

ASCOT REPORT.

2/47.

The Queen's designer Norman Hartnell puts the Ascot accent on fashion for racing is only one of the ingredients that gives the meeting a flavour all its own. And what better aperitif before the Royal Hunt Cup than these Hartnell creations - obvious winners in the Summer fashions stakes.

And now let's join the hugh crowds packing the stands that overlook what is perhaps the most picturesque course in the country. The clock says its nearly 3.45. so the Hunt Cup runners get set at the start. There are 26 of them after the prize of more than three thousand pounds - and there they go!

Down we go for a closer look as they thunder up the straight towards the stands. Chivalry and Desert Way are up in front. Ken Gethin is keeping King of the Tudors close behind, waiting for the right moment to challenge.

Now King of the Tudors, number two, is making his run, and he's passing Desert Way. Chivalry, ridden by Dominic Borte, is after him - only a furlong to go.

Now Chivalry starts to move up again. King of the Tudors is tiring. Chivalry's closing the gap with every inch. Neck and neck they race for the post. A terrific battle, but its Chivalry's victory by a nose. The following day, the Gold Cup is the big race and there for the occasion are Her Majesty the Queen and the Queen Mother.

Silix the Second is one of the French challengers. Soon to time for the jockeys to get down to work, but for some, first comes a word with members of the royal party.

Sir Gordon Richards is to ride Senopi, last year's Gold Cup winner. Another threat from France is Le Bourgeois, with Poincelot up. Aubrey Brabazon rides Northern Clean. With the Queen Mother, Her Majesty returns to the royal box. Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal follow behind.

Elpenore, with Jacques Deytsbere up moves to the start. Charlie Smirke rides Northern Light, another French hope. Number three is Silix; They're all in line - and they off! with two fives and a half to go. Terek, Northern Light and Premonition lead them away. Talma is there too, keeping to the rails.

Round the course and back into the straight - Talma and Silex are fighting it out in front. Northern Gleam and Northern Light are both there. Pronunciation is well up. Its still anyone's race.

Elpenore, number one, opens out and he's passing them all. Silex makes a desperate bid to catch up and now Blarney Stone is under pressure.

It's Elpenore by a short head from Silex and Blarney Stone third. A great win for France - and a fine achievement by Elpenore's trainer Charlie Elliott - who, as a jockey, rode last year's winner of the Gold Cup.

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