

◆◆◆◆  
THE JOCKEY CLUB  
Since 1750

RANDOX HEALTH  
GRAND NATIONAL  
FESTIVAL



MEDIA GUIDE

APRIL 12-14

**RANDOX**  
HEALTH



AINTREE

A Jockey Club Racecourse

LIVERPOOL  
2018

# THE WORLD IS WATCHING

RANDOX HEALTH  
**GRAND NATIONAL** RACE ON  
 THURSDAY

12 APRIL - A DAY FOR CHAMPIONS  
 SEE YOU THERE



# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

FROM ROSE PATERSON

2018 is the second year that Randox Health have generously sponsored the Grand National and, following last year's hugely successful Festival, we have now built a very strong relationship with them.

Last December, our stable visit broke with tradition. With One For Arthur off the track for the season, we agreed with Lucinda Russell that it would be best if we looked elsewhere. This we did and had a great day at Grange Hill Farm near Guiting Power (home of the famous Hollow Bottom pub).

We watched Nigel Twiston-Davies's impressive string powering up his mountainous all-weather gallop, including his exciting chaser Blaklion, impressive winner just a few days later of the Randox Health Becher Chase over the big fences. We warmly thank Nigel and his team for their hospitality and kindness.

Last year, we also welcomed a new television partner in ITV Racing, who have impressed so many with their outstanding coverage and excellent understanding of horse welfare. You will remember how unusually warm it was last year and the ITV coverage of the action we took and why it was essential was superbly handled by all the team.

Off the racecourse, we have continued to develop our local community programme. This was recognised by the Racecourse Association who elected us the winner of this category at their Annual Showcase Awards for a third consecutive year. Furthermore, I was delighted for John Baker and his team that Aintree were also voted Racecourse of the Year; the first time we have won this illustrious award.

2017 was a significant year in the long history of the Grand National. 1967 saw the extraordinary victory of Foinavon and in 1977 the great Red Rum ran in his fifth consecutive National, storming to his record third triumph, while 1997 saw the bomb scare, course evacuation and the only Monday National.

Not so many anniversaries this year, but we expect the 2018 Festival to be better than ever. We will witness three days of top-class racing and we have invested again to enhance the Festival experience for all our racegoers.

Our prize money over the three-day meeting has increased again to more than £3.2 million and the £1-million Randox Health Grand National will once again be run as the penultimate race on Saturday's card at 5.15pm.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading our 2018 Media Guide which is packed with facts and figures covering the history of the Grand National Festival.

## CONTENTS

Chairman's Welcome	3
Randox Health's Welcome & Sponsorship	4
Ambassadors	6
Grand National Thursday - A Day for Champions	8
Ladies Day	10
Grand Women's Summit	12
Randox Health Grand National Festival Preview	13
Unique Race & Global Phenomenon	14
Anniversaries	16
Gone But Not Forgotten	17
Community Involvement	18
Welfare & Safety	20
Racing Explained	22
Roll of Honour	23
Results & Reviews 2017/2016/2015/2014	26

## JOCKEYS

2017 Winning Jockey Derek Fox	32
Jockey Records	34
Retired Jockeys	36

## TRAINERS

Greatest Trainers	38
Irish-Trained Winners	40
Trainer Facts	41
2017 Winning Trainer Lucinda Russell	42
Trainer Records	44

## OWNERS

2017 Winning Owner Two Golf Widows	48
Successful Owners	50

## FACTS

Facts & Figures	52
Overseas Interest	58
Grand National Timeline	60
Race Conditions	69
Trainers & Jockeys at the Randox Health Grand National Festival	71
Past Results	74

# SPONSOR'S WELCOME

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS IN LIFE WE LIVE FOR"

*Dr Peter FitzGerald  
CBE, FREng, DL*



"IT IS WITH IMMENSE PRIDE THAT WE CELEBRATE OUR SECOND YEAR AS SPONSORS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST CHASE.

"Just as we shared the exquisite thrill of approaching Aintree to experience the first Randox Health Grand National, we look forward to coming together in 2018 to watch history being written, as 40 of the very best horses and jockeys compete to be crowned champion: the ultimate prize in Jump racing.

"This is one of those moments in life we live for.

"And this is why we do what we do. Randox Health is the provider of the most advanced health checks in the world. We are driven by a desire to help people live healthier lives for longer.

"With the opening of our flagship clinic in the heart of Liverpool this year, we are strengthening our commitment to the city which has welcomed us with open arms. Here people can access the world's most advanced health checks and specialised testing. We use patented technologies which enable our scientific experts and GPs to diagnose pre-illness, empowering people to take preventive action to stay healthy and avoid sickness. This is the future of health care.

"Our advances in blood science technology have been developed over 35 years through research and development. In addition to our market-leading human healthcare, our products have been used in the veterinary market for over 30 years. Of note is our equine panel, which has recently included the biomarker adiponectin. This has been successfully incorporated in the assessment of horses regarding obesity, equine metabolic syndrome, and the risk of laminitis. We work with key Veterinary Hospitals and laboratories around the world, who use a range of Randox clinical products, including The Irish Equine Centre in Kildare.

"By focusing on designing innovative diagnostic technologies such as our patented Biochip Array Technology which allows us to simultaneously carry out many tests from a single sample, we are revolutionising the future of healthcare.



"Randox now operates in 145 countries, in over 20% of the world's laboratories, and in many of the leading universities. Our award-winning scientists and engineers make up over a quarter of our workforce and last year, 17% of turnover was reinvested into R&D. This dedication to innovation has led to partnerships with internationally renowned organisations including the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Transgene, in the pursuit of creating next-generation therapies that will revolutionise patient care.

