

ST. LEGER.

It's the last classic of the season, the St. Leger - and the smallest field, for only eight of the eighteen entries have escaped the coughing epidemic. Everyone, including the Queen, has been asking: "Has Meld, the odds-on favourite, started coughing yet?" But on the great day, Lady Sia Weraher's handsome filly is safe and sound, and the Queen and the Princess Royal watch her parade with the other seven.

Damon, Beau Prince, Lester Piggott on Nucleus - there's still enough of a field to put Meld on her mettle, but after her victories in the Thousand Guineas and the Oaks, everyone expects the hat trick. So do the bookies - Meld's starting price is 11 to 20 on.

Right horses should be an easy job for the starter - but hullo! Jockey Harcour, on Lovely Vatel, catches the wire and takes a tumble.

And they're off! Damon sets the pace, followed by Miss Rigton, Harwari, Beau Prince, and Meld. And it's not much of a pace yet - almost slow, for a great classic like this. Lester Piggott's biding his time - so is Harry Carr on the favourite.

Still Damon and Miss Rigton, but Beau Prince has moved up to third place, and Harwari's dropping back. Will Damon hold the lead after all, and ride home a 22 to 1 winner?

There's no real challenger yet, but jockey Boullenger on Beau Prince is close behind the two leaders.

All eight runners are there, doggedly holding the same order. Only five furlongs to go - and the crowd's aghast to see who's got something extra up his sleeve for the last vital sprint home.

Four furlongs left - something's got to happen soon....

And here it comes! Harry Carr's bringing Meld up on the outside! The filly's past Beau Prince, and now she's challenging Miss Rigton!

Damon, Miss Rigton, Meld are neck and neck - but Lester Piggott's close behind on Nucleus. Now watch for the incident which brings an objection from Piggott.

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With a furlong to go, Nucleus gives a tremendous burst and tries to pass between Meld and the rails. Meld seems to swerve, and Piggott switches Nucleus to the outside. Now it's Meld, Nucleus, Bean Prince Dacron - Meld has it, yes, Meld's the winner, with Nucleus less than a length behind, and Bean Prince third. Piggott's objection is overruled, and Lady Sia Weraher leads the hat-trick winner into the enclosure. A proud day for her - and for jockey Harry Carr!

*[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a detailed race report or commentary.]*