

8 star

DAY, MARCH 10, 1953

TEAL MAY NOT RUN IN NATIONAL

THE Middleham telephone exchange had its biggest flood of calls today since Dante was struck out of the St Leger in August, 1945.

The subject of today's inquiries was Teal, the ex-favourite for the Grand National, who, at last night's call-over, was offered at 100-8 second favourite.

Teal did not appear with trainer Neville Crump's first or second strings at exercise at Middleham today, thus intensifying the rumours which have been circulating since his owner, Mr Harry Lane, announced on Saturday that the horse was under veterinary care.

Mr Crump, wife of the trainer, told enquirers today: "There is no statement to make at present but we will make an announcement when we have any news."

Local opinion is that Teal must be regarded as a doubtful runner for the Grand National. There are only 18 days left before the race, and interruption in his work at this time is regarded as extremely serious.

It was stated on Sunday that he has been suffering from digestive trouble.

The first hint that something might be wrong with Teal came in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, in which he finished last. Mr Lane stated that Teal fell out of the race on the far side just at the point where his jockey, A. P. Thompson, had been instructed to make his effort.

In less than 100 yards, Teal fell back from first place to last. Teal won the Grand National last year, and was Neville Crump's second Grand National since the war.

Royal Tan, who was quoted as one of the third favourites, at 100-6, at last night's call-over, is to be taken out of the race.

This was announced in Ireland today, where he is trained by Mr V. O'Brien. There is nothing wrong with the horse but Mr O'Brien thinks that the horse will not be fit enough.

The stable will be represented by Lucky Dome, the favourite, and Early Mist, who was quoted at 20-1.

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ROYAL TAN WILL MISS 'NATIONAL'

Evening Standard Racing Reporter

Royal Tan, joint third favourite at 100-6 for the Grand National (March 28), is to be taken out of the race. Teal, last year's winner, is doubtful for Aintree. He did not appear with trainer Neville Crump's first or second strings at exercise at Middleham (Yorks) to-day.

Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien says there is nothing wrong with the horse, but he does not think the nine-year-old will be fit enough.

The stable will be represented by Lucky Dome, 100-9 favourite, and Early Mist, quoted at 20-1.

When I spoke to trainer Neville Crump at Middleham to-day his only reply was: "No comment."

Those who saw Teal tailed off in the Cheltenham Gold Cup last week do not believe Teal will be in a fit condition to run at Aintree. He is being treated for a digestive complaint.

Doubtful

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