

# Jorrocks



## (The Happiest Man Alive)

Music and Lyrics by David Heneker

Libretto by Beverley Cross, based on the novels, *Jorrocks Jaunts & Jollities* and *Handley Cross*, of R.S. Surtees

New Theatre, London 22 September, 1966 (181 Performances)

Music Direction on recording: Kenneth Alwyn

## The Story (Early Victorian England)

John Jorrocks, Master-of-Foxhounds, is a social hero among the hunting fraternity. This successful huntsman and grocer's praises are even sung by the men in his tea warehouse. They also chorus the charms of his niece and ward, Belinda.

The domineering Mrs. Jorrocks, however, finds her husband's hunting, eating and drinking habits more than a little irksome. When she receives less than what she considers her rightful degree of social acknowledgment at the inauguration of Mr. Jorrocks as Master-of-Foxhounds for Handley Cross Spa, she plans his overthrow. She is aided in her plans by Marmaduke Muleygrubs, Dr. Roger Swizzle and Captain Misererrimus Doleful. The latter refuses to promote Jorrocks as Spa's patron in succession to Mrs. Barnington, despite his earlier convictions.

A comical but seldom sober huntsman from Newcastle named James Pigg helps Mr. Jorrocks immeasurably in the field. It is Charlie Stobbs, engaged to marry Belinda, who is able to aid Mr. Jorrocks in a legal way. His skill as a lawyer is sufficient to expose the scheming of the Handley Cross 'black sheep' and our lovable 'h'-dropping hero emerges triumphant as the 'appiest man alive.

Chief Clerk: Eileen Shaw

Tea Broker: Ray Edwards

Benjamin: Richard Stilgoe

John Jorrocks: Joss Ackland

Charlie Stobbs: Bernard Lloyd

Belinda, Jorrock's niece: Cheryl Kennedy

Belinda's Admirers: David Weldon Williams, Derry Daniels, Richard Keene

Mrs. Jorrocks: Thelma Ruby

Betsy: Veronica Clifford

Captain Miserrimus Doleful: Paul Eddington

Mrs. Barnington: Helen Lindsay

Phipps: Graham James

Marmaduke Muleygrubs, J.P.: Willoughby Goddard

Dr. Roger Swizzle: Machael Malnick

James Pigg: Peter Whitbread

Major Domo: Ted Richards

Footman: Gwyn Jones