

Twobelucky impresses at Bellewstown



William B (Davy Russell, right) jumping the last to win the Seamus Mulvaney Crockafortha Handicap Hurdle at Bellewstown.

Andrew Lynch and Henry De Bromhead teamed up to record a win on the opening evening of the Bellewstown July Festival when Twobelucky ran out a most impressive winner of the novice hurdle at odds of 6/4.

Dunsany handler Ger Lyons and Colin Keane were on the mark with 100/30 favourite Song Of Namibia in the second of the 1m6f handicaps and that win was completing a double for the Trim rider who had earlier teamed up with Johnny Murtagh to win the 5f maiden with the easy-to-back 9/2 chance Golden Spell. Like Lyons, Gordon Elliott is flying and he landed the Seamus Mulvaney Crockafortha Handicap Hurdle with the gambled-on 5/4 favourite William B which was ridden by Davy Russell.

It wasn't just at Bellewstown that the locals were thriving as Fozzy Stack landed a notable success at Tipperary on Thursday evening. Chris Hayes was in the saddle as Sirici won the Listed Coolmore Pride Of Dubai Tipperary Stakes for the rookie trainer, the 14/1 shot just getting the better of Aidan O'Brien's odds-on favourite Actress by a neck with the Joseph O'Brien-trained Now You're Talking a close third. And the latter took the other big race of the meeting as 16/1 chance Plinth ran the race of his life under Jody McGarvey to win the Grade 3 Kevin McManus Bookmaker Grimes Hurdle.

The smart Peregrine Run was the star performer at Wexford on Friday night and has a Grade 3 event at the Galway festival as his immediate target after his comfortable success in the novice chase. Trained by Peter Fahey and ridden by Roger Loughran, the 5/4 favourite was recording his second win over fences and had little difficulty in accounting for the Willie Mullins-trained Dicosimo. Mullins went on to record a double with Ruby Walsh having little to do to get 6/4 favourite Rathvinden home in front in the beginners' chase while Declan Lavery had an even easier time on 11/4 favourite Smooth River in the bumper. Robin De Roost got the better of a great battle with his fellow 11/2 joint-favourite Shake The Bucket to win the handicap chase for Tom Gibney and Jonathan Moore and another popular winner was Shay Barry's Chestnut Brave which won the mares maiden hurdle under Brian O'Connell at odds of 7/2.

Donnacha O'Brien rode the second treble of his career at Naas on Saturday. He rode two winners for his father Aidan, beginning with Seahenge in the 6f maiden. The 6/1 chance was just the second two-year-old from Ballydoyle to win at the first time of asking this season. Music Box was running for the third time in the space of a week but she built on a fine effort in a Listed race at Fairyhouse on Wednesday to win the 6f fillies' handicap at odds of 7/2 co-favourite. And the young rider's three-timer was completed when 9/2 favourite Eagle Spirit, trained by his brother Joseph, won the 10f handicap.

Davy Russell's decision to take up his rides at Limerick on Sunday only hours after taking a kick to the face from a yearling proved to be the correct one as he was rewarded with three winners. The former champion jockey was left nursing a bloodied-nose and had briefly considered giving the meeting a miss, but he quickly put the unfortunate incident behind him when winning the opening three races. He partnered 4/1 shot An Caisteal Nuadh in the 2m maiden hurdle for Gordon Elliott and the pair teamed up again to land the 2m rated hurdle with 4/1 joint-favourite Knockmaole Boy. Russell completed his treble with an easy success on the Charles Byrnes-trained Denham Sound in the opening division of the 2m5f handicap hurdle. The 6/1 chance scored by all of seven lengths but there was only a neck between the first two home in the second leg of the same race as Dot Love's Double Speak beat Coolmill under Robbie Power at odds of 12/1. Byrnes got a second winner as 7/1 chance Rock On Fruity landed the handicap chase in the hands of Mark Enright.