"This year will also see the second Randox Health Week, providing a stage upon which we explore advances and trends in global healthcare with those at the forefront of the industry. 2018 will focus on three distinct themes: mental health, the work of the Global Active City initiative and preventive health. We will hear first-hand from the legendary Champion Jockey Sir Anthony McCoy about how Randox Health was able to diagnose his prediabetes and help him to reverse it.

"We are pleased that this year along with our founding partners, Liverpool John Moore University, we will be joined by Liverpool Hope University.

"I would like to recognise everyone who made the first Randox Health Grand National the success that it was - in particular our partners at The Jockey Club and ITV.

"As we prepare to crown our 2018 champion, I wish every horse, jockey, trainer, owner and groom taking part the very best and warmly thank you for joining us to make this the exhilarating spectacle that stops the world in its tracks."

**DR PETER FITZGERALD**  
FOUNDER & MANAGING  
DIRECTOR, RANDOX HEALTH

## RANDOX HEALTH CLINIC LIVERPOOL

**WHAT** Provides the world's most advanced health checks to the public; coming April

**HOW MUCH** From £40 per month for a 12-month programme

**LOCATION** Exchange Station, Tithebarn St, Liverpool L2 2QP

**OPENING HOURS OF LIVERPOOL CLINIC**  
0730 - 1700 (Mon - Fri); late evenings & Saturdays on request

**PHONE** 0800 2545 130

**MORE INFORMATION** [randoxhealth.com](http://randoxhealth.com)

## RANDOX HEALTH WEEK

**WHAT** A three-day healthcare showcase featuring the UK's leading academics and scientists, with personal appearance and talk from Sir Anthony McCoy

**WHEN** April 9 - 11

**WHERE** It will be held in venues across Liverpool and is open to the public

**MORE INFORMATION**  
Visit [randoxhealth.com](http://randoxhealth.com)

**FOLLOW RANDOX HEALTH @ THE GRAND NATIONAL**

**TWITTER & FACEBOOK @RANDOXHEALTH #RHGN18**

# RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL FESTIVAL AMBASSADORS



## SAM QUEK

**2016 Rio Olympic Games gold medallist and local sports star, Sam Quek joins the Randox Health Grand National team of ambassadors for a second year.**

Sam has played as a defender for both the England and Great Britain Hockey teams. At the 2016 Rio Olympics, Sam performed a key role in the Great Britain team that famously triumphed in an exhilarating final against the Netherlands.

During the Rio Olympics, Sam won her 50th cap for Great Britain and now has more than 125 combined caps for England and Great Britain.

She was also part of the England Hockey team that won gold at the

European Championships in London in 2015. Sam notably was named 'Player of the Match' in the final versus the Netherlands, the World and Olympic Champions at the time.

After Rio, Sam starred in ITV's 'I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here' series. Enduring a lot of 'bush tucker trials' and jungle 'critters', she finished a well-deserved fourth.

Sam, who has a passion for promoting women and girls in sport, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours 2017 for services to hockey, along with her teammates.

During this fast rise in fame, Sam has been busy building a career as a sports presenter. Sam was part of Channel 4's presenting team for

the 2017 Women Football European Championships in Holland, Channel 5's coverage of the Rugby Premiership and presented the NFL Show on BBC 1.

Whether or not Sam chooses to have a go at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, she is fast establishing herself as a sports presenter of note.

During the 2018 Randox Health Grand National Festival, Sam will be involved in the new and exclusive Champions Lounge on Grand National Thursday and will be a panellist for the Grand Women's Summit on Ladies Day, joining leading figures from horseracing, sport and business to focus on prominent topics in sport.

## LAURA WRIGHT

**Sporting soprano Laura Wright is an ambassador at Aintree Racecourse for a third year.**

Laura is the country's leading figure for connecting music and sport and renowned for her performances at some of the world's biggest sporting events.

Beginning her career as the official anthem singer for the England Rugby Team, she has gone on to perform at very prestigious sporting events including the Rugby World Cup, the British Grand Prix, the Ashes, NFL matches, the FA Cup Final and opening ceremonies of the Invictus Games.

Her involvement at the Randox Health Grand National Festival spans across the three days including performing at the new Opening Ceremony on Grand National Thursday, being involved in the Style Awards on Ladies Day and introducing the world's most iconic race by singing the National Anthem before the Randox Health Grand National.

Laura will also perform at Alder Hey Hospital during Aintree's annual jockeys' visit to the world-renowned children's facility on the morning of Ladies Day, performing a few Disney classics to the children and parents in the hospital atrium.



## KATIE WALSH

**The most successful female jockey in Grand National history, Katie Walsh takes up her Aintree ambassadorial role for a fourth year.**

Daughter of Irish trainer and television pundit, Ted Walsh, and sister to leading Jump jockey, Ruby Walsh, it is safe to say the Walsh's achievements are to be reckoned with.

Aboard Seabass in the 2012 Grand National, amateur rider Katie came third of the 40 runners, giving her the accolade of the best finishing position by a female rider in the world's greatest chase.

Katie rode Seabass again in 2013, coming home 13th, and got around for a third time in 2014 when occupying the same position on Vesper Bell.

Katie was the third woman to win the Irish Grand National in 2015, guiding the Sandra Hughes-trained Thunder And Roses to victory at Fairyhouse, and then a year later went on to secure her first Grade One winner aboard Blow By Blow in the Champion INH Flat Race at the Punchestown Festival.



