

Dan's 28.30 just Dandy

SUNDAY evening's card was run off on a track which was in pristine condition and the run of Dandy Dan in the third heat of the first round of the Blue Stack A1 must be considered as quite special. Indeed his scintillating 28.30 was the second-fastest time ever at Lifford.

Freedom Court trapped well here and led the field into the bend, closely followed by Droopys Tevez and Dandy (Yeah Man-Top Award), owned by Daniel Dooy and trained by Gerry McLarnon.

Turning into the back straight, Dandy was two down on Freedom but his back-straight pace saw the 7/2 chance forge clear into the third bend, where he led Freedom by a couple, and from here on the big lad pulled away in the style of a top-class hound and he crossed the line eight and three parts ahead of the gallant Freedom.

The winner of the first heat looked like he had set the standard in this stake, with Crash Bandit recording a fast 28.57 for John Byrne.

Crash (Crash-Celtic Dawn) trapped better than usual on the inside and the 7/2 chance led around the opening bends from Colarhouse Nell and Go Sonny Go.

Along the far side the strong-running Crash pulled six clear of Colarhouse and Go and the rest struggled to keep pace with Crash, who went on to beat Colarhouse by six and three-quarters.

The middle heat was more in keeping with the grade with another victory for Drive On Pal, owned by Walter Sames Jr.

Goodview Cool broke well here and led into the bend from Drive (Hondo Black-Drive On Fancy) and Featherstone.

As they passed the sprint box, Drive, the 2/1 favourite, took control and he galloped on to meet the third bend ahead of Goodview and staying on well, he crossed the pay stick one ahead of Featherstone in 29.01.

We also had three first-round heats of the Greenbrae A3 over 525yds and on the evidence so far this will also take some winning.

The best of the three winners was Hi Liambo, who ran out a 13-and-a-quarter-length winner of heat two, this being the first of a treble for his Armagh handler.

Hi (Ace Hi Rumble-Hi Dash) was led initially by Natalie Jacs On but Hi showed great early pace and heart to lead at the bend from the early leader.

Once in front this impressive young pup pulled away in style and in only his third race he stopped the ticker at a very good 28.69, with Natalies always second.

The third heat saw the first of two winners for Ronnie McKeown with Patterdale Sorel impressing for owner Roger Mounsey.

Patterdale (Ballymac Maevae-Patterdale Chloe) blew the lids down in this and was four clear of Nice To Know and Flagfield Laurel at the first bend.

The latter set about catching Patterdale along the far side and she almost got on terms around the bottom bends but Patterdale, a 5/1 chance, was equal to the task and ran on well to beat her by one and a quarter lengths in 28.79.

The opening heat looked very open on paper and the betting saw 3/1 joint favourites with Jiggles Dotcom one of these.

Jiggles (Barney Dotcom-Jiggly Puff) broke level here and was joined on the run to the bend by Cash My Gold, who joined her on the run along the far side.

The pair of them were neck and neck until the third turn, where Jiggles just got her head in front, and she ran on well from here to beat Big Moma Blue by two and a quarter lengths in 29.18.

Race 1: Gerry Holian introduced Miroad James in this Novice sprint and the Basil Holian-owned dog gave his trainer the first of two winners.

Millroad (Ballymac Maevae-Clover Panther) was well punted down to 1/2 at the off and a nice burst of early pace saw him contest the early lead with Edge Of Darkness.

The favourite got first run at the bend and led from Edge and from here on he made all to beat Edge by three and a half lengths in

Lifford Sunday, April 25



19.03.

Race 2: Gerry's second winner of the night came in this S3/S4 in which Jumeirah Duchess recorded an identical 19.03, her best yet, in her third career start.

Rameses Bolt broke well here but it was the Jimmy Buckley-owned Jumeirah (Brett Lee-Droopys Just Hot) and Charming Ben who had more pace with the 7/2 Jumeirah just clear at the turn.

Charming lost some ground around the bends but came back at Jumeirah, who did well to hold him off by three parts.

Race 3-5: See intro.

Race 6: Tas, owned by Eva Abedi, recorded a personal best in this S1/S2, in which she was favourite at 2/1.

Tas (Premier Fantasy-Black Fantasyasb) took a flyer out of the middle and led early from the chasing pack led by Up Jims Joe and Giglis Elite but they were never going to catch Tas after her flying start and she ran on well to beat Up by two and a quarter lengths in a fast 18.85.

Race 7: Ronnie McKeown's second of the night came in this A2 in which Ballymac David looked well graded going by his best form.

Ballymac (Daves Mentor-Ballymac Yaz) was soon at the helm after following the fast-starting Dicty Tucker into the opening bend.

The pair of them locked horns along the far side but Ballymac pulled clear of Dicty as they approached the third bend and the 6/4 favourite pulled further clear up the hill and recorded 28.92, with Dicty three lengths adrift.

Race 8: The second winner from the kennel of Sean Devlin was Navan Blue,

who was strongly fancied at 5/4 in this 750yd contest.

Fridays Aliysa was the early leader and took them along first time past the stand. Fridays was a couple clear as they met the third bend but the Pat Devlin-owned Navan (Elite State-Hi Dash) edged closer and passed the pace setter as they galloped to the fifth bend and the strong stayer increased her lead to the line, which she met six and three parts clear of Fridays in 42.01, the best here this year.

Race 9: This open 550yd contest saw a good night's work completed for Sean as the Patrick O'Connor-owned Edendork Flyer made it two in a row and seven in total when winning at 5/1.

Edendork (Top Savings-Fees Horné) flew out to lead early from Honcho Beag and Hather Number and as they turned off the second bend the early pacer had built up a three-length advantage over Hather and Honcho.

The latter was eating into the leader's advantage as they turned for home but she was left with too much to do and Edendork gamely held her off by three parts in 30.24.

Race 10-12: See intro.

Race 13: The layers had the last word with Corrin Bale winning this open sprint for Willie Mullan at 5/1.

Rockmount Pardon the favourite and Corrin (World Class-Sterling Bale) both broke well here but the Tom Mullan-owned Corrin used his draw inside Rockmount to lead at the bend and from here on he ran on well to beat the dead-heated pair of Rockmount and Ballycanal Champ by one and three parts in 18.81.