

TATTENHAM CORNER

IS FRANKIE LIKE NORMAN WISDOM OR ALBERT STEPTOE?

Ascot's statue of Frankie Dettori, commissioned to celebrate the jockey's 'Magnificent Seven' there 11 years ago, is back in pride of place at the track after a short return trip to its sculptor, David Roper-Curzon. Dettori was known to be less than impressed by the original effort and officials at the course decided to send the sand-blasted bronze back for some 'tweaking' when racegoers kept referring to it as the 'Norman Wisdom statue'. Now returned to its site at the main western entrance, general consensus is that the likeness is much improved. But that failed to prevent one report last week that some of the Ascot staff now refer to it as 'Albert Steptoe'.



ARROWS FLY AT NEWMARKET

Darts wannabes get their opportunity to shine in a pro-am tournament organised by sponsors Stan James on 1,000 Guineas Day at Newmarket today. The four racegoers

who can register the highest scores with six darts will have a chance to team up with one of four big names from the darts world, Eric Bristow (pictured), Keith Deller, Cliff Lazarenko and Bob Anderson. Also throwing darts to raise money for charity will be members of the Channel Four Racing team, including Tanya Stevenson and John McCrick.

POETRY OR FLATTERY?

The battle is on for the title of racing's chief poet. While the *Racing Post* regularly brings the work of former jockey Sharon Murgatroyd to its readers, Circle, the newsletter of the Dubai Racing Club, has now proclaimed new kid on the block Henry Birtles as 'racing's number one poet'. Birtles, better-known to some in the industry for his work with television production company Sunset & Vine, was in Dubai for the World Cup meeting and clearly inspired by what he saw, he produced a homage to the action entitled 'The Day After' that even made it on to the front page of the *Gulf News*. It probably did not harm him though, to slip in the final couplet of: 'So thank you Sheikh Mohammed for another World Cup Feast. Your home, Dubai, has proved once more that wonders never cease.'

ANOTHER ROCKET FOR BARTON

Manchester City midfielder Joey Barton, who has been suspended until the end of the season for fighting with a fellow player during a club training session last week, is expected to be at Newmarket this

afternoon to watch Blue Rocket, a horse he shares with his agent Willie McKay and another City player Trevor Sinclair, run in the 1,000 Guineas. Blue Rocket, who finished a close third to Scarlet Runner in a trial for the Classic, the Nell Gwyn Stakes, at the course last time, has chances of a place.

QUEEN'S VISIT TO KENTUCKY

There was great excitement in Louisville last night when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attended the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs. The Americans reacted in typically understated fashion to the royal visit. *The Blood-Horse* reports that 'staffers who will come in contact with Her Majesty have undergone extensive etiquette training, while security officers assigned to the Queen's Guard detail have also been briefed on protocol.' Trainer Bill Currin, who owns and trains the Derby hopeful Stormello, joked: 'I hope that she's bringing her sword with her. Maybe she'll knight me if I win.' Meanwhile, the satirical news sheet *Indian Charlie* is treating the visit with due reverence: 'It's a fact that English royalty do not carry money. So all you pickpockets coming to Louisville for the Derby might want to stay clear of Queen Elizabeth II,' notes the publication.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Tetouan, who was a well-backed winner of a handicap at Leicester for Roger Charlton last week, is out of Souk, who was named after an open-air market in Arab states, so the fact that he has been named after the port in Morocco opposite Gibraltar seems to be appropriate.