

= Orme (horse) =

Orme (1889 ? 17 September 1915) was a British Thoroughbred racehorse . He was trained at Kingsclere by John Porter for the 1st Duke of Westminster . As a two @-@ year @-@ old he won the Middle Park and Dewhurst Stakes . As a three @-@ year @-@ old he was not well enough to take part in the 2000 Guineas and Epsom Derby , but came back to win the Eclipse Stakes . Orme stayed in training as a four @-@ year @-@ old and won another Eclipse Stakes , becoming the first horse to win the race twice , a feat that has only been repeated four times since . After he had retired from racing , he became a successful sire and was Champion sire of Great Britain in 1899 . His son Flying Fox won the Triple Crown and the Eclipse Stakes . Orme also sired Epsom Derby winner Orby and 1000 Guineas winner Witch Elm . His regular jockeys were George Barrett and Morny Cannon .

= = Background = =

Orme was a bay colt born in 1889 at Eaton Stud in Cheshire . He was bred by the 1st Duke of Westminster . Orme stood 16 hands high and had a large white star , with no other white markings . His sire was the unbeaten 2000 Guineas , Epsom Derby and St. Leger winner Ormonde . Orme was one of Ormonde 's first crop of foals . By the time Orme reached a racecourse , Ormonde had been exported to Argentina . Ormonde did not become a great sire due to fertility problems , producing only a few foals most years . However , he did also sire Goldfinch , a horse that was a top class two @-@ year @-@ old and won the New Stakes . In the United States , he sired Futurity Stakes winner Ormondale . Orme was clear @-@ winded , unlike his sire , who was a roarer .

Orme 's dam Angelica was an unraced sister to the outstanding sire St. Simon . They were progeny of Galopin and St. Angela , a daughter of King Tom . The Duke of Westminster had purchased Angelica in 1886 when she was carrying a foal by Coeruleus . The foal was Blue Green , who went on to win the Queen Alexandra Stakes . Orme was Angelica 's fifth foal .

Orme showed great promise as a yearling , with trainer John Porter saying he had great expectations for him after only having him for a few months . In October 1890 Orme and Orville were described as " [t] he two finest yearlings in the Duke of Westminster 's stud . "

= = Racing career = =

= = = 1891 : Two @-@ year @-@ old season = = =

Prior to Orme 's first appearance on a racecourse , John Porter tested him over five furlongs against the three @-@ year @-@ old Massacre and three two @-@ year @-@ olds , including Orville . Ridden by George Barrett , Orme won the trial by half a length from Massacre .

= = = = Early career = = = =

Orme started his racing career in August 1891 at the Glorious Goodwood meeting at Goodwood Racecourse . He was ridden by George Barrett and started the 4 / 5 favourite in the Richmond Stakes . 20 / 1 outsider Ben Avon led the field of eight in the early stages of the race , with Orme in the middle of the pack . Orme took the lead with a quarter of a mile left to run , and despite showing his inexperience , he won easily by three quarters of a length from Flyaway (who was carrying more weight than Orme) , the two then colliding as they pulled up . At the same meeting , two days later , Orme also started in the Prince of Wales ' Stakes . He started as the 1 / 2 favourite and led the field from the start . Dunure made some progress from the back of the field into second place , but none of the runners could get to Orme , who won by one length . Dunure was second and Galeopsis was third , four lengths behind Dunure . After these two races , he was already as short as 5 / 1 for the 1892 Epsom Derby . After Goodwood the Duke of Westminster refused a big offer to purchase

Orme .

Orme then took on older horses in the valuable Lancashire Plate , where he started the 7 / 4 favourite . In the last few furlongs Orme challenged the four @-@ year @-@ old Signorina for the lead , and as they approached the main stand , Martagon challenged the pair . Orme drew level with Signorina , but the filly edged away slightly again and won an exciting race by half a length from Orme , Martagon a head back in third . Orme received £ 1000 for finishing second .

