

International Jump Weekend at Auteuil 2005

Prep races

1. Gr.1 Grand Prix d'Automne

(Hurdles – 3m – 5 yo's and up - €300,000)

Gr.3 Prix Carmarthen

Hurdles – 2m4 ½ f – 5 yo's and up - €125,000

The Gr.3 Prix Carmarthen is the last French prep race for 5 year-old and upward hurdlers, who should try their luck at the beginning of November in the Gr.1 Grand Prix d'Automne. Unraced since November 28th last year, **Sunspot** created the surprise in the final rush, dominating the favourite **Gold Magic (Goldneyev)** by a nose. The son of **Peintre Célèbre** took over the other five year-old of the field, **Mysoko (Dom Alco)**, as they were passing by the galleries, and kept his advance until the end. Gold Magic, who at first brought up the rear, accelerated in the last turn, with **Lycaon de Vauzelle (Video Rock)** on his footsteps. The Jean-Paul Gallorini-trained vainly tried to catch up his rival, while **Trespas (Pistolet Bleu)** placed third by six lengths. Stablemate in Gallorini's yard to the runner-up, Mysoko took the fourth place, ahead of Lycaon de Vauzelle.

Arnaud Chaillé-Chaillé, trainer of Sunspot, explained: "*He should have run a few days ago, but he had a minor leg inflammation so I didn't want to take any risk. Nevertheless I was confident with him: I knew he was able to dominate such a field of hurdlers.*" The patience finally paid back and owner Sean Mulryan should be delighted with this victory, which seems to be a good omen for the International Jump Weekend at Auteuil, on November 5th & 6th.

2. Gr.1 Prix Cambacérés – Grande Course de Haies des 3 ans

(Hurdles – 2m2f – 3 yo's - €250,000)

Gr.2 Prix Georges de Talhouët-Roy

Hurdles – 2m2f – 3 yo's - €160,000

The Gr.2 Prix Georges de Talhouët-Roy is the first Pattern race of the autumn at Auteuil for young hurdlers. The field of eight runners included talented jumpers, like the English-trained **Tidal Fury**, and promising but inexperienced contenders over jumps. The son of **Night Shift**, who has yet won at Auteuil during his short career, led the way from start to finish, dominating the Eric Puerari-bred **King Foraday**, for his only fourth outing. The **Vettori** three year-old showed a lot of courage though, being disturbed by the fatal fall of **Sunny Winner**, thirty metres before the post. King Foraday's trainer François Doumen also saddled **Kasbah Bliss (Kahyasi)** in the race, who won in September the Listed-Prix Finot over the same distance and placed third on Sunday. One shall notice the performance of the only filly of the field, the Markus Nigge-trained **Etoile Des Iles (Starborough)**, who took an impressive and courageous fourth place.

French jockey **Sébastien Leloup**, who rides for the English-based trainer Jonathan Jay, declared: *“Tidal Fury is a real promising horse. Since the first time I rode him”* – in April, as they won together the Prix Grandak at Auteuil for unraced colts and geldings over jumps – *“he kept improving once and again. I didn’t hesitate to make the race harder, going always faster, because he is really strong and jumps really well.”*

3. Gr.1 Prix La Haye-Jousselin

(Steeple-chase – 3m3 ½ f – 5 yo’s and up - €300,000)

Gr.3 Prix Héros XII

Steeple-chase – 2m6f – 5 yo and up - €160,000

The cracking six year-old gelding of John-Dawson Cotton, **Golden Flight (Saint Cyrien)**, had a successful start in the prep race to the Gr.1 Prix La Haye-Jousselin. They were only five contenders, after the withdrawals of **Saint-Realise** and **Ma Royale**, the five year-old champion filly trained by Marcel Rolland runner-up in the Gr.1 Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris in June. Her connection announced on Friday morning that, due to a serious leg injury, she was to end up her racing career and will join the stud where she’s born.

Sleeping Jack (Sleeping Car), who was unraced since his dazzling victory in the Gr.1 Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris, took the head of the field from the beginning. He was followed by the Guillaume Macaire-trained and well-looking Golden Flight, ahead of **Hercule Noir**, **L’Ami** and **Sybellius d’Artaix**. On the flat, the son of Saint-Cyrien made the difference, dominating his rivals by half a length.

Golden Flight is a full brother to **Sunny Flight**, who scored in 2002 the Gr.1 Prix La Haye Jousselin on a heavy ground. His sire Saint-Cyrien is also responsible for the Sean Mulryan’s champion chaser **Cyrlight**.

His trainer, **Guillaume Macaire**, stated: *“At four, we went progressively with Golden Flight: each race was done to teach him his job. He is a high quality horse, that’s why it’s interesting to take your time for such a horse. The ground should be heavier in November than it was this weekend, which is a good thing for him, as he dominated **Loumie** in the Prix Morgex on a very soft ground. He yet proved a lot of stamina but in the Prix La Haye Jousselin, every horse will be at his best condition, so let’s wait and see.”*

4. Gr.1 Prix Maurice Gillois – Grand Steeple-Chase des 4 ans

(Steeple-chase – 2m6f – 4 yo’s - €300,000)

Gr.3 Prix Orcada

Steeple-chase – 2m6f – 4 yo’s - €140,000

Kadabelle created the real surprise of the meeting, with her amazing victory in the Gr.3 Prix Orcada. The **Kadalko** filly, trained by Jean-Yves Artu, showed her real face for her first outing at this level. This athletic and good-looking filly was bought for €22,000 at the Goffs France Summer sales and should count among the Gr.1 Prix Maurice Gillois favourites. She countered the late attack of **Polivalente (Poliglote)**, owned by the Irish-man Sean Mulryan, more and more successful each year with his French runners. The leader **Ramsès Bleu (Pistolet Bleu)** took the third place by half a length, ahead of **Hunorisk**.

The Arnaud Chaillé-Chaillé-trained **Kiko** was stopped during the race, because of a foot injury.

“I knew that Kadabelle was able to challenge at this level, but I was a bit afraid of the ground. It will be easier for her on a heavy ground and her next goal is the Prix Maurice Gillois” said Jean-Yves Artu.

Arnaud Chaillé-Chaillé, trainer of the runner-up Polivalente, explained: *“Without her mistake before the last jump, she would have won.”*

With Kadabelle and Polivalente taking the first two places, it seems that this year, the best four year-old chaser could be a filly...