

GRAND NATIONAL

There are a quarter of a million customers at Aintree, and he's not the only one who is just dying to help them find the Grand National winner ... Go on! Have a bash, pal; only 47 to pick from. It's a really cosmopolitan field, with American, Canadian, French and Spanish owners and riders as well as British. J. Power on CARDINAL ERROR won on FREEBOOTER two years ago. They're on their way to the start now. A sudden rainstorm has made things unpleasant and we shan't be able to see very well, except for the four greys.

They're still raking it in, but the parade's nearly over now and they'll be going to the start.

And here they are, all under starter's orders. It's a big field, but there's very little trouble. They're in line - and they're away. But the tape's not up and they've broken through it. It's a false start and they're pulling up.

Ten minutes later, there's a new tape - they're nicely in line - and they're off! It's a much better start than last year's. LEGAL JOY's a little slowly away but over four-and-a-half-miles that won't matter.

Here's the first jump that took toll of so many last year ... and it's not doing so badly this year! IRISH LIZARD, COURT PAINTER, CREAM OF THE BORDER, ROCKET VI and HAL'S VENTURE are down! But the rest of the field, led by BROWN JACK III, FREEBOOTER, TEAL and EARLY MIST, sweep on to the next jump ... and the gentlemen who came unstuck sort themselves out.

And here it is all over again as the slow motion camera saw it. FREEBOOTER fell here last year, but he's going grandly today, and Arthur Thompson is about to take up the running on TEAL.

Now it's TEAL leading FREEBOOTER and BROWN JACK III over the fence before Beecher's. And there goes another. CLONCARRIG and the French National winner NAGARA have gone already.

Beecher's Brook now, and as we change to slow motion, it's TEAL and FREEBOOTER leading from Dorothy Paget's LEGAL JOY. CAESAR'S WIFE's jockey is out of it but the almost white mare is moving up.

Still TEAL in front. He likes to make the running and Arthur Thompson knows the gelding that once changed hands for £38 will stay for ever. Topweight FREEBOOTER is going well and so is LEGAL JOY and the three are drawing away.

The Canal Turn, with a sharp left turn.

And there goes POSSIBLE with his young American owner Eric Weymouth.

Now they're approaching Valentine's and FREEBOOTER's slightly ahead of TEAL but they're about level as they land, closely followed by LEGAL JOY.

There goes ANOTHER DELIGHT - a terrific crash - but there's no serious damage done.

Now TEAL is pulling away from FREEBOOTER - looks as though Arthur Thompson's trying to shake off the grey CAESAR'S WIFE. She was a bit of a nuisance last year, too. At Aintree she just loves to go along with the boys at the head of the field - without her rider!

That brings the field down to twenty as they near the end of the first time round.

At the water jump it's still TEAL, FREEBOOTER and LEGAL JOY in front and in that order they begin the second circuit as they go out into the country once again.

Approaching jump no. 1 for the second time, there's still no change in the order.

There goes ROIMOND.

Second time over Beecher's. TEAL nearly went then and FREEBOOTER's drawn slightly ahead. LEGAL JOY is going well and WOT NO SUN (topical name that!) is showing up. Going away from Beecher's.

TRAVELLER'S PRIDE take a fall and that's as far as she's going!

FREEBOOTER by a neck leading at the jump before the Canal Turn, but TEAL is none the worse for his mistake and keeping up with him.

Now it's the CANAL TURN. They're very close but they're safely over - no! there goes gallant FREEBOOTER. LEGAL JOY steers clear and Brian Marshall grabs FREEBOOTER to keep him out of trouble.

Over Valentine's it's TEAL leading LEGAL JOY and WOT NO SUN, and ROYAL TAN is beginning to move up fast.

Michael Soudamere is challenging on LEGAL JOY, and ROYAL TAN (second last year) has moved up to third. It looks like being a terrific finish, as LEGAL JOY and TEAL fight it out.

The last jump. TEAL and LEGAL JOY are over together, but there goes ROYAL TAN when he was certain of a place. Tough luck on Ireland, but a lucky break for WOT NO SUN.

But now TEAL has drawn clear, and with five lengths to spare from LEGAL JOY he passes the post to give Arthur Thompson his second Grand National win.

Michael Sandamere brings LEGAL JOY alongside to congratulate Thompson, followed by Dave Dick on WOT NO SUN, who was third! And then everybody joins in including a number of gentlemen who don't seem to be interested in souvenir photographs without their horses.

It's a big moment for white-haired 21-stone owner Harry Lane, who won the Lincoln last year with "Barnes Park." He told everybody to back TEAL and brought 600 employees from Stockton to see his horse win.