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THE DERBY.

Half a million people crowd Epsom for, once again, the calendar says its Derby Day. Hundreds of cars, coaches and trains have brought racegoers to the world's most famous racecourse for the 1954 version of the world's most famous race. But before we watch our hopes go the old way home, let's see what else Epsom has to offer.

And to complete the traditional Derby scene, Her Majesty the Queen is here. Lord Roseberry accompanies her towards the paddock, also in the royal party are the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Kent and the Duchess of Gloucester.

There's been a 1st minute rush to back Blue Sail, American Johnny Longden's mount. Naturally enough, royal attention focusses on Her Majesty's own colt, Landau. Billy Snaith is the jockey who replaces Sir Gordon Richards. Princess Alexandra watches the riders come out to take their seats.

Derby Day this year is on the first anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. The Queen, whose horse was second last year, stands a good chance of victory this time.

Never Say Die and Arabian Night lead the procession on their way to the start.

There goes Landau, looking every inch a champion.

Rowston Manor, number 7, has Doug Smith in the saddle. Number 8 is Blue Sail, Johnny Longden's adopted the acy-deusy style for the race. The clock's moving round to three-thirty - won't be long now.

Up to the tapes, the field of twenty-two gets into line. Never Say Die seems unsettled.

And away they go! Moonlight Express, Landau and Blue Sail jump into the lead rightaway as they head uphill towards the bushes. They're setting a cracking pace already. Moonlight Express and Landau are holding their lead. Lester Piggott keeps Never Say Die on the outside well behind the leaders.

At the top of the hill, L'Avengre, is up with Moonlight Express, Rowston Manor, Blue Sail and Darius. Landau seems to be dropping back for the moment, but Ferroll, a French horse, is gaining steadily.

Sweeping downhill towards Tattenham Corner, Rowston Manor, Ferroil and the outsider Alpenhorn are making the running. Arabian Night is going well, but he's biding his time.

Into Tattenham Corner, and Rowston Manor, Blue Sail, Darius and Never Say Die are all there. Four furlongs to go - they'll be making their challenges soon.

Darius and Landau are in the lead, moving up with every stride. Darius and Landau fight it out with him, but Never Say Die is in front now. Darius is second, and Arabian Night is up there to challenge. Lester Piggott shows his mount the whip - about two furlongs to the post.

Its still Never Say Die with Darius second - but Arabian Night is moving up fast. Tommy Gosling brings him closer - its going to be a terrific battle for second place.

Its Nevery Say Die's victory all right. And Arabian Night is second by little more a nose from Darius. A surprise result. Too bad it wasn't a royal victory this time, but what a brilliant win for a great-hearted colt, and what a superb ride by young Piggott, the 18 year old Boy Wonder of the Turf.

Mr. Sterling Clark, the American owner of Never Say Die, wins nearly £17,000 - and the greatest honour in world racing.

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