

The Prince of Wales's Jockeys.

BY ARTHUR F. MEYRICK.



RICH and handsome jacket is that in which His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's racehorses are ridden. It consists of a purple satin body faced with gold braid; the sleeves are scarlet, and the cap black velvet with gold fringe. On a racecourse they first made their appearance on April 15th, 1880, in a military steeplechase at Aldershot, and the honour of wearing them fell to Captain Wentworth Hope Johnstone, then a subaltern in the 7th Hussars; what is more, the horse, called Leonidas II., who carried the Captain to the delight of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and a fashionable company present, won in a canter. Here is Captain Hope Johnstone's recollection of the race. He writes to me from his country residence, Skeynes, Edenbridge: "What a wet afternoon it was. I had got drenched to the skin riding in the race before, and as a preventive to the reins slipping I rubbed my hands with sand among which was some mud, and I brought more mud

home with me, as Leonidas II. was led back to the paddock, a gallant winner." Captain Hope Johnstone was very proud of his victory, and so was the late John Jones, who trained Leonidas II. Between the flags in the "eighties" and early "nineties" there were few better amateur jockeys than the Captain. He had fine hands, good length,

and could always take his own part when a finish became close and exciting. Captain Johnstone was born in 1848 at Moffat, Dumfriesshire, and it was his increased weight two or three years ago which prevented his continuing the pursuit he loved so well. The Prince of Wales, to his successful jockeys, usually gives scarf-pins as souvenirs, and Captain Hope Johnstone still holds the pretty diamond and emerald horseshoe with which he was presented after the victory of Leonidas II., which was a big, upstanding

brown gelding by Lord Clifden or Adventurer. The afternoon that Captain Johnstone won the Military Hunt Cup on Leonidas II. was one of his red-letter days, for he rode three winners of the seven events on the card, and should have won a fourth when wearing the Duke of Connaught's green and black stripes in the Welter Plate on Black Knight, as he was going well when he came to grief.

Another distinguished military man to wear the colours besides Captain Hope Johnstone was the late Major E. R. Owen. "Roddy," as Major Owen was called by his friends, won two steeplechases

in the colours on Hohenlinden in 1888; first the Naval and Military Steeplechase, at Kempton Park, and then in the Open Military Stakes, at the Household Brigade Meeting. Later, too, 1891, when the Major formed one of the Sandringham House party usually assembling there at Easter, with a view to the West Norfolk Hunt Meeting, held hard by at



Wentworth Hope Johnstone

CAPTAIN HOPE JOHNSTONE.
From a Photo. by Kate Pragnell.

East Winch, he again put on the Royal colours and rode The Monk in the County Stakes, but only got a moderate third. Besides being an excellent soldier, Major Owen had few equals on a steeplechase course, the chief of his triumphs being that he won the Liverpool Grand National of 1892 on Father O'Flynn. A brilliant career was cut short at Ambigol Wells, Egypt, on July 11th, 1896, when the Major succumbed to an attack of cholera. For the reproduction of the picture and autograph I am indebted to Major Owen's mother. It is the only portrait in racing colours she has of her lamented son, and it is daily face to face with her on the writing-table at 15, Wilton Crescent.



Robt. Owen

MAJOR E. R. OWEN.
From a Photo. by Bourne & Shepherd.
(By permission of the Proprietors of "Baily's Magazine.")

The late John Jones is the father of the Egerton House apprentice who has done so well this season in the Royal colours on Diamond Jubilee. He was the first professional to ride for the Prince; indeed, the honour conferred upon him was so highly thought of, that when not on a racecourse the purple, gold, and scarlet jacket was always on view under a glass case in Jones's sitting-room. Here, too, hung a picture of His Royal Highness, presented by the Prince of Wales, who also made Jones other gifts, which included a whip and a scarf-pin. Jones was a very bold horseman, and if he failed to win in the Royal colours on The Scot in the Liverpool Grand National, he won this event for John Nightingall later on with Shifnal. Jones was born November



John Jones

THE LATE JOHN JONES.
From a Photo. by J. Robinson & Sons.

