

"In Search of Running Rein - The Amazing Fraud of the 1844 Derby".

The 1844 Derby was the most scandalous event in the history of the Turf – tarnished by substitutions, false age declarations, nobbling, horse stealing; perjury and witness tampering when the case comes to trial. For the first time, by a painstaking search of the original records, this book uncovers all the subterfuge surrounding the audacious and near flawless plan, orchestrated by the perpetrators, to win the Derby and pull off a monstrous betting coup, and shows how they nearly got away with it.

Synopsis

The Epsom Derby, established back in 1780 for three-year-old thoroughbred colts and fillies, is today considered to be the most prestigious of the five Classics of the racing calendar, but there was nothing noble about the notorious Derby held in 1844. Marred by horse switching allegations, false age declarations, devious ownership transferrals and nobbling, it was set to become the most scandalous event in the history of the Turf. Drawing on a wide range of publications, newspaper articles, Jockey Club inquiry documentation and court evidence records, this book traces the web of deceit surrounding the original but subsequently disqualified 1844 Derby winner, Running Rein, and the audacious plan orchestrated by a certain Abraham Levi Goodman to ensure, by any underhand means at his disposal, that the Derby victory would be his, not for the glory of winning but as a monstrous betting coup. Twists and turns abound in the claims, counter-claims and conflicting witness statements when the case goes to trial, as attempts are made to determine the age and identity of the horse purported to be Running Rein, and this intriguing story provides a fascinating insight into the world of horse racing and betting, where the stakes are high and the unscrupulous are prepared to do anything to protect their own interests, with little regard for the impact of their actions on the reputation of the sport.



Escape with his jockey Sam Chifney

Prior to the Running Rein fraud there were a number of dubious incidents on the Turf. One such incident concerned the Prince of Wales' horse, Escape and his jockey Sam Chifney, in two races at Newmarket. Starting favourite, Escape finished last, in a field of four. On the following day, as an outsider in a field of six, he cantered in reversing the previous day's form with Lord Grosvenor's, Skylark. This reversal of form was not appreciated by the Stewards

of The Jockey Club, who instructed the Prince that should he continue to employ Chifney no gentleman would start against him. These accusations caused the Prince, who refused to dismiss Chifney, to turn his back on Newmarket.



William Crockford

Thomas Rowlandson's caricature of the hell master, William Crockford, owner of Ratan, the second favourite for the Derby, who was reputedly nobbled.



Sultan

Sultan was bred by William Crockford, and was by far the best horse he ever owned. He was a winner of fourteen races and finished second in the Derby to the Duke of Portland's, Tiresias. He was one of the great stallions of the nineteenth century, being champion sire from 1832 to 1837. He was the sire of Bay Middleton, the winner of the Two Thousand Guineas and the Derby, in 1836.



John Gully

John Gully was one of the remarkable racing men of the nineteenth century, rising from the humblest of backgrounds to positions of affluence and honour. From his humble beginnings as a butcher he became a prizefighter, publican, hell-keeper, bookmaker, racehorse owner and finally a member of Parliament. He was a great rival of William Cockford, and equally suffered at the hands of the robbers in the 1844 Derby.



Venison

Venison was the sire of The Ugly Buck. Like Gladiator, whom he finished behind in the Derby, he was by Partisan. He was one of the finest moulded horses ever seen. His graceful, sweeping action, great courage, and perfect symmetry, carried his deer-like resemblance to the utmost extent. Nearly all his stock were small with grey hairs in their coat - The Ugly Buck being an exception. He was champion stallion on two occasions.



Denton Hall

Denton Hall, near Otley, Yorkshire, birthplace of Thomas, Lord Fairfax (1612-1671), owner of Fairfax's Morocco Barb. The original building was twice destroyed by fire before the present hall was built in 1778. The Ibbetson family, a wealthy land owning and cloth merchanting dynasty, acquired the Hall in 1716 from the 6th Lord Fairfax. It was at Denton Hall that Sir Charles Henry Ibbetson bred the Gladiator colt, eventually named Maccabeus, and who was substituted for Running Rein to win the 1844 Derby.



