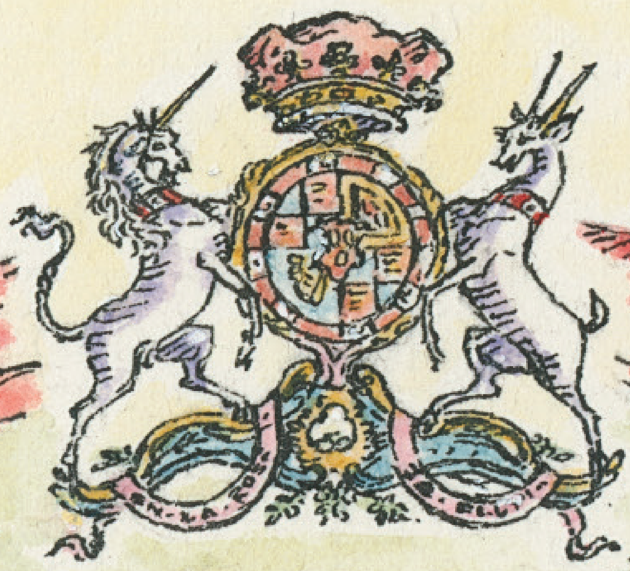
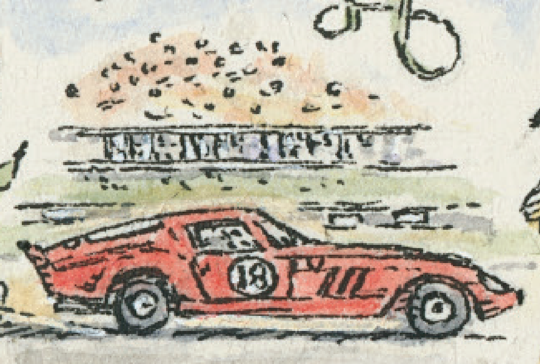
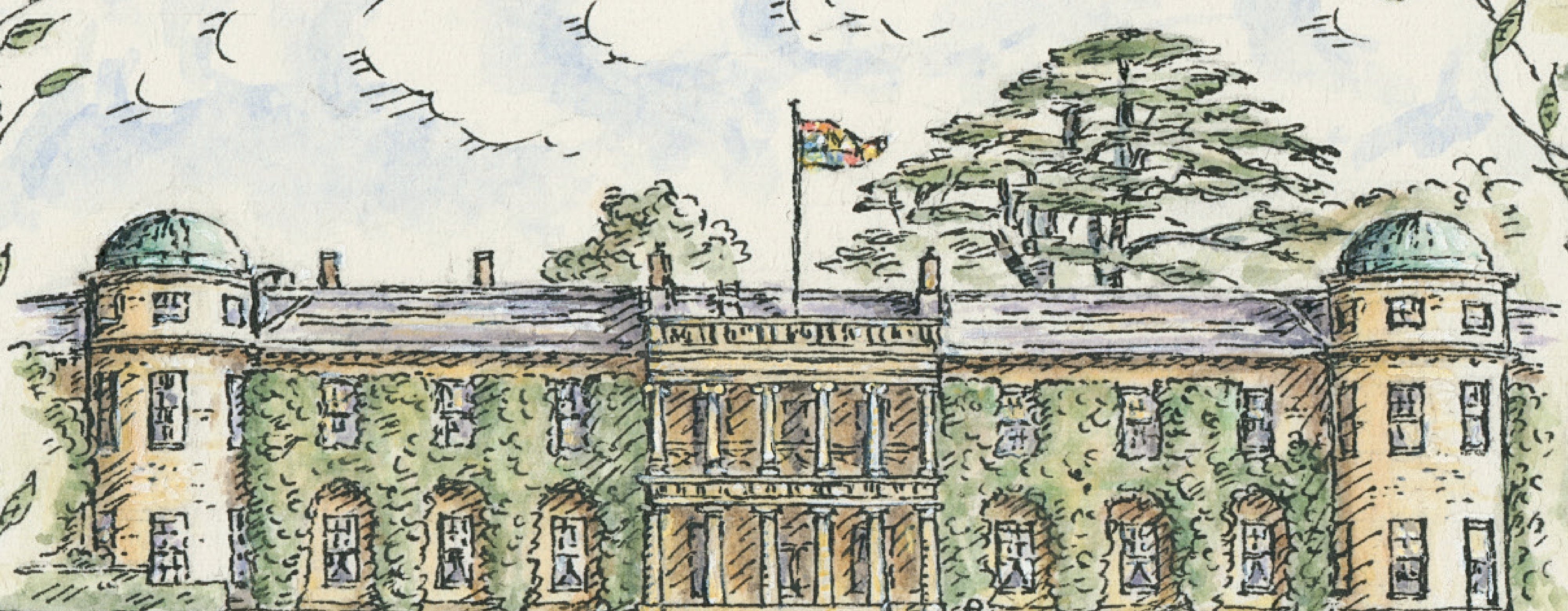


GLORIOUS GOODWOOD

England's Greatest Sporting Estate





SUMMER EXHIBITION

2019

GLORIOUS GOODWOOD:

ENGLAND'S GREATEST SPORTING ESTATE AND THE DUKES OF RICHMOND

Famous throughout the world as England's greatest sporting estate, Goodwood has been the seat of the Dukes of Richmond for over three hundred years. As a playboy princeling, the young first Duke of Richmond, illegitimate son of Charles II, came to Goodwood to enjoy the foxhunting with the nearby Charlton Hunt. To seventeenth-century ears, the Charlton Hunt was synonymous with some of the best sport in the country and is the earliest recorded foxhunt in the world. Its fame drew the elite of society, including Richmond's half-brothers, the Dukes of Monmouth and St Albans. His son's passion for the chase was even greater than his father's but he was also a highly cultured 'Renaissance Man' with wide-ranging interests: art and architecture; gardening and natural history; and service to the crown. He was at the forefront of horticultural advances, nurturing at Goodwood some of the exotic specimens that had just arrived from America and patronising ground-breaking publications on natural history. The park was home to an exotic array of wild animals including tigers, lions, monkeys and even a moose. Elegant buildings sprang up in the grounds designed by some of England's leading architects. Against this backdrop, cricket was played – the earliest written rules being drawn up for the second duke in 1727. The surrounding landscape was immortalised in three paintings by George Stubbs who stayed at Goodwood as a guest of the third duke and depicted his favourite sports: hunting, shooting and horseracing.

As enlightened patrons of the arts, the second and third dukes collected and commissioned works of art, including views of London from their town residence, Richmond House. Here politics, theatre and patronage were all played out at a period when the English aristocracy ruled the roost.

The story of the Dukes of Richmond is a colourful one, not only in the eighteenth century, but also throughout the nineteenth century and up to the present day. On the eve of Waterloo, the fourth Duchess of Richmond hosted a famous ball at their home in Brussels. Back at Goodwood, the horseracing took off and Glorious Goodwood became a firm fixture in the English summer season. A fortuitous inheritance brought the vast Gordon Castle estate in Scotland into the family, coinciding with the Victorian romance of the Scottish Highlands and the sport that it offered. War brought its death toll with family losses and tragedies in the First World War.

New sports were introduced in the twentieth century: a golf course was laid out in 1914 and the Goodwood motor circuit was opened in 1948, heralding a new era of glamorous post-War racing meetings. The Goodwood Aerodrome was opened soon afterwards adding flying to the roster of sports. More recently, the Festival of Speed and Goodwood Revival have built on the sporting heritage. After three hundred years, Goodwood remains the family home of the eleventh Duke of Richmond who continues in the spirit of his ancestors to share his love of sport with others.

