

Gentlemen Blackguards: Gambling Mania and the Plot to Steal the Derby of 1844 By kinkykarma.co.uk English If anything this book is a touch drier than it needed to be by virtue of attention to minute details behind and under what took place around the 1844 Epsom Derby and the personalities. It's still a good read and gives not only a good picture of the skulduggery afoot on 'the turf' then and the enormous almost incomprehensible amounts of money involved but a snapshot of some parts of London life at the time. English Get it as soon as Monday Nov 7 Gentlemen Blackguards: Gambling Mania and the Plot to Steal the Derby of 1844 great read English Whilst the centre focus of this story is a plot to win a fortune by 'fixing' the Derby of 1844 the Epsom Derby was regarded as the major sporting event of the British calendar,

Foulkes' makes sure that the reader is well aware of the context in terms of society at that time. The early 19th Century was a time when gambling addiction amongst the upper classes was rife: The sums gambled were phenomenal by today's standards and gambling was not regulated like today, The cast of characters in the book is wide and varied from the gentlemen to the blackguards. There is nothing zealous than a convert and George Bentinck was determined to stamp out corruption in horse racing: The plot in the 1844 Derby has been repeated often over the years substituting horses and on this occasion was not successful: A fascinating insight into changing society and how fortunes were won and lost: English By the mid 19th Century.

A wonderful insight to the history of gambling and manipulation by the well to do and holders of power over the not so well off: English I first read about the 1844 Epsom Derby back in the seventies in English This is the only book by Mr: The narrative doubles back on itself many times and the same points repeated many times, Overall its a great tale that is ruined by terrible writing. Having said that it would be a cruel offence for which to be hung these days when attempts at historical accuracy are given third billing: But it was also the focus for criminals and swindlers as gambling fever gripped the nation, When the 1844 Derby ended in chaos with the two favourite horses doped and the result challenged the subsequent court case threw a light into this murky world, And this forced changes throughout society as the hedonistic free wheeling spirit of the time gave way to Victorian values and codes of respectable behaviour. But the book not only concerns itself with the Derby as historian Nicholas Foulkes also examines the way that gambling had affected all sections of society, Along the way there are murky tales of illegal gaming houses prize fighting murder suicide and dueling. Gentleman and Blackguards with its cast of colourful characters is a very readable account of a fascinating point in British history the dawning of the Victorian age. English Well satisfied.excellent book.great price. Nothing has changed much. Foulkes I have read. And it will be the last. His style is just awful. English Great book English

