

Crowds adding up to something like a quarter of a million people came to the famous Grand National Course at Aintree to watch the greatest steeplechase in the world over a distance of four-and-a-half miles with thirty jumps. Our Russian visitor, Mr Malenkov was being shown around by Aintree's own Mrs Top ham. (BRING UP)

In the places where money talks in loud and hoarse voices, the Union Jacks were hoisted in token of the fact that this was a royal occasion. Her Majesty the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret were welcomed by the stewards: The Earl of Sefton, Earl Derby and the Duke of Roxburge. A Royal occasion with two runners carrying the colours and the hopes of the Queen Mother.

Let's look in at the Paddock, one of the entries from the Royal Stable is M'As-tu-vu - who also ran in 1955 but fell.

And the second horse carrying the colours of the Queen Mother is Devon Loch - destined this year to finish with such tragic bad luck.

Now - come into the weighing-in room and watch the weighing in of Dick Francis - hopeful now, but marked out by fate for disappointment in a race where chance and mischance ride alongside every jockey.

Now it's nearly time for the start - the field is on parade. (BRING UP)

In the Royal Box - the eager anticipation of an owner is an extra thrill as the field turns and canters back towards the start. (BRING UP)

The start itself in long-delayed Wild Wisdom is one of the chief causes of the hold-up.

But it'll be any moment now! - And there they go, away to a good start - a field of twenty-nine racing for a good position at the first of thirty jumps.

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And now for the first time our newreel camera gets a unique running shot besides the horses as they tackle the first jumps. (BRING UP) No. 1 brings down Must - High Guard the grey - Reverend Prince and Early Mist a previous winner. (BRING UP)

This is where

One More jump before. Becher's. Armorial No. 12 began to establish the lead that he maintained for three quarters of the race. (BRING UP)
And now our slow motion camera takes them over mighty Becher's. But first time round in 1956 - this awesome rail, fence and brook was nobody's problem. (BRING UP)

Over to the Canal, tricky Canal Turn - the thorn fence and a right-angle, left-handed turn. Armorial leading Sundew - Eagle Lodge and E.S.B. well placed - and, once again, no casualties. (BRING UP)

Jump No. 10 - The field of twenty-nine is down to twenty-three - no, twenty-two - and they come thundering on to the rail, ditch and fence of jump no. 11 - where Domata bids farewell to his chance. (BRING UP)

Now - the Water Jump and a score of thoroughbreds still in the race make no trouble at all (BRING UP)

Rounding the bend to start the second circuit out into the country - it's Armorial still leading comfortably and going like a champion. (BRING UP)
Becher's - for the second time. And it's here that Sundew fell. Armorial still in front. (BRING UP) All the rest are comfortably over - except one who is over but not comfortable. (BRING UP)

Now the Canal Turn for the second time. Armorial No. 12 still leading from E.S.B. No. 7 and Eagle Lodge and Devon Loch. (BRING UP)

Slow motion at Valentine's - no change. (BRING UP)

Jump No. 26 - There goes gallant Armorial; and Devon Loch No. 5, E.S.B. and Eagle Lodge are striving for leadership. Gentle Moya's there and Royal Tan's come up - and Ontray. (BRING UP)

Now watch/^{how}the Queen Mother's Devon Loch comes up strongly into the lead from Eagle Lodge and E.S.B. - beginning to look like a certain winner. (BRING UP)
The last jump but one - and there goes Ontray.

And now our newsreel picture provides the dramatic climax of disaster as millions heard it on the radio. (BRING UP)

RAYMOND GLENDENNING

It's Devon Loch for the Queen Mother with E.S.B. in second place and Eagle Lodge in third - and Gentle Moya coming very hard indeed in fourth place. Royal Tan moving up into the battle but Devon Loch is holding off E.S.B. and now they're coming with 150 yards to go - with Devon Loch about 1½ lengths ahead. It's Devon Loch three lengths clear with 100 yards to go.

Sheet ThreeGlendenning (continued)

Devon Loch has gone down! And he's passed by E.S.B. with Gentle Moya in second place and Eagle Lodge now coming up into third place - jump just pipped on the post by Royal Tan. (End of Glendenning)

Devon Loch is out of it at the eleventh hour, the remainder of the reduced field goes wearily by as Dick Francis dismounts - the most broken-hearted man in all the world. Tough luck, indeed. (BRING UP)

Mrs Leonard Carver leads in her winner, E.S.B. and jockey David Dick to finish the most dramatic Grand National of all time. (BRING UP)

Congratulations to David Dick - whose last-minute good luck overshadowed what had still been a magnificent ride; congratulations to E.S.B. - ten lengths ahead of Gentle Moya the mare - and now we take you back to that terrific high spot of disaster - to show you what happened in detail when victory was snatched from the Queen Mother's Devon Loch... (BRING UP)

1956 was the year of the Hard Luck National - Hard Luck for a very gallant ~~horse~~ loser. (BRING UP)