King Charles II, *by Samuel Cooper, 1665.*

Louise de Kerouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth, as Venus, with her son Charles, first Duke of Richmond, as Cupid, *by Henri Gascars.*

ROYAL ORIGINS

On a cool autumn evening in October, 1671, a lady's stocking was flung from a splendid canopied bed at Euston Hall, near Newmarket. This symbolic act marked the loss of innocence for Louise de Kerouaille, a pretty young French lady-in-waiting who had been pursued by Charles II for a year. Sent by the Catholic French king, Louis XIV, to spy on his Protestant English cousin, Charles, Louise had previously served as lady-in-waiting to Charles's adored youngest sister, Henrietta and had first aroused the English king's interest at the signing of the secret Treaty of Dover. The son that Louise bore nine months later was named Charles and became another of Charles II's many illegitimate children who were heaped with honours by their extravagant and adoring father. Three years later, on 8th August 1675, Louise rushed to the office of Lord Treasurer Danby with the patent creating her young son Duke of Richmond. Danby signed it in the early hours of the next morning, thereby ensuring her son would take precedence over those of her rival and fellow mistress, Barbara Villiers.

The young Duke of Richmond was given an annual income of £2,000 and 12 pence for every cauldron of coal leaving Newcastle by sea; while Louise was rewarded for her loyalty by being created Duchess of Portsmouth by Charles and Duchess of Aubigny by Louis, a title that came with the ancient château of Aubigny. Together, they lived a life of pleasure and ease at the Restoration court until Charles's untimely death in 1685 necessitated their move to France. There, the French king took the young teenager under his wing, but when he was nineteen, he bucked his company in the French royal regiment of horse and made his way across Switzerland and Germany to England where he sought a higher rank and pay, changing his religion at the same time.

On his return to England seven years later, Charles Richmond continued his hedonistic lifestyle. Spoilt as a child by both parents, he lacked discipline and was constantly in debt. Marriage to the gentle Anne Brundenell did little to quell his spirits as he indulged in gambling and hunting. It was the latter that took him to Sussex to join the rest of the fashionable elite in following the famous Charlton Hunt, England's earliest recorded fox hunt. Needing somewhere to lay his head for the night, he rented Goodwood, a small house just a two-mile ride over the Downs. In 1697, he bought the house and its surrounding parkland, and it became Charles and Anne's country home. With a busy social life in London, the couple divided their time between town and country; Anne often finding herself marooned at Goodwood while her husband was away enjoying himself. Her economy helped save the couple from financial ruin and she was a tender mother to their children: Louise, Charles and Anne. She died in December 1722 predeceasing her husband by five months. Against the advice of his mother's family, the new Duke of Richmond insisted on giving his father a full-blown ostentatious funeral at Westminster Abbey, laying to rest a man whose presiding passion in life had been the pursuit of pleasure.

Charles, first Duke of Richmond, *by Sir Godfrey Kneller, circa 1705.*

Anne, Duchess of Richmond, *by Sir Godfrey Kneller, circa 1705.*

Charles, third Duke of Richmond with the Charlton Hunt, *by George Stubbs, 1759-60.*

THE CHARLTON HUNT

'Mr Roper has the reputation of keeping the best pack of fox hounds in the Kingdom'.

Alexander Pope, 1712

To eighteenth-century ears, the Charlton Hunt was synonymous with some of the best sport in the country and Mr Roper was its celebrated huntsman. Indeed, it is the earliest recorded foxhunt and its fame drew the cream of society, including the Dukes of Monmouth, St Albans and Richmond, the dashing illegitimate sons of Charles II. The first duke had bought nearby Goodwood as a comfortable place to stay and entertain his illustrious friends during the hunting season. His son, the second duke, shared his father's love of the chase and when he became Master, such was the success and desirability of the hunt, that he decided that membership should be restricted only to those who had been elected. Almost every noble family in the land had a representative at Charlton, including half the Knights of the Garter. The Earl of Burlington designed for the members a handsome banqueting house at Charlton where they met after hunting, and many built themselves hunting boxes in the village; by far the grandest of these, was Fox Hall, built in 1730 for the second duke using his winnings from horseracing. The compact red-brick and pedimented building, designed by Roger Morris, had a large first-floor room for both sleeping and eating which meant Richmond could stay the night in Charlton, rather than having to drag himself out of bed early to hack over from Goodwood.

The number of horses stabled in Charlton was considerable; a poem about the Charlton Hunt describes a hundred horses, each attended by a boy, the hunt servants resplendent in the Charlton livery of blue with gold trimmings. The most important day in the history of the Charlton Hunt took place on 26th January 1739 when in 'the greatest chase that ever was' hounds ran continuously from their first find at 8.15 a.m. until they killed at 5.50 p.m. covering a distance of approximately 57 miles with just Richmond and two others present at the end.

After a brief respite following the second Duke of Richmond's early death, the hounds were moved to Goodwood where they were immortalised in George Stubbs' famous painting of the Charlton Hunt. The horses were stabled in a magnificent new stable block, designed by Sir William Chambers for the third duke. Not to be outdone, superb kennels were designed for the hounds, with James Wyatt as the architect. The resulting classical building, in brick and flint, meant the hounds were the best housed in the country with central heating warming them a century before guests at Goodwood House.

Charles, second Duke of Richmond with a hunter and a groom *by John Wootton, circa 1745.*

Sheldon, a hunter belonging to the second Duke of Richmond, with Goodwood House beyond, *by John Wootton, 1746.*

The Menagerie, later the Pheasantry, *by Samuel Grimm, 1772 (© British Library).*

Goodwood House, *by Samuel Grimm, 1782 (© British Library).*

Carné's Seat, *by Samuel Grimm, 1780 (© British Library).*

TAMING THE LANDSCAPE

'All my plantations in general flourish prodigiously … & our verdure here is beyond what I ever saw anywhere … the whole parke & gardens are in the highest beauty.'

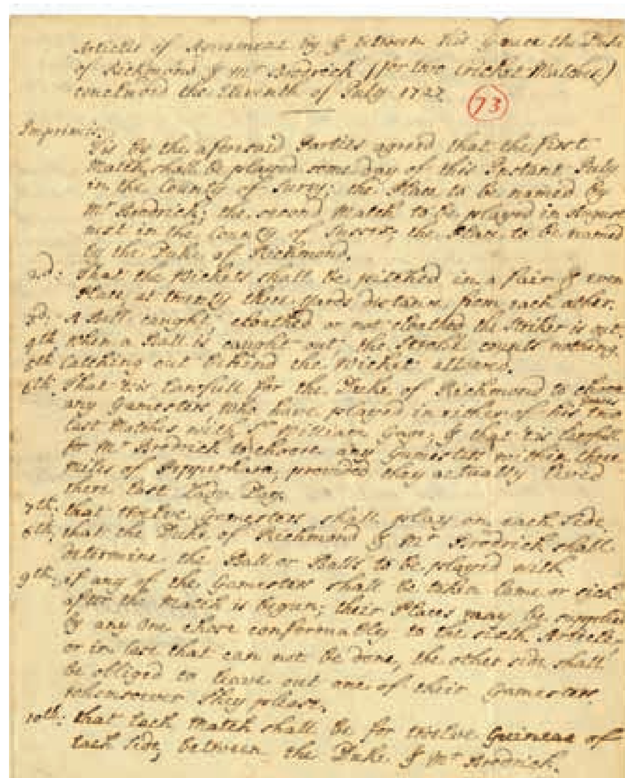
Charles, second Duke of Richmond to Peter Collinson, 27th June 1746

