



# Vodafone Derby Day

Epsom Downs  
Saturday 2 June 2007

Official programme and race card £3.00



## The Derby

by Henry F. Birtles



Why do they come on that June afternoon  
To the top of a hill, at the Capital's edge  
Why sit in traffic for half of the day  
Why are they here; well they've gathered to pledge  
An allegiance to one and for centuries they've come  
To witness the run of the boy who'll be king  
Who's name could be sung, for as long as men sing  
Who's proved that he holds all the aces you need  
Assuming the mantle that greatness bestows  
By placing himself at the head of his breed  
To put to the sword the most worthy of foes  
Why do the names of the victors stand tall  
When a name as a name can mean nothing at all  
Ask when you walk down your street or afar  
Have you heard of Nijinsky, Mill Reef or Shergar  
D'you know what I mean when I speak in hushed tones  
D'you know what I mean when you can't describe joy  
D'you get what they get when one rises alone  
Why the blood still runs fast at the mention of Troy  
This is The Derby and this is the race  
That the rest of the World, through its name find a place  
For their own measurement, for their own litmus test  
To find a Horse worthy of calling the best  
And it all started here upon high Epsom Downs  
Where the greatest still fight for the greatest of crowns  
Where men stand as one, whether blue blood or red  
Whether born of the street, or in purple are bred.  
And they stand here to cheer and they stand here to call  
And they stand to acclaim one who rose above all  
This is The Derby and this is the race  
This the Kingmaker; hold tight, take your place.