19th, 1850. It was due to the late Mr. Fothergill Rowlands and Lord Marcus Beresford, the present Master of the Horse to the Prince of Wales's stable, that Jones came into steeplechase prominence, and he rode many good winners besides Shifnal. Jones was a very good-natured man, and only forty-two years of age when he died (November 3rd, 1892). He left a wife, who still resides at Epsom.

It was in the Grand National at Liverpool, in 1890, that Mr. E. P. Wilson wore the Royal colours. The Prince of Wales about that time had a burning desire to win the Aintree prize; but Hettie, like The Scot and Magic, proved unsuccessful; indeed, it was Mr. E. P. Wilson's mount, Voluptuary, who won the year Jones was beaten on The Scot. Mr. Wilson also carried off another Liverpool on the uncertain Roquefort, who always ran better at Aintree than elsewhere. He liked a left-handed track, but even then Mr. Wilson describes him as "a handful." Mr. Wilson was born October 10th, 1846, at Ilmington, a very pretty spot near Shipton-on-Stour, and has lived all his life there training and riding race-horses. He won his first steeplechase in Warwickshire at Stratford-on-Avon, on a horse called Starlight, in 1860. His career in the saddle, too, has been a hard one, for it was in December of 1898 that he had his last mount at Dunstall Park. Apart from Mr. Wilson's two Liverpool victories in suc-



E. P. Wilson

From a Photo. by MR. E. P. WILSON. (Haden, Birmingham.)

cession, a striking feature in his history is that he on five occasions has won the movable National Hunt Steeplechase. At his best Mr. Wilson was a bold and fearless amateur jockey. He had a firm seat and a fine knowledge of pace, and there is scarcely an important steeplechase in the Calendar he has not won. When I once asked him which he thought was the best chaser he ever rode, Mr. Wilson ignored Voluptuary, Congress, Regal, Goldfinder, and Roquefort, and, to my surprise, he was content to select a horse called Nebsworth. He said at the end of the sixties he won ten consecutive races on him. The portrait I give of Mr. Wilson is in his own colours, amber and black seams and cap.

When Anthony, last March, succeeded at Aintree, he was rewarded by the Prince to the extent of £500, and was "moighty plased," as the Irish would term it. So were

the whole of the party. The scene for excitement was only second to the Derby when Persimmon won. The yells were terrific as Ambush II. had the verdict at his mercy, and the cheering subsequently loud and continuous. The congratulations bestowed upon Anthony were more than numerous, and they of course included those of the Prince of Wales, who was present to see the Irish-trained horse win. The ambition so long expressed by the Prince to succeed at Aintree was, therefore, accomplished under most brilliant circumstances, and it placed a record on the book, as His Royal Highness now is the only owner of a Derby winner who has won a Grand National; furthermore, with Diamond Jubilee's success later on at Epsom he accomplished the double in the same season. Anthony was born in the Midlands, but as he has lived so long in Ireland the sportsmen of the Sister Isle now claim him as their own. Still, he is now as well known on this side of the Channel as in Ireland. However, he holds the reputation of being the best Irish steeplechase jockey, and I believe a letter addressed "Anthony, Ireland," would find him. He lives, however, at Eyrefield Cottage, Curragh.



A. Anthony

A. ANTHONY.
From a Photo. by Norman May & Co., Cheltenham.

Close by Anthony's home resides Mr. T. Lushington, who also played a very conspicuous part in the Grand National won by Ambush II. It was Mr. Lushington who purchased the horse for the Prince for a sum of £500, and a cheap purchase it was. I have never seen Mr. Lushington either between the flags or over hurdles, but on the flat he is quite an adept, and rides with all the style of a first-class professional. In short welter races he is always quick away when the flag falls; in long-distance contests he always displays excellent judgment; he knows when to come, and his finishes are perfection.

