

The first meeting of the 2015 Jersey Race Club season saw UK raiders take four of the five races in front of a bumper Bank Holiday crowd, however local trainer Tony Le Brocq prevented the whitewash when Grey Panel took the penultimate race on the card.

The afternoon started with three runners going to post in The Presidents Hurdle with The Bay Bandit being sent off an odds on favourite, all seemed to be going to plan when jockey Mark Quinlan took up the running after jumping the third last, but as The Bay Bandit turned for home he faded rapidly and was a beaten horse when taking a horrible looking fall at the last. Spectators feared the worst as the favourite lay on the ground but thankfully it appears he was only winded and to a round of applause he eventually got to his feet and was led off the track. His exit left Red Four who had taken over the lead between the last two hurdles to come home an easy sixteen length winner from long time leader Steely. With the favourite coming to grief those who were brave enough to put his two rivals in a forecast on the tote were rewarded with a healthy dividend of £66.

River du Nord who had been a winner at the final meeting of last season kicked off this season's campaign with a five length victory in The Cunningham Handicap. Held up towards the back of the field in the early part of the race the now eight year old was noted making stealthy progress on the inside rail and as the field made their turn for home jockey Jemma Marshall kicked for home and was able to hold off the challenge of race favourite San Quentin who had appeared to be tapped for toe at a crucial part of the race, with Major Maximus who had been absent from the track for most of last season made a pleasing return to the race course finishing three lengths further back in third.

The feature event of the afternoon The Bookmakers Handicap went to odds on favourite Baltic Prince, the Tony Carroll trained five year old had won twice on the all weather in the past couple of weeks and as a result was set to carry over eleven stone, but despite this burden and appearing to be struggling approaching the home turn jockey Mattie Bachelor was able to get his mount into the lead passing the furlong marker and eventually looked a cosy winner passing the post three lengths clear of Pas D'Action with First Cat running putting in another creditable performance a length and a half back in third. Country Blue put in an eye catching performance back in fourth over a trip that would stretch his stamina.

Historically UK trained horses have had a huge fitness advantage over their local counterparts at the Easter meeting so the style of Grey Panel's seven length win in The Liberation Brewery Handicap was a credit to his trainer Tony Le Brocq, once the seven year old hit the front he eased away from the field and although another locally trained horse Herbalist and UK raider I'm Harry gave chase winning jockey Tim Clark never had a moments worry. Once again punters who selected the first two in a straight forecast on the tote picked up a rewarding sum of £142.10

Final race on the card was The Bloodstock Advisory Handicap saw trainer Tony Carroll complete a double when Supa Seeker passed the post a length and a half clear of Edward Elgar with veteran Fast Freddie putting in a creditable performance three lengths back in third.

Racing action moves across to Guernsey next for their annual L'Ancrese meeting on Monday 4th May with the next meeting at Les Landes to be held on Sunday 10th May.