

A fair weather forecast brings a huge crowd to Doncaster for the 1956 St. Leger - and this time at least, the met. men turn out to be right. The Queen has High Veldt entered, and W.H. Carr will be riding him. Her Majesty goes to the paddock to inspect the field of 13 runners.

Here's High Veldt, call-over price, five to one.

Court Command, with Lester Piggot up. It goes without saying these days that there's a strong French challenge - including the favourite, Baron de Rothschild's Best Levis. The money tells what punters expect, not what they hope for - though everyone says he'd like to see a home victory - perhaps a Royal one.

The last bets as the field lines up for the start - five bob on that last-minute hunch - but Pont Levis's position as favourite is still unchallenged.

And they're off!

Well bunched up in the first furlong - the favourite's leading, but Court Command is close behind.

And now it's Court Command just in front of Pont Levis, with Lord Aster's Hornbeam third and Talgo fourth.

Hornbeam and Talgo are closing up on the leaders - it looks as though Pont Levis and Court Command have been wearing each other down just a bit too soon. The favourite's pulling on his reins, and jockey Paul Blanc hasn't been able to check him.

Into the straight - still in a bunch - but Pont Levis has lost his lead.

Four furlongs to go - and it might be anybody's race. Court Command is weakening and the favourite is falling back along the rails. But Talgo and Hornbeam are still there. Now it's Talgo in the lead, with Hornbeam and French Beige on his tail.

And here's Cambremer making a challenge on the outside. Jockey Fred Palmer's taking him right up among the leaders! Two furlongs to go!

Five of them almost neck to neck - but Cambremer's pulling away - and Hornbeam's battling gamely to stay with him!

Cambremer's mastering Hornbeam - only a few yards to go, and it looks like yet another French victory - yes, it's Cambremer, with Hornbeam second and French Beige third.

So Fred Palmer, French-born jockey who won last year's Derby on Phil Draks, adds another English classic to his triumphs - and makes it a hat-trick for France this season. French horses won the Derby, and the Oaks, and now the St. Leger. It would be ungenerous not to congratulate them - but when are we going to turn the tables?