



THE TALE BEHIND THE DONKEYS



On Saturday July 18th Chinnor village will be welcoming ten very special visitors of the hairy animal variety. No, they are not Great Uncle Arthur's distant cousins, but athletic donkeys all set to take part in the 11th Donkey Derby which this year is to be held in Mill Lane Field.

By the time most of you are reading this article, a free programme for the event will have dropped through your letterbox and you will be aware of the many attractions the Donkey Derby has to offer.

What the majority of you do not know, however, is the behind the scenes work which has taken place so that all may run smoothly on the day.

The Chinnor Rifle and Pistol Club started the idea of running a Donkey Derby in 1969 and the money they collected went towards a new rifle range. Since then it has become a regular annual event, almost a part of village life. The sub-committee responsible for this year's efforts are Bryan Grace, Nigel Hunt, Roy Hubbard, Kit Metcalfe and Tony Hill.

These men have since February resisted the temptation to stay at home with their feet up. Someone has had to



'OH MA I WANT TO GET OFF'

ring round and personally visit all the advertisers to gain their sponsorship, arrange insurance for the afternoon, contact the ice-cream man, obtain and erect a safety barrier for the children and put in a good word at just the appropriate moment so that a raffle prize might be forthcoming.

An event of this size can some years undoubtedly produce hiccups. It can be very embarrassing when after much publicity the crowds begin to arrive but the donkeys do not. Quick action is needed and the first race runs on time with grown men improvising as donkeys (a sight many friends and



'I CAN DEFINITELY SAY NO 4 IS THE WINNER' relatives will never forget).

This year again it has been the donkeys which have been one of the problems. Unfortunately, there are very few available and those that are prefer to tread the golden sands of some seaside resort. This is a service not easily found in the Yellow Pages, but can involve two weeks of solid telephone calls before success is eventually achieved.

Despite other minor setbacks, 1981 Donkey Derby shows every sign of being a winner, so come along at 1.30 p.m. for there will be plenty going on. At the last count, sixteen stalls, mostly being run by various clubs and societies in the village, will also be there as Chinnor Fayre combines

with the Donkey Derby. All in all, there will be plenty to spend your money on but plenty to watch and take part in if you prefer.

At 5.30 p.m. after the last race has been run and the crowds gradually disperse in search of their tea, five men will breathe a large sigh of relief. Five months of effort and negotiations are over. It's finished and they can return to their wives etc. with no excuses now for not doing the gardening or re-decorating the lounge - that is until next year.

Good luck - we hope it is a success.



- AND NOW EVERY ONE IS RARING TO GO FOR RACE 6 -

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Chinnor Branch of the Royal British Legion is booking space for a stall at the Donkey Derby on 18th July 1981. It is proposed to sell and have cake competitions in aid of the CHURCHILL REHABILITATION CENTRE, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION VILLAGE, MAIDSTONE. It would be much appreciated if some of our ladies in the village would very kindly donate a cake or some small cakes for sale on this stall.

Please contact Mr. Atton on K.B. 52080 or Mrs. Wheeler on K.B. 52342. Thank you all in anticipation of your generous support.

G. Wheeler