



## Swindon And Burderop Races

Friday Stewards – John James Calley, esq., and A. L. Goddard, esq. Clerk of the Course – Mr. W. Killard

The announcement of a race meeting at Swindon on Friday last was somewhat of a sporting novelty, for though there is annually a good steeple chase in the neighborhood, no flat race has been held there for many years. The time has been, however, when Swindon was noted for the races, and valuable plates have been contended for on its course; and the Burderop Cup and the Savernake Stakes (named after the seat of the old Marquis of Aylesbury, who formerly patronized these races), have been objects of competition amongst some of the turf celebrities of the day. But for some cause the races gradually declined until they were totally abandoned about 15 years ago. From that time no effort was made to revive them, until this year, when the good people of Swindon bethought themselves of attempting their restoration; and, putting their shoulders to the wheel, and their hands in their pockets, they succeeded in a very short time in collecting a sum which enabled them to offer £140 in stakes for one day's racing. This was not doing badly for a beginning, and we trust that the disposition shown by the gentry, farmers, and tradesmen of this fast-improving town and neighbourhood will induce the race committee to persevere in those endeavours which, on this occasion, proved so successful. We would, however suggest that at future meetings a few coaches or omnibuses be provided for the conveyance to the course of those visitors who come by rail to Swindon, and who now find to their mortification, unless they come early to the market, that the few gigs and flies in the town have been engaged, and they have no alternative but to pad it to the course, a distance of six good miles on the old road to Marlborough. Once on the course it would be impossible not to admire its beautiful situation, on a low slope of the Burderop Downs, with a firm springy turf that makes it the finest galloping ground that can be imagined. Every part of the course can be seen from the Grand Stand and from every part of the hill by which it is backed. The day was exceedingly fine, clear, bright but not too warm; the fresh breezes of the Downs giving a delicious coolness to the air. The company were pretty numerous, and a goodly display of private vehicles lined the course opposite the Grand Stand. The first race on the card was for the Swindon Stakes of 10 sovs. [sovereigns] each, with 40 sovs. added. Mr. S. Scott's Mosque and Mr. Whieldon's New Forest Deer were entered for it; but three horses being required to run for the public money, no race took place.

The Innkeeper's Plate of £25, the gift of the innkeepers of Swindon, added to a Sweepstakes of 5 sovs. Each, for horses of all denominations. Heats, one mile and a half. The winner to be sold for £80, if so properly demanded. Horses that shall be entered subject to the condition of being sold for £60 to be allowed 7lb.; for £40, 12lb. over and above all other allowances.

Mr. W. Treen's Etona, 4 yrs., 7st. 7lb. -- £40 ..... Treen, Jnr. 1 1

Mr. S. Scott's Flatfish, 4 yrs., 7st. 8lb. -- £40 .....	Mann	2	2
Mr. Parr's Eclat, 3 yrs., 6st. 4lb. -- £40 .....	W. Butler	0	3
Mr. Watkin's Whitenose, 7st. 3lb -- £40 .....	Bishop	0	0

First Heat. – Etona made running with Flatfish in attendance, at a very slow pace, till rising the hill at the distance, when they both went to work, Etona lying inside about a length in front of Flatfish, who gradually lessened the distance till within half a dozen strides of the chair, where he had reached the mare's head, but could not get farther, Etona winning by half a neck. Whitenose and Eclat did not go for the heat.

Second Heat. – All got off together, and Etona, as before, cut out the work Flatfish and Eclat, to the rise of the hill, where Flatfish was dished, and the mare cantered in the easiest of winners.

The Burderop Handicap of 15 sovs. each 10ft., and only 5 if declared on or before the 8th September, with 50 added. The second horse to save his stake. Distance, two miles. Any winner of a handicap after the publication of the weights, to carry 5lb. extra.

Mr. Pryse Pryse's Buscot Buck, 5 yrs., 7st. ....	A. Day	1
Mr. Treen's Buttress, 3 yrs., 7st. 9lb. ....	Wakefield	2
Mr. Griffith's Mersey (h-b), 3yrs., 6st. 2lb. ....	Hutchinson	3
Mr. May's Crocus, 6 yrs., 7st. 11lb. ....	Mann	0

Buscot Buck led the way in a canter, with Mersey, Crocus, and Buttress, following in a string. In this order they went half round, when Buttress came up and took second place. At three quarters round all were close up to the leader, and the pace improving to the turn within the distance, where Buttress resigned second place to Mersey, who was lying inside about four lengths behind [Buscot Buck. The Buck never was headed and won easily, but a capital race for second took place between Mersey and Buttress, the latter gaining it by not more than a head.

The Ladies' Plate of 25 sovs., added to a Sweepstakes of 5 sovs. each. - The winner to be sold for £100, if demanded in the usual way. Heats one mile and a half.

Mr. Wieldon's New Forest Deer, 5 yrs., 10st 1lb. ....	Benskill	1	w.o.
Mr. Treen's Etona, 4 yrs., 9st. 5lb. ....	Mann	2	dr.
Mr. Killard's Somerset, aged, 10st. 9lb. ....	Owner	0	dr.

First Heat. – New Forrest Deer made running at a very take-it-away-and-'t-will-do-you-good pace and won in a canter. Etona never coming near him, and Somerset barely saving his distance.

Second Heat. – New Forrest Deer walked over.

Consolation Plate, for beaten horses, of 15 sovs. added to a Sweepstakes of 2 sovs. each. Handicap. Distance 2 miles.

Mr. May's Crocus .....	F. Bell	1
Mr. Parr's Eclat .....	W. Butler	2
Mr. W. Treen's Etona .....	Mann	0
Mr. Watkins's br m Whitenose .....	Bishop	bd

Crocus made the running half way round, it was then taken up by Eclat to within the distance, when Crocus went up and defeated her in the run in, winning cleverly.

This concluded the sport which, though not first-rate, was as good as could have been expected under the circumstances of the experiment to revive the almost forgotten races on this Course.

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