

The Jersey Race Clubs 2016 season finally got underway, and after the cancellation of the first meeting the ground had been produced in perfect condition by Clerk of the Course Mark Evans.

7 went to post for the feature race, The Dallas Burston Group Jersey Guineas. Spring Dixie under Mattie Batchelor cut out the early running but was soon joined by Eightfold under Shaun Payne which ensured a true pace. The one eyed First Cat stalked them in 3rd under Phillip Prince, with the rest of the field close up bar Engaging Smile who was struggling to go the pace. Approaching 3 out First Cat made a sweeping run around the outside to lead into the straight, with the two early leaders starting to tread water. The field fanned right across the track and this allowed Pas D'Action under a patient ride from regular partner Jemma Marshall to be produced up the inside rail, and the duo ran on to record a comfortable 3 length victory for trainer Aly Malzard. The English trained Tax Reform ran on narrowly beating First Cat for second place.

A field of 5 went to post for the opener, with the English trained Vertueux a none runner. Steely was sent off in to an immediate lead with Rossetti and Master Burbidge upsides behind and Fourni and Dalmo observing from the rear. Steely having set off at a ferocious pace was given a breather turning into the straight for the first time, and set out on the final circuit with a 5 length advantage with the order unchanged in behind. A good jump at the 3rd last by the leader saw the lead increase and Phillip Prince stepped on the gas rounding the bottom bend to turn into the straight with a 15 length advantage, with Rosetti in second in front of the tiring Master Burbidge. Despite the early gallop Steely showed no signs of stopping, and maintained his advantage with fluent leaps over the final two obstacles. Despite getting 2 ½ stone from Rosetti this was still an impressive first time out performance by the winner, and a good start to the day for Karl Kukk who's Dalmo ran on for 3rd place.

The Jersey Bookmakers Handicap over the minimum distance of 5f attracted a field of 8, including last year's Champion horse Country Blue. With a couple of the horses quite fractious at the start the race got underway at the second time of asking. Haadeeth was ridden off in to the lead with Hawaiian Freeze driven to join him, this furious early pace left the normal front running Country Blue sat in 3rd. Turning in and Country Blue steered towards the stand side rail took up the running, and his run was tracked through by Nick Slatter on the Tony Carroll trained Valmina. Approaching the furlong marker Valmina took up the running, with Brown Velvet running on up the inside rail, and Chesterslittlegem starting to stay on strongly having being out paced early. Valmina started to stretch his lead in the final furlong eventually posting an impressive 5 length win from Country Blue, and Chesterslittlegem back in third running encouragingly over a trip too short for her.

Fourth race of the day was over the Derby distance of 1 ½ miles, and 7 went to post for this The Liberation Handicap. The illustrious field included 3 former derby winners, with last year's winner Aussie Lyrics giving weight all round. Early running was cut out by Passionate Affair, with King Kenny sitting 2nd and Major Maximus close up. Held up right out the back was Aussie Lyrics under Eoin Walsh who gave the leaders a full 12 lengths at one point. Approaching the 4-furlong marker and King Kenny took up the running, while Aussie Lyrics started to make ground from the rear. Turning in and it was all change, King Kenny gave up his short lived lead to Major Maximus who cruised up the inside rail under Alice Mills, while Aussie Lyrics swept round the outside. Major Maximus was still to be asked for an effort, while Aussie Lyrics was being pushed along having made up considerable ground. This left the Tony Le Brocq trained Mr Opulence normally more at home over hurdles, and coming back from a year out and 5lb out of the handicap to mount a serious looking challenge to

Major Maximus in the final furlong, however this was in vain as Major Maximus easily had enough in reserve to maintain a one length advantage to the line to win for Christa Gilbert.

A tricky finale saw 10 runners go to post for the competitive looking The Bloodstock Advisory Services Handicap. Lady Petrus set off in front, closely pursued by the normally front running Fast Freddie under Michelle Hooper while Captain James sat 3rd with Ocean Crystal on his outside. Behind these Grey Panel hugged the rail under Tim Clark to the inside of Lucifer's Shadow. Turning down the back Fast Freddie took over as Lady Petrus back peddled, while the rest were tightly grouped in behind. Approaching 4 out Frankki M began to make ground around the wide outside, and he and his stable mate Fast Freddie led the field in to the straight with Ocean Crystal forming a line of 3. Ocean Crystal soon asserted of the 3, but was soon challenged by Grey Panel and Captain James who emerged from the chasing pack. Approaching the final furlong and Grey Panel took it up and eventually won going away by 4 lengths, with the stable mates Captain James and Lucifer's Shadow running well in 2nd and 3rd respectively.