

Racing crowds gathered on Town Moor, Doncaster, and no one dared to cough for fear of missing the St. Leger Stakes - ~~the~~ Britain's oldest classic...

During the past days, the coughing-epidemic had hit the race acceptors - knocking out fancied contenders and outsiders alike. Even the "starting-prices of the Bookies - looked like a temperature chart... / S

Breaking her holiday at Balmoral, the Queen attended the race. And though there was no Royal hope in the Paddock, the presence of Meld (already winner of two classics) must have ~~fulfilled~~ ^{pleased} her Majesty's love of a good race-horse...

~~There are~~ ^{only} eight runners (the smallest field since the war) ~~and~~

~~in~~ - and - they're away - ~~withxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
with a mile-and-three quarters to go - racing for a prize of over thirteen thousand pounds.... /

And it's the Irish hope, Daemon (No. 5) making the running - with Miss Rigton in second place and the fancied ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Beau Prince, from France - right behind.... /

Round into the long straight. Four furlongs to go and still Daemon leads the way.... /

But Meld (No. 14) has been closing up, and now watch her make her run on the outside - to pass smoothly into the lead... /

It's Meld going strongly - but now - there's another challenger.....

Yes, it's Lester Piggott on Nucleus - and he's gaining on the filly...

Gallantly, Meld accelerates - to survive the challenge (and the later objection) - to win by three-quarters of a ~~at~~ length... /

Lady Zia Wernher, the first woman ^{owner} to win the Doncaster St. Leger leads in her champion... Winner of three classics - Meld started at odds-on - so finally, the Bookies coughed up.... /