

THE 1959 DERBY.

Never can Epsom Downs have formed a stage so near perfection as on this ideal day of the 180th Derby Stakes. It's a national festival. Close on a million people on this unique course almost rub shoulders with the Royal Family. Racing in the blood of the British, on Derby Day makes the whole world kin.

Nowhere else is there a race to compare with this. The sunshine itself was just what the doctor ordered, for the National health. And all in this vast throng were drawn by the magnet of this one incomparable race the Derby. The Queen was escorted to the paddock by the Duke of Norfolk. Dan Cupid was one of seven horses from France. Josephus came next. Doug Smith was wished good luck by the Queen and the Queen Mother. He had the honour of riding Her Majesty's own horse, Above Suspicion. Rousseau's Dream, G. Lewis up. E. Hide on Barbary Pirate. Jockey Fawden found New Brig quite a handful.

As the Royal Party left the paddock the tension heightened, for it was now well after three o'clock, but still time for big money to pour in. The sensational feature of heavy betting overnight and on the course was that Baron de Rothschild's Shantung was hoisted to favourite, at eleven to two. He was one of the French challengers. What a Derby it would be if Her Majesty could win, but Above Suspicion was not highly fancied by experts.

Prince Aly Khan's Princillon and his Saint Crespin III were well fancied. A near outsider, Arvak was followed by the well favoured Thymus. This year the Derby was very much an open race. Punters, big and small alike, nervously watched the behaviour of their money carriers as the horses (a bit nervous themselves) manoeuvred before the start. Twenty came under Starters Orders.

Without too much trouble Starter Alec Marsh got them into order and away they went. A good start isn't everything at the Derby, but it's useful all the same. The outsider Rousseau's Dream, Lindrick, and Saint Crespin sprang well to the front. There was a mile and a half to go, of the most testing course in the country, the first part of it a gradient making early demands on stamina.

After two furlongs, Rousseau's Dream and Lindrick were still there, Josephus, Fidalgo and Arvak well up with them. Now they were going downhill, where many a horse has put a foot wrong in the past, lost his rhythm and fallen back. But none of them made a serious mistake this time as they pounded on towards Tattenham Corner. And as they came round that famous bend, it was still Rousseau's Dream, hard pressed by Josephus, Lindrick, Arvak, Fidalgo and Saint Crespin.

Round the corner and into the straight class began to tell. Joe Mercer urged Fidalgo to an all-out effort and nobly did that son of Arctic Star respond. But now came another thrill; Harry Carr gave the green light to Parthia. His pace was terrific. He was overhauling Fidalgo. The irresistible Parthia was going into the lead. Saint Crespin and Shantung fought it out behind them.

One vital furlong to go and it was still Parthia resisting the challenge of Fidalgo. Not only resisting but drawing clear away. Parthia won by a length and a half. Fidalgo second; Shantung, third.

Parthia's victory made history for Harry Carr. It was his first Derby win; and the first for the famous trainer Captain Boyd-Rochfort. Above all it was a victory for English racing. The French invasion was roundly defeated by the gallant Parthia.

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