Gladiator

Gladiator, the sire of Maccabeus, from a painting by V.J.Cotlison. He ran only once, being second to Bay Middleton, in the 1836 Derby. He was favourite for the St.Leger but owing to lameness was unable to run and was retired to stud. Running Rein (Maccabeus), the illegal winner of the 1844 Derby, was from his first crop. Gladiator was probably a far better racehorse than his second place in the 1836 Derby would suggest. He was one of the great stallions of the nineteenth century, and a tremendous influence in France through his son, Fitz-Gladiator. He was the sire of Queen Mary, one of the most influential broodmares of the nineteenth century. In France he sired two winners of the Prix du Jockey Club and three winners of the Prix Diane.



Queen Mary and Blink Bonny

Queen Mary was a daughter of Gladiator. She was one of the truly great broodmares of the nineteenth century, who founded a dynasty that still thrives to this day. She was the dam of the amazing Blink Bonny, one of the few fillies to have won both the Derby and the Oaks. The recent Two Thousand Guineas winners, Rock of Gibraltar and Refuse to Bend; and the St.Leger winner, Mastery, trace to her in direct female line. Another direct descendant is Peeress, winner of the 2006 Lockinge Stakes, who had her first runner, Ladyship, in 2011. The 2012 Wood Memorial winner at Aqueduct, Gemologist, is also a descendant of Queen Mary, through her second daughter, Braxey.



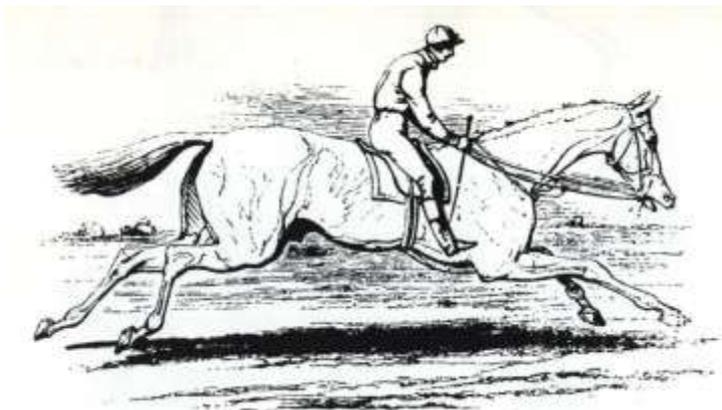
Sutton House

Sutton House at Norton-on-Derwent in North Yorkshire was constructed in 1789 with later alterations in the 19th and 20th centuries. The stable featured nine stalls that still exist with the original partitions and mangers. Dr.Charles Cobb bred the genuine Running Rein here and his full sister, Genuine.



The Saddler

Mr. Wagstaff's, The Saddler, sire of the real Running Rein, with his trainer Leonard Hessletine and jockey Jem Chapple, at Doncaster. In 1831 The Saddler won the York St. Leger, was placed second in the Doncaster St. Leger, and won the Doncaster Cup. He was purchased by Squire Osbaldeston and was fairly well regarded at stud, being the sire of the One Thousand Guineas and Park Hill Stakes winner Sorella, in the same year as the Running Rein fraud. The Saddler died in 1847 in passage to Ostend on his way to Bohemia.



Running Rein

Maccabeus, alias Running Rein, illegal winner of the 1844 Derby. After the Derby he was acquired by the veterinary surgeon, Owen Henry Parry, who changed his name to Zanoni. He ran unsuccessfully as a genuine five-year-old in the Ascot Gold Vase and York County Cup. He was exported to Russia, where he was greatly revered as a stallion.



The Golden Lion, Newmarket

The Golden Lion, in Newmarket High Street. Running Rein was taken to the stables at the rear, to be examined, following the objection to his victory in the Fifty Pound Plate. The Duke of Rutland requested the horse's teeth be examined but Goodman refused, preferring to call on witnesses to support the qualification of the horse. William Cooper, the trainer of Orlando, also had his stables at the rear of The Golden Lion.

Sir

Malton May 21st 1844

The colt foal by the saddle
out of Mab, which I sold to Mr
King, was, when he left my stable,
brown with a small white star
on his forehead —

I cannot say whether his ears were
set in close or not — nor do I know
whether he had a white hind — the
groom who was in my service last year,
says, he had not —

I am sir

Yours respectfully

Chas. Roberts

I certify this letter is
one I received from
Mr. Cobb of Malton
Northampton in answer
to one I wrote him

Witness my hand Gilbert Heathcote
and seal —

Letter from Dr Charles Cobb

Letter from Dr.Charles Cobb, the breeder of The Saddler colt, the genuine Running Rein, to Sir Gilbert Heathcote, the senior Steward at Epsom, describing the colouring of the horse.
(Courtesy Weatherbys)

