

All's rosy in Mollys Garden

EARLY pace was decisive as Mollys Garden set the night's fastest time for the 525.

A replacement for Ideal Break, David and Susan McKenna's Kells-based homebred (Daves Mentor-Emporio Royale) is one of the fastest breakers of the Dowdallshill strength. She was matched in the early stages by Mystique Lad, but got clear of her Belfast rival early in the back straight.

After that the now winner of seven races opened a sizeable gap, and though Mystique Lad hit back to gain a share of the place money with Watergrange Josh, the McKenna runner was still a comfortable four lengths clear at the line, recording a best-ever 29.08.

Nipsu, who's been strutting his stuff over the standard distance in recent months, went fastest over the 400. Another bred in his owner's kennel, being a son of Royal Impact and Cloonevan Lily, the 75-pounder had to be courageous to find an opening at the first bend after making a moderate break.

Colm Lawrence's local performer made for the inside, and entering the home straight was right on the tail of the fast-starting Fahrenheit Flick. After making it to the front he went right away to score by three lengths in 21.42, a really fine effort on his return to sprinting.

Race 1: Victory in this 400 went to the only debutant in the field.

Drive Time, running for Noel Ryan - whose share in Irish Derby winner, Dipmac, gave him one of his greatest thrills in greyhound racing -

was drawn in two, and had n't a favourable pitch in early exchanges.

But after drawing up alongside Zafrons Laura and Hay River, the Laurence Jones-trained September son of Droopys Maldini and Express Mist pulled clear to win by just over a length in 22.07.

Race 2: Dymon Impact, another winner who revived memories of a real good 'un of other days.

This lad runs in the name of Co. Tyrone youngster, Jamie Gates, whose dad, Kevin, led in Mabels Dilemma after his Irish Sprint Cup win of a few years ago.

Whether or not Dymon Impact can emulate the Ger Holian-trained Classic winner remains to be seen, but for the time being he's doing okay, this two-and-a-half length win in 21.94 being the first of his career.

The Royal Impact dog took up a position on the rails at the bend before going on to win from Metatron.

Race 3: Staunch Louth football supporter, Paddy Farrell, brought up the first of he hoped was a weekend double - his county played Longford at Portlaoise on Sunday in the championship - with his homebred Cnocbride Ceoil (Fortune Mike-Cnocbride) setting a fine time for the 400.

This well-made lassie, a winner over the Harolds Cross 525 ten days earlier, was smartly away from four, and none of the others really got a blow in as she galloped on strongly to win by four lengths from Ballymac Racy in 21.53.

Race 4: Another not

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unknown in Louth GAA circles, Patsy Thornton, sent out Friendly Joe to win over the 525 for Drogheda owner, Ian Black.

Patsy bred this son of Premier Fantasy and Slippy When Wet, who, although only tipping the scales at 63 pounds, proved far too strong for the others. He went clear around the opening turn, and never appeared to be in much danger after that.

In the end he was almost seven lengths ahead of Hilltop Magic, registering 29.30.

Race 5: Former Thurles tracker, Natalie Jacs On, made every post a winning one running over the 600.

Owned by Kells-based, German-born Eva Abedi, the Just The Best bitch was challenged coming to the third bend, but stuck to her guns well to win by two and a half lengths from Orlando Sophia in 33.71.

Race 6: Won by Nipsu.

Race 7: Siobhan Bullet was another to make the best of her chance after coming in from the reserve panel.

Gerry Irwin's Castleblayne racer was prominent early on, but got competitive approaching the end of the back straight. She took over from Jaxxy Fantasy, and ran on well to win by a length and a half from this other inmate of the Abedi kennel in 29.38.

Race 8: Back racing after a spell on the sidelines, Lets Get Going looked good when scoring over the 525.

A member of the Gilbeyhall Josh-Girl With Guitar litter, bred by her owner, Kieran Lonergan, Lets Get Going was left clear at the opening bend after the fast-starting pair, Manilla Rose and Winetavern Peggy, got into a bit of bother.

She ran on really stoutly to win by six and a half lengths from Eoins Billy, clocking a useful 29.20.

Race 9: Won by Mollys Garden.

Race 10: Nosey Peter, in fine form at Lifford of late, put in a really solid performance in this 600.

Kieran McCann's Coalisland-based tracker was fast up to the opening bend. He had three lengths on Karma Paddy going down the back, and although the Martin Lanney-trained Karma, remained a persistent challenger, his bid to take over the lead fell short by a length.

Winning for the fifth time, the homebred Nosey Peter (Droopys Kewell-Nosey Lady) clocked his best-ever for the distance, 33.19.

Race 11: A few decent bets were rendered useless by Claristown Dubh's game win in this 525.

A 4/1 chance, Michael Calvey's Meath runner set off in front, and was a length clear when Ronka came at the third bend. He saw off this challenger, and the one mounted very late on by Dannythedub.

Claristown was almost two lengths to the good at the line, recording 29.39.