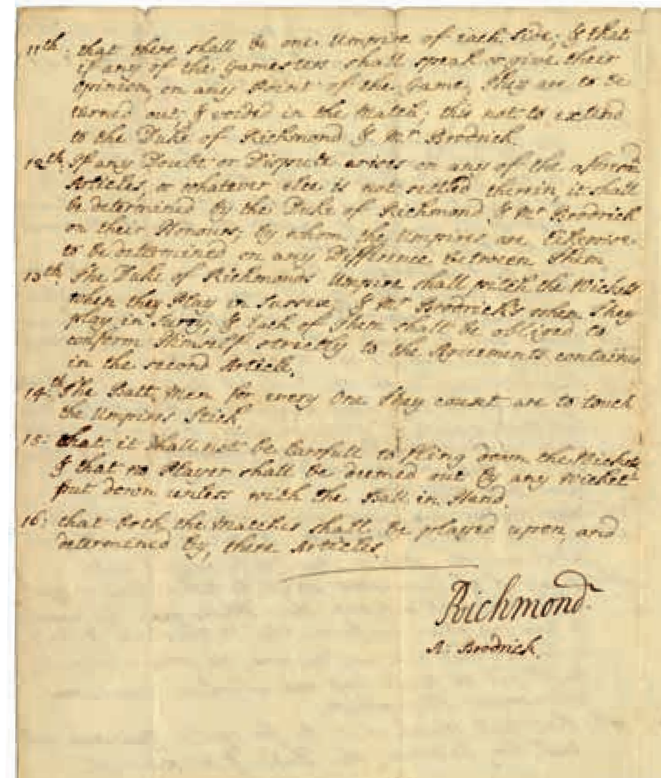
The second Duke of Richmond loved gardening. As a young man of twenty-two years, he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and was a subscriber to some of the most important natural history books of his generation, including Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina.* The eighteenth century was an exciting time for those, like Richmond, with an enquiring mind. The late seventeenth century had seen the dawn of the Age of the Enlightenment which had transformed scientific thinking and dominated the eighteenth century. Richmond was perfectly suited to use his position and influence to help advance studies in natural history: through his wife, he was related to both Sir Hans Sloane - the famous physician, naturalist and collector - and Count Bentinck, scientist and curator at the University of Leiden. When George Edwards published his *Natural History of Birds,* he dedicated the first volume (1745) of the French edition to the duke and the second (1748) to the duchess.

At Goodwood, Richmond laid out a large formal garden, known as High Wood, in the French manner with intersecting rides and paths. He was at the forefront of English horticulture and among a select group of gardeners obtaining seeds and plants from John Bartram in Philadelphia via the cloth merchant Peter Collinson. Hitherto unknown exotics were imported from the newly explored territories in America and distributed in 'seed boxes' to a small group of English subscribers. Richmond's eagerness shines through in his letters to Collinson: 'The small magnolias are confounded dear, but I must have them'. They also betray the scale on which he was buying: 'I want some small cedars of Lebanon that is from six inches to three foot high … & about 100 of the Common Thuya … I don't so much as mention the number of cedars of Lebanon, because the more I could have the better, for I propose making a mount Lebanon upon a very high hill'. Philip Miller, curator of the Apothecaries' Garden in Chelsea (now the Chelsea Physic Garden) and author of *The Gardener's Dictionary*, devised extensive planting schemes for him.

Within the flint-walled curtilage of High Wood, Richmond created a ruined hermitage, known as Rock Dell and the Catacombs, a small series of mysterious tunnels down which wild animals were released behind bars to terrify visitors. The star attraction was Richmond's menagerie that included an extraordinary array of animals and birds, such as wolves, lions, tigers, monkeys, vultures and eagles. Hans Sloane acted as vet.

Richmond also nurtured a love for architecture, a passion he shared with his son, the Earl of March, the future third duke; so he ornamented the gardens and grounds with a series of small buildings: the Temple of Neptune and Minerva, Carné's Seat (a hilltop banqueting house), the Shell House, and the Pheasantry. March added an Orangery and ornamental dairy as well as a real tennis court by the kitchen garden.





Richmond

A. Brodrick

The 1727 rules of cricket for a game between the second Duke of Richmond and Mr Alan Brodrick (later 2nd Viscount Midleton).

Throughout the park, trees were planted, including a group of cork oaks. Their numbers were reinforced by 1,000 Cedars of Lebanon planted by the third duke in 1761. Against this backdrop, Richmond indulged in his love of sport, regularly playing cricket in the park. It was for two matches between Richmond's XII (unusually not XI) and Mr Brodrick's men that the earliest written laws of cricket were drawn up in 1727, with an important caveat: 'These rules do not apply to the Duke of Richmond or Mr Brodrick'.

The second Duke and Duchess of Richmond, *by Jonathan Richardson, circa 1726. The frame is by William Chisholm.*

THE RENAISSANCE DUKE

In December 1719, the eighteen-year-old Charles, Earl of March, set off on his Grand Tour accompanied by his tutor, Tom Hill. For March, it was a welcome escape; earlier that month, he had been married off to a timid thirteen-year-old bride, Sarah Cadogan, to settle a gambling debt between their respective parents. During the next three years, March would foster what would become a lifelong interest in art and architecture leading to some important commissions. He would also fall for the charms of a Venetian courtesan, Angela Polli, who along with March, was drawn in pastel by Rosalba Carriera, the female artist who immortalised so many English *milordi.*

March returned from his Grand Tour laden with pictures and an appetite for more. Through Owen McSwiny, a roguish Irish impresario, he commissioned a series of allegorical paintings of tombs of illustrious Englishmen for the dining-room at Goodwood. Each painting was the work of three artists, including Canaletto, who later painted two Venetian views and most importantly, two views of London for the, by then, duke. Lord Burlington, architect of the banqueting house in Charlton, designed a smart London house in Whitehall for the duke who filled it with many of his Grand Tour paintings and new furniture designed by William Kent. Back at Goodwood, he had plans drawn up by Colen Campbell for a brand new Palladian house comprising a large central block flanked by embracing arms. However, Richmond's finances did not meet his ambitions so it was left to Campbell's pupil, Roger Morris to remodel the existing house. Another Palladian architect, Matthew Brettingham, added a new wing to Goodwood in the mid-1740s. The second duke faithfully served both George I and George II at court and as an aide-de-camp. His trustworthiness was such that he was used as a go-between when George II spectacularly fell out with his son, Frederick, Prince of Wales, dismissing him from court. As Master of the Horse, he was responsible for the huge transport train required by George II for the Battle of Dettingen, the last time a monarch personally led his army into battle. The second duke died tragically in 1750, aged only forty-nine. The Brettingham wing was unfinished and he left a bereft wife and six children.

The Rialto Bridge, Venice *by Canaletto, 1727.*

The fireworks display put on by the second Duke of Richmond at Richmond House, London on 15th May 1749, engraved by George Vertue. Richmond House is the pedimented building on the left.

The Grand Canal, Venice, *by Canaletto, 1727.*

Part of the Sèvres china service commissioned by the third Duke of Richmond in 1765.

Charles, third Duke of Richmond on his Grand Tour, *by Pompeo Batoni, 1755.*

Goodwood House showing the new entrance front, turrets and Ballroom wing (on the right) added by James Wyatt in the early 1800s. Watercolour by John Preston Neale.

THE RADICAL DUKE

'Persons in your station of life ought to have long views. You people of great families and fortunes … are the great oaks that shade a country and perpetuate your benefits from generation to generation.'

Edmund Burke to Charles, third Duke of Richmond in 1770

The third Duke of Richmond, named Charles like his father and grandfather, was only fifteen when his father died. He too went on the Grand Tour, by now almost an obligatory rite of passage for English aristocrats, accompanied by his younger brother, George, and their tutor, the scientist Abraham Trembley. Like his father, the young Richmond loved the arts and had the confidence to commission young and talented artists; in so doing, he showed maturity beyond his years. Soon after his return from his Grand Tour, he commissioned William Chambers, whom he had probably met in Rome, to design new stables. The Goodwood stable block was one of Chambers' first commissions outside of London, its strict classical appearance dominating and even outshining the nearby house. As it neared completion, the young duke invited the relatively unknown artist George Stubbs to come and stay and paint three sporting scenes on the estate, a commission that catapulted Stubbs into Richmond's high-ranking circle of sporting friends. In London, Chambers added a sculpture gallery to Richmond House where artists could come and sketch from exquisite casts of Greek and Roman sculpture; 'a very grand seigneurial design … to encourage drawing' as Horace Walpole wrote.

A brief posting as British Ambassador to the French court, resulted in a ground-breaking commission of Sèvres porcelain, whereby the Sèvres artists depicted real birds on the china (copied from George Edwards' *Natural History of Birds*) – a first for the factory. Richmond returned to Goodwood with a set of Gobelins tapestries given to him by Louis XV; they were incorporated into a new drawing room designed by James Wyatt, another up and coming architect who had, up until then, only worked in London. Wyatt continued to work for Richmond for the rest of his life and much of what is seen at Goodwood today was designed by him, including the entrance front and Ballroom wings which were added in the early nineteenth century.