= = = = October = = = =

He returned to racing against horses of his own age , starting the 8 / 15 favourite of a field of ten runners for the six @-@ furlong Middle Park Plate at Newmarket . As the field neared the finish , Orme was travelling the best , and as soon as Barrett let him go , he immediately took the lead . El Diablo tried to close , but could not get to Orme , with the latter winning easily by a couple of lengths , Gantlet being a neck back from El Diablo in third . Orme then started in the Dewhurst Plate , but his presence deterred many owners from entering and he faced only two rivals . He started as the 6 / 100 favourite , with El Diablo at 20 / 1 and Hatfield at 50 / 1 . Orme led from the start , and with two furlongs to run he began to stride away . El Diablo tried to close , but Orme won by three @-@ quarters of a length from him and was never extended . Hatfield finished well behind Orme and El Diablo in third place . Orme 's final race of the season came on 30 October in the Home @-@ bred Foal Post Stakes over five furlongs and 140 yards at Newmarket . He started as the 3 / 100 favourite and faced three rivals . Orme lead throughout the race and won easily by two lengths from Esmond , with Lucellum a further three lengths back in third place .

He finished his two @-@ year @-@ old season with a record of five wins and a second place from six starts . At the end of the season , some even believed that he was better than his sire Ormonde , the ' horse of the century ' . One writer rated him ten pounds superior to the next best two @-@ year @-@ old La Fleche , with her being one pound superior to Flyaway . Some were more cautious , however , suggesting that Orme had not beaten any top horses .

= = = 1892 : Three @-@ year @-@ old season = = =

Going into the 1892 season Orme was a strong favourite for the Epsom Derby , with odds as short as 2 / 1 in December . In March he was still favourite , but had drifted out slightly to 5 / 2 due to the support for stablemate La Fleche .

= = = = Suspected poisoning = = = =

In late April there were reports that Orme had a sore throat . This caused Orme to drift in the betting for the Derby , and La Fleche became the favourite . Orme was withdrawn from the 2000 Guineas , but returned to doing gentle exercise and it was hoped that he would still be able to make the Derby . The Duke of Westminster hinted that he had been poisoned . In early May , Orme had still not improved , and connections stated that he had been poisoned with mercury . It was suspected that the culprit may have been a well @-@ known backer of Derby rival La Fleche , with the poison being administered in a lozenge that Orme chewed , blistering his tongue . However , a dentist that removed part of a decayed tooth from Orme suggested that the illness was not due to poisoning , but to the decayed tooth .

By mid @-@ May it was clear that he would not make the Derby and he was removed from the race on the 23 May . Orme 's trainer John Porter and Williams , the veterinary surgeon , remained convinced that he had been poisoned and was not just suffering from bad teeth . A reward of £ 1 @, @ 000 was even offered for information that would lead to the conviction of the guilty party . The poisoning was investigated by George Lewis , a solicitor , who concluded that the horse had been poisoned . He stated that the horse was fine on the morning of the 21 April , but a few hours later his tongue was so inflamed he could not hold it in his mouth ; something so sudden , Lewis argued , could not have been caused by a decaying tooth . He suggested that the poison may have in fact

been attempted to be administered by some ball being put down his throat , but due to the struggles of the horse , it burst in his mouth , blistering his tongue . The Derby was won by Sir Hugo , but many believed that Orme would have won easily had he made the race .

= = = = Summer return = = = =

Porter ran Orme in a trial four days before the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park as preparation . He raced against his five @-@ year @-@ old half @-@ brother Blue Green and the six @-@ year @-@ old Ormuz . Despite conceding weight to both of them , he won by the trial by two lengths from Ormuz . In the Eclipse he faced six rivals and started the 5 / 4 favourite , with Sussex Stakes winner Orvieto next in the betting at 11 / 4 . During the race Orme was ridden in the middle of the field . As they turned into the finishing straight , Orme and Orvieto were close behind the two leaders ; the two then took over the lead in the straight . As they neared the finish , Orvieto had a slight advantage , but as Barrett asked Orme for an effort , he responded and got in front to win by a neck from Orvieto , with St. Damien finishing only three quarters of a length behind Orvieto . The race was worth over £ 9000 . Twelve days later Orme lined up as the 1 / 5 favourite for the Sussex Stakes . In the last few furlongs he battled with Watercress , and it was not until 50 yards from the finish that he came out on top , going on to win by a head from Watercress .

