

It's time for the fourth short-distance handicap race of the day here at the municipal racetrack. The jockeys are heading out to their posts, and what a crowd we have today! Second Best, who once again lived up to his name two weeks ago, is seeking revenge on gamblers' darling Kings' Politeness. But they'll need to watch out for Grasshopper with his week-long winning streak. And they're off!

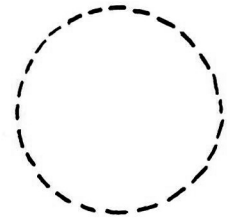
Start

V We're at the start and Second Best is setting the pace, with Grasshopper just behind and Kings' Politeness in third position.

H We're at the start and here's Second Best jumping ahead to take the lead, in spite of his unfavourable post. Light as a feather, he's gaining ground!

T And here's our first surprise: Second Best, renowned for his perfect starts, is clearly off the pace as Kings' Politeness takes the lead, and that's Grasshopper in her trail. Maybe he's having trouble with today's heavy soil.

Heartbreaker
the Commentator

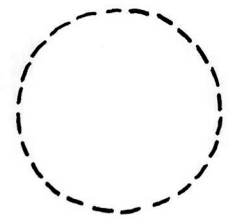


V At the first furlong now. Grasshopper coming in like a train from the outside, going neck to neck with the leader now, but there's too much strain on him, he's stumbling, and now he's fallen behind!

H At the first furlong, and here's Grasshopper closing in on Kings' Politeness, fighting her every inch of the way. That's Second Best, seizing the chance... Talk about third wheels!

T They've cleared the first furlong now. Grasshopper tries to charge ahead but the others aren't giving him any quarter, they're not letting up... There he goes falling behind, and now he's right in the way of poor Second Best.

Velvet
the Criminal

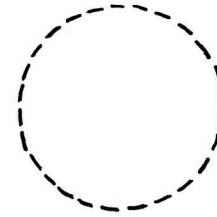


V Coming up to the second furlong, and in spite of the mess there's Kings' Politeness! Look at her grace as Madeye leads her out of the melee and to the head of the race. Just as scripted, one would say: She's the diva of the track, coming in like clockwork!

H Coming up to the second furlong, and Second Best's coming in on the inside, headed straight for the homestretch. Only Kings' Politeness can hope to catch up to him, but her jockey Madeye is too slow to react. She can't close in, and off goes her rival.

T Coming up to the second furlong, and Madeye's showing us why nobody else is allowed to touch Kings' Politeness. He's spurring her into a frenzy, look at her go! She flies ahead and towards the homestretch with no opposition, as Second Best's brand new jockey fails to get a rise out of him.

Hardwire the Jockey



H Battle's raging on the last turn. Kings' Politeness and Second Best are running neck to neck, duelling to come in first to the homestretch. Our little half-breed's showing incredible resistance against the frontrunner's advance! They're less than a length apart, and he's pursuing, closing the gap... Ah, there he is, losing ground again... No, Second Best finds his second wind and takes the lead in the last breath! Incredible, dear listeners, the curse is finally broken! The second best has won!

T Battle's raging on the last turn between Kings' Politeness and Second Best. The little half-breed is not famous for his duels, but things look different today. He's digging deep, pursuing the front-runner, less than a length away, and there he is, first to turn into the homestretch! He's sprinting ahead, but here comes Kings' Politeness, stalking him all the way through. And there she goes! Second Best tries to hold on, but here's King's Politeness breezing ahead to take the lead halfway through the stretch. Look at the gap between them, three full lengths as she comes home to score. Another victory for the champion!

Finish