

# Liambo's thriller the Hi-light

**SUNDAY'S 12-race card provided a good crowd with plenty to mull over and the main talking point was the effort of Sean Devlin's young dog Hi Liambo, who turned the Green Brae A3 into a procession.**

Hi (Ace Hi Rumble-Hi Dash) had thrilled the racing public with his performances in the early rounds of this and unsurprisingly went off at 4/6 and a smart exit saw him take an early advantage over Patterdale Sorel and Nice To Know.

Any chance of an upset disappeared as Hi tracked superbly around the opening bends and extended his advantage along the far side. As well as early pace and superior track craft, this young dog proved he also fully sees out the trip and he pulled away in the style of a top class tracker to beat Patterdale by eight and a quarter lengths in a sensational 28.42. Given a bit of luck, this young dog looks like a top-class prospect for the future.

The Top Class Open unraced also unveiled a young dog destined for the top as the Terry McCann and Luke Kilcoyne-owned Tubbertelly Dubh was just as impressive on way to a three-and-a-half-length success in only his second ever race.

Tubbertelly (Hondo Black-Corporate Group) bounced to the front after good early pace and led from another top pup in the making, Final Boe. Once clear, Tubbertelly never gave Final a sniff and he pulled away up the hill to beat Final in 28.61. Keep an eye out for both these pups in the coming months.

The other final was the Blue Stack A1 in which the Daniel Dooney-owned Dandy Dan was a solid 4/5 favourite. From a level break, Drive On Pal took a marginal lead into the bend ahead of Colarhouse Nell and Dandy who looked a threat after a better start than usual.

Along the far side Dandy, trained by Gerry McLarnon, ranged up alongside Drive and these two locked horns around the bottom bends. Once they turned into the home stretch, Dandy asserted his authority and pulled away to beat Drive by three and three parts in 28.73.

Fridays Ferrari made a long-awaited return to action after a nine month lay off in the open 525yd eighth and Gerry Whyte obviously had him in good shape.

Fridays (Tyrur Ted-Ballerin Lass) was well supported down to 7/4 favourite and a smart start saw him lead early on from Conlig Mac and Carn Ruby. Along the back straight Fridays was well clear of Carn, who started to motor into the third bend.

She almost got on terms here but Fridays cut her off and skipped further clear and to the roars of his followers, he pulled away to beat Conlig by two and a half lengths in 28.87.

**Race 1:** This S3 looked a tricky start to the evening with open betting and one of the joint favourites Economic Climate prevailed for Joseph Colhoun.

From a level break Astronomy and Gone Today pulled away with Astronomy just clear at the bend. She went wide here taking Gone with her and allowed Economic (Top Honco-Sarah Said So) his chance and he made all from here to beat Astronomy by one and a quarter lengths in 19.10.

**Race 2:** Singalong Jo hadn't raced at Lifford before this S1/S2 and Bailey Taggart's hound notched up his third career success.

Singalong (Larkhill Jo-Singalong Mum) was one of three runners to make an early claim for the lead with Apache Chief and Conlig Blonde joining him at the helm.

The latter two were knocked about a bit at the bend allowing the 3/1 chance, trained by Micheal Taggart, to scoot clear and he made all from the second bend to beat Gentle State by one and a half lengths in 19.06.

**Race 3:** Vals Princess put in personal best effort to take this A3 for Frank Hegarty, in which she was a 9/2 outsider. Gazunder trapped well in this but was matched up the outside by Vals (Premier Fantasy-Wilderness Girl) with the pair of them sharing the lime light around the opening bends.

Turning into the back stretch Vals eased her way to the front from the improving Senor Benny with Vals

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leading at the third bend by a couple. Senor was edging forward on the run in but Vals had done enough to hold him off by three parts in 29.18.

**Race 4:** Sean Devlin had the first of two winners in this 750-yard contest in which Pat Devlin's Seven Hills Lady recorded the fastest time of the year.

Maxines Fancy took an early lead in this from Fridays Aliysa and Natalie Jacs On. Up the hill for the first time Maxines was well clear of the pack led by Fridays with Seven (Big Daddy Cool-Hi Queen Closure) in fourth at this stage.

Maxines turned into the back stretch about three clear of Fridays who surrendered chasing duties to Seven on the run to the third bend. As they turned into the home straight Maxines was two clear of Seven but the 5/4 chance whittled into her lead and just caught Maxines on the line for a neck victory in a good 41.92.

**Race 5:** Won by Tubbertelly.

**Race 6:** Lazy Mary Kate had won four of her previous five races prior to this A2 over 575yds and Pauline Quinn's consistent girl made it five from six with a strong running effort.

From another level break, Lazy (Ballymac Maeve-Finuge Lass) was joined on the run up by Coopers Kewell, who snatched the lead around the opening bends. Coopers pulled two clear of the evens favourite along the far side but he couldn't shake her off completely. On the run in, the superior staying power of Lazy came into play and she crossed the line one and a quarter lengths clear of Coopers in 31.87.

**Race 7:** Won by Hi Liambo.

**Race 8:** Won by Fridays Ferrari.

**Race 9:** Forest Spider hadn't won a race before this A0/A1 over 575yds but was still made evens favourite and Siobhan Martin's young dog justified the support.

Forest and Dunloy Major was quickly away in this but it was Hillcroft Harry who took control up the outside and led at the bend. Hillcroft was two clear of the Gerard Martin trained Forest (Royal Impact-Smooth Rhythm) and Dunloy as they galloped to the third bend where he held a marginal advantage over Forest but the favourite took over as they turned to face the stand and staying on well, he beat Dunloy by one and a half lengths in 31.71.

**Race 10:** Craiceaite won last time from the inside and this time the trap six draw didn't deter Joe McKinley's improving youngster.

Craiceaite (Razdazi Billy-Moyvane Lace) used her draw and early pace to edge in front as the bend approached. Coming off the second bend, Craiceaite led from Mullygrubber, Dicty Tucker and Fridays Africa but this was over as the leader kept up a good gallop and crossed the line three and a half clear of Mullygrubber in 29.24.

**Race 11:** won by Dandy Dan.

**Race 12:** The last of the night was the open sprint and Tas recorded back to back victories for Eva Abedi. Business Lady trapped well here but was joined on the dash to the bend by Tas (Premier Fantasy-Black Fantasy-Asb), who took over as they turned into the home stretch.

Business wasn't done yet and renewed her efforts to the line but the 5/1 Tas held her off by a short head in 19.03, the best of three sprints on the night.