

55/62

GROUP CAPTAIN TOWNSEND'S 7-2 WINNER.

Ostend racecourse usually holds 8,000, but when Group Captain Peter Townsend's one of the jockeys the crowd's nearly doubled - many of them British tourists anxious for a glimpse of this much-talked-of personality.

He's riding the chestnut mare Kwenda in the Prix de Gyrene handicap - and the bookies are laying 7 to 2. A last word with the trainer before the race. Group Captain Townsend is on local leave from his Air Attache job in Brussels.

The race is over 11 furlongs. All the riders are amateurs, and there's a first prize of 25,000 Belgian francs for the winner.

Reporters have been giving little rest to Group Captain Townsend. Questioned about the future, he says: "It all very difficult for me - I can't make any definite plans"

One thing is certain, at least - he's won the Prix de Gyrene in a photo-finish.