Burke's advice to the third duke fell on fertile ground, for Richmond saw that his duty lay in service to his country. Not only was he a successful soldier, rising to the rank of Field Marshal, but he was also an able politician who was not afraid to stand up for what he believed, most famously as a champion of the American colonists during the War of Independence; as a protagonist of universal male suffrage; and as a defender of the liberties of Irishmen. As Master of the Ordnance, he commissioned the first Ordnance Survey map of England. His tenacity meant that once he took up a cause, he would not let it go without putting up a fierce fight.

When Richmond died in 1806, he left enormous debts. These, together with the dukedom and Goodwood, were inherited by his nephew Charles Lennox, who had been groomed from an early age to inherit.

The entrance front of the Kennels, designed by James Wyatt in 1787.

The Tapestry Drawing Room, designed by James Wyatt in the early 1770s (© James Fennell).

The Stables, designed by Sir William Chambers in 1757.

The Duchess of Richmond's Ball, 15th June 1815, *by Robert Hillingford. This shows the moment when Lt Webster arrives with the news that Napoleon had crossed the border into Belgium.*

BRUSSELS

On 15th June 1815, Charlotte, Duchess of Richmond hosted a ball at her home in Brussels. The arrival of a messenger half-way through set in train a sequence of events that would culminate in the Battle of Waterloo three days later, thus making the ball arguably the most famous in history. Like many English aristocrats, the fourth Duke and Duchess of Richmond were living in Brussels owing to straitened circumstances. As the duke had written to a friend, their decision to move was intended only 'for a year on an Economical Plan'. Their large house, nicknamed 'The Wash House' by the Duke of Wellington because of its location in the former laundry district of the city, became a hub of social activity filled with family and friends, including the Richmond's own thirteen children. The children's tutor, Spencer Madan, wrote enlightening letters home to his parents in which he gives revealing accounts of his employers' characters. The duke was 'a man of some talent, of sound understanding and judgement, and … of the most polished manners and the strictest honour'. As a young man, the duke has been quite hot-headed; a character trait that resulted in a duel with George III's son, the Duke of York (of nursery rhyme fame). Nevertheless, he served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1807 until 1813. His wife on the other hand was 'one of the sourest most ill-tempered personages I ever came across in my life' and complained of her 'haughty and disagreeable behaviour … & her constant & ill judged interference with regard to the boys …' Even allowing for his bias, she was clearly a force to be reckoned with, being described by a friend of theirs in Brussels as 'a most difficult person to deal with and withal a dreadful mischief maker'. Charlotte invited the cream of Belgian and Dutch society, British civilians, diplomats and army officers to her ball. Wellington, an intimate friend of the family, and the Prince of Orange - otherwise known as Slender Billy - were the most important guests.

Three months earlier, Napoleon had slipped between the hands of his captors and escaped from the island of Elba. With his magnetic personality, he had quickly built up an army and, fearing the threat, the Dutch, Belgian, Austrian, German and English forces gathered together to oppose him. The concentration of party-loving expats and young army officers in Brussels meant there was a vigorous social scene; endless rounds of balls and dinners kept everyone amused in the evenings, while picnics, cricket, horseracing and hunting were among the entertainments during the day. The message that was slipped into Wellington's hands in the middle of the ball reported that Napoleon had crossed the border into Belgium. The effect in the ballroom was electric: the band halted mid-bar and, as Madan wrote, 'A sad gloom, overspread the entertainment, and a trying scene of leave-taking followed'. Many of the guests left straight for the holding battle of Quatre-Bras, followed two days later by the battle of Waterloo where two of the Richmond's sons were involved in the fighting action. The ball was immortalised by Lord Byron in his poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812-1818) and William Thackeray in his novel *Vanity Fair* (1847-1848). Five years later, the fourth duke was appointed Governor General of Canada where he was incredibly active involving himself in the strengthening of military forts, the opening of river navigation and the construction of canals. It was while he was on an extensive tour of Upper Canada in 1819 that he was bitten by a pet fox and died tragically of rabies.

Charlotte, Duchess of Richmond, *after Richard Cosway.*

Waterloo memorabilia: the guest list for the Duchess of Richmond's Ball; two Waterloo medals (for the Duchess of Richmond and the Earl of March); Napoleon's breakfast plate; two French hat badges; and a silhouette of the fourth Duke of Richmond.

Charles, fourth Duke of Richmond, after John Hoppner.

The Lawn at Goodwood, *by Walter Wilson and Frank Walton, 1886. Edward VII is depicted in the centre, while the sixth Duke of Richmond helps Lady Leveson Gower up the bank. St Roche's Hill (known as the Trundle) is in the background.*

GLORIOUS GOODWOOD

'…high summer seemed to reach its zenith when the crowds gathered along the course, the sunlight flashed on the gay colours of the women's dresses, and the thudding batter of the horses' hoofs sounded on the turf as the race rushed by. England in sport, England in summer, England unconcerned, gay, on holiday, England at her best'.

Lady Muriel Beckwith, daughter of the seventh Duke of Richmond, 1936

In 1800, some hot-blooded young officers of the Sussex Militia approached their Colonel, Charles, third Duke of Richmond to request a favour: would he let them hold a race meeting on the Goodwood estate? Richmond, who loved horseracing and owned a handful of his own racehorses, agreed to their request and a meeting took place on the narrow ridge running along the top of the Downs. Inspired by this, Richmond held a private three-day race meeting the following April, inviting both the officers and members of the Goodwood Hunt. In true military tradition, each race was started by a bugler and everyone was royally fed and watered. A year later, in 1802, Richmond threw open the gates to members of the public and the fixture that became known as Glorious Goodwood began.

For the Richmond family, racing genes ran thick and fast in their blue blood. Charles II loved the turf and built himself a palace in Newmarket as a place to stay when horseracing. His son, the first Duke of Richmond, was only fourteen when he rode in his first race at Newmarket. The second duke used his considerable winnings of £150 from racing at Tunbridge Wells to pay for the building of Fox Hall in Charlton, while his son, the third duke, built stables at Itchenor to exercise his racehorses on the beach. By 1802, the third duke was too old to ride himself in the inaugural meeting, however his nephew and heir – the 'Brussels duke' -, won races in 1807 and 1809 and had a few horses in training. But it was the fifth duke who really put the Goodwood fixture on the map. A dashing Peninsular War veteran, he was also a successful racehorse owner and installed a personal trainer, John Kent, at Goodwood, so that by the 1840s, the Goodwood stable had become one of the most successful in the country. Up on the top of the Downs, huge quantities of earth were moved to level it off for horseracing and an 'elegant and commodious' stand was built to hold three thousand people. Goodwood week became an integral part of the aristocratic social season and the house thronged with house parties of the great and the good. Together with Lord George Cavendish-Bentinck, Richmond pushed forward reforms that cleaned up the racing industry, up until that time rife with skulduggery. In 1836, Bentinck, a colourful bachelor figure, won the St Leger with very long odds; he had secretly transported his horse, Elis, from Goodwood to Doncaster in the first-ever horsebox, so Elis arrived fresh as a daisy and stormed home to victory.

Members of the Royal family were frequently among the Goodwood house party. The affable Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, stayed almost every year from the 1860s until his death and dubbed the annual fixture 'a garden party with racing tacked on'. His hosts, Charles and Frances, sixth Duke and Duchess of Richmond were exemplary Victorians; the duke served as a Tory politician and the duchess as a model wife concerned with the well-being and accommodation of their tenants and estate workers at both Goodwood and Gordon Castle. A lover of field sports, the sixth duke revived the Goodwood Hunt with his son, the Earl of March, as Master. While hounds preoccupied his thoughts, his wife's were filled with the precious Pekinese dogs she had been given following their capture from the Summer Palace in Peking.