Mr the Steward of Messrs
desire you will not
pay the Duty Stakes, to
the owner of Runway Run
such stakes by law
of 10th Dec as owner of
the second horse, until another
- rider do so by us -

May 22 1744

G. Heathcote
Baron de Tessier

To Mr. C. & J. Heathcote

Letter from Sir Gilbert Heathcote and Baron de Tessier requesting Weatherbys to withhold payment of the Derby Stake to Alexander Wood. (Courtesy Weatherbys)



Orlando

Orlando, the ultimate winner of the 1844 Derby. Although Orlando was not favoured among correspondents for the Derby, he proved himself to be a very good horse. He was champion stallion on three occasions.



Hoof of Orlando

Hoof of Orlando, winner of the 1844 Derby. Courtesy of Michael Bell.



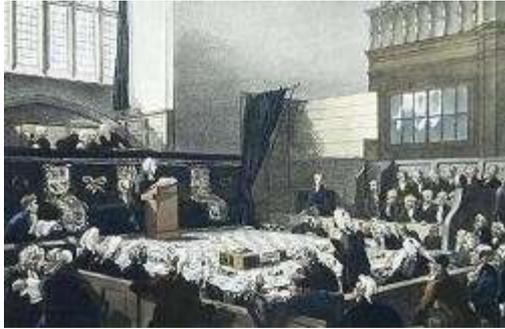
Orlando and Running Rein

Orlando and Running Rein: two excellent specimens of the thoroughbred racehorse. Orlando was described as the most beautiful of all Touchstone's sons; whilst Running Rein, under his new name of Zanoni, when exported to Russia, as a stallion, was very much admired and considered a horse of very great style and beauty.



Touchstone

Touchstone, sire of Orlando, was one of the great racehorses of the mid-19th century. He won the St.Leger and was twice a winner of the Doncaster and Ascot Gold Cups. Neither distance nor the state of the ground made any difference to him. He never began well but he could stay forever and his immense speed soon brought him to the fore.



Court of Exchequer

The Court of Exchequer, where the Running Rein Trial took place on 1st and 2nd July 1844.



Baron Alderson

Baron Alderson oversaw the Trial at the Court of Exchequer. He was well versed in racing and had visited John Scott's establishment at Whitewall, Malton. He made a number of amusing quips during the proceedings, but he was an astute lawyer, who was not to be trifled with. He demanded production of the horse, indicating it was a case of horse-stealing, and if he discovered the culprits he would transport them for life.



Sir Alexander Cockburn

Sir Alexander Cockburn, who represented Mr. Wood. He made the extraordinary request to Baron Alderson, to remove all the witnesses from the court, especially Lord George Bentinck, whom he considered to be a hostile witness. But the judge refused this as Bentinck had been subpoenaed by the Plaintiff.



Sir Frederick Thesiger

Sir Frederick Thesiger, the Solicitor General, who represented Colonel Peel. In Court he was able to produce the memorandum of agreement between Goodman and Ferguson for the hire

of Goneaway, and the metamorphosing dye that Goodman had purchased from Mr. Rossi, to dye Goneaway's leg.



Lord George Bentinck

Lord George Bentinck, who was the real force behind pursuing the Running Rein fraud. Bentinck was seen as a great reformer of the Turf, but in reality his reforms were only for the benefit of making more money. In fact he was little better than the rogues he pursued, although according to his cousin, Charles Greville, he believed he would not commit a deliberate act of dishonesty.



Sywell House

Sywell House, Northamptonshire, where George Worley farmed 369 acres of land. The construction of the house indicates it was originally built in medieval times, with Georgian and Victorian additions.



