

RAIN AND SHINE AT ASCOT

Oh to be at Ascot again, loveliest of English courses, the turf verdant in the summer sun; the eager throng - the excitement - the Hunt Cup to come - and the winner in your pocket! To walk through the paddock under the trees ... to mix with lovely women ... this is the dream they dream in faraway places.

And this is sometimes the reality! Rain, grey skies. Dream on, digger! Maybe the sun will shine when you're here! Yesterday, sunshine. Today, this. The Aga Khan has a winner already - he's happy; but there's no Royal drive in open carriages - and the Royal party shelters behind glass.

But there's still Gordon on the favourite - 21 face the starter - fewer than usual. And there they go! Just under a mile, and stiff going all the way, with Burpham about leading.

The field's split into two bunches, one on each side, and there goes Breasley on Hyperbole, shooting into the lead looking all over a winner.

Still Hyperbole ... but number 2's coming up! It's Gordon on the favourite, Wat Tyler. He's fairly flying ... and here comes Burpham on this side ... but Gordon can't quite make it and Hyperbole wins for Mr. J.V. Rank ... and there goes the rest of the dream - the favourite beaten!

Tough luck, Gordon. We thought you deserved this spot!

And then, Gold Cup Day, the dream comes true! The State procession of their Majesties down the length of the straight ... the sun ... the green, green turf. Ah! to be in England when Ascot's here!

This is more like it! There's the excitement. Maybe Auteuil and Longchamps have their moments, but Ascot has that little something extra for us. Perhaps because it's home - the kind of faces you dream about - and the King and Queen almost rubbing your shoulders on the way to the paddock. And here's an enthusiastic young owner with a very likely looking grey entered in the Gold Cup. Doesn't he look like Churchill! Could be!

The King's in the Royal Box and up near the Golden Gates they're ready ... and off! Nine from France, one from the States and three homebred.

Down the straight first time and it's the stable-mates Pas de Calais and Ciel Etoile out in front setting a fair gallop, from American Long Eagle, Supertello, Alindrake and Colonist.

Approaching the straight Alindrake goes on from Pas de Calais and Ciel Etoile who drop out of it. Lone Eagle and Supertello are there close up. As they enter the straight they really do start to race. Alindrake's under pressure and with two furlongs to go Supertello takes the lead.

And now that game filly Bagheera starts to move up. It's going to be a terrific finish.

Bagheera can't make up the ground and England defeats France as Supertello passes the post three-quarters of a length clear. And for the second year in succession, Doug. Smith brings home the Gold Cup. Congratulations to jockey, owner and Supertello.