The First Horsebox, *by Abraham Cooper. It was designed to take Elis in secret from Goodwood to Doncaster where he won the St Leger in 1836.*

Gulnare, *by Henry Chalon. Gulnare was one of the fifth Duke of Richmond's best racehorses, winning the Oaks in 1827. She is shown with the duke's trainer and jockey (in the duke's racing colours).*

Gordon Castle, Moray, *by J. Cassie, 1850s.*

Glenfiddich Lodge, Banffshire, *by Lady Louisa Tighe, daughter of the fourth Duke of Richmond.*

SCOTLAND

Throughout the Victorian and Edwardian eras, Raceweek marked the end of the summer 'season' and was the final fling before aristocratic families headed off on their holidays. For the Richmond family, this meant an annual pilgrimage to the far north-east of Scotland, where they decamped with their entire staff on a specially-hired train, to their beloved Gordon Castle. Coinciding with the Glorious Twelfth – the start of the grouse shooting season – the gentlemen indulged in their love of game shooting, deer stalking and fishing; while the ladies, if they were not accompanying the men, took brisk walks over the wild hills and along the rugged valleys, read the latest novels, or worked up sketches made earlier in the day, seated in front of sweet-smelling peat fires. It was their favourite time of year, when they swapped their comfortable English persona for that of a noble and ancient Highland family whose ancestry stretched far back into the mists of Scottish history.

Gordon Castle, and its vast 260,000 acre estate stretching across north-eastern Scotland, only came into the family by chance. Charlotte Richmond, daughter of the fourth Duke of Gordon and hostess of the Brussels Ball, had a string of brothers and sisters who were variously married into the upper echelons of society. However, with the death in 1836 of her brother, George, fifth Duke of Gordon, with no legitimate children, the vast Highland inheritance landed in the lap of her son, Charles, fifth Duke of Richmond. To mark this windfall, the family added Gordon onto their surname, becoming the Gordon Lennox's henceforth.

The Gordons were a powerful Highland clan who had been ennobled in the fifteenth century. Gordon Castle, with its façade measuring a quarter of a mile long, was augmented by the more rustic shooting lodge at Glenfiddich, described by one of the seventh duke's daughters as 'romance itself'; adding, 'here a great landowner might become a simple gentleman and, escaping the burden of his heavy responsibilities, might sink himself not only in memories of his care-free childhood, but in the happiness of true friendships'. The lodge was hidden at the end of a long drive which wound its way up through the Fiddich glen with the Fiddich River, a tributary of the Spey, rushing below. A further journey, up over the grouse moors, brought you to Blackwater Lodge, another sporting lodge that housed the overflow from Glenfiddich.

Charles, Earl of March, later seventh Duke of Richmond shooting in Scotland, circa 1870.

Amy, Countess of March, fishing in Scotland, circa 1870.

The ghillies at Gordon Castle, dressed in the estate tweed.

SCOTLAND

The sixth Duke of Richmond was a passionate sportsman, whose life clearly revolved around his shooting; over the 1865/1866 shooting season he notched up a total of twelve days grouse shooting, forty-eight days various shooting (pheasant, partridge, hare, duck, etc.) and seven days stalking. An upright Victorian courtier, who's other love was politics, he sometimes pencilled cursory notes into his pocket game book, such as 'Detained in London by Agric Holdgs Bill. Left on Thursday Aug't 23 [1883] 10 a.m. reach Glenfiddich 9.30 a.m. Friday Aug't 24'. Although not revealing much in the way of sentiment, it does show his keenness to get back on the moor and also how the train had revolutionised long-distance travel. In 1867, he notes: 'The Queen came to Glenfiddich on Tuesday Sept 24 accompanied by Princess Louise … She left on Friday Sep 26'. No hint is made of the dramas of that visit when Queen Victoria's baggage train was delayed, preventing her from changing for dinner and an uncomfortable night ahead. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's purchase of the Balmoral estate in 1852 had helped to fuel the Victorian craze for all things Scottish and the fashion among the English aristocracy for visiting the Scottish Highlands to shoot and fish. This neatly coincided with the Gordon inheritance which became an important and colourful chapter in the Richmond family history, lasting for almost exactly a century.

Although it might appear on the surface that it was all pleasure and fun for the family, the Richmonds did a huge amount to improve the lot of their tenants (in 1894, the sixth duke had 882 tenants on his Scottish estates alone). Over the course of fifteen years, the sixth duke – 'the shooting duke' – spent £198,156 on improvements to farm buildings, cottages, drainage, etc. During the same period, abatements in rent and remission (i.e. losses to the duke in rental income) amounted to £386,354, a huge amount of money if one considers that his annual rent roll in 1883 at both Goodwood and Gordon Castle brought in £79,683 (approximately £3.9 million in today's money) before expenditure. Although a tremendous bonanza at the time, the Gordon inheritance was not without its responsibilities.

A shooting party at Blackwater Lodge on the Glenfiddich estate in 1885. The future seventh Duke of Richmond stands on the left with his sons, Set, Esmé and Bernard. General Baillie and John Balfour stand in the doorway, with John's brother, Edward standing on the right. A Goodwood Pekinese sits at Bernard's feet.

Amy, Countess of March, at Glenfiddich, circa 1870.

Charles, Earl of March, later seventh Duke of Richmond.

