

The biggest crowd the Irish Derby has drawn to the Curragh for many a year made this a day to remember; one to quicken the racegoer's pulse and stimulate the fashionable word to produce its best.

A fashion display all to himself. Prince Monolulu. He no doubt had one to beat the favourite; though that most fancied animal was no less than Larkspur, winner of the Epsom Derby. And how the money poured in; for this year the race was called the Irish Sweeps Derby, sponsored by the Irish Hospitals and worth £50,000 to the winner.

Grandstand viewers saw the cream of the season's 3-year-olds convincingly parading in fine fettle. Trainer O'Brien's Sebring was well fancied, and if nerves showed here and there it was nothing to worry about. As for jockeys, the 24 included just about the best in Europe, outwardly calm as each waited for the mount on which to win, perhaps, more fame and something more than a bit of spending money.

Solpetre - McGrath, up.

Somewhere amongst them down there is the English Derby winner, yes, there he is, Larkspur; like Sebring, trained by M.V. O'Brien, and going to start favourite. He won at Epsom, so why not here at the Curragh?

Ridden by E. Smith, Our Guile.... And Arcor, Sellwood up, the horse that was second to Larkspur at Epsom. And here's Tambourine 11, Roger Poincelet in the saddle. And now all 24 horses are at the start, apparently under good control; and any second now the tapes will go up. Yes, that's it, they're off.

Every runner carries 9 stone and there's a mile-and-a-half to go. Under the excellent conditions it may be one of the fastest Derby's Ireland's ever seen.

St. Denys, Fail Star, Larkspur, Sebring, Cyrus and Tambourine are well placed.

And now they come round the last bend into the finishing straight. Roger Poincelet's given Tambourine its head a bit earlier than he wanted to. The French trained horse seemed to take matters into his own feet. In the last furlong Arctic Storm comes along like a storm. Tambourine's on the rails. Can he make it? There's only inches in it as they pass the post; a photo finish with Tambourine shown as the winner. Another great triumph for Roger Poincelet.

Remember? Poincelet won the English Derby in '61. Roger the Menace. Well, well, a Jeep: Surely they deserve a Rolls.