

A DAY AT THE WOLLONGONG RACES IN 1840

According to advertisement, these races came off on the 7th, 8th, and 9th instant. From the number and respectability of the visitors, the agreeable locality, and the general satisfaction entertained on this occasion, the Wollongong races promise to be at least equal to any other in the colony. The course is most advantageously situated; it is within a short distance of the town, situated on one side by the

most picturesque scenery, the magnificent ranges of the Illawarra islands, and directly to front are the Five Islands. The course itself is pronounced to be the best in the colony, both as regards turf, and the even-ness of the ground. From any one point on the race-course, a spectator may have an entire view round the course. The good folks at Sydney would have been somewhat astonished at the assemblage and general appearance of these races. All the leading persons in and about the district, together with a fair sprinkling of sportsmen from "foreign parts: were on the ground. Before the next races fall due, some new and judicious arrangements are to be made. These, when complete, will make "Wollongong Races" a very fair candidate to be deemed the Doncaster, Newmarket, or Epsom of Australia. Fortunately the weather throughout was favorable, and a more animated and more race-ground-like ensemble has not been seen in the colony. From two to three thousand persons mustered, and some exhibiting cattle that would have made a respectable appearance on any turf. Indeed the breed of horses in this district are becoming somewhat favourites. There was also a due proportion of fashion, beauty, and dashing equipages, nor was that indispensable enlivener, music, wanting. Mr. Dawson had provided a band for the occasion, (who according to the phraseology used in like circumstances) played some of the most admired and popular airs. Numerous and gallant were the pavilions pitched within the precincts, each displaying their respective colors and devices, made up largely to enliven the whole proceeding. Captain Westmacott's success seemed to afford general satisfaction, for it is in a high degree owing to his exertions that these races have been so successfully established. Captain Plunket had made very good arrangements for the due preservation of order, but it was observed that on the part of all present, mirth, amusement and propriety of behaviour, were the leading features. Acknowledgments are also due to Messrs. Osborne and Elliott, with other gentlemen, for the trouble and anxiety they have had in "getting up" these races. It is predicted that these will be very popular, and we confidently hope to see the prediction verified.

TUESDAY, APRIL, 7, 1840.

The Wollongong Purse of 50 sovereigns - two mile heats - weights for age..

Mr. C. Smith's, Queen of Trumps, 6 years old, rode by Dunn	1	1
Mr. G. Kemp's, Medora, 5 years old, rode by Mr. Graph	2	2
Captain Westmacott's, Othello, 3 years old, rode by Hervitt	3	3

This was a good race, and as fast as any thing that has ever been run, it is believed, in this country, the two miles having been run in three minutes and forty seconds. Othello is a very promising colt, and would perhaps have stood some chance had he not been overweighted, the owner not being able to procure a jockey of the right weight, viz 7 st. 6 lbs; but in order to promote sport allowed him to run with 8 st. 5 lbs.

The next race was the Maiden Plate of 30 sovereigns, to be run for by 2 year olds, the property of persons residing in Illawarra.

Mr. Alexander Elliott's b. f. Limerick Lass	1	1
Mr. W. Ryan's b. c. Skylark	2	2
Captain Westmacott's, g. f. Mountain Maid	3	3

This race was won easy by Limerick Lass; she is a fine filly by Theorem, and it is the opinion of judges she is destined to cope with anything that may be produced at our colonial races.

The third race was a Sweepstakes for untrained horses, with 5 pound added.

This was a good race, and won by Mr. R. Kennedy's black horse Prince.

SECOND DAY, APRIL 8

A Hurdle Race - Mr. G. Kemp, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Archibald Osborne, Mr. Burnett, entered the lists.

This race was a good one, and won by Mr. Jenkins, closely followed by Mr. A Osborne.

This was the only race named for the day, but several good matches were run, which afforded sport to those assembled.

THIRD DAY, APRIL, 9

The Ladies; Purse of 25 sovereigns, heats once round - weight for age - the winner of any stake equal in amount to this purse to carry 7 lbs extra.

Captain Westmacott's Othello 1 1

Mr. C. Smith's Queen of Trumps 2 2

It was again Capt. W's fate to carry a weight much above what he ought, viz 8 st. 12 lbs. The Queen of Trumps made a bad start, but this enabled Othello to get the lead, which he kept well; the distance one mile was run in both heats in one minute fifty seconds.

Second Race - For beaten horses, 20 sovereigns.

This was walked over for by Mr. G. Kemp's Medora.

Third Race - For ponies not exceeding 14 hands, the prize a whip and 5 pounds added.

There were a number of candidates for this race, but only three started, the others upon being measured proving to be above the height named.

The race was won easily by Mr. Alexander Osborne's horse.

Australian, 16 April, 1840.