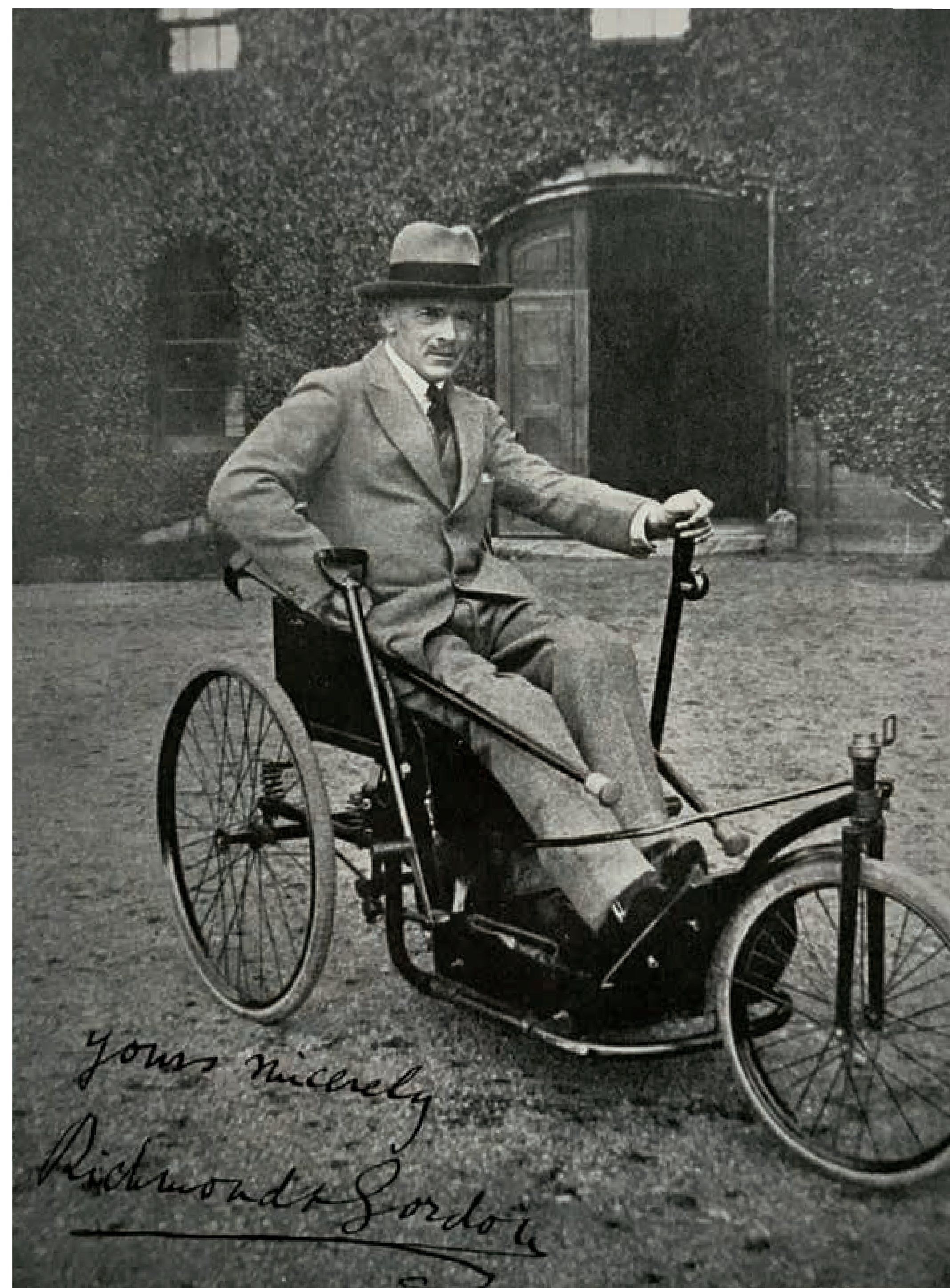
WIDOWERHOOD

Charles, seventh Duke of Richmond, was brought up in a world of immense privilege when the British aristocracy were at their peak in terms of political and economic power. Born into an illustrious family, he grew up enjoying the fruit of both the Goodwood and Gordon Castle estates. Early photographs of him, taken as a young man in the 1860s, show the visage of someone who knows exactly where they sit in the Victorian social hierarchy: confident, serious-minded but with a twinkle in his eye. Twenty years later, that twinkle has disappeared and over the following decades his brow becomes heavier and heavier and any hint of a smile is concealed behind a large, bushy moustache. For in spite of everything, the Richmonds were not immune from the personal tragedies that can befall any family.

In 1868, Charles took as his bride the beautiful auburn-haired Amy Ricardo. Perhaps a surprising choice for a young man devoted to blood sports, this gentle creature won over everyone with her simple charm and intelligent ways. While he tramped over hill and glen, she took her books and paints and wrote the first catalogue of the family picture collection, dedicating it to her husband. Charles (known as 'Set', short for Lord Settrington, his courtesy title), Evelyn, Violet, Esmé and Bernard were born in quick succession, Amy dutifully providing an heir and two spares. However, just over a year after Bernard's arrival, she tragically passed away, leaving a distraught husband and five small children behind.

Three years later, Charles married again, this time to a blonde beauty named Isabel Craven. The marriage seemed destined to failure from the start; Charles had not fully recovered from the loss of his beloved Amy and Isabel did not share his passion for field sports. Unlike Amy, she failed to complement her husband through other interests and after producing two daughters, Muriel and Helen, left Gordon Castle one autumn day in a rage. Two weeks later, she was dead, having contracted typhoid. Widowed again, now with seven little ones to care for, Charles emotionally withdrew and buried his grief in his sport and duty.

The raceweek house party in 1906 with Edward VII seated in the centre, relaxing the dress code by wearing a lounge suit and bowler hat. The seventh Duke of Richmond stands behind the king and Alice Keppel is seated on the far left.



Charles, eighth Duke of Richmond in his wheelchair at Gordon Castle. The entire Gordon Castle estate was sold in 1937 by his son, the 9th Duke of Richmond

Charles, Lord Settrington, who was killed at Archangel, Northern Russia in 1919.

THE GREAT WAR

Raised against this sad backdrop, 'Set' tried hard to please his father. Of a more artistic and sensitive temperament than his father, his days were filled with hunting, shooting and fishing, tempered with serious writing (he later wrote two history books on the family: one about the second duke and the other on the Charlton Hunt). However, he inadvertently upset the applecart when his new and strong-willed wife, Hilda Brassey, engineered an army career for him, resulting in his appointment as an ADC to the future Field Marshall Earl Roberts. Probably more infuriated by his daughter-in-law's impertinence than the fact that he had joined the newly-formed Irish Guards rather than his own Grenadier Guards, the seventh duke's relationship with Hilda never recovered and more immediately, the row resulted in a miscarriage. Set's army career was a welcome diversion to the tensions at home and he served with distinction in the South African war (1899-1900).

The devastation and destruction wrought by the First World War did not leave Goodwood unscathed. While Esmé and Bernard went off to fight for their country, Set prepared to leave with his Territorial Army regiment, of which he was colonel. Just as they were about to embark, he was struck down by polio and almost died, losing the use of both of his legs. Confined to a wheelchair for the rest of this life, the emotional shock of perceived failure left a deep scar. On 10th November 1914, Bernard was killed in action at Ypres leaving two small boys and the following year, Esmé, was wounded, prompting King George V to write to his father in June, 'I trust that Esmé has now recovered from his serious wound. These are indeed very anxious times but we must not be down hearted'. Earlier in the same letter, the king had written, 'I heard you had turned Gordon Castle into a hospital, I am sure it is greatly appreciated by those poor wounded fellows'.

Jubilation greeted the safe return of young Charlie, eldest son of Set, for Christmas 1918. Having spent several months as a prisoner of war, his homecoming was particularly welcome. However, a lingering shame at having been captured was probably the underlying force that compelled him to volunteer as a signals officer, as part of the British expeditionary force sent to fight the Bolsheviks at Archangel, in northern Russia. In August, 1919, three days after the family had arrived at Gordon Castle for their annual sporting pilgrimage, Hilda entered the Billiards' Room, in her son Freddie's words, 'ashen, distraught and scarcely conscious'; a telegram had arrived announcing the death of Charlie at Archangel. In a desperate display of the British stiff upper lip, the following day Charlie's grandfather, the seventh duke, received his entire Scottish tenantry for a tea party on the lawn at Gordon Castle, the telegram folded tightly in his sporran.

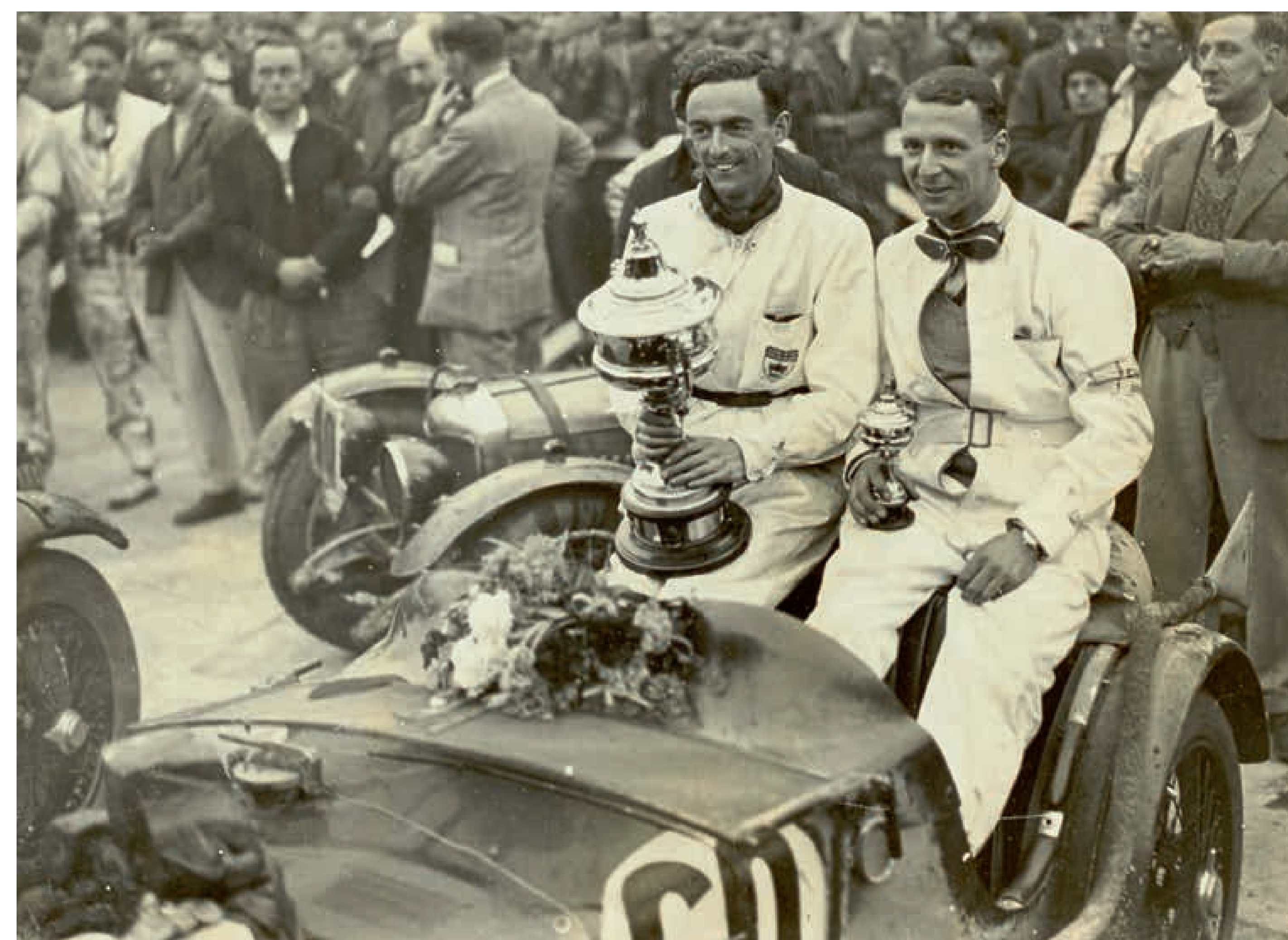
Champion golfer James Braid at the opening of the Goodwood golf course in 1914.

