

CORONATION DERBY
SIR GORDON RICHARD WINS AT LAST

Everything at Epsom pointed to a record Derby. The Traitorous weather relented at last for the sporting festival of Queen, Peers and People. Prince Aly Khan represented his father, owner of Shikampur, a French-trained horse. Mme Volt^Earra, famous French owner, never misses a Derby, though few ~~opiate~~ ^{folks} believe that fate would be so ^{fool} ~~surely~~, in Coronation Week, as to allow a French victory. Whether it was champagne and oysters or fish and chips, a good lunch was had by all.

~~Down the hatch, Sir.~~ What a crowd it was, all looking for something to put their shirt on, if not their buttons.

Soon after one o'clock the Queen, the Duke and others of the royal party drove along the course from Tattenham Corner Station, ~~to which they had come by train.~~ And as the ~~cheers rang out~~ ^{at Epsom} the hopes of nearly a million ~~on the~~ ~~course~~ were that Her Majesty would be the winning owner.

Lord Rosebery and Earl Marshal the Duke of Norfolk, who has been no stranger to Her Majesty this week, received her as Stewards of the Meeting. The Queen looked very lovely in a dress of ^{steel} ~~powder~~ blue, with a much admired cute little hat to match.

The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret ^S drew loyal cheers in a ~~for~~ party which included the Duke and Duchess of the Duchess of Kent Gloucester/and the Princess Royal.

This was a Derby where the punters could be loyal and still hope to win money. They wanted the Queen's horse to win. If that couldn't be, then Gordon Richards.

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As the race time neared the royal party went to the paddock to see Her Majesty's horse and size up the opposition. ~~Her Majesty looked smart and beautiful in Steel Blue~~
~~and her horse was a little better than the others.~~
 Some experts thought that the temperamental Aureole might ^{his} tire himself by antics before the start, and he was certainly very lively. Some of the danger to the Queen's horse came from Chatsworth, fancied for at least a place. Premonition was well-tipped to beat the ^{field} favourite, and of course there was Pinza, Gordon Richards' last chance to win the Derby.

Among the little men with big responsibilities was Aureole's rider, W. H. Carr. The Queen ~~and Duke~~ wished him good luck. Strolling by that new knight of the saddle, Sir Gordon himself, was called over by the Queen. And Her Majesty wished him good luck too.

There at last was Gordon up on Pinza, wondering if he could emulate Stanley Matthews and win the last honour his sport has to confer. Aureole was still very nervous.

* W. R. Johnstone was up on Pink Horse, another challenger from France.

Pinza was favourite at 5-1, Aureole second at 9-1 as the 27 runners came under starter's orders and were smartly got away by Mr. Marsh.

The Derby course ^{begins} ~~starts~~ up hill, with a great struggle by all to get a position close to the rails. Very seldom is the big race won by a horse that leads early on, but that didn't deter Charlie Smirke. He took Shikampur into the front, and as Charlie has won the Derby three times, including last year on Talyar, there could be no criticism of his tactics. ~~in~~

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Pinza

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Shikampur held his comfortable lead approaching Tattenham Corner, though Pinza, Aureole, Mountain King and Good Brandy were all in position to make serious challenge.

405 (Queen) And now the thing happened. Two furlongs out Gordon Richards make his effort. Pinza nobly responded, and there was the champion jockey, out in the front, with Shikampur beaten and fading, Aureole in second place but without a hope.

461 That great finish deserves another look.... This time we slow down the motion to show with what consummate skill the champion jockey took Sir Victor Sassoon's colt past the post to win the world's greatest classic. [The Gold Vase and 19 thousand pounds went to the lucky owner. ~~With~~ The greatest reception even ^{ever} Gordon has had accompanied him to the unsaddling enclosure.

495 Pinza now only had to go round in circles, for the moment the most famous horse in the world.

After the next race the Queen graciously sent for the champion in the royal box. Nothing embarrasses that great little man, otherwise it might have been an ordeal to meet the royal owner he robbed of victory. It was a wonderful end to an historic week.