Most recently, Katie rode in the 2017 Randox Health Grand National and finished the race for the fourth time in five rides when 19th on the Paul Nicholls-trained Wonderful Charm.

Katie will be joining Sam and Laura to support the promotion on the Randox Health Grand National Festival

through blogs, media interviews and social media campaigns.

She also hosts the course walk for delegates at the Grand Women's Summit on the morning of Ladies Day.

# GRAND NATIONAL THURSDAY

## A DAY FOR CHAMPIONS

Sporting icons to celebrate Merseyside Sport on Grand National Thursday



### BRAND NEW CHAMPIONS LOUNGE WITH KENNY DALGLISH, MICHAEL OWEN, GRAEME SHARP, SAM QUEK, BETH TWEDDLE, SIR AP MCCOY & MANY MORE STARS

Aintree will host a 'Celebration of Merseyside Sport' for Grand National Thursday at the 2018 Randox Health Grand National Festival at Aintree Racecourse, April 12.

One of the best days in British Jump Racing calendar, the newly renamed Grand National Thursday - A Day for Champions will celebrate the many successes of sport across Merseyside and horseracing with a brand new Champions Lounge which will include some of the very best sports stars from across Merseyside and horseracing.

Liverpool FC ambassador Kenny Dalglish said: "I've been a big Grand National fan since childhood and having played and managed Liverpool FC, I've enjoyed going to Aintree to watch the iconic race.

"When the fixtures came out as players, the first thing we looked at was what game we had on Grand National Day.

"Grand National Thursday is a fantastic day of racing and I really like that Aintree are using this platform to celebrate the best of Merseyside Sport - I am delighted to be part of it."

The new Champions Lounge will be located next to Aintree's Parade Ring and hosted by BBC Breakfast's Dan Walker. It will consist of Q&A sessions throughout Grand National Thursday with sporting celebrities representing sports synonymous to success in Merseyside including Liverpool FC legends, Kenny Dalglish, Michael Owen and John Aldridge; Everton FC's Graeme Sharp and Graham Stuart; horseracing legend, Sir AP McCoy; Olympic Gold Medallist, Sam Quek; Olympic medallist and three-time World Champion, Beth Tweddle; Rugby League Legend, Jon Wilkin; European Champion, Commonwealth gold and World silver medallist, Fran Halsall; Olympic Taekwondo Silver Medallist, Bianca Walden and boxing star Paul Smith.

Beth Tweddle, Olympic medalist and three-time World Champion, commented: "I've always been a Grand National fan. Every year I make sure I watch the Grand National - it's the race that stops the nation.

"When I ask people about Grand National Thursday, they always say what a fantastic day it is, superb racing and their best day of the three. I'm delighted to be part of Aintree's celebration of Merseyside Sport - we certainly have a lot of talented people across many sport which I'm sure will be showcased really well on the day."

Aside from the Q&A sessions and rubbing shoulders with the stars throughout the day, racegoers will receive a Buffet 'Feast for Champions' in the Champions Lounge, breakfast canapes, Earl of Derby Grandstand seats, traditional Afternoon Tea, musical entertainment, complimentary racecard and free car parking at one of the greatest horseracing Festival in the world.

Graeme Sharp, Everton FC ambassador, declared: "The Randox Health Grand National Festival is a global event but, as with Everton FC, it's very much part of Merseyside heritage.

"Merseyside Sport has a lot of be proud of so I'm delighted to be representing Everton FC to help Aintree celebrate it on the first day of the three-day meeting.

"Grand National Thursday is also one of the best days racing in the Jump calendar with four Grade Ones and not to be missed."

Liverpool was recently voted as Britain's greatest sporting city and Aintree is looking to celebrate that by ensuring all sports are represented on the day.

Michael Owen, former Liverpool FC and England footballer, remarked: "I am delighted to be part of the new Champions Lounge on Grand National Thursday.

"I'm a massive horseracing fan and the Grand National is such an iconic race watched by millions around the world. I really like the fact that Aintree is not only showcasing the quality of racing on Grand National Thursday, but also celebrating Merseyside Sport on the day as well."

To celebrate the inspiring successes of Merseyside Invictus Games heroes who participated in the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto in November, Aintree is inviting them to be part of the Champions Lounge to share their uplifting stories.

## GRAND NATIONAL THURSDAY IS A FANTASTIC DAY OF RACING AND I REALLY LIKE THAT AINTREE ARE USING THIS PLATFORM TO CELEBRATE THE BEST OF MERSEYSIDE SPORT

Kenny Dalglish

### GRAND NATIONAL THURSDAY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

From 1977 onwards, when the Randox Health Grand National Festival became an all-Jump meeting, Grand National Thursday - the first day of the three-day festival - has developed an outstanding programme of racing action, a true Day for Champions.

It is only one of three racedays during the entire British Jump season to offer four Grade One (G1) contests.

Uniquely, Grand National Thursday is the only day of the year with two open G1 races and two G1 contests for novices.

The G1 chase action on Grand National Thursday is headlined by the Betway Bowl, staged over three miles and a furlong of the Mildmay Course.

The fabulous roll of honour boasts the names of some of the very best chasers of the modern era with Wayward Lad, Desert Orchid, See More Business, Florida Pearl, Siliviniaco Conti and Cue Card all having been successful.

Lizzie Kelly created history in 2017 when becoming the first female jockey to win the Betway Bowl aboard Tea For Two.

The G1 Betway Aintree Hurdle moved to Grand National Thursday in 2013, having previously been on Grand National Day. The race is the only British G1 open hurdle run over the distance of two and a half miles.

First staged in 1975, it has proved to be the perfect follow-up for horses who have won the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham.

