

The 1955 Grand National, honoured by the Queen for the first time since her accession, had become a Royal chapter in the long Aintree story. And although the Queen Mother's horse, M'as-tu-vu, will not grace the pages as the Royal hero, still, like many of the thirty starters, he put up a brave performance on his first Aintree test.

So to the first jump, often a ^{dramatic} ~~dramatic~~ highlight in the race. This year, only two fell. Lord Bicester's fancied Meriner's Log and ~~No. 24~~

Blue Envoy ^{No. 24} who found the waterlogged course as slippery as a skating rink. At the end of the first circuit, ~~the race was over~~, Royal hopes were high as M'As-tu-vu ^(No 16) slowly overhauled the leader, Sundew. All eyes were on the Royal hope as he rounded the bend. But Look! He has gone too wide!

But M'As-tu-vu responded to the challenge and began ~~in~~ the second circuit in the lead.

At the first thorn fence ^{SECOND TIME ROUND -} we can spot him on the far side ^{UP IN FRONT -} still ~~leading~~ but two fences after ~~Yuki~~ Valentine's - he was out of the race. ③

The National can be tough for both horse and jockey. Here - you can see a falling rider being kicked by a following horse. An unusual occurrence - for as you may have noticed in the past - a horse instinctively avoids a grounded jockey.

So we pay tribute to a fearless company, who have had more than their fair share of hard knocks this season - with the loss of so many racing days.

SEE HOW THIS RIDER FALLS. HE STAGGERS UP, ONLY TO COLLAPSE AGAIN. Yes, these jockeys just don't know how to quit. Here's Jimmy Power (who won the race in 1950, on Freebooter) climbing back on Sun Clasp after a heavy fall. This year, thirteen of the thirty starters finished the course.

on now to that final jump - and watch Tudor Line (on the left) swerve to the right. He did the same ^{thing} last year - and again, it probably cost him the race.

Irish-trained Quare Times (close in on the rails) came the shortest way home. A well-backed 100-9 chance, he won by twelve lengths.

Tudor Line, at ten-to-one, was second (where he finished last year), with twenty-to-one outsider, Carey's Cottage, third. Northern hope Gigolo was fourth.

A happy Grad