

FASHIONS OPEN LONGCHAMP RACE

Racing reopens for Parisians at Longchamp with all the old brilliance at the first meeting. Fashions are again to the fore. At Longchamp, if you haven't a shirt to put on your fancy, a wink'll do.

In the big race (the million-franc Prix Omnis) it's the favourite, Marcel Boussac's NERVAL, ridden vigorously to a short-head win. After another race in France, NERVAL leaves for Britain to attempt a repeat of his last year's Winston Churchill Stakes win.

Over at St. Cloud, Prince Aly Khan and his bride-to-be Rita Hayworth stretch a leg before the start of the Prix Terrance. The stands are packed with racegoers as runaway Rita's dusky Prince mounts the favourite, LIGHTSHIP for the 11-furlongs dash. The big crowd share Rita's suspense as her fancy leaves the ring.

Rita (frances as well as affection staked on the sporting Prince's fortunes) sees LIGHTSHIP away with the field to a good start.

If this were a Hollywood film Prince Charming would be up there in front. But something's gone wrong with the script. As they come into the home stretch, is it LIGHTSHIP leading? No, it's LIGHTSHIP last.

At the finish, an outsider is first past the post. Which only proves that the (race)course of true love never runs as smoothly in real life as in the pictures.