In 2017, Buveur D'Air joined great performers Annie Power, Jezki, Istabraq, Morley Street, Beech Road, Dawn Run, Gaye Brief, Monksfield, Night Nurse and Comedy Of Errors by winning both the Champion Hurdle and the Betway Aintree Hurdle.

Often regarded as the greatest hurdle race of all-time, the 1977 renewal of the Betway Aintree Hurdle saw a dead-heat between Monksfield and Night Nurse, both dual winners of the Champion Hurdle.

The G1 Doom Bar Anniversary 4-Y-O Juvenile Hurdle over two miles and a furlong is the natural next target for horses who competed in the JCB Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival.

Last season Defi Du Seuil followed in the footsteps of Pollardstown, Detroit City, Katchit and Zarkandar by winning both the JCB Triumph Hurdle and the Doom Bar Anniversary 4-Y-O Hurdle.

Racegoers also get an opportunity to see racing over the Grand National fences for the first time at the meeting, with the two mile, five furlong Randox Health Fox Hunters' Chase taking place on Grand National Thursday.

Restricted to horses who have run in point-to-points and hunter chases and ridden by amateur riders, the Randox Health Fox Hunters' Chase is a good race for multiple winners, with Katarino (2005 & 2006) and On The Fringe (2015 & 2016) both having scored twice since the turn of the century.

Ultra-competitive handicap action comes courtesy of the two-mile G3 Betway Red Rum Handicap Chase which commemorates the legendary three-time Grand National winner Red Rum.

# LADIES DAY

In the middle of the world-renowned three-day Randox Health Grand National Festival, Friday, April 13, is the stylish and glamorous Ladies Day, first officially established at Aintree Racecourse in the early 2000s.

## BARBARA DALEY HAIR & BEAUTY

The Liverpool-based celebrity salon has been part of the city's style scene for the past 28 years and continues to be one of the leading names in British hairdressing.

The award-winning salon has received international accolades for its architectural design since moving to North Western Halls in the midst of the city's Capital of Culture 10 years ago.

There has been much praise too for its hairdressing work, being named as Best Salon in the UK for 2018 by Marie Claire magazine as well as Hair magazine's Best Hair Salon in the North and L'Oreal Colour Trophy Grand Finalists.

For the past five years the salon has also had Leading Salons of the World status, making it the ideal partner for this year's #FabulousFriday.

PLEASE GO TO  
[BARBARADALEYHAIR.CO.UK](http://BARBARADALEYHAIR.CO.UK)

The Racecourse is pleased to announce OUTFIT is the new official style partner of Aintree's Ladies Day. OUTFIT is a perfect fit for the aspiration and position of Ladies Day, as well as providing reputable, fashion expertise to the day.

Racegoers will have the opportunity to compete in #FabulousFriday Style Award and be in for a chance of winning one of the biggest-ever Grand National Ladies Day Style Award prizes, a Range Rover Evoque plus £1,000 from OUTFIT and hair & beauty products from Barbara Daley.

A prize worth over £35,000, the Range Rover Evoque, supplied by Hatfield's Land Rover, Liverpool, is a 2.0 SE Tech Diesel Manual with metallic paint and rear privacy glass.

This year the Style Award will be hosted through a digital platform to speed up the entry process.

Racegoers can enter the Style Award competition by being snapped in front of the beautiful Style Award flower walls in the Red Rum Garden at Aintree Racecourse, giving their details and then having the opportunity to download their unique image.

New for 2018 are Style Ambassadors who will be on the look-out for fashionistas perfect for the competition.

The Style Award judging panel will be made up of industry experts who have a wealth of style and fashion knowledge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STYLE AWARD, HEAD TO THE RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL WEBSITE, [RANDOXHEALTHGRANDNATIONAL.CO.UK](http://RANDOXHEALTHGRANDNATIONAL.CO.UK)



## HATFIELDS' RANGE ROVER PRIZE

Simon Broughton, Head of Business - Hatfields Land Rover, Liverpool, commented: "We are delighted to be offering a Range Rover Evoque 2.0 SE Tech as the Ladies Day prize this year. It is one of the biggest days in Liverpool and to be a part of the Festival is fantastic!"



FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT  
[HATFIELDS.LIVERPOOL.LANDROVER.CO.UK](http://HATFIELDS.LIVERPOOL.LANDROVER.CO.UK)

## OUTFIT

OUTFIT is the out-of-town Arcadia fashion destination that features all of the latest pieces from the best high street brands.

Top-to-toe collections from Topshop, Miss Selfridge, Dorothy Perkins, Wallis, plus menswear from Burton and Topman are all found under one roof, making it the ultimate one-stop shopping venue.

"We are very proud and excited to be announced as the official style sponsor of Ladies Day at Aintree Racecourse," said James Graham, Managing Director, OUTFIT.

"We have many stores and valued customers in and around the Liverpool area and it's wonderful to be able to share in this fantastic day with the people of Merseyside.

"It is sure to be a brilliant experience for all involved and we can't wait to see how stylish all the racegoers look."

OUTFIT was launched in 1995 and now has a total of 80 stores nationwide.