A great public favourite is Mr. Lushington, who has frequently had the Royal colours on. He had a rare reception the afternoon at

Goodwood when he rode for the Prince and won the Corinthian Welter on Safety Pin. Mr. Lushington was born at Chilham Castle,



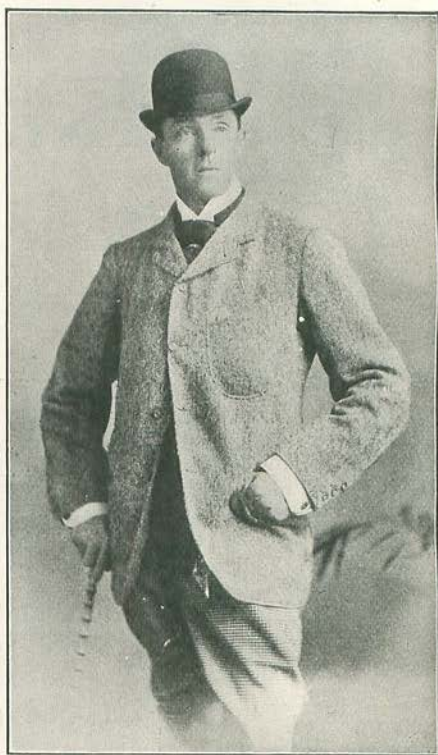
T. Lushington

MR. T. LUSHINGTON.
From a Photo. by Hailey & Co., Newmarket.

near Canterbury, Kent, September 7th, 1860, and he possesses several souvenirs for services to the Prince. There is the enamelled pin of Persimmon, and another of "the feathers" in diamonds; but a more recent noteworthy treasure at Eyrefield Lodge is an old Irish silver cup, engraved on which is the Royal Arms, and this was presented by His Royal Highness in commemoration of Ambush II.'s victory at Liverpool last March.

It was not a very creditable performance of Mr. Arthur Coventry when wearing the Royal colours, but he was then on that rather gay deceiver, The Scot, when he finished a bad third to Lady of the Lake and Per Damp for the Grand Steeplechase at Baden-Baden. This was in 1883, and I believe the only occasion the Prince of Wales's colours have been sported abroad. But if poor honours accrued in The Scot's journey over the sea, which, I believe, was the only time Mr. Coventry wore the Royal livery, some few seasons ago on the flat, over hurdles, or country he was one of our most successful amateur riders. He

was taught in the right school, and many of his early successes were scored in the scarlet and white hoops of Tom Cannon. In the Bibury Club races for gentlemen riders Mr. Coventry mostly held his own. Again, too, Sandown Park and Lewes were some of his happiest hunting grounds. Few men who visit a course have a better knowledge of racing than Mr. Coventry, and since leaving off race-riding he has become our official starter. In this particular calling he is as clever as when wearing racing colours. A starter's berth is the most difficult of all the duties of racing officials, but Mr. Coventry,



Arthur Coventry

MR. ARTHUR COVENTRY.
From a Photo. by Sherborn, Newmarket.

who is a brother of Captain H. Coventry, the rider of Alcibiades in the National of 1865, gets well through his work.

It is because the Prince of Wales started steeplechasing before racing under the Jockey Club Rules that I have given the former precedence, but H.R.H.'s greatest achievements have been gained on the flat. John Porter, at the request of the Prince, selected

a few brood mares to form a stud at Sandringham, and it was, indeed, a happy hit when the Kingsclere trainer bought *Perdita II.*, who produced, among others, *Florizel II.*, *Persimmon*, and *Diamond Jubilee*. The Royal colours were registered as far back as 1875, but it was not until June 4th, 1886, that they were sported on the flat. The late Fred Archer first put them on under the Jockey Club Rules at Sandown Park, and rode a filly called *Counterpane* in a maiden plate. *Counterpane* jumped off in front, made all the running, and won by three lengths. To set forth the whole of Archer's feats or praise his many brilliant efforts would here occupy too much space, but a more successful or clever jockey was never seen. The art of race-riding was born in him. "Fred" was as fond of going straight to hounds as of making the best of his way home in a race. He liked jumping, and it may not be generally known that in his early career he *did* win a little steeplechase. Here I have his word for it:—



THE LATE FRED ARCHER.
From a Photo. by Chancellor, Dublin.

was 5ft. 9in. high, and many of his successes were due to a good head and his length.

