

Right Royal Day for Racing



The two winning favourites Empire Rose (5/1) and Queen Beatrix (evens) met each other at Flemington Racecourse on Cup Day 1988

Melbourne Cup Day was for racegoers and royalists alike. Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and His Royal Highness Prince Claus of the Netherlands attended the 'Cup' as part of their visit to Australia during the Bicentenary celebrations.

The Queen and Prince Claus and the Governor General and Lady Stephen were driven down the course proper and were received by Mr. Peter Armytage, Chairman of the Victoria Racing Club.

Members of the VRC and their spouses were presented to the Royal couple and were then escorted to the Committee Dining Room for a luncheon.

The Queen looked bright and colourful in a floral dress with splashes of aqua, blue, white and yellow. She wore a matching blue straw hat, blue shoes, and carried a blue handbag. Prince Claus was wearing black tails and grey pin-striped pants.

The Dutch Royals were warmly greeted by many of the 90,000 plus who turned out for the Foster's Mel-

bourne Cup. Prior to the running of the Cup, the Royal couple met many of the Dutch racegoers hoping for a chance to greet the Royals and who proudly waved the Dutch flag.

The Queen and Prince Claus watched the running of the 1988 Melbourne Cup from the Royal Box after which they presented trophies to the winning owners, trainer and

jockey.

Her Majesty is renowned as an excellent horsewoman, but it is not known whether she backed the Cup winner, Empire Rose. Who knows? She may have had some tips to offer!

Even if the Royals didn't back the favourite, they were certainly favourites with the Dutch racegoers!!!