. The favourite took them along in the early stages on the inside of Dalmo under Alice Mills, with King Kenny and the newcomer Cahill close up in behind. Going past the winning post for the first time and

King Kenny joined the front 2 to make a line of 3, with Cahill and the Alyson Malzard trained Fourni on his outside. Approaching 4 out and the front 3 started to feel the pinch and Fourni under Jemma Marshall made rapid headway to take up the lead, with the only horse able to track her through being Cahill under Mark Quinlan. As they swung into the straight Fourni held a 4 length advantage from Cahill. Cahill was starting to stay on strongly for his jockey's urgings and drew upsides under his big weight, but was unable to find a way past despite a gallant effort and finally went down by $\frac{1}{2}$ length to the surprise winner who returned at odds of 10/1.