

Local trainer Alyson Malzard notched up a hat-trick at Les Landes yesterday winning the first three races which included The Jersey Derby as Rossetti led from pillar to post to land the Race Club's most prestigious race of the season.

Judged by her high strike rate over previous seasons Malzard had been having a quiet season with only two wins prior to yesterday's meeting but her afternoon got off to the best of starts in the opening "101 Years Young Handicap Hurdle" Reach Out ridden by Freddie Tett was the outsider of the field in the betting and looked on paper to have a mountain to climb as he was carrying sixteen pounds more than his allotted handicap mark, the two UK raiders Dark and Dangerous and Benny's Quest were the two favourites in the betting and made the early running but approaching the third last hurdle it was the final member of the quartet of runners Athania who appeared to be going best however the mare hit the hurdle and gave Josh Baudains a taste of the Les Landes turf as he had no chance of staying in the saddle, her departure left Benny's Quest clear but turning for home the leader started to tire and the eventual winner cruised past and cantered to an easy twelve length win from Dark and Dangerous who stayed on at one pace to take second with the weary Benny's Quest a further six lengths back in third.

Malzard then took The Liberation Brewery Handicap" run over seven furlongs when Pas D'Action ridden by Jemma Marshall held off a late challenge from the fast finishing Chester'slittlegem to win by a length with Spanish Bounty three lengths back in third.

The hat-trick was completed in the afternoons feature event The Jersey Derby, given his impressive displays at the first two meetings of the season and his record of not having been beaten at Les Landes it was not surprising that the George Baker trained I'm Harry proved to be a popular choice and was sent off an odds on favourite, however it was clear from flag fall that the Malzard stable had decided to make the race a true test of stamina as Rossetti scorched off into the lead, passing the post first time round fifteen lengths clear of his rivals who appeared confident that the early leader would come back to them down the back straight, although the lead did diminish slightly this looked due to jockey Craig Walker giving Rossetti a breather between the four and three furlong markers he then asked his charge to quicken again and the six year old duly obliged and stayed on and never in danger of being passed to reward connections for their enterprising tactics winning by seven lengths from Midnight Sequel with I'm Harry a further four lengths back in third. This was Rossetti's second "Derby" win as he won the Jump Jockeys Derby over the classic distance at Epsom last season. As for his rider he appears to enjoy winning big races as prior to yesterday his last winning ride was way back in 2008 when he rode Blueberry Hill to win the Newmarket Town Plate, That historic race is the oldest to be run under rules in Britain following its introduction by King Charles II in 1665.

The following Animal Health Trust Handicap saw first season trainer Karl Kukk visit the winners enclosure for the first time after no less than five seconds this season, when First Cat held off the challenge of his new stable mate Herbalist by a neck in the afternoons closest finish the pair finishing three lengths clear of George Baker. First Cat has been a model of consistency this season recording two seconds and two thirds in her four runs,

Trainer Kukk added another runners up place to his seasons tally when Lady Petrus who had been under pressure at halfway made up late ground in the final race of the day without threatening to pass the Neil Mulholland trained Agapanthus who stayed on stoutly to win by eight lengths, with Mr Opulence three quarters of a length back in third.

Next meeting is the annual "Ladies Day" on Sunday 10th August