= = = = St. Leger Stakes = = = =

Orme had apparently improved significantly since Goodwood , and jockey George Barrett said , " I would stake my life he can beat Watercress 100 yards . I never was on such a horse in my life . " Orme 's previous wins made him favourite for the race , starting at 10 / 11 , with 1000 Guineas and Epsom Oaks winner La Fleche second favourite at 7 / 2 . Also near the front of the betting were Derby winner Sir Hugo at 10 / 1 and May Duke at 100 / 7 .

In the race the early pace was slow , and Barrett positioned Orme near the front of the field . As they turned into the finishing straight , Orme was just leading from La Fleche , but Barrett soon picked up the whip and it was clear Orme was beaten . La Fleche went on to win easily by two lengths from Sir Hugo , with Watercress a further three lengths back in third , May Duke in fourth and Orme in fifth . The remainder of the field , led by The Lover , were at least twenty lengths behind Orme . After the race Barrett said : " I never was so disappointed in my life . He never took hold of his bit as he used to do ; run as dead as a stone , and wouldn 't make an effort . " Other jockeys in the race agreed , saying Orme was " sulking " throughout the race . After the race , some suggested that Orme simply did not stay , the St Leger distance being too far for him .

= = = = Autumn = = = =

Orme next raced in the Great Foal Stakes at Newmarket . He won easily by 1 ½ lengths from Versailles , with Dunure in third place . He then faced only one rival in the Champion Stakes , Orvieto , whom he defeated in the Eclipse . Orme started the 1 / 3 favourite and made the running , leading by a length with two furlongs to run . Barrett then asked Orme to quicken , and Orvieto could not keep up , with Orme going on to win by a couple of lengths .

Two weeks later he faced Sir Hugo , Orvieto , El Diablo and Frank Marsh in the Limekiln Stakes at the Newmarket Houghton meeting . Orme started the 4 / 5 favourite , and with two furlongs to run he strode into the lead . Without even being asked for an effort , he won easily by three lengths from El Diablo , with Sir Hugo in third . The next day he won the Subscription Stakes easily from Porridge , after leading from the start and never being caught . He raced again the next day , his third race in as many days , in a Free Handicap Sweepstakes over ten furlongs where he faced five opponents . Orme started as the 4 / 6 favourite , Bushey Park was at 5 / 1 . Next in the betting came El Diablo , The Lover and Therapia all priced at 100 / 12 . Bushey Park led in the early stages until Orme went into the lead with about two furlongs left to run . El Diablo overtook Orme in the final 100 yards and beat him by one and a half lengths . The Lover finished in third place , three quarters of a length

behind Orme . Orme had to carry 16 pounds more weight than El Diablo and 22 pounds more than The Lover .

== 1893 : Four @-@ year @-@ old season ==

Orme returned to the track as a four @-@ year @-@ old in the Rous Memorial Stakes at Royal Ascot . His only opposition was the four @-@ year @-@ old filly Lady Lena . Lady Lena briefly challenged Orme in the closing stages , but new jockey Morny Cannon only had to shake the reins a couple of times and Orme went away to win easily by a couple of lengths . He then went back to Sandown to attempt to win another Eclipse Stakes . He started the 2 / 1 second favourite , with the evens favourite being La Fleche who beat him in the St Leger . La Fleche was being hard ridden a long way from the finish . Soon after Orme took over the lead , but began to hang left . In the final furlong Medicis passed La Fleche and began to challenge Orme , but could not get on terms and Orme won by half a length , with La Fleche a further three lengths back in third .

Orme and La Fleche met again in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood with two other opponents , Watercress and Royal Harry . Starting favourite , Orme had La Fleche in trouble with more than a quarter of a mile still to run . He seemed to have the race won , but then veered left forcing Morny Cannon to pull him back and allowing La Fleche to draw level . However Orme pulled away again and won by a neck , with Watercress a further six lengths back in third . Orme 's final race came in the Limekiln Stakes where he had to carry 10 stone . He finished second to Childwick , who was receiving 33 pounds . During the autumn Orme 's legs had started to give him trouble and during the Limekiln a suspensory ligament gave way . This injury brought an end to his racing career , and he was retired to stud . Throughout his racing career he won a total of £ 32 @, @ 528 in prize money .

== Race record ==