

**The Hobart Town Courier**  
**Saturday March 23rd 1850**

**New Norfolk Races 1850**

Stewards - J.W. Murdoch, Esq., T.F. Margetti, Esq., Treasurer Mr R. Thompson.  
Clerk of the Course, Mr William Elwin

Astronomers do not watch the track of a new comet across the heavens with more interest, curiosity and anxiety than that which has been evinced for several months last past by the "sporting circles " of Hobart Town, as they eagerly looked forward to the New Norfolk meeting, and the great event thereof, the Champion Cup Race.

The condition of the Turf in this district exhibited an annual decline: but, by the liberality of a single individual, its "fallen fortunes have been resuscitated", and New Norfolk Races will in future hold a prominent place in the annals of the Tasmanian Turf.

As may be anticipated, the township was visited on the first day of the meeting (Thursday last) by numerous parties from Hobart Town, and by several sporting men from the neighbouring districts. The weather was very hot upon the course, but a finer day could not have been selected for the occasion.

A great number of carriages, cabs, gigs, and every conceivable sort of conveyance, besides three stagecoaches were brought into requisition for ensuring the safe transit of passengers, who were all anxious to reach the scene of the action. Bateman's and Yeend's "turn-outs" were pretty spicy as Mr Pyps, in his diary, hath noted "ye formetre huvyuge fourre and ye lattyre three hyghe meteled horses harnesses thyrtoe."

Several booths were erected on the ground, and every means was afforded of keeping the fleshly tenement in repair. Amusements of various kinds were furnished by a travelling L'inprovisateur Anglais and an itinerant Jack Rag, each having suitable travelling orchestras, the most effective of which consisted of a model cornet a-piston, played by a wretch of a clown. An eighty six octave piccolo, a big drum, "jingling Johnny", and Pandean pipes. The ravishing tones and excellent music resulting from the conjoined efforts of the performers may have been imagined by our readers.

There were another class of visitors, whose mysterious movements were looked upon with interest, the thimble riggers, players upon cards, and professors of "prick the garter". Money seemed to be very plentiful with them, and many an unfledged native dropped his last half-crown. Mr.Pyps, while a young gentleman was arranging his bets, directed our attention to the actions of some men in blue

shirts who stood near one of the tables. They made strange motions, and beckoned the young man to one side, as they were about to divulge some state secret. They nudged him with their elbows, gave indefinite hints and intimations as to the precise locality of the pea, viz. Which thimble it was under- and while he was counting his cash, glittered upon him with an evil eye, and dogged him like Italian assassins. But the more he conversed with them, the more his money vanished from him. Mr. Pyps therefore intimated his decided opinion that the thimble rig was a swindle, and that these men were accomplices. His opinion ought, in deference, to go forth to the world.

### **THE CHAMPION CUP**

Presented to the Race Fund by Mr. W. Champion, licensed victualler, Jolly Hatters' Inn, Melville Street, Hobart Town, value 25 Pounds, with a sweepstake of 5 pounds to be added. Heats, twice round. New Norfolk Town Plate weights.

Mr. S. Blackwell's b.m. Modesty 4 yrs, by Besborough pink jacket and black cap. (Absolutely) 8st.31b.

Dr. Huish's Van Tromp, 3 yrs, by Besborough.

**Mr T. Cooley's b.h.Swordsman 5 yrs, by Vanish, tartan, green and black cap. (Davey) 9st.**

Mr J. Field's b.m. Bequest, 3 yrs, by Snoozer.

Mn F. Mills's b.m. Lady Lydia, 5 yrs, by Jersey, pink jacket and blue cap (Thomson) 8st.3 lbs.

Mr. W. Jarvis's g.g. Patient, by Snoozer.

I&. W. Moodie's b.g. Flying Dutchman</b>., 4 yrs., by Pioneer, purple jacket and black cap(Freeling) 8st. 3lbs.

Mr.W. Barton's b.h. Moderederoo, aged by Comborough.

Mr R Thompson's b.m. Miss Crow, 6 yrs., by Eclipse. Black jacket and red cap,(Honey) 9st.2lbs.

Mr. A Guy's.

Mr F. Martin's.

This was the crack race of the day, and with the exception of Mr Rose's stud, some of the best horses in the country were entered for it. Only five started, whose names are indicated in the above list by having their colours appended. Of the running much cannot be said. Some difficulty was experienced in getting the horses to start in the first heat, Miss Crow being fretful. They went off well at last leaving her in the rear, but she had no chance during the race. Between the other four it was very close- too close. Turning for home, Swordsman was pressed hard by Modesty, but came in by about a length. Flying Dutchman was third. Lady Lydia had pulled up, having received a serious injury by coming in contact with Swordsman. On weighing, a protest was entered against Swordsman taking the prize, on the grounds that he had crossed Modesty's running.

The next heat was taken by Swordsman, Modesty pushing him hard for it. Freeling was thrown from Flying Dutchman, and carried away with some severe bruises to Thompson's Hotel. The cup was then presented by the donor to the stewards, to be given to the best horse.

It was taken to the stand and filled with champagne. Need it be said that the first toast was

"Health and long life to the donor", with three times three cheers, and another two in. Mr. Champion returned thanks and intimated his intention of presenting another of the same value next year. The stewards, and other toasts, followed and a hope was expressed that the example of Mr. Champion would be followed by some of the merchants of Hobart Town. The following characteristic toast was given, and enthusiastically responded "May every district find a Champion" In addition to the value of the cup, 25 pds., the stakes were worth 55pds. Total value 80pds

**SWORDSMAN** bay stallion foaled 1844. By Vanish (son of Peter Fin imp.), bred by Sir Richard Dry (Premier of Tasmania 1866?1869) and later on sold to Thomas Todd Cooley, of Cooley's Hotel, Moonah. Swordsman was later sold for 350 Pounds to race in South Australia

This article was copied in April 2003 by Peter and Mary Cooley and has at last answered the questions arising, about just how and where the "Silver Cup" held by Thomas Todd Cooley was won. This report is a wonderful find and proves that persistence (in this case Peter's) wins in the end !