Local stores to Aintree Racecourse include:

- Outfit Liverpool Shopping Park, Edge Lane
- Outfit New Mersey Shopping Park, Liverpool Speke
- Outfit Cables Retail Park, Prescot
- Outfit Coliseum Shopping Park, Ellesmere Port

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [OUTFITFASHION.COM](http://OUTFITFASHION.COM) OR BY FOLLOWING [@OUTFITFASHIONUK](https://www.instagram.com/outfitfashionuk)

# GRAND WOMEN'S SUMMIT

## TIMINGS

8.45am	Arrival
9.00am	Grand Women's Summit panel discussion to commence
10.30am	Grand National course walk to begin, led by Katie Walsh, Lucinda Russell and Carrie Ford
12.00pm	Champagne reception and lunch to be served in Paddock Lodge
12.30pm	Mark your card
1.30pm	First race

**Ladies Day at the Randox Health Grand National Festival celebrates women in horseracing, sport and business by hosting the popular Grand Women's Summit.**

Now in its fourth year, the Grand Women's Summit attracts an exclusive panel of guest speakers to discuss prominent topics related to women's sport, while delegates experience one of the best horseracing festivals in the world.

Sally Nugent hosted the Grand Women's Summit for the first time in 2017 and again will be bringing her media expertise to delve deep into the hot topics of discussion this year. 2016 Rio Olympic Gold Medallist and sports presenter, Sam Quek (below) will be joining the panel line-up. More panellists will be announced soon.

Following the panel discussion in the O'Sullivan facility, which overlooks the world famous parade ring at Aintree Racecourse, delegates will also be treated to an exclusive walk around the iconic Grand National course with jockey Katie Walsh and former rider Carrie Ford plus the 2017 Randox Health Grand National winning trainer Lucinda Russell and her partner Peter Scudamore, an eight-time champion Jump jockey.



## ITV'S SECOND RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL FESTIVAL

ITV won the battle for the exclusive terrestrial television rights to cover horseracing in Britain, commenced the four-year contract on January 1 last year and thus broadcast the Randox Health Grand National Festival from Aintree for the first time in 2017. The broadcaster put a lot of resources into the programmes over the three days and Ed Chamberlin (below) fronted the coverage. The peak British terrestrial audience for the 2017 Randox Health Grand National was 8.2 million, with a high 62 per cent audience share.

Channel 4 Racing covered the Grand National for four years and before that the BBC had shown the great race since 1960.

## RACING UK

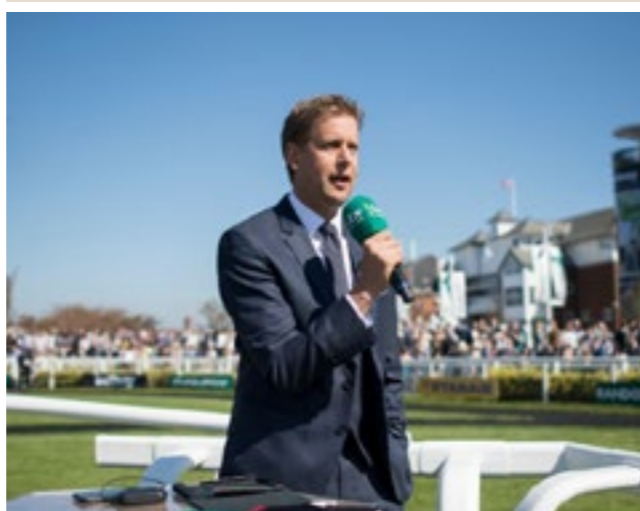
Racing UK is Britain's premier horseracing channel, currently broadcasting live races from 37 of the UK's top racecourses including Aintree. Racing UK was formed and launched in 2004 by 30 UK racecourses, who wanted more control over their media rights and distribution. The company itself is a revolutionary approach to sports media rights management, as it allows the racecourses to own, manage and develop their intellectual property across all platforms. All profits are returned to these racecourses, improving prize monies and facilities for horseracing up and down the country. Racing UK services over 50,000 commercial and residential subscribers and is dedicated to broadcasting more than 750 live race meetings a year with commentary, debate and tipping.

## BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

BBC Radio 5 Live covers the Randox Health Grand National Festival extensively, with live reporting of all three days from Aintree augmented by a series of preview programmes and specials. Racing correspondent Cornelius Lysaght is at the centre of the BBC Radio 5 Live team at Aintree. The BBC's first radio transmission from Aintree came in 1927 and lasted for over an hour, thus giving the BBC over 90 years of broadcasting experience at the racecourse. Commentator Meyrick Good had to cope with 37 runners and misty conditions when calling home the favourite Sprig in a thrilling finish to the 1927 Grand National. George Allison covered the news aspects before and after the race.

## TALKSPORT

talkSPORT, the world's biggest sports station, will broadcast live from Aintree for the fifth successive year with correspondent Rupert Bell in the thick of the action.



# PREVIEW

## Prize money reaches record £3.21 million at Randox Health Grand National Festival

**A new record amount of prize money of £3.21 million is being offered for the 2018 Randox Health Grand National Festival, up from £3 million in 2017 and an increase of seven per cent.**

As revealed at the end of last year, race values across every Jockey Club Racecourse - including Aintree - and at all levels of the sport, are benefiting from an £8-million injection during 2018.

The Randox Health Grand National Festival commences with Grand National Thursday on April 12, when the two of the four Grade 1 (G1) highlights on this unique day of high-quality racing receive a substantial prize money boost.

The G1 Betway Aintree Hurdle is now worth £250,000 (up £50,000 on the 2017 total). First staged in 1975, it has proved to be the perfect follow-up for horses who have won the Unibet Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in March. Buveur D'Air in 2017 joined other great performers such as Annie Power, Jezki, Istabraq, Morley Street, Beech Road, Dawn Run, Gaye Brief, Monksfield, Night Nurse and Comedy Of Errors by winning both the Champion Hurdle and the Betway Aintree Hurdle.