HORSEPOWER

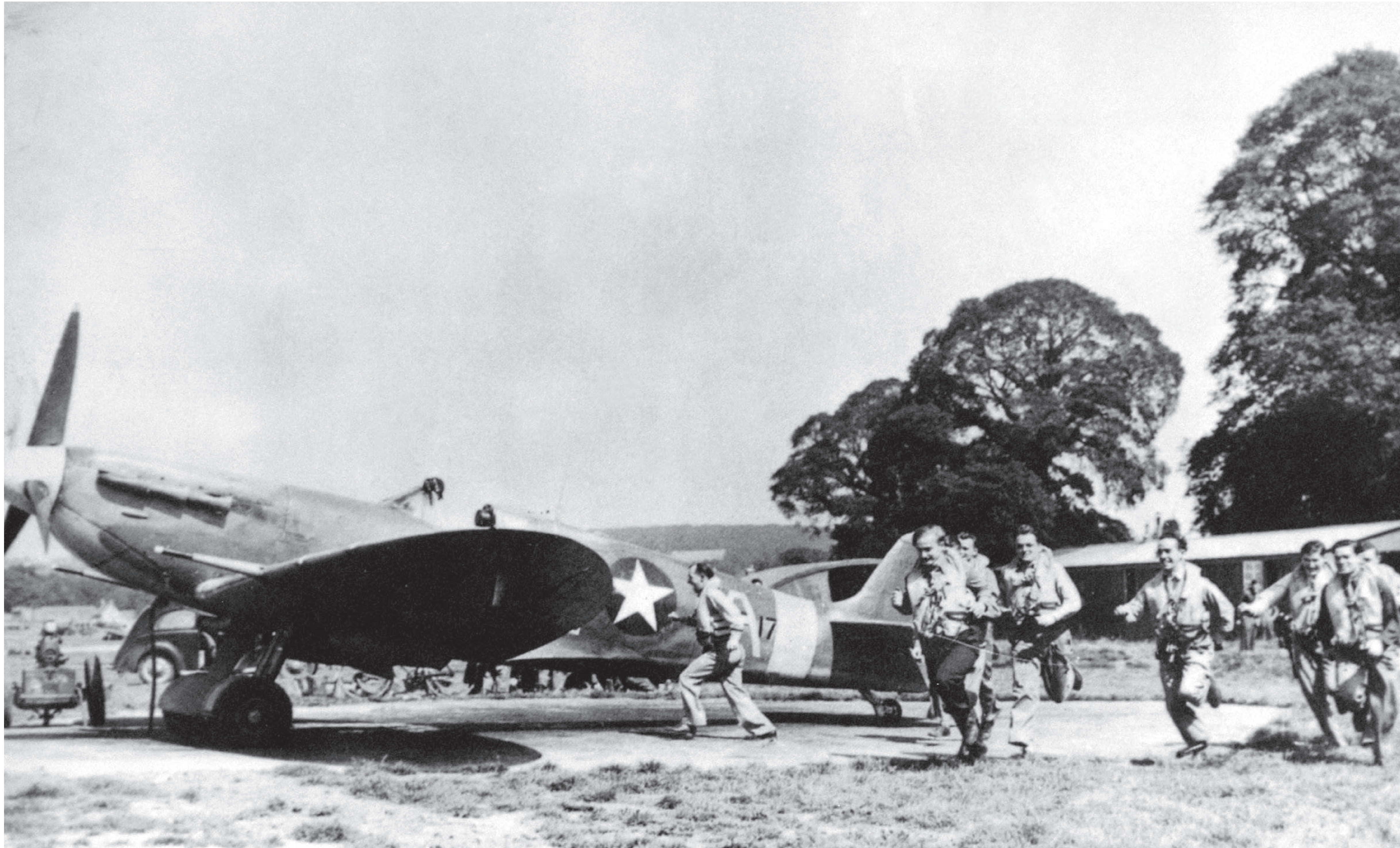
The dawn of the twentieth century heralded the arrival of a new sport at Goodwood: golf. Hitherto, the winter months had been filled with field sports and the summer months with horseracing, cricket, tennis and croquet. Now golf was all the rage. Regular Goodwood guest, Edward VII helped promote the sport and laid out his own golf course at Windsor. Set and his siblings all took up the game with relish, so when the Chichester Golf Club was looking for a new home in 1901, their grandfather, the sixth duke invited the club to move to Goodwood where a new 18-hole course was laid out and maintained by estate employees. A few years later, their father, who was by now the seventh duke, was elected president of the club and in 1912, their brother Bernard proposed a new course. At Bernard's invitation, the champion golfer James Braid designed the course which was opened on 30th May 1914. By now the club was known as the Goodwood Golf Club with the Kennels in full swing as the club house. Bernard's death in action at Ypres later that year was a tragic blow, not only to the family, but also to the golf club of which he had been captain. Esmé took his brother's place and despite the ravages of the First World War, James Braid's course, straddling the South Downs, continues to attract golfers from all over the world.

Meanwhile, Set's sons, Charlie and Freddie, caught the motorbike and car bug. Fascinated by all things mechanical, this shared love brought them closer together despite the five year age gap. Charlie's death in Russia knocked Freddie for six but he continued his passion which eventually led him to take up a job as a mechanic at Bentley, much to his parents' horror. In 1929, he won a gold award in a time trial at Brooklands, driving a little Austin Seven. Two years later, he won the Brooklands Double-Twelve in an MG Midget. A short racing career was followed by a stint as a successful team manager as well as juggling a car dealership, Kevill-Davies & March. To that was added a model-making company, March Models, experiments in photography, and a regular column in the magazine *The Light Car.* Bitten by the flying bug, Freddie set up the Hordern-Richmond company with his childhood chum Edmund Hordern. Together they designed a practical commuter aircraft, the Hordern-Richmond 'Autoplane', intended to be as easy to fly as driving a car. Changing tack, the company then focussed on making aircraft propeller blades.

The ninth Duke of Richmond (right) with Edmund Hordern, standing in front of the 'autoplane' that they designed.



Freddie March, later ninth Duke of Richmond, winning the Brooklands Double-Twelve in 1931 with his co-driver Chris Staniland.