John Watts has not ridden much of late, but he has achieved great victories for H.R.H. He won him his first classic race, the One Thousand Guineas, on *Thais*, and the Derby and *St. Leger* on *Persimmon*. But what is called *Persimmon's Derby* was, perhaps, the greatest race Watts ever rode. How stride

Heath House
Newmarket
Jan. 3rd to 4th 1881

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 6th, I beg to say that I have ridden the winner of a *Galloway Steeplechase* at *Bangor*, but never rode a winner of a *hurdlerace*

I remain
yours truly
F. Archer.



John Watts

From a Photo. by J. WATTS. [Hailey, Newmarket.]

by stride he overhauled *St. Frusquin* from the distance is still green in memory, and *Epsom* never before or since has witnessed

such a wild and enthusiastic scene. Watts was born at Stockbridge, May 9th, 1861, and he served his apprenticeship under Tom Cannon. Danebury has indeed in its time produced some rare riding talent, and most of the jockeys hailing from the Hampshire stable keep fresh in memory the fine style so often displayed in the saddle by Tom Cannon himself. Apart from the successes of Persimmon, Watts has won more races than any other jockey in the Royal colours in which his portrait appears. A careful man Watts has been, and he has a beautiful home in close proximity to the old Cambridgeshire stand at Newmarket.

Mention of Stockbridge and its riders leads up to Mornny Cannon, who became acquainted with the Royal colours at Epsom in 1895. Here he rode a magnificent race in the Caterham Plate on Courtier, who got up on the post and won by a short head. A fine horseman is Mornington Cannon, and he takes his Christian name from a horse of Mr. E. Brayley's, upon whom his father won the Metropolitan at Epsom. On May 21st, 1875, "Morny" was born, and the Race Guide sparkles with his marked success and so far brilliant career. He has now won all the classic races except the One Thousand Guineas, and his seat on a horse is much prettier to look upon than the now so-much-fancied American style, which some of our riders have tried to adopt. In both public and private life Cannon is a most unassuming man. He is very careful in his living and general habits; in fact, although carefully studying his health, like Fred Archer and other jockeys, it is not likely to become impaired by severe wasting. Kingsclere has first claim on his services, and he now rides always for the Prince of Wales when the weight and opportunity permit. Until lately Cannon resided at Ridgeway Bitterne, Southampton, but he has removed recently to Bletchley.



Mornington Cannon

MORNINGTON CANNON.
From a Photo. by Hailey, Newmarket.

O. Madden is the mid-weight jockey attached to Richard Marsh's powerful stable. He was, I think, born in Germany, and he comes of a race-riding family. His father,

it will be remembered, came over here with that grand Hungarian mare, Kincsem, who carried off the Goodwood Cup of 1878. Curiously enough, Otto Madden, like Watts, M. Cannon, and H. Jones, the four jockeys attached to the Egerton House stable, have each ridden Derby winners. Besides Persimmon, Watts steered Merry Hampton, Sainfoin, and Ladas. M. Cannon succeeded on Flying Fox, H. Jones on Diamond Jubilee, and Madden on Jeddah. The latter was the greatest surprise of modern times. The stable had a better favourite in Dieudonné, who failed to stay, and Madden brought off a

100 to 1 chance. Besides riding for the Prince and other Egerton House patrons, Madden gets plenty of mounts and wins plenty of



O Madden

From a Photo. by] OTTO MADDEN. [Hailey, Newmarket.

racés. He made his first appearance in the saddle in 1890, and his best season was in 1898, when he headed the list of winning jockeys with a 161 total. Last year he was second to S. Loates, who has never ridden for the Prince of Wales.

