

ROYAL ASCOT.

Royal Ascot blossoms more brightly than ever on its third day - the day of the Gold Cup. Of course the Aga Khan is here, accompanied by the Begum - Ascot wouldn't be the same without him. He and his family have nine horses on the card today - though strangely enough, none in the Gold Cup itself.

The Queen, the Princess Royal, and Princess Margaret, wearing her gayest hat, walk to the paddock, to inspect the field. Between the fashions and the horses, many people don't know which to look at first. What with flowering brollies and floppy hats, Ascot is really up to form!

Oh yes, the horses. There's Maignet, a 20-to-1, bet, and second favourite, Clichy.

Any moment now, and they're off! Macip I ridden by Serge Boullenger is well up - and so are all the other French challengers.

First time through the straight - and Macip's leading. Is this going to be yet another French victory? Five of the field of ten, are French - so they'll take a lot of beating!

And the second time round there's no doubt about it - Macip's dictating the race, with Bewitched and Clichy following him - all three of them French!

If there's going to be a challenge, it will have to be now - but no, Boullenger's riding Macip like a master, and with one and a half lengths in hand he passes the post - Bewitched is second and Clichy third. An all-French finish, but thoroughly well earned!