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GRAND NATIONAL. 1955.

26th March 1955

This was Aintree in 1955 --- when the great crowds of sport-lovers didn't care if it snowed horses --- but since Goosander was ~~xxxxxxxx~~ scratched at least the bookmakers didn't get a soaking. And this year it was Royal Aintree --- when Her Majesty the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret came to watch the greatest steeplechase in the world. The royal family had a special interest --- for M'as-tu-vu?, owned by the Queen Mother, had more than a sporting chance to win.

Undaunted by the weather, the royal party went into the paddock to give M'as-tu-vu? a last look over before the race began.

Here's Royal Tan --- winner for Vincent O'Brien's stables in 1954 --- and Early Mist who also won for O'Brien the year before.

From now on there's nothing an owner can do but hope for the best --- so the Royal Party pick their way through the mud to the Earl of Sefton's box from which they'll watch the race. And now we take you inside too --- to watch the weighing in. On the scales is Bryan Marshall --- wondering if this year will give him his hat-trick of winning rides.

Thirty runners are getting ready to go to the start for the four and a half miles of gruelling galloping that make the Grand National.. But this year, instead of the usual thirty jumps there will be only twenty-nine. Owing to the bad conditions, the Water Jump has been washed out. All look very fit as they parade before the stands --- but naturally it's M'as-tu-vu? that looks best of all to the party in the Royal Box.

And now --- stand by to go!

Away goes the field of thirty horses towards the first of the twenty-nine jumps of the Grand National. Among the leaders are Sundew, E.S.B., Moogie, M'as-tu-vu?, Copp and Steel Lock.

Slow motion shows you this first jump that often brings so many ~~riders~~ down --- but here the only two are Mariner's Log and Blue Envoy.

Now the leaders are Sundew, Moogie, Steel Lock and M'as-tu-vu?

But this was the end of the ride for Another Rake.

Now for Becher's --- mighty Becher's --- though it's a slightly easier jump this year. And here our slow motion ~~comes~~ comes into action once again --- to show how E.S.B. and Roman Fire went out of the running.

There's still a great company ~~of horses~~ in the race as they come to jump No. 7. Sundew, and Steel Lock and M'as-tu-vu? are still well placed; but Moogie comes down --- and so does Copp.

Now the Canal Turn --- a tricky jump and turn on the soft going --- Sundew, M'as-tu-vu? and Steel Lock still showing the way and all the rest following over in good style.

Sundew and Steel Lock leading at ~~the~~ Valentine's Brook; but from here you can look out for the number 10 --- that's Quare Times. No falls here at Valentine's.

A rail, ditch and fence with Sundew leading alongside Steel Lock and Quare Times; but Munster King is down ----- and so is Oriental Way. Every Grand National is an amazing race and this one is no exception. Despite the terrible conditions, more horses were still in the race at this point than for many years. The leaders here are still Sundew, Steel Lock and Quare Times --- but M'as-tu-vu? is beginning to come on strongly.

Close behind the leaders are Gentle Moya, Wild Wisdom, Cafey's Cottage, Ontray --- and still there's a good-sized company in the race. ~~THIS IS WHERE IN NORMAL YEARS THEY HAVE THE WATER JUMP~~

--- BUT THIS YEAR THERE'S ENOUGH WATER WITHOUT IT --- SO THEY
Now on the bend of the racecourse to start the second ^{40 ROUNDS} circuit --- on the rails is No. 16 --- M'as-tu-vu? --- ~~in the lead~~ ^{IT} ~~for the first time~~ and going well. Watch him run a little wide and then close in again to ~~increase~~ ^{more into the} lead.

Now for Becher's for the second time --- Quare Times --- M M'as-tu-vu? --- Sundew --- Carey's Cottage has come up --- Gentle Moya --- Steel Lock; and Tudor Line has joined in the rush. Irish Lizard and Ontray are in there ~~ixyngz too.~~

Now the jump before the Canal once again --- Quare Times --- M'as-tu-vu? --- Carey's Cottage --- Tudor Line and Sundew still there.

Canal Turn --- no change.

Valentine's Brook is the twenty-fourth jump to-day --- and once again this gallant band of brothers negotiate the deal with no loss.

~~But here it was that Sundew lost his long held lead and Quare Times took over.~~ But after Valentine's ~~xxxxxxxjump~~

a rail, ditch and fence took toll of two; Steel Lock went down --- and M'as-tu-vu?

AND the Royal Horse

Now ^{for} the last jump before the racecourse --- first, Carey's Cottage, then Quare Times and Tudor Line with jockey in squares.

Those three are together now like circus horses and the race is nearly over.

~~And~~ But even now there's still quite a big field in the race --- with Sun Clasp gallantly bringing up the rear.

Sun Clasp is down --- but no harm done. He gets up and waits like a well-trained hunter for his rider to get back ~~ixix~~

~~xx~~

in the saddle. Who says Aintree is too tough? They're loving it

And now back to the circus --- Quare Times, Carey's Cottage and Tudor Line

Coming to the last jump the weather is terrible --- but now watch Tudor Line swerve again just like he did last year. Last year that swerve at that jump lost him the race to Royal Tan -- and this time he's done it again. Quare Times didn't need any more encouragement. With only the run-in to go he went racing on ahead of Tudor Line, Carey's Cottage and Gagolo --- and going like a train.

Yes --- it's a win for Quare Times by twelve lengths; with Tudor Line second for the second year running and Carey's Cottage third with Gigolo fourth. So this is yet another Grand National win for Ireland --- and a personal triumph for jockey P. Taaffe. and owner Mrs W.H.E. Wellman.

But --- greatest triumph of all is for trainer Vincent O'Brien. It's an ~~skisinn~~ all-time record --- the first time any trainer has had a National winner three times in a row.