There is a £40,000 increase for the G1 Betway Bowl, which now has a total prize fund of £190,000. Past winners

of the three mile and a furlong chase include some of the very best performers of the modern era, with Wayward Lad, Desert Orchid, See More Business, Florida Pearl, Siliviniaco Conti and Cue Card all having been successful.

The Randox Health Fox Hunters Chase, staged over the Grand National fences on Grand National Thursday, rises to £45,000, up £5,000.

Friday, April 13 is Ladies Day at the 2018 Randox Health Grand National Festival and a £50,000 boost to the feature race, the G1 JLT Melling Chase, means it has a record total prize fund of £250,000. Established in 1991 and run over two and a half miles, the JLT Melling Chase boasts outstanding winners including Don Cossack, Sprinter Sacre, Master Minded, Moscow Flyer, Viking Flagship and Remittance Man.

The G3 Randox Health Topham Chase, the Grand National course race on Ladies Day, is worth £140,000, up £20,000, while the G3 Alder Hey Children's Charity Handicap Hurdle increases to £75,000 from £70,000.

On Grand National Day, Saturday, April 14, the Randox Health Grand National is the most valuable Jump race in the world with a prize fund of £1 million. A change to the distribution of this total

means more for the horses placed from fourth to tenth. The first three horses home will still receive 80 per cent of the total prize fund, but for those finishing out of the first three, there will be increases ranging between £12,300 for fourth place (£65,000 in 2018 compared to £52,700 in 2017) to £4,000 for the tenth (£5,000 in 2018 compared to £1,000 in 2017). The fifth will now receive £40,000 (£26,500 in 2017), the sixth £30,000 (£13,200), the seventh £20,000 (£6,800), the eighth £15,000 (£3,600) and the ninth £10,000 (£2,000).

The three-mile G1 Ryanair Stayers' Hurdle, won by the brilliant Big Buck's for four consecutive years between 2009 and 2012, climbs by 20 per cent to £180,000 (from £150,000) while the two main supporting handicaps - the G3 Gaskells Handicap Hurdle and the Listed Betway Handicap Chase - each receive a rise of £5,000 increase, taking them up to £75,000.

## RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL FESTIVAL

The Randox Health Grand National Festival consists of three days of great sporting action at Aintree Racecourse with the eyes of the world fixed firmly on what is happening.

The renamed Grand National Thursday offers a great way to experience the Randox Health Grand National Festival for the first time and kick starts the action with four Grade One races - a veritable feast of top-class horseracing action. See pages 8 & 9 for more details.

The middle day of this world-renowned Festival is the stylish and glamorous Ladies Day, first officially established at Aintree Racecourse in the early 2000s - see pages 10, 11 and 12 for information.

The final day is a national treasure, Grand National Day where, for nine minutes, the nation stops and is enthralled by the unfolding drama of the most famous chase in the world.

Grand National Day provides excitement and anticipation in abundance as the build-up gradually develops towards the Randox Health Grand National, staged for the 171st time.

Grand National Day has sold out for the last few years so advance booking is a necessity. Tickets and hospitality packages for the 2018 Randox Health Grand National Festival are available to purchase through [www.randoxhealthgrandnational.co.uk](http://www.randoxhealthgrandnational.co.uk)

Each day of the festival has one race over the Grand National Course, with the six other contests taking place on the separate Mildmay Course, which consists of ordinary fences, and the Hurdle & Flat Courses.

## ORDER OF RUNNING

### GRAND NATIONAL THURSDAY - THURSDAY, APRIL 12

TIME	RACE	DISTANCE	PRIZE MONEY 2017	PRIZE MONEY 2018
1.45pm	Manifesto Novices' Chase (G1)	2m 4f	£100,000	£100,000
2.20pm	Doom Bar Anniversary 4YO Juvenile Hurdle (G1)	2m 1f	£100,000	£100,000
2.50pm	Betway Bowl Chase (G1)	3m 1f	£150,000	£190,000
3.25pm	Betway Aintree Hurdle (G1)	2m 4f	£200,000	£250,000
4.05pm	Randox Health Foxhunters' Chase	2m 5f	£40,000	£45,000
4.40pm	Red Rum Handicap Chase (G3)	2m	£90,000	£90,000
5.15pm	Goff's Nickel Coin Mares' Standard Open NHF (G2)	2m 1f	£40,000	£45,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£725,000</b>	<b>£820,000</b>

### LADIES DAY - FRIDAY, APRIL 13

TIME	RACE	DISTANCE	PRIZE MONEY 2017	PRIZE MONEY 2018
1.40pm	Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle (G3)	2m 4f	£70,000	£75,000
2.20pm	Betway Top Novices' Hurdle (G1)	2m ½f	£100,000	£100,000
2.50pm	Betway Mildmay Novices' Chase (G1)	3m 1f	£100,000	£100,000
3.25pm	JLT Melling Chase (G1)	2m 4f	£200,000	£250,000
4.05pm	Randox Health Topham Chase (G3)	2m 5f	£120,000	£140,000
4.40pm	Doom Bar Sefton Novices' Hurdle (G1)	3m ½f	£100,000	£100,000
5.15pm	Weatherbys Private Bank Standard Open NHF (G2)	2m 1f	£45,000	£45,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£735,000</b>	<b>£810,000</b>

### GRAND NATIONAL DAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 14

TIME	RACE	DISTANCE	PRIZE MONEY 2017	PRIZE MONEY 2018
1.45pm	Gaskells Handicap Hurdle (G3)	3m ½f	£70,000	£75,000
2.25pm	Betway Mersey Novices' Hurdle (G1)	2m 4f	£100,000	£100,000
3.00pm	Doom Bar Maghull Novices' Chase (G1)	2m	£100,000	£100,000
3.40pm	Betway Handicap Chase (Listed)	3m 1f	£70,000	£75,000
4.20pm	Ryanair Stayers' Hurdle (G1)	3m ½f	£150,000	£180,000
5.15pm	Randox Health Grand National (G3)	4m 2½f	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
6.15pm	Pinsent Masons Handicap Hurdle	2m ½f	£50,000	£50,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£1,540,000</b>	<b>£1,580,000</b>
	<b>Grand total</b>		<b>£3,000,000</b>	<b>£3,210,000</b>

# UNIQUE RACE & GLOBAL PHENOMENON

The Randox Health Grand National is unique – the race of dreams and creator of legends.



