

JAZZY ON SONG FOR JERSEY JACKPOT

Sunday's Racing Preview

By Commentator Mark Johnson

The local racing season comes to close on Sunday at Les Landes Racecourse in St Ouen (first race 2:30) when the feature will be the most valuable race ever staged in the Channel Islands.

With £5,000 going to the winner, the Fir-Pine Development Handicap Hurdle Series Final over 2m2f (due off at 3:40) would be a significant prize in any racing jurisdiction and is the culmination of the season long series of jumps races on Jersey. To qualify horses had to run in at least two hurdle races on Jersey in 2016 and the race has attracted a competitive field of five of which four are locally trained and one is a UK-trained raider.

The notable absentee from the race is the sponsor's own Rossetti, who won the Champion Hurdle in July, but he has since gone on to showcase the increasing quality of Channel Islands' form by winning twice since in the UK.

In Rossetti's absence these are the five runners hoping to land Jersey's biggest ever Jackpot –

CAHILL (trained by Christa Gilbert and ridden by Marc Goldstein) has to concede 9lbs or more to his rivals in this contest but, having won twice earlier in the season here over hurdles, he went on to be beaten just a head by Rossetti in the Champion Hurdle and therefore is the class act. Has since finished a disappointing fourth over 2m4f and missed the last meeting following a below par piece of work.

JAZZY LADY (Sue Gardner/Lucy Gardner) the only UK-trained runner in the race, who earlier in her career won four times on the flat, is now a perfect two out of two in hurdle races here at Les Landes. She beat Sunday's rival Hawaiian Freeze 4 lengths over 2m4f on her debut here before following up with a 16 length success over 2m on Bank Holiday Monday. Trainer Sue Gardner is 3 for 3 with her runners here at Les Landes this year. Looks the one to beat.

FOURNI (Aly Malzard/Mattie Batchelor) has won twice at Les Landes this season, over 1m6f on the flat and then over 2 miles over hurdles. Has been well beaten by Jazzy Lady on her last two starts but has the assistance of multiple champion jockey of Mattie Batchelor in the saddle.

HAWAIIAN FREEZE (James Moon/Freddie Tett) supplied second-season trainer James Moon with his biggest ever winner when taking the prestigious 1m4f Clarendon Handicap, on the flat, at the last meeting. That was her third win of the year including a 2 mile maiden hurdle victory here in mid-May. Unexposed over jumps, and obviously in top form, but she needs to improve on what she has achieved so far over hurdles.

DALMO (Karl Kukk/Michelle Hooper) has won six times over hurdles but his only success in 16 starts at Les Landes came over 2m4f last August and he may find this shorter too sharp for him.

In conclusion there may not be very much between a trio of the runners if they all run to their best, but the improving **JAZZY LADY** is given the narrow vote over Hawaiian Freeze and Cahill in what promises to be one of the most competitive hurdle races run at Les Landes for many years.

For the second time in three years the Jersey Racing Season is ending with a rearranged “late summer meeting” in September due to an earlier abandonment during the season - this year it was the opening Easter Monday card in April. One of the undoubted stars all season long has been COUNTRY BLUE who has won four times over the specialist sprint distance of 5 ½ furlongs. There is no sprint over that distance at this meeting so in his pursuit of the Green Island Restaurant & The Prince of Wales Champion Horse Award he runs over the longer distance of seven furlongs up against his stablemate, from the Aly Malzard yard, **PAS D’ACTION** in the Millbrook Summer Handicap Sprint (2:30).

8 year-old PAS D’ACTION has been a model of consistency in 2016 and 7 furlongs is his optimum trip with 10 of his 12 career victories coming over this exact course and distance. Under his regular pilot Jemma Marshall he can win for the fourth time this year at the expense of his stable mate Country Blue and UK raider Mendacious Harpy.

It is exactly a year, and eleven races, since **AQUA ARDENS** recorded the most recent of his eight career victories but the British-trained raider has every chance of returning to the winner’s circle in the Humber Racing & Bloodstock Handicap (3:05) over the extended mile. The Mattie Batchelor ridden eight-year-old, who is trained by George Baker, looks the type who will excel at Les Landes and significantly gets 10lbs from currently the Channel Island’s highest rated horse Black Night who belatedly returns to the racecourse after injury forced him to miss the Jersey Derby at the end of July.

The 1m4f Ravenscroft Handicap (4:15) looks a really tricky race to solve with many of the seven runners coming into this race at the end of a disappointing 2016 campaign. That statement however does not apply to **GREY PANEL** who has already won twice this year. The Tony Le Brocq trained eight-year-old is undoubtedly better over a shorter trip but he did dead-heat for a race over this course and distance in June of 2012, so there is every hope that he will stay on this occasion. The dangers are the down in grade SPRING DIXIE and the enigmatic LADY PETRUS.

Just four go to post in the season finale – the 1m6f William Hill Handicap (4:50) in which Jersey Derby runner-up **BOWL IMPERIOR** may be the value bet

to beat the UK trained-raider FLUTTERBEE. Bowl Imperior is trained next to the track by Aly Malzard who at the end of racing will be crowned Champion Channel Islands' Trainer for the 13th time.

All the other end of season Trophy Presentations will also be made around the winner's enclosure at the end of racing and there will also be a parade of two Channel Island's racing stalwarts who now go into retirement. Both eleven-year-old King Kenny (the winner of 14 races including the 2011 Jersey Derby and Claredon Handicap) and twelve-year-old Fast Freddie (winner of 18 races including two this season and who runs in the second race on the card) go into retirement having been popular flag bearers for owners The Crawford Family and trainer Angie Corson.

As well as the most valuable race to ever been run in the Channel Islands on the card there is also a chance for punters to hit a big end of season payout with the popular Pick 4 Jackpot (running on races 2,3,4, and 5) having a carryover of over £850 into the final day of the season.

SELECTIONS

2:30 #3 PAS D'ACTION

3:05 #2 AQUA ARDENS

3:40 #2 JAZZY LADY

4:15 #2 GREY PANEL

4:50 #3 BOWL IMPERIOR