

Vodafone Derby Day

Epsom Downs Saturday 2 June 2007

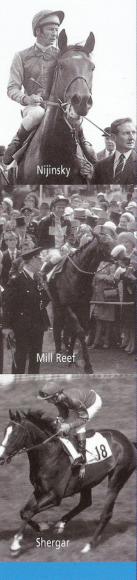
Official programme and race card £3.00





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.