

ICE ROYAL CAN LICK LIBERATION RIVALS

SUNDAY'S JERSEY RACING PREVIEW

By commentator Mark Johnson

Horse racing fans in the Channel Islands get their second chance inside a week to go racing this Sunday when the Jersey Race Club stage an additional fixture - The Liberation Meeting - at Les Landes racecourse in St Ouen. The first race of five races is due off at 2:30pm.

This card has been hastily put on by the JRC to replace the one lost on Easter Monday due to the severe weather at the time.

Sunday's meeting takes place just six days after the highly successful annual race day at L'Ancresse Common, on Guernsey, which saw success for Jersey-based trainer Karl Kukk with Lastmanlastround in the 1m2f Handicap.

Scotsman Kukk, who trains in St Ouen and whose horses have made a good start to the season, is turning out Lastmanlastround quickly again as he heads a field of six in Sunday's 1m2f race - the Cheffins at the Beaumont Inn Handicap (4:15) in which Lastmanlastround has to carry a 7lbs weight penalty for his recent Guernsey win.

He definitely has a chance to follow up but this is a much deeper race than the one he won last Monday with rivals including three-time Jersey Derby winner Aussie Lyrics, classy recent import from the UK Ice Royal and bold front-running mare Flutterbee.

Aussie Lyrics won on his seasonal reappearance last month but that victory was over 1m4f (as have been all his 8 wins at Les Landes) so the stats say he is opposable over this quarter-of-a-mile shorter trip and therefore the Aly Malzard-trained **ICE ROYAL** is the pick. A three-time winner in the UK (including at Chelmsford over 1m on the all weather in December) he mad an encouraging debut in the Channel Islands last month when finishing fourth to Black Night in the 1m½f Jersey Guineas.

The big race on the card is the Millbrook Liberation Feature Handicap (3:40) over 7 furlongs which has also attracted a strong field.

Top weight here is UK-trained SWISS CROSS who boasts a perfect record of "Run 3 - Won 3" at Les Landes. His two wins here last year were both over the shorter trip of 5½f including the Island's most important sprint - The Jersey Bullet - in June. The winner of 14 races in total during a glittering career, Swiss Cross is trained in Newmarket by

Phil McEntee who has booked leading UK-based apprentice Nicola Currie to come to Jersey for the big race ride.

Swiss Cross has been a short-priced favourite every time he has run (and therefore won) at Les Landes but there might be some value in taking him on this time around with French import **SING SOMETHING**.

Now trained locally by Christa Gilbert, Sing Something made a winning Jersey debut at the last meeting over 5½f but close inspection of his previous French form suggests that he might be even better over further.

Trainer Aly Malzard throws three darts at the opening four-runner Koka Fast Handicap Hurdle (2:30) over 2 miles. Saddling three-quarters of the field doesn't necessarily guarantee success but Mrs Malzard's **BOWL IMPERIOR** looks able to outclass this field despite having to carry top weight (he has to concede at least 15lbs to all his rivals) and this trip being just a little shorter than ideal. Hawaiian Freeze, the only non-Malzard trained runner in the race (she is saddled by James Moon) may be the main danger.

Another Aly Malzard trainee **OCEAN CRYSTAL** was given a positive front-running ride to win over 1m1f at the first meeting of the season and similar tactics could be successfully applied in the 1m4f Jersey Bookmakers Handicap. If Ocean Crystal doesn't stay this distance Gabster should be the one to pounce.

Biggest field of the day - nine runners - line-up for the concluding 1m½f Bloodstock Advisory Service Handicap (4:50) which can go again to last year's 7 lengths winner **LUCIFERS SHADOW**.

SELECTIONS

2.30	#1	BOWL IMPERIOR
3.05	#3	OCEAN CRYSTAL
3.40	#4	SING SOMETHING
4.15	#2	ICE ROYAL
4.40	#2	LUCIFERS SHADOW