

Gowing and Hunt Race Night 5th August 2011

Well the inaugural Gowing and Hunt race evening took place on the 5th August 2011, at Newmarket's July Racecourse. We were joined for the evening by guests from several building contractors and consulting engineers.

Meeting at our hotel in Ely a coach transferred most of the guests to the course. Thanks to the wonderful A14 this delayed a few and reduced the drinking time at the course!! Not the best of starts.. Fortunately I took my car so I could meet other guests at the course. It just so happened that a glass filled with a bubbly liquid fell into my hand as soon as I walked in the course... Bizarre..

The weather could only be described as absolutely glorious... We were certainly lucky; this was the only Friday night meeting at Newmarket it didn't rain!! I think in the close season we ought to quote the course for installing some air conditioning!!

This is the 1st time I've organised an event like this, arriving at the course was the first time I actually started to relax over the event for weeks! Thank goodness for Champagne I say.. The coach finally arrived with the remaining guests, time to party!!

It wasn't long before our guest speaker arrived, Channel 4 racing presenter and tipster Mr Derek Thompson. Having listened to Derek speak many times before I knew we were in for a few laughs. He didn't disappoint. The tips followed, they were so similar to my own list I thought he'd copied them down when I wasn't looking!!

Two won for us, the rather excellent Noel Quinlan horse Tweedle Dee under the equally excellent Tom Queally romped home. That got us off to a

good start, a barren spell followed until the last where Quasi Congaree landed us a 10/1 winner... Thanks Derek. I really think the "Go on my son" helped!!! The Tote lady had to go and get more money to payout the winnings in the last. Well done Mr Cobb for clearing out the Tote, it's been a while since I last saw that happen.

"Oh by the way guys" I'm still waiting for Derek to drop £50 over to me for the Champagne he said he'd sponsor that I ended up paying for.. Oh and the £4,000.00 bill I received for the ring bought from a Bond Street jewellers after he attempted to get a couple engaged!! I know where you live Derek!! "Ha ha ha... Steady on big fella".. Anyway, best move on..

A definite highlight of the evening for a few of us was what appeared to be a "dance off" involving Mrs Gowing and another guest.. We even have video footage of the event, if I can get away with it, I'll put it up on our website, but I doubt it'll be up there long though!!

According to the photographic evidence taken by Cahit (or Bob as he's known here) there was a band playing after the races. Don't remember that, can anyone remember them, who they were and whether they were any good?? I have no idea!!

After the band finished the draw was made for Derek's... Sorry MY Champagne.. The draw was made from all the losing betting slips from the night.. I didn't win the champs as I only had one losing ticket in there!! Yeah right.. The Champagne was won by Julie Burrows..

Well done Julie, something in the back of my mind says she'll remember which band played after the races??!!

The extremely enjoyable evening came to an end, and a slow trudge back to the bus... Talking of slow, I must apologise to everyone on the bus, by taking a detour down Newmarket High Street to drop me off must have added an extra 45 minutes to the journey!! Opps...

On the journey back Lewis couldn't believe we didn't have a subway in Newmarket or Ely.. Every time I see a Subway now, I have to say it in a midlands accent.. Sorry Lewis, but that did make us chuckle!!

Darryl was fast asleep when I got off the bus.. Mate you really do snore!! Only jokin..

Mr Gowing Senior said he's looking forward to next year's race evening already, I reckon that's the green light for me to organise another one guy's. However despite me saying at the start of the evening I never want to arrange another (as I don't have enough hair to risk losing more through stress), it sounds like I'm not going to get a choice!! Assuming I still have a job after posting up the "dance off"!!!

Finally I must sign off with huge thanks to everyone that came along, we all really enjoyed your company, from the photo's it looked as though everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we really look forward to seeing you again next year.

James Wilson