**Therefore, it is no surprise that the Randox Health Grand National receives more attention around the world than any other horse race.**

Since the inaugural running at Aintree Racecourse way back in 1839, when Lottery had his name etched first on the exalted roll of honour, victory in the Grand National has been the pinnacle of ambition for owners, trainers and jockeys.

Actors, aristocrats, business people, comedians, coiffeurs, celebrities, moguls, politicians, pop stars, sporting heroes, Kings, Queens and Princes have all tried for glory, but only a fortunate few succeed.

It is one of the biggest tests for racehorse and rider who have to complete two circuits of the iconic Grand National course - with 30 fences to be jumped as four miles, two furlongs and about 74 yards are covered.

Famous landmarks around the course are an integral part of the Grand National experience; with the fences such as Becher's Brook, the Canal Turn,

Valentine's and the Chair so well known to the millions who watch the race at Aintree or on television each year.

Familiar phrases of commentators such as "crossing the Melling Road" are built into people's subconscious, while there is the 'Elbow', with the winning post in sight.

Many are the reversals of fortune on the long run from the final fence to the line, as the last reserves of stamina ebb away and the chance of immortality is lost.

Devon Loch's inexplicable collapse in the 1956 Grand National, a mere 50 yards from a famous victory for his owner, The Queen Mother, serves as a constant reminder that the race is often decided on the final run-in.

And there is nothing quite like the sensation of heart-clutching, wriggling expectation as the 40-strong field for the Randox Health Grand National is persuaded into a fair line, ahead of the dash to the first fence.

Whether at Aintree or at home watching the ITV television coverage, a general hush falls while the starter calls the runners forward. The tape is released to a huge roar - the most anticipated race has begun.

The excitement begins at such a great height, tumbles and hurtles onwards throughout nine minutes of breathtaking action and often afterwards.

Betting slips or thoughts, carefully clutched or pondered on, are not to be fully celebrated until the result has been officially announced. Replays are avidly studied to determine what happened where to each of the runners and riders.

Once-a-year punters come out in force on Randox Health Grand National day, studying the list of runners to locate their selection from the office/shop sweepstake, or placing their wager on a horse with a name they like or one linked to a topical event - for instance, Party Politics was a popular choice when he won the great race in 1992, with the nation on the brink of a general election.

At 5.15pm on Saturday, April 14, 2018, the scheduled off-time of the Randox Health Grand National, there will be few bookmakers willing to lay odds about what many in Britain, and plenty more throughout the world, will be doing for the next quarter of an hour.

Millions and millions of people in Britain bet on the Randox Health Grand National, making the race easily the biggest single turnover event each year, and the most anticipated.

Regular punters and the annually curious can take a financial interest in one of Britain's 8,000 off course betting shops, over the telephone, through the Internet, on their smartphone or at Aintree Racecourse.

Not only is the great race compellingly demanding - the feeling of even completing is one cherished by those involved - but it is also very financially rewarding.

Prize money of £1 million is again on offer for those who compete in the 171st running of the Randox Health Grand National at Aintree in 2018, with the rewards stretching down to the 10th home. It is by far the highest amount of money that any chase can boast.

There are 150,000-plus racegoers at Aintree during the three days of the Randox Health Grand National Festival, while the British television audience numbers over eight million, with more than 600 million worldwide seeing the action.

The Randox Health Grand National is thus a national treasure, both enthralling and fascinating, and something to be cherished.





# RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

## LANDMARKS

The 2018 renewal of the Randox Health Grand National on April 14 marks the 171st running of the great race.

It is the second year of sponsorship by Randox Health and also the second year for ITV as the terrestrial broadcaster (2017 - 8.4 million viewers - a 62% share).

Jockeys Leighton Aspell & Ruby Walsh are both bidding for a third Randox Health Grand National victory in 2018 and either would become only the seventh rider in the race's tremendous history to achieve this feat. The overall riding record is George Stevens' five successes.

Richard Johnson is set to make a record 21st appearance in the 2018 Randox Health Grand National. The champion jockey has yet to succeed, though he finished second on both Whats Up Boys (2002) and Balthazar King (2014).

Nigel Twiston-Davies, successful with Earth Summit (1998) and Bindaree (2002), is trying to become the eighth trainer to win the Randox Health Grand National three times in 2018. Ginger McCain and Fred Rimell are the joint record holders, with four wins apiece.

Aintree, Women in Racing and sponsors JLT have confirmed the Grand Women's Summit will be held for a fourth year on Ladies Day, Friday, April 13, 2018.

**10 years ago** Trainer David Pipe emulated his father Martin by saddling the 2008 Grand National winner. Pipe junior was responsible for Comply Or Die, the successful 7/1 joint favourite, while Martin scored with Miinehoma in 1994.

**25 years ago** One of the saddest moments in Aintree's long history happened when the 1993 Grand National was declared void after two false starts.

