

CORONATION CELEBRATION 1953

The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was marked by a tug of war between Carlton and Market Bosworth. The challenge was issued by Carlton, and the contest took place across the Stoney Brook at noon on Tuesday June 2nd 1953. Someone ensured the brook was running full by opening the mill sluice just before the first pull.

The Market Bosworth Team and some of their supporters travelled to the brook on a lorry, while the Carlton Team arrived on a decorated lorry pulled by a tractor. The match attracted about 400 spectators. The Carlton Team was R Garner (farmer), G Milnthorpe (ex-navy), B Linton jr (ex-army), A Bream (ex-navy), N Oldacres (miner), R Jones (ex-army), G Patrick (ex-army), B Jones (ex-navy), coached by B Linton Sr. The challenge was organised by Mr Frank Brown and Mr H Marsh.

The Carlton Team was heavier and almost won a quick first pull, but Market Bosworth recovered and a ding dong battle ensued with Carlton gradually being pulled closer and closer to the edge of the brook. Just before he was pulled into the water, the first man let go of the rope and made a frantic jump across to the other side. The second pull was much shorter, with Market Bosworth again being the winners.

Each member of the winning team received a souvenir Coronation mug. The only person to get wet was the referee – Mr R C Lancaster (ex-navy) – who took off his shoes and socks to stand in the water. This report is taken from p.6 of the Leicester Advertiser for June 6th; the cutting below shows the Carlton Team in Action.

There is to be a tug-of-war at the Jubilee party on 3rd June, but not, this time, across the brook!
Chris Peat.



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