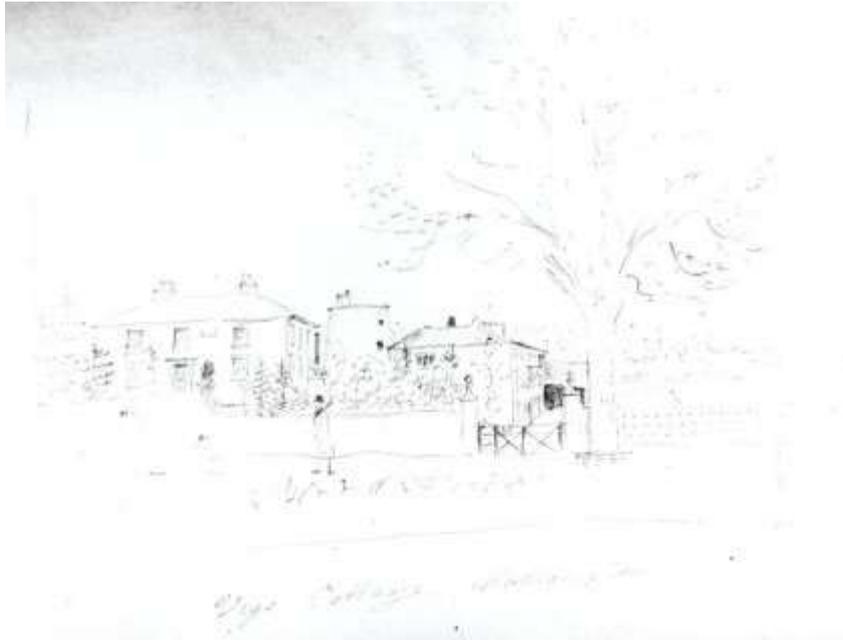
The paddock at Sywell House

The paddock at Sywell House, where the Gladiator colt (Maccabeus) was probably kept during his stay with George Worley. Worley was in debt to Henry Higgins for a few pounds and agreed to keep the Gladiator colt (Maccabeus) in his paddock to liquidate the debt.



Church Lane, Sywell

The lane passing Sywell House. Legend has it that the ghost of Maccabeus is said to haunt the lane; one version even going to the lengths that he is said to be pulling a cart in ignomy, with his head held in shame. A lovely story to fit this notorious episode in Turf history, but, of course, completely untrue.



Vigo Cottage

Vigo Cottage, Northampton, where Henry Higgins lived with his two cousins, William and John Knight Higgins. Vigo Cottage was at the first bend on the Bedford Road facing Becket's Park, Northampton.

That the Stewards of the Jockey Club shall appoint some proper person to examine every colt or filly, being of the age of two, three, or four years, at the ending Post, immediately after running, the first time any colt or filly shall start for any Plate, Match, Sweepstakes, or Subscription, at Newmarket, and the said appointed person is to sign a certificate of such examination, and his opinion thereupon, which certificate is to be hung up before eight o'clock the evening of the said day of running, in the coffee-house at Newmarket.—But for all Plates, Matches, Subscriptions, or Sweepstakes, where the colt or filly is required to be shewn before running, the examination as above mentioned shall be made at the time of shewing them, and the certificate of the person appointed shall immediately, in like manner, be fixed up in the coffee-room at Newmarket.

That the hours of starting shall be fixed up in the coffee-house by eight o'clock in the evening preceding the day of running; and it is expected that every groom shall start punctually at the time appointed; and any groom failing so to do, shall forfeit five guineas each time to the Jockey Club. It is also expected, that every groom will attend to the regulations and orders which the Stewards of the Jockey Club may give, relative to the preservation of the course and exercise-ground.

That no person do borrow or hire any horse &c. not belonging to his avowed confederate, to run in a private trial, without entering the name of such horse, before the trial shall be run, in the book appointed to be kept for that purpose, in the coffee-room

None to borrow horses &c. for trials, without entering them in the book, except confederates.

room at Newmarket; and no persons to be deemed confederates, who do not subscribe this article as such.

That all disputes relative to racing at Newmarket shall, for the future, be determined by the three Stewards, and two referees to be chosen by the parties concerned. If there should only be two Stewards present, they are to fix upon a third person in lieu of the absent Steward.

That if for any Sweepstakes or Subscription, the two first horses shall come in so near together, that the judge shall not be able to decide which won, those two horses shall run for such prize over again, after the last Match on the same day; the other horses which started for such Sweepstakes or Subscription, shall be deemed losers, and entitled to their respective places, as if the race had been finally determined the first time.

That all bets determined by one event shall be subject (as before agreed) to any compromise made by the principals, and paid in proportion to such compromise; but that all double bets shall, for the future (to prevent the frequent disputes which have arisen) be considered as play or pay bets.

When any Match or Sweepstakes shall be made, and no particular weight specified, the horses, &c. shall carry eight stone, seven pounds each. And if any weight is given, the highest weight is, by this resolution, fixed at eight stone, seven pounds.

Disputes have to be determined.

