

Sunshine and fashion blossom out on ^{Royal} Hunt Cup Day as the famous Ascot Heath basks in summer glory...

On the popular side - the family parties enjoy that "local" atmosphere... While for others - it's a champagne occasion / ~~the Ascot~~ at

~~and on an occasion~~ ^{At Ascot} when every woman comes to see or be seen, some just couldn't afford to leave those furs at home. / ^{AND KNOWING OUR CLIMATE}

As always - a leader of fashion - Lady Docker looked cool and charming. / Besieged by admirers - Joan Gilbert was in for a busy afternoon....

Meanwhile, one of the top handicaps of the meeting - the Royal Hunt Cup brought yet another thrilling finish. Mr Jack Gerber's Nicholas Nickleby (No. 21) got his ^{nose} ~~tail~~ in front in the last stride... to win from Coronation Year and Comic Turn. /

After the Gold Cup had gone to Italy, the Queen left the Paddock to watch her horse, Jardiniere run in the King George the Fifth Stakes...

Vigorously ridden by Douglas Smith, the Royal Colt No. 24 struck the front in the final furlong... ³ And it's ~~was~~ "Hats Off, the Queen wins!" /

There were blue skies, too, on the following day, giving no hint of the tragedy that was to cloud the meeting.

The big race, the Ascot Vase, brought a ^{clash} ~~race~~ of stayers over two miles - and another triumph for the handicapper - as Prince Barle ~~●~~ won by length, in a good finish. /

Near the winning post - excited racegoers gripped the wire fence as they shouted home the winner... Then suddenly, with tropical intensity, a thunderstorm broke over the course. /

^{huddling} People ~~huddled~~ together for shelter were illuminated by a dazzling flash of forked lightning which struck the same wire fence with tragic results.

Over forty people were hurled to the ground, suffering from severe burns and shock. Police and St. John Ambulance workers were giving first aid as ambulances were rushed to the spot - a tribute to the magnificent

efficiency of the authorities - under the direction of the Duke of Norfolk.

~~Actual incident in which lives were lost~~ / ~~Unhappily, two~~ ~~have lost their lives~~ - and many were detained in hospital. /