



The Tin Man scores one for the Syndicates



The Tin Man with jockey Tom Queally and Syndicate members.

ALL in all, last week was a brilliant Ascot Week. It nearly always is.

This year, the shade temperature on the first two days was 35 degrees, with 70,000+ people heating each other up through proximity. Phew! For those of us wrapped in layers of shirt, waistcoat and tail coat.

Instead of the usual seafood and fizz brunch in the Royal Enclosure Garden, we grabbed a cool table for similar fare on the shady side of the Grandstand equivalent. Then we briefly moved inside for a blast of air-conditioning before the Hats Off moment as the Royal Procession arrives from Windsor. The professional task of seeing as much as possible of the horses up close and personal – mostly in pre-parade and going down - was fulfilled up to a reasonable point, although on the very hot two days with hot nights to follow, we concentrated on Group 1s and rested for others.

Later in the week, being outside was no strain at all for anyone on course– beautiful 20s English Summer – and for none more so that the “Fred Archer

Syndicate” who frolicked and hugged when their pride and joy THE TIN MAN triumphed in the Group 1 Diamond Jubilee Stakes on Saturday.

“The Tin Man” was the nickname of the legendary Fred Archer who won thirteen jockey championships, five Derbies, about twenty other Classics and, in 1885, 246 races, a seasonal total not surpassed until Gordon Richards’ 1933 season. Archer, very tall at 5’10”, had to waste drastically to make the weights at a time when nutrition advice was presumably scarce. His sad end came when the resultant depression that overtook him was exacerbated by grief at the death of his wife. A very disturbed man, he succeeded in shooting himself while his sister struggled to stop him. The jury at the 1886 inquest declared that he had become of unsound mind.

The Tin Man (horse) and the Fred Archer Syndicate, however, are based at Pegasus Stables (which were built by Fred Archer) on the Snailwell Road where James Fanshawe trains. A delightful man, James Fanshawe is an up-market trainer (*to page 2*)



The Tin Man takes the Diamond Jubilee (left).... he was named after 'the Tin Man', Fred Archer (middle) and no, not the Tin Man on the right!

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with immaculate premises. His wife Jako created the syndicates, each having ten members with a similar structure to our own HINTLESHAM RACING which operates in both UK and South Africa.

The Tin Man, now a 5 year old gelding, has only raced 13 times – 6 at 3, 5 at 4, 2 so far at 5. Most horses are off the course November – April anyway, having a break “to be a horse”, stretch muscles differently, get over any minor niggles, wind down and relax, then back in training after the New Year. Clearly, patience from owners and trainer has been necessary but completely justified by two Group 1 wins late last season and now Saturday’s Diamond Jubilee Stakes.

Established in 1868 as the All-Aged Stakes, then from 1926 called the Cork & Orrery Stakes, the race was – in the shake-up of the Royal Meeting in 2002 - renamed the Golden Jubilee Stakes for The Queen’s milestone event. Then in 2012 it moved onto the Diamond Jubilee Stakes for obvious reasons.

Her Majesty shows no sign of flagging. We could yet have a Platinum Jubilee Stakes, extending the longest reign in a thousand years and more, although somehow Ascot is more Diamond than Platinum.

On Wednesday, she, at 91, dealt with her husband being taken into hospital the night before (a precaution), attended the delayed Opening of Parliament, dressed down in daytime Ascot attire with no coach and no State Crown, delivered The Queen’s Speech

to the Houses and then dashed off for the Royal Procession and an afternoon at her own racecourse.

An outspoken Labour MP Dennis Skinner is wont to make a pithy remark when Black Rod states that The Queen requires the presence of the Commons members in “The Other Place” meaning the House of Lords. On Wednesday, he said out loud “*And get your skates on, the first race is at 2.30*” to general laughter and a smirk from Black Rod.

Who rode The Tin Man? The man on Frankel’s back in all his races. Admitting that good rides are hard to come by, Tom Queally has had a quieter time since Frankel retired and Sir Henry departed. Now he rockets back with a Group 1 win at the Royal Meeting – but in another country he would probably have lost it.

In the final furlong, The Tin Man leaned left with his rider not changing his whip, interfering with super sprinter LIMATO (favourite, finished 3rd) who is by Tagula, the surprising sire also of top miler CANFORD CLIFFS, who is to stand at Highlands in the Cape in 2018. Limato in turn leaned into TASLEET (2nd), a Shadwell colt by Showcasing who ran a cracking race.

A Steward’s Enquiry (Race Review) was called, with the proceedings televised for all to see on and off course. Queally was penalised two days for careless riding but the placings remained unaltered. In some countries, the horse would automatically

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The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod seeks entrance to the House of Commons.

lose the race. In the UK, if it is judged that a transgression has not affected the result, the culprit is punished but the result will stand. Favourite backers of Limato had little cause to expect anything else when Henry Candy, gentleman trainer of this and others such as Airwave, almost immediately commented that Limato – who was indeed inconvenienced – was nevertheless third best on the day.

And so the syndicate won a Group 1; Tom Queally returned to the limelight; and James Fanshawe won a race that he had won once before, with Society Rock 6 years ago. Syndicate members frolicked on the Ascot lawns knocking each other's toppers and feminine millinery off in the act.

A beaming lad stayed at The Tin Man's head throughout as the horse divided his time between being patted, kissed and hugged and gulping down buckets of water in the Winner's Enclosure at Royal Ascot. Nobody cared that they, too, got wet when other buckets were poured over their champion.

We await CARAVAGGIO (Coolmore's unbeaten Scat Daddy colt who won the 3 year old Group 1 sprint The Commonwealth Cup) v. THE TIN MAN at Newmarket in July Week. - tt.

TAB betting on Durban July opens today

THE scratching of Elusive Silva from Saturday's Vodacom Durban July, coupled with the inclusion of Horizon and last Thursday's gallops, has resulted in some changes to the betting for the R4.25-million race over 2200m at Greyville on Saturday. July betting at the TAB opens this morning.

Sean Tarry-trained Al Sahem has joined Edict Of Nantes at the top of the bookmakers' boards and they are both on offer at 9-2. They are followed by the Justin Snaith-trained pair of Black Arthur at 13-2 and It's My Turn at 9-1.

Horizon was the first reserve and the Candice Bass-Robinson-trained son of Dynasty now joins the field. He will be ridden by Richard Fourie. Elusive Silva was scratched on Thursday evening and it appears he hurt himself at the official gallops that morning.

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