Herbert Ebsworth Jones was born at Epsom on the 30th of November, 1880, and,



H. Jones.

From a Photo. by) H. E. JONES. [Hailey, Newmarket.

curiously enough, his father also was born in November and died in that month. This time last year Jones never could have anticipated being one of the heroes of the hour at Epsom on a Derby Day, but he rode a well-timed race for the Prince on Diamond Jubilee, and although since beaten at Newmarket in the Princess of Wales's Stakes, the colt may yet win the St. Leger. The Newmarket defeat was rather disappointing to Jones, but it was excusable. Diamond Jubilee was giving Merry Gal, the winner, 20lb. As he did to his father, the Prince of Wales has given young Jones a beautifully-mounted whip. This was presented for his successes in the Two Thousand and Newmarket Stakes, and no doubt since the Derby triumph the accustomed pin has found its way to the jockey's scarf. Last year Diamond Jubilee would do nothing for Cannon; hence Jones having the mount. He can do much as he likes with the colt, both in and out of the stable. With such

recorded triumphs it is surprising he does not get more riding. The reason, however, is that English owners just now are so eager to use American talent.

The only American jockey who has ever worn the Royal colours is J. Tod Sloan. This was at Manchester three years ago on Little Dorrit in the Lancashire Nursery, the only occasion; but the mount was unsuccessful. Still, since he first came to England there is no doubt about the sensation and commotion Sloan and other subsequent arrivals have caused in our jockey camp. The American riders now here are numerous; moreover, they are meeting with wonderful support and victory. Sloan and the younger Reiff a short time ago carried off all the races on the second day's card at Nottingham. Sloan was born on August 10th, 1873, at Kokomo, and he won his first race in England in 1897. He holds "a tall" record in America. The most important of his victories here is Sibola in the One Thousand Guineas, and he still fancies that



J. Tod Sloan

J. TOD SLOAN.

From a Photo. by Hailey, Newmarket.

he would have beaten Flying Fox on Holocauste in the Derby but for his mount meeting with a fatal accident. Sloan's lowest riding weight is 7st. 2lb.

A horse that caused much excitement and interest when carrying the Prince of Wales's colours was the own brother to Persimmon and Diamond Jubilee, called Florizel II. Calder, Watts, and T. Loates were the jockeys of this good performer. On his back poor Calder was victorious in the Manchester Summer Cup of 1895, and he again successfully steered the horse next year in the Prince's Handicap, at Gatwick. Calder was a powerful rider, but T. Loates's turn for Florizel came before this, and he can boast of having successfully worn the colours in the Prince's first race at Ascot. Well do I recollect this race for the St. James's Palace Stakes of 1895. It was set last on the card, and the entire Royal party stayed to the end to see the horse run, and the cheering was tremendous as T. Loates first reached the goal. T. Loates has won two Derbies, first on Donovan and then on the good-looking Isinglass. His eyes of late years have troubled him much, but Mr. Leopold de Rothschild has still first claim on his services. He was born at Derby in October, 1867, and is an able jockey. He was very unfortunate in Persimmon's Derby to lose his stirrup just at the critical point of that grand set-to. He was on St. Frusquin, whom Persimmon never afterwards defeated.

The last but not least of the jockeys who have ridden for the Prince is Nat Robinson, a brother



T. Loates

From a Photo. by] T. LOATES. [Hailey, Newmarket.

of the Foxhill trainer, who himself in the saddle did good service for the late James Jewitt's stable. Young Robinson was an apprentice of R. Marsh, and he has ridden several times for the Prince. He is the sixth of the series of H.R.H.'s jockeys that we produce in the Royal colours. Robinson started his career as a jockey in 1895, when he won two races, but his best season's score occurred in 1897, when he won fifty-nine events. He has not done much this year, having for his health been on a visit to Egypt. He only returned home to Newmarket a few weeks ago. He is a quick and intelligent jockey.

With so small a stud the numerous successes gained in the Royal colours on the flat have been remarkable. They are due in the first place to John Porter, who formed the Sandringham stud and trained its early produce, and of late years to Lord Marcus Beresford and Richard Marsh. Up to and including the Sandown Eclipse Stakes, won by Diamond Jubilee, the Prince of Wales since starting flat racing, in 1886, has won seventy races, worth £92,014, a sum that does not include second or third money or the Grand National and other steeplechases. H.R.H.'s best year, however, was 1896, for both numbers and value. He then won a dozen races worth £26,819; yet with the St. Leger Diamond Jubilee in value may surpass his own brother's record.



NAT ROBINSON.

From a Photo. by Hailey, Newmarket.