

Huggins, Mike ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2789-4756> (2018) Horse racing and British society in the long eighteenth century. The Boydell Press, Woodbridge, UK.

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/3826/>

*Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.*

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

**provided that**

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
  - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

**You may not**

- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing [insight@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:insight@cumbria.ac.uk).

# Horse Racing and British Society in the Long Eighteenth Century



Frontispiece: Thomas Rowlandson (1757–1827) 'The Jockey Club', 1811, courtesy of the Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017.

# **Horse Racing and British Society in the Long Eighteenth Century**

Mike Huggins

THE BOYDELL PRESS

© Mike Huggins 2018

*All Rights Reserved.* Except as permitted under current legislation no part of this work may be photocopied, stored in a retrieval system, published, performed in public, adapted, broadcast, transmitted, recorded or reproduced in any form or by any means, without the prior permission of the copyright owner

The right of Mike Huggins to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted in accordance with sections 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

First published 2018  
The Boydell Press, Woodbridge

ISBN 978 1 78327 318 8

The Boydell Press is an imprint of Boydell & Brewer Ltd  
PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF, UK  
and of Boydell & Brewer Inc.  
668 Mt Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620-2731, USA  
website: [www.boydellandbrewer.com](http://www.boydellandbrewer.com)

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

The publisher has no responsibility for the continued existence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate

This publication is printed on acid-free paper

# Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	vi
<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Further Matter</i>	x
Introduction: Setting the Scene	1
1 The 'Race Week' in British Social Life	37
2 The Secret World of Wagering	79
3 Horse Racing and British Politics	122
4 Racing and its Rules	153
5 Running the Race Meeting	175
6 The Racehorse, its Ownership and Breeding	199
7 Vital Professionals: Jockeys, Grooms and Trainers	240
Conclusion	278
<i>Bibliography</i>	289
<i>Index</i>	311

# Illustrations

Frontispiece: Thomas Rowlandson (1757–1827) ‘The Jockey Club’, 1811, courtesy of the Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017.

Figure 1: ‘Brighton Races’, John Nixon (c.1760–1818), 1805, courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 23

Figure 2: Salisbury racing articles, courtesy of the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. 27

Figure 3: ‘Racing’, Thomas Rowlandson (1757–1827), 1811, courtesy of the Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017. 51

Figure 4: ‘The Bookmaker and his Client outside the Ram Inn, Newmarket’, undated, Thomas Rowlandson, courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 104

Figure 5: ‘The Last Horse Race Run before CHARLES the Second of Blessed Memory by Dorsett Ferry near Windsor Castle’, Francis Barlow (c.1626–1704), 1687, courtesy of the Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017. 127

Figure 6: ‘Weighing’, Thomas Rowlandson, 1799, courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 165

Figure 7: ‘John Hilton, Judge of the Course at Newmarket; John Fuller, Clerk of the Course; and John Stevens, a Trainer’, Ben Marshall (1768–1835), c.1804, courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 178

Figure 8: Doncaster races: 1775 expenditure accounts, courtesy of Doncaster Archives. 193

Figure 9: ‘Eclipse at Four Mile Stables’, George Stubbs (1724–1806), 1770, courtesy of the Jockey Club, Newmarket. 220

Figure 10: ‘Diamond with Dennis Fitzpatrick Up’, Benjamin Marshall, 1799, courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 274

The author and publishers are grateful to all the institutions and individuals listed for permission to reproduce the materials in which they hold copyright. Every effort has been made to trace the copyright holders; apologies are offered for any omission, and the publishers will be pleased to add any necessary acknowledgement in subsequent editions.



# Tables

Table 0.1: Geographical distribution of subscribers to racing calendars 1728–1800 in the north (N), midland (M) and south (S) of England	19
Table 0.2: Race meetings 1728–1812	29
Table 1.1: Lichfield Assembly Room subscriptions	74
Table 2.1: Comparison of matches at Newmarket and elsewhere 1731–1811	84
Table 6.1: Titled owners: numbers in string (per cent)	215
Table 6.2: Titled owners: numbers of times each horse ran (per cent)	216
Table 6.3: Misters and Esquires: numbers in string (per cent)	222
Table 6.4: Misters and Esquires: numbers of times each horse ran (per cent)	222
Table 6.5: Records of leading stallions at stud	233
Table 6.6: Prices for covering (per cent)	234

# Acknowledgements

This book has relied heavily on the collections of many British archive and record offices from across Britain, too many to list. Those from whose material I have quoted are listed in the Bibliography: my grateful thanks to them all. All were uniformly helpful, though Dr Charles Kelham of Doncaster Borough Archives went beyond the call of duty in seeking material. My special thanks goes to Tim Cox, whose extensive library of racing material enabled me to shed light on many previously dark corners of racing history, while his kindness, knowledge and support helped enormously. Academic historians Peter Borsay, Allen Guttmann, Tony Mangan, Erica Munkwitz and Wray Vamplew all offered encouragement and provided useful feedback. My editor at Boydell and Brewer, Dr Megan Milan, has been extremely helpful with comments and suggestions.

## Further Matter

Currency and its value: English eighteenth-century currency was pounds (£). Twenty shillings (s) made a pound; and twelve pence (d) made a shilling. However, in the racing world the guinea (twenty-one shillings) was often used.

Average English national family yearly income in 1688 was about £39, in 1760 about £46 and in 1803 about £93, but for most families very little was discretionary – it was spent on necessities. The late-century period was one of inflation: £100 in 1755 would have purchased £18,578 worth of goods in 2011. In 1775, £100 would have purchased £13,175 worth of goods in 2011; in 1795 £9,842; and in 1815 £7,320. (See R. D.Hume, 'The Value of Money in Eighteenth-Century England: Incomes, Prices, Buying Power – and Some Problems in Cultural Economics', *Huntington Library Quarterly* 77, 4 (2015), 373–416; Grahame Allen, 'Inflation: The Value of the Pound 1750–2011 RESEARCH PAPER 12/31 29 May 2012', House of Commons Library).

Distances: one English mile was 1.6 kilometres (km). Eight furlongs (f.) made one mile.

Weights: one English stone (st) is 5.35 kilogrammes (kg); 14 pounds (lb) made one stone.

For those readers whose interests are in the history of sport rather than the long eighteenth century, and who may be unfamiliar with early modern spelling and punctuation, quotations are in modern form.

In discussion of horses' ages, it should be noted that all horses took their age from Mayday onwards of their birth year during the eighteenth century, not from 1 January.