

THE GRAND NATIONAL

North to Aintree ~~shrouded~~ drove and treked the massed thousands of sporting Britain, Mrs. & Miss. Britain included, ~~crossed for windy Marsh~~ pitting wits against the goddess chance. ~~Not only Britain,~~ Miss Ireland was there, confident of Aintree being an Irish occasion, as so often before. For the National, it was a modest field, ~~with Little Yid still strong~~

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~~grammar~~ favourite. X Irish Lizard was at 33-1. Witty stood at 22's. Thousands of punters fancied Mont Tremblant, while old-stager Cloncarrig was trying again, his 6th National. Heavy course-betting supported Ordnance, and there were plenty of friends for Glen Fire. For the bookies the Grand National generally means a clean up. Everybody bets; so many amateur prophets, the layers can't make a loss.

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(type) Activity of a different kind in the weighing-~~in~~ room. J. Foster was to ride Baire. That's the horses name. Mr. H. Oliver Jr., 50-1 Land Fort. That Prince of riders over jumps, the Irishman Bryan Marshall, was destined to win on Early Mist, an Irish horse carrying 11-stone-2.

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The Union Jack was at half mast for the Royal mourning. All Aintree was keyed up now ^{to the} real Grand National ^{pitch of} excitement.

(crowd) 31-runners came under starter's orders, all of them calm at the tape, 7 Mr. Marsh got them away perfectly.

(pause 15) Off they went, with 4-and-a-half-miles to go, twice round the toughest course in all steeplechasing. And as usual the first jump had its casualties.

(next) Jump 3, a 5-ft fence with a 6-ft ditch, and more were down.

Ordnance leading

On towards Becher's thundered the survivors of Becher's, with its fence of 5-ft and almost terrifying drop on the other side.

In slower motion, see ~~Ordnance leading the field,~~ while

[@ 50-1 outsider Head Crest crashed ~~and being~~ down ~~some others.~~



(next) Ordnance, Little Yid, Mont Tremblant and Glen Fire cleared the fence after Becher's, on to the equal terrors of the Canal Turn.

The same three got over the canal, ⁷ negotiated the sharp turn left. Behind them came a tragedy. ¹ Parasol II fell ~~and though Mr. Cughton led the mare away, the poor animal had to be destroyed.~~

Over Valentine's Ordnance, Little Yid, Mont Tremblant and Glen Fire continue to dominated the race. If the three worst hazards were behind them for the first time there were still jumps ahead higher than anywhere except Aintree, before the first circuit was complete. Ordnance ~~was~~ had a comfortable lead with Little Yid going like a favourite, and behind them Mont Tremblant, showing no sign as yet of fatigue under the top weight of 12-stone-five.

Ordnance was over the Water Jump, successfully once round Aintree, beginning the second circuit M. Scadamore up, riding as if the race were in his pocket. And over the first jump this time it was Ordnance, with ~~Early Mist~~ Early Mist in the running for the first time and closing up. And then Ordnance was down ~~two~~ jumps before Becher's, *and* ~~and~~ end to a great effort. Over the Brook Early Mist was in front, followed by Mont Tremblant and Little Yid.

(engine) It was a thin field now, nearly every jump taking toll, the race seeming to lie between Early Mist, Mont Tremblant and Little Yid, if they could stay on their feet, always a big iff at Aintree. Early Mist took the Canal Turn as if he'd been running in Grand Nationals all his life. And that's how he went on over Valentine's and beyond.

(crowd) Soon after Valentine's the bookies knew that if they weren't on the side of the angels, the angels were on theirs. The favourite, Little Yid, refused.

Experts who didn't fancy the horse were proved right. So in *t* were the supporters of Early Mist, going great guns, looking a born National winner. The Irish horse was over the last jump, the tired Mont Tremblant a long way behind. Down the run in Bryan Marshall didn't have to press the horse; Early Mist beat Mont Tremblant by 20 lengths.

opposite way

(crowd) Nobody knew how many Irish there were at Aintree but they made themselves heard. ~~Irish~~ Horse, jockey and owner all from the emerald isle.

Victory of Early Mist brought fame and ~~fortune~~ ^{fortune} to his owner, Irish Company Director J.H. Griffin. Pretty Mrs. Griffin was pleased as punch. It was a great day for the Irish.

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