

GRAND NATIONAL

Three hundred thousand people whose sporting ~~like~~ enthusiasm even a blizzard would not have daunted crowded the famous Aintree course for the ~~biggest~~ ^{famous} steeplechase in the world. There were fifty seven runners, the biggest field for eighteen years! ²⁰ Nevertheless three hundred thousand optimists on the course, and several millions off it, attempted the impossible and tried to pick the winner. ~~With the exception~~ ^{of} ~~the~~, ^{To} the dismay of his supporters, ~~was~~ last year's winner, Lovely Cottage... ^{of} ~~g~~ ^{of} favourite again, despite the expensive failure twelve months ago, was Prince Regent, carrying top weight of twelve-stone-seven. Bricett, firmly supported in the north/^{of}England, carried eleven-stone-one. Punters who know their Aintree were doubtful about the top weights. Two hours of heavy rain in the morning had made the going heavy; conferring a big advantage on the animals more lightly handicapped. Bookies were in a jovial mood. The more it rained the more likely was it that an outsider would win the National and the fortunes that fell to the ring over the Lincoln ^{and} be more than doubled.

f/v were

The handsome Prince Regent looked in fine fettle. Luan Casca had legions of admirers and ~~had~~ advanced to fourth favourite some hours before the start. Lord Bicester's Parthenon was fancied in many quarters, but now all eyes were on the ~~starting-point~~ ^{starter-gate} ~~starting-point~~ ^{sideling} ~~starting-point~~ ^{to large field it is} In surprisingly short time

that the fifty seven were got into line, ~~and set for a~~ ^{all set for a} ~~good start.~~ ^{perfect start}

On they went to the first of Aintree's thirty jumps, sixteen on the first circuit of the course, fourteen on the second, ~~time round~~. Four and a half miles studded with such obstacles severely tries the finest steeplechasers under the best conditions; with today's ^{heavy} going it ~~will~~ ^{was} not ~~be~~ ^{many} expected that half the runners would be in the race at the finish.

(one cut)
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~~At Bacher's Brook Lough Conn, Domino, Kilna Glory~~
At Becher's Brook Lough Conn, Domino, Kilnaglory and House Warmer led the field.

2 Y ~~crowd~~ (crowd) Canal turn. Both riders and horses are tested here to the full. As soon as they're over the jump they have to negotiate an ~~almost right angle turn~~ ^{abrupt turn to the left}. ~~practically impossible for any horse that comes down slightly off balance.~~ At Valentine's Brook ~~with~~ the slow-motion camera again enables us to analyse the excellent horsemanship brought out at Aintree as nowhere else. Already, barely half round the first circuit, the field had thinned out.

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(glasses) At the water jump Lough Conn, Musical Lad, Kilnaglory, Domino and Prince Regent were in the front, and now they came round the bend to go round Aintree for the second time. Lough Conn was leading, much to the delight of the strong Irish contingent represented in the crowd.

(One out)

Nearly every jump now was taking its toll. The half dozen or so loose horses up with the leaders increased the hazards. At Becher's for the second time it was still Lough Conn in the lead, Bricett, Kilnaglory, Musical Lad and Prince Regent keeping him close company. Almost unnoticed just behind them was another Irish hope Caughoo. At the Canal Turn Bricett came a cropper and Caughoo moved up to second place.

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Two jumps from the winning post Caughoo went into the lead. The Hundred to One Outsider made all the running. If the horse could stay Eddie Dempsey had the race in his pocket. And stay he did. Caughoo actually stepped up his pace till twenty lengths yawned between him and Lough Conn. It was one more added to the long list of Irish victories in the ~~Grand National~~. *to Blue Riband of steeplechasing*
~~Caughoo's success~~,

Mr. J. J. McDowell ~~had~~ achieved the dearest ambition of every Irish lover of ~~steeplechasing~~ ^{racing}; his horse had won the Grand National.