

So --- with the band playing and the sun shining --- the ~~xx~~ continuation of the Royal Ascot Meeting lived up to the promise of its opening day; both for the spectators on the side where they whammed out the wallop, and for the other side where it was pink champagne.

Looking around for the latest fashion ideas, you notice that by some it was considered effective to carry furs, but that was no reflection on the weather. And there was also a good deal of looking around to see what Lady Docker was wearing --- accompanied by heavy sighs and thoughts of the old overdraft. Among the many other celebrities to be observed was Joan Gilbert, busily signing autographs.

Now ~~xx~~ for a look at the actual racing on this second day. This was the finish of the Hunt Cup --- and leading them home were Nicholas Nickleby, Comic Turn, Coronation Year and Immortal. Fifty-to-one outsider Nicholas Nickleby, beat the favourite in a photo finish.

Her Majesty the Queen was present --- and now she goes back to her box to have a look at the King George V Stakes. The Queen's colt Jardiniere, leased from the National Stud, was favourite --- and Jardiniere carried the royal colours first past the post for a popular win.

Third day of the Ascot Meeting, --- and once again this glorious course was bathed in sunshine. This time the big race was the Gold Vase --- over a distance of two miles.

The winner was brilliantly ridden by E. Mercer. After lying well back he brought Prince Barle up for a cracking finish, to win by a length from Big Chief, with Bless You third.

But after that race --- tragedy struck at a group of spectators by this fence. The skies darkened and brought a summer thunderstorm.

Here in the centre of the course --- opposite the Royal Enclosure --- was a scene reminiscent of a stricken street in a wartime blitz. ~~Doctors and ambulances hurried up to attend to the injured. One woman was killed --- and more than forty suffered injury --- some of them serious.~~

~~Here~~ The unlucky spectators made their way to the ambulances. Some of them showed on their clothing, the scorch-marks where the lightning had struck.

This was a tragic episode to mar the gaiety of this Royal Ascot Meeting of 1955..... This meeting, that had been postponed from the previous month, will also be remembered for the contrast of its garden-like beauty --- and its unprecedented scenes of desolation.

✕ One woman was killed instantly --- and there was a later fatal casualty among more than forty who were injured. The Duke of Norfolk, as Senior Steward, immediately gave orders to postpone the next race, and the first aid organisation went ~~into~~ into action, assisted by doctors and nurses among the racegoers.