

## The Millbrook Jersey Guineas

### Bobsbest

(Bobsbest is racing correspondent of the Jersey Evening Post)

John Francome, Richard Dunwoody and Peter Scudamore, champion jump jockeys everyone and all of them have graced the turf of Les Landes. On Friday another champ, in the 10 stone shape of Brian Hughes, will strut his stuff in Jersey. It's not the first time he has ridden here, but the first since he became champion in the 2019-20 season, toppling Richard Johnson from his lofty perch. And last year he fought a titanic battle with Harry Skelton to retain the title, losing out only in the dying days of the season. He will fight to win back the crown this season and as I write he has ridden 25 winners to Skelton's 14, but the season is young and it will be a long haul to April 2022.

On Friday Brian Hughes will ride Jamacho in the La Verte Rue Associates Handicap Hurdle, sponsored by JRC vice-president Anthony Taylor and his wife. Jamacho will be the first Jersey runner for Charlie Longsdon and having had a satisfactory run at Stratford in mid-June he will take some beating even with top weight. Hughes will not be the only champ in the race, reigning local leading rider Freddie Tett is back and will renew his partnership with Bowl Imperior. The pair won the corresponding race in 2019. With no acceptors from Neil Mulholland the field is completed by the sponsor's Bal Amie, Ormskirk and Rainbow Charlie. The first of these ran well to be second to Molliana last time and will be staying on strongly at the finish.

Bowl Imperior's owner Geoff Summers sponsors the Millbrook 2021 Jersey Guineas, the main event on the card. It's the first conditions race of the season with the geldings giving 3lb to mares and 10lb to those yet to win a race. Wolf Hunter was a revelation in 2019 when he carried practically everything before him at distances from seven furlongs to a mile and a half. A warm up run at Windsor didn't go to plan, but will have knocked off some of the ring rust and if the real Wolf Hunter show up even the apparently unstoppable Molliana will know she's been in a race, despite her allowance. Ice Royal and Hard to Handel both ran really well in defeat last time and will be fitter while Sky Patrol has some improving to do. The newcomer is Deverell, bought by James Moon out of John Gosden's yard. Set some stiff tasks in France and Goodwood, the local competition won't be so tough, but he is probably best watched on his local debut.

The Geoffrey Edwards Memorial Handicap is sponsored by former JRC president Peter Edwards and many racegoers will remember his father's colours, white, with the red cross of St George, being carried successfully at Les Landes. Man of the Sea won convincingly last time and this shorter, 5-furlong, trip should prove no inconvenience. Chapeau Bleu was an eye-catcher last time; she's won once at this distance beating Relaxed Boy in 2019, but she's 8lb worse off with the latter. The Defiant is interesting and sees a welcome return to Jersey of Frank Brady's colours, successful when he had horses with the late Joan Le Brocq. The Defiant won twice at this trip for Paul Midgley and is now with Karl Kukuk. It's a

very open, nine runner affair and it's entirely possible I haven't mentioned the winner.

The Liberation Brewery Handicap over a mile and a half doesn't look any easier for punters. Master Burbidge won well enough last time when he was given a canny ride from the front by Harry Reed. Aussie Lyrics was noted running well behind him and, like all the local runners, is likely to come on for the run. Safira Menina seems to be a perpetual bridesmaid, but Freddie Tett's booking is a positive. Vicence, bought out of a Deauville claimer after finishing a decent second, is one of the mystery horses with no line to local form, and the other is Rubeus, who won a maiden race at Moulins last year. Island Song and particularly Gabster ran well last time and the field is completed by the two Ks, Kenoughty and Koshi.

The card concludes with The Windsor House Handicap for horses rated up to 50, sponsored by the Rumboll family. The 9-furlong trip should suit N Over J, to be ridden again by Serena Brotherton who was in the winner's enclosure at Epsom and Nottingham in the last week or so. They meet Nina's Field on 2lb better terms for the half-length that separated them a fortnight ago. Mendacious Harpy was two lengths back and now enjoys a pull of 5lb. It will be close between them and Captain James also has a squeak.

Jersey will say hello to a couple of apprentice jockeys hoping to make their way up the ranks. Keelan Baker has just three public rides to his name, at Carlisle, Pontefract and Chester. Rhiain Ingram has had rather more opportunities with 35 winners already to her credit. This will be their first time riding at CoinShares Racecourse at Les Landes.

Selections:

Jamacho  
Man of the Sea  
Molliana  
Aussie Lyrics  
N Over J \*