

SING SOMETHING HITS THE RIGHT NOTE
JERSEY RACING - LIBERATION MEETING REPORT
By Mark Johnson

SING SOMETHING maintained his unbeaten record since moving to Jersey, from France, when winning the Millbrook Liberation Feature Handicap at Les Landes on Sunday.

The five year-old son of Paco Boy, ridden by former multiple Channel Islands Champion Jockey Mattie Batchelor (for whom he was a first winner of the local season), showed an impressive turn of foot to pass and quicken away from UK-trained favourite Swiss Cross to win by two lengths at the end of the 7 furlong (1,400m) contest.

SING SOMETHING now has a career record of 4 wins from 51 starts with his first couple of victories coming in France at Deauville over 6½f (1,300m) on the all weather. However, since joining reigning Channel Islands Champion Trainer Christa Gilbert he is a perfect 2 out of 2 having also won last month at Les Landes over 5½f (1,100m).

“He is a really nice prospect for racing around here,” reported winning rider Batchelor after the race. “The way he traveled today I am sure he will be able to win here over even further.”

It was hard not to be impressed by the performance of SING SOMETHING. The horse he beat into second, Swiss Cross under leading UK-based apprentice jockey Nicola Currie having her first ride in Jersey, came into the race himself with a perfect record of 3 runs/3wins at Les Landes (and 14 career wins in total) and the third horse home, Order Of Service, was a well beaten 7 lengths further back.

The victory of SING SOMETHING proved a high-point on what might have been a raceday to forget for Christa Gilbert. The Holly Farm, St Helier, based trainer had been due to run six horses at the meeting but her team was cut in half due to three of her horses having to miss the meeting with vets' certificates - effectively an “equine sick note”.

Her highest profile horse to miss the meeting was three-time Jersey Derby winner Aussie Lyrics who had to miss the Cheffins At The Beaumont Inn Handicap due to having spiked a fever earlier in the week. This however is not a major setback and the popular 8 year-old still remains firmly on track for his attempt to win a record fourth Jersey Derby on 22nd July.

Despite the defection of Aussie Lyrics it still left a competitive field of

five to go to post for the 1m2f (2,000m) contest. BENOORDENHOUT, trained by Tony Le Brocq and ridden by Paddy Pilley, jumped off in front and made all the running to beat Lastmanlastround by 3 lengths.

The opening race on the card, the three-runner Koka Fast Handicap Hurdle over 2 miles, saw the patiently-ridden HAWAIIAN FREEZE (under Richard Condon) move from last to first in the space of just a couple of hundred yards, approaching the second last hurdle, to win easily by 8 lengths from Fourni. HAWAIIAN FREEZE is trained by James Moon.

An even easier winner was GABSTER (trained by Karl Kukuk and ridden by Paddy Aspell) who sauntered home to win the 1m4f Jersey Bookmakers Handicap by 25 lengths from Rainbow Charlie. This was a first victory for 5 year-old GABSTER since moving to Jersey last year but, having run well against better opposition, she benefited here from being eased in grade for a confidence-boosting success.

Biggest field of the day, eight runners, went to post for the concluding Bloodstock Advisory Service Handicap over the extended mile. It also produced the closest finish of the day as TELLOVOI, under Philip Prince, battled on tenaciously to beat Grey Panel a head. The winner represents UK-based trainer Richard Guest best known as the rider of the 2001 Aintree Grand National winner Red Marauder.

After three of the ten meetings in the Channel Islands this season (two at Les Landes on Jersey & the annual fixture at L'Ancrese Common on Guernsey) Philip Prince has taken an early narrow lead in the Jockeys Championship. Prince has 3 winners, with a trio of riders on 2 winners - reigning Champion Jockey Paddy Aspell, Tim Clark and Alice Mills.

The Trainers Championship is even closer with reigning Champion Christa Gilbert tied on 3 winners with Karl Kukuk. James Moon is right behind them with 2 winners.

Next fixture at Les Landes is "The Warwick Vase" Meeting on Bank Holiday Monday 28th May - first race at 2:30pm.