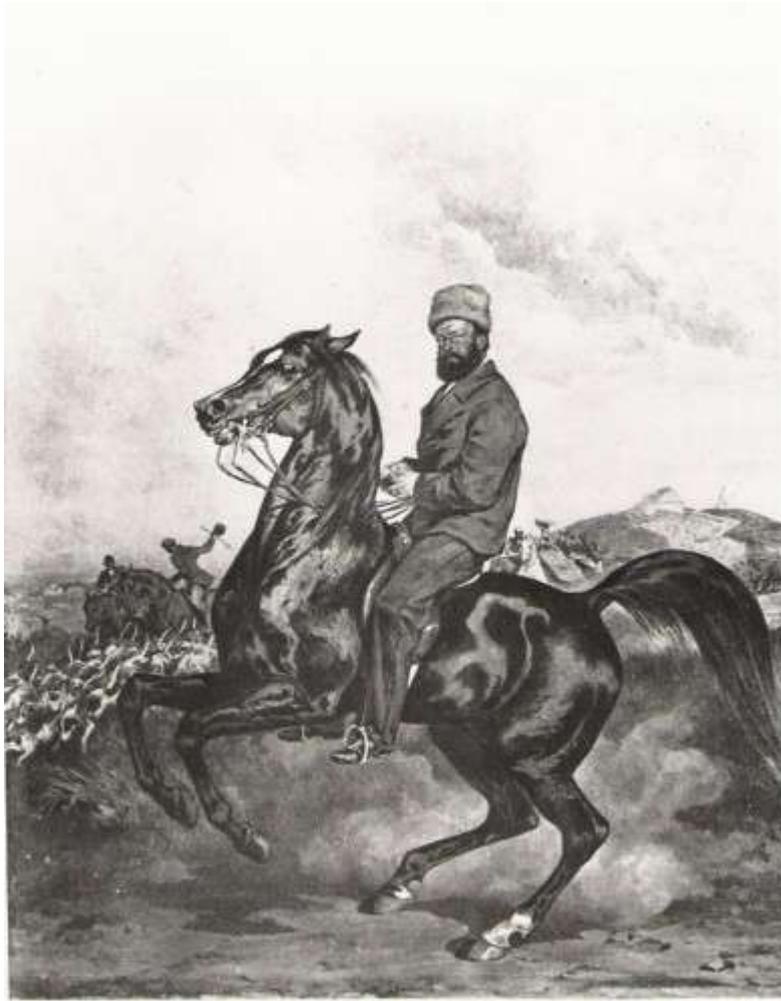
When the judge cannot decide a Sweepstakes, or Subscription, the two first horses to run over again.

Single and double bets.

The weight 8 st. 7 lb. when not specified, and when weight is given, the highest is 7 lb.

Rule relating to the examination of the age of young horses

Rule relating to the examination of the age of young horses. The Stewards were obviously unaware of this rule. Had they been so they could have insisted Goodman allow Running Rein to be examined at the Houghton inquiry, following his win in the Fifty Pound Plate; and the subsequent fraud would never have taken place. (Courtesy of Weatherbys)



