

ROYAL ASCOT:

It's well over 80 in the shade - but the Queen still looks cool in her blue lace as she rides down the course for the hottest Royal Ascot in many years. With her are Prince Philip, the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Beaufort. The brilliant weather has encouraged fashionable racegoers to wear their flimsiest dresses, even though the experts have warned that there may be thunderstorms. Of course, Norman Hartneel is here.

In the paddock, a field of 16 are parading for the Ascot Stakes, and there's a good deal of speculation on how the very firm going will affect their various chances. Here's Hannal II, quoted at 10-1. Strong favourite, at 8-1, is Master of Arts, nearest to him in the punters' fancy is Artaban, and he's 8-1 - so the public seem to have made up their minds. Rain breaks suddenly as the horses leave the paddock, and the crowds run for shelter.

There's Artaban, No. 7, having his girth fixed - Master of Arts, No.14, and Chaseway, No.18.

Moving up to the tapes....

And they're off! Away to a clean start on a two-and-a-half-mile battle where it'll be stamina that tells!

Coming along the straight for the first time, with J. Lynch on Bobbee making the running. Master of Arts is being hard-driven, and Closebeck, Chaseway, Bonhomie, and Gay Balled are well up.

Out into the country, and it's still Bobbee, with Gay Balled second. But there's a long way to go, and the early leaders don't always stay the course.

Lynch is still keeping Bobbee in front, but his mount is tiring - and so's Gay Balled! The field's gaining on them and as they come into the straight it's Bonhomie', 25-1 outsider, who's taken the lead! Closebeck and Chaseway do their best, but Bonhomie pulls away for a magnificent four-length victory.

Bonhomie's jockey is 15-year-old apprentice Michael Hayes, who only began riding last autumn; and believe it or not, this, the Ascot Stakes, is his first win! What a start to his career!