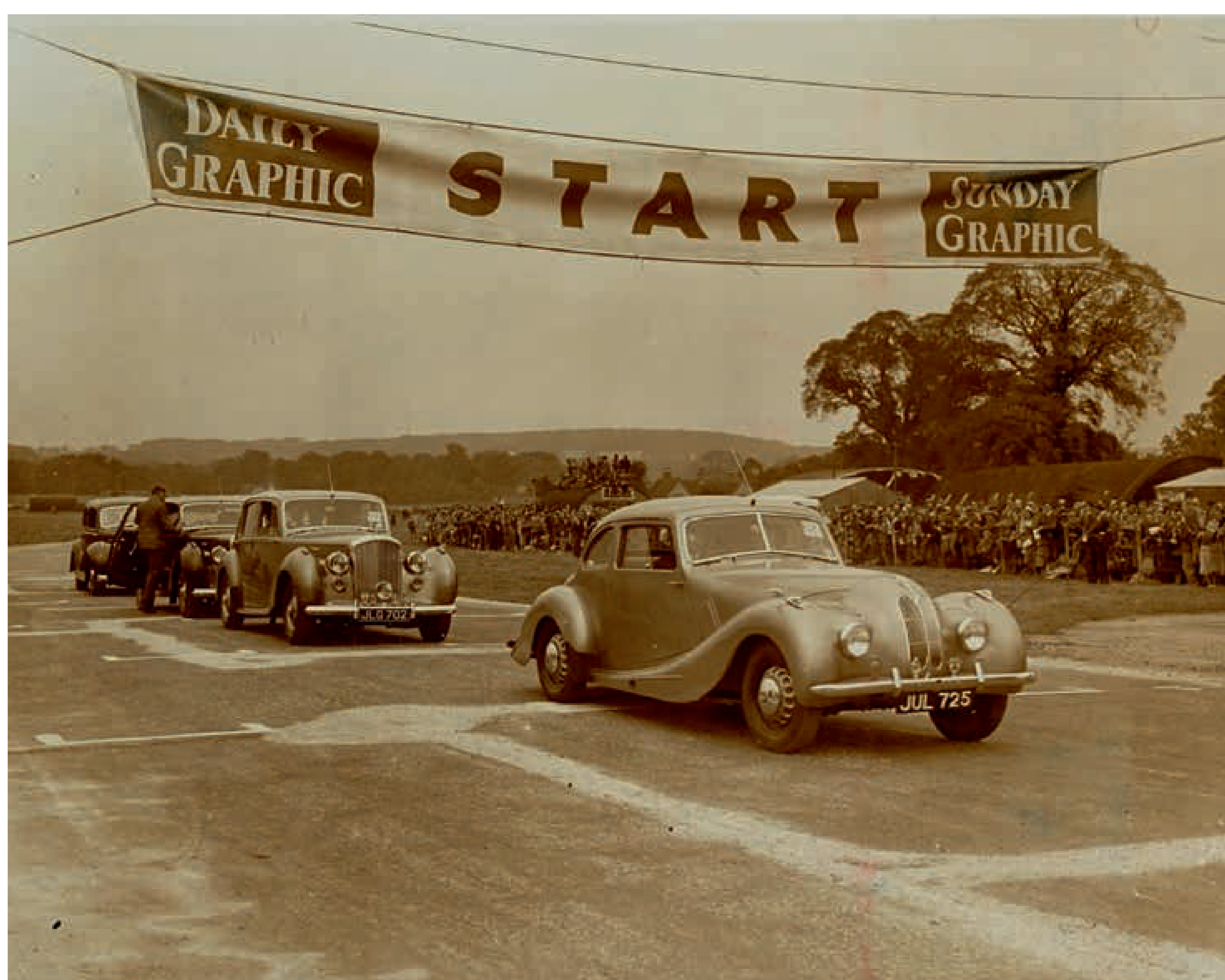


A farm on the Goodwood estate was flattened to make way for RAF Westhampnett, an important fighter-pilot station during the Second World War (© Tangmere Museum).

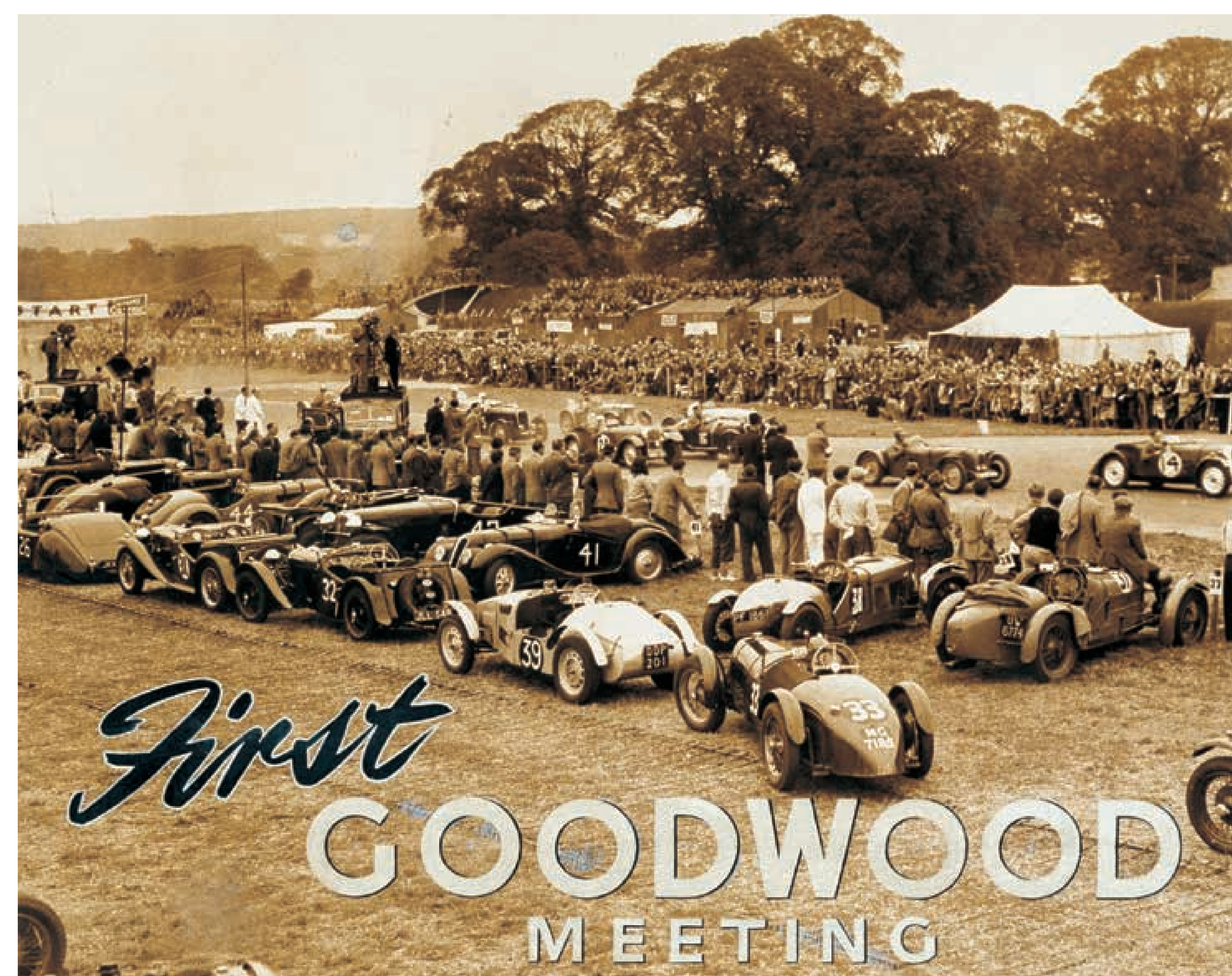
HORSEPOWER

It was only natural that at the end of the Second World War, with his racing and flying passions, Freddie should turn the perimeter track around RAF Westhampnett, a wartime fighter-pilot station on the Goodwood estate, into a motor racing circuit. And so, on 18th September 1948, Goodwood's first motor race meeting took place signalling the start of another sport for which Goodwood has become known throughout the world. The next two decades would see some of the most thrilling wheel-to-wheel car racing this country has ever seen.

It is on this tremendous sporting heritage – horseracing, motor racing, flying, shooting, cricket and golf - that the success of Goodwood today is founded. The annual Festival of Speed, Glorious Goodwood and Goodwood Revival are all rooted in this history and largely contribute to attracting the hundreds of thousands of people that visit Goodwood each year. Today, Goodwood is the home of Freddie's grandson, the eleventh Duke of Richmond. Over the last three centuries, successive generations of the Richmond family have shared their own individual passions with the wider public, which in turn has brought them great pleasure, and helped to shape their own unique characters.



The ninth Duke of Richmond opens the Goodwood motor circuit in his Bristol accompanied by the Duchess of Richmond and their son Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox.



The inaugural race meeting at the Goodwood Motor Circuit on 18th September 1948 with spectators precariously perched on the roofs of wartime huts.