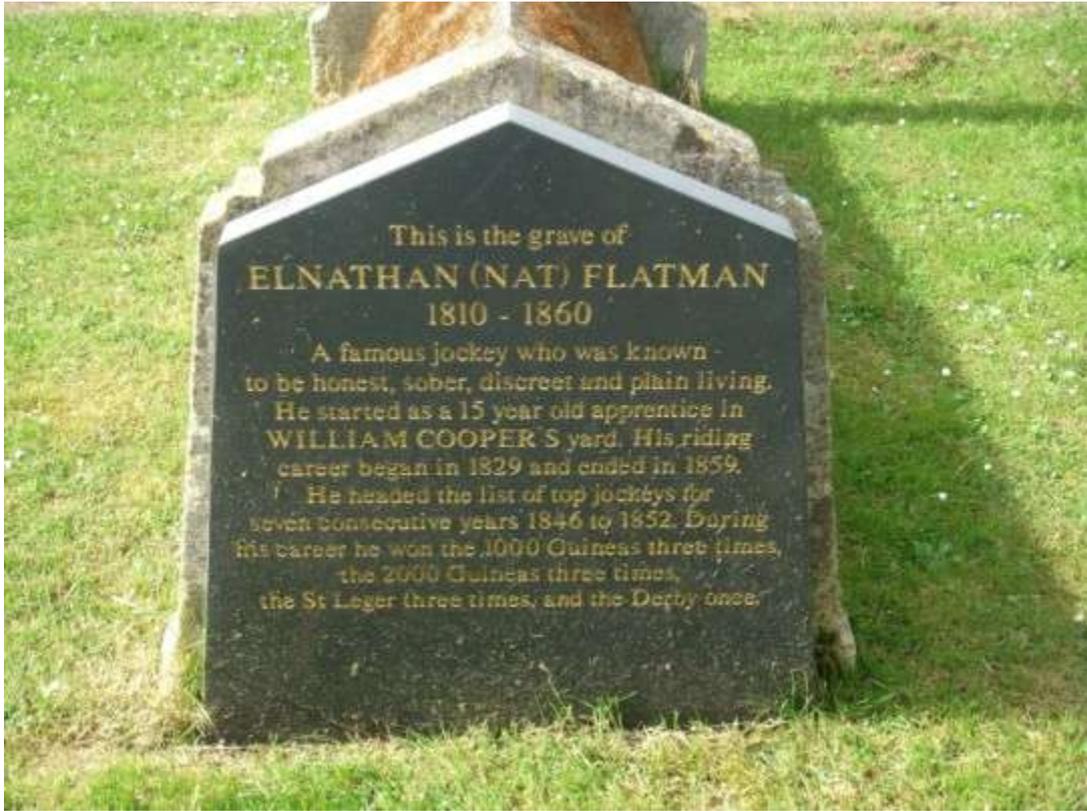
Count Branicki

Count Branicki, who imported Zanoni (ex Maccabeus) into Russia. He had a vast stud, with approximately 700 mares.



Nat Flatman

Elnathan “Nat” Flatman, who rode Orlando to eventual victory in the Derby. Nat joined William Cooper’s stable at the age of fifteen, riding his first winner at the age of nineteen and his last at forty-nine. He was leading jockey from 1846 to 1852. Nat was described as the most faithful and honest servant, always riding scrupulously to orders.



Nat

Flatman's Grave

Nat Flatman's grave in All Saint's Churchyard, Newmarket. To the rear lies the grave of Patrick Connolly who won the Derby in 1834 on Plenipotentiary, and in 1841 on Coronation.



Lodge Stables

Priam Lodge Stables, on Burgh Heath Road, Epsom, in the mid 1890's – around fifty years on from when Running Rein was trained here by William Smith.

Review

A Shropshire author is to explain for the first time the complete story of the greatest scandal ever to fall on the world's most important horse race, The Epsom Derby, in a new book to be released in June this year.

Racing historian, Tony Byles from Madeley, Shropshire, uncovers new evidence to provide the complete story of how the 1844 Epsom Derby came to be regarded as the most infamous racing scandal of all time in his book, *In Search of Running Rein – The Amazing Fraud of the 1844 Derby*. While The Sport of Kings has been plagued by corruption since its birth, no other scandal before or since has matched The Amazing Fraud of the 1844 Epsom Derby for audacity or infamy.

Byles explains how the racing world was duped when the race, eligible for three-year-old horses only, was won by a four-year-old horse - and therefore far stronger than its competitors – in a criminal scheme of creating an imposter thoroughbred, a four-year-old which would masquerade as a three-year-old. The conspirators sought to make a vast profit on the crime by betting on the four-year-old, a horse by the name of Maccabeus, who would act as an imposter for the genuine three-year-old, Running Rein.

The book uncovers the plot behind the event and how the conspirators would hide behind a patsy who would actually own the four-year-old in name to minimise their implication should their audacious plan fail. Byles brings to life the excitement of the race itself while the

intrigue of the subsequent trial surrounds the conclusion of the story and the fate of the conspirators.

How Byles came to write the book is a story in itself. Entirely by chance, Byles' own daughter found the previously forgotten legal case notes of the scandal's trial while employed at Newmarket Racecourse, the home of UK flat horse racing. The find set Byles on an eight-year trail of research, including locations as far afield as Russia and Poland, to piece together the complete circle of events.

“As the world's most important horse race, the Epsom Derby had always fascinated me, and none more so than the most infamous running of the event in 1844,” says Byles.

“While the story will fascinate racing fans, it is a saga of scandal, risk and corruption that should intrigue a far broader audience.”

In search of Running Rein – The Amazing Fraud of the 1844 Derby, will be published on 3 June 2011 by Apex Publishing, and will be available from amazon.co.uk, amongst other good book stores. For more information visit www.1844derbyfraud.com