**40 years ago** The legendary Red Rum was retired at the age of 13 on the eve of the 1978 Grand National after a hairline leg fracture was discovered. He lived on to the grand old age of 30.

**50 years ago** Red Alligator took the honours in 1968. He was the first of three Grand National winners for jockey Brian Fletcher, who would go on to partner Red Rum in 1973 and 1974.

**100 years ago** With World War 1 still going on, there was no Grand National at Aintree in 1918. The third and final of the three wartime substitute contests took place at Gatwick and victory went to Poethlyn, who also triumphed at Aintree in 1919.

10

20

25

35

40

45

50

90

100

150

YEARS  
AGO

**20 years ago** The 7/1 favourite Earth Summit battled his way through the heavy going to score by 11 lengths in 1998. He became the first, and so far only, horse to win the Grand National at Aintree plus the Scottish and Welsh versions.

**35 years ago** Corbiere became the first Grand National winner to be trained by a woman in 1983. Jenny Pitman won the race again in 1995 with Royal Athlete.

**45 years ago** The first of Red Rum's record-breaking three successes came in 1973 as he got up in the shadows of the winning post to deny the bold front-running top-weight Crisp.

**90 years ago** Tipperary Tim was the only horse to complete the course at the first attempt in 1928, scoring at 100/1. Champion American chaser Billy Barton, remounted after falling at the last, was the only other finisher.

**150 years ago** The first of two victories for The Lamb, one of three greys to be successful, was in 1868. Named because of his gentle disposition, he went on to win again in 1871.

The Randox Health Grand National has a tremendous history and each year sees people and horses associated with the world's greatest chase pass away.

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

### TOMMY CARBERRY

Tommy Carberry, who died at the age of 75 in July, 2017, was only one of five horsemen since 1900 to win the Grand National both as a jockey and as a trainer.

His riding success came in 1975, when he partnered the classy chaser L'Escargot, then a 12-year-old, to a 15-length victory over the great Red Rum.

L'Escargot, who was trained by Carberry's father-in-law Dan Moore for American owner Raymond Guest, was placed twice in the Grand National, finishing third in 1973 and runner-up in 1974. He won the Cheltenham Gold Cup in both 1970 and 1971.

Following L'Escargot's 1975 victory, there would not be another Irish-trained winner of the Grand National for the next 24 years and remarkably, it was Carberry who ended the drought as he trained the 1999 scorer Bobbyjo.

Carberry's son Paul partnered Bobbyjo who was the subject of a major gamble on the day of the race and started at 10/1.

Tommy Carberry commented after Bobbyjo's success: "It is a great feeling to have won the Grand National as a jockey and then see my son do that as well. I always had plenty of confidence in the ride that Paul would give the horse and it was an amazing one.

"The chances of getting a horse to the Grand National, let alone winning, are great and so it is a wonderful thrill. This is a lot, lot better than when I won the race on L'Escargot."

### MERCY RIMELL

Along with Ginger McCain, Fred Rimell holds the record as the most successful Grand National trainer ever with four wins.

His wife Mercy, who passed away aged 98 on July 6, 2017, was an integral part of the training operation at Kinnersley, Worcestershire.

She worked alongside her husband for each of the four Aintree victories - ESB (1956), Nicolaus Silver (1961), Gay Trip (1970) and Rag Trade (1976).

Mercy took over the trainer's licence on Fred's death in 1981 and continued to enjoy great success.

She became the first woman to train a Champion Hurdle winner, thanks to Gaye Brief in 1983.

Her biggest success at the Grand National Festival came in the Aintree Hurdle, which she won with both Gaye Brief (1983) and Celtic Chief (1988).

She retired from training in 1989, but kept her link going with the Grand National by owning a horse called Simon.

The chaser, trained by John Spearing at Kinnersley, raced twice in the Grand National, falling at the 25th in 2007 and unseating his jockey at the same fence in 2008.

### NOEL O'BRIEN

Noel O'Brien, who died at 57 on December 19, 2017, was the senior Jump handicapper in Ireland and provided his British counterpart Phil Smith with invaluable assistance in framing the weights for the world's greatest chase, the Randox Health Grand National.

### AMBERLEIGH HOUSE

No other horse in history jumped as many Grand National fences as Amberleigh House, who died aged 25 in April, 2017.

Famously, the John Halewood-owned chaser gave Ginger McCain a record-equalling fourth Grand National success in 2004.

Amberleigh House was also third in the 2003 Grand National and won the 2001 Becher Chase. In total, he competed in 11 races over the Grand National fences.

### PAPILLON

The Ted Walsh-trained Papillon, who won the 2000 Grand National under Ruby Walsh, passed away in May, 2017 at the age of 26.

Papillon, available at 33/1 on the morning of the race, landed a massive gamble as he was returned at 10/1.

Owned by American Betty Moran, Papillon also finished fourth in 2001 and completed the course on all his 39 starts.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



**The Aintree Community Programme (ACP) has been successful in winning the Racecourse Association Showcase Award for Best Community & CSR Programme for three consecutive years – 2015, 2016 & 2017.**

Aintree Racecourse launched the programme in December, 2014 at the Becher Chase raceday by opening the doors for people to come and see the racecourse and the Grand National fences for free and to thank them for their support.

Since then the programme has gone from strength to strength and aims to inspire children and adults alike to be the best they can be through the power of the Grand National and the sport.

The programme is driven by three key themes - Health and

Wellbeing, Education & Enterprise and Community Engagement.

The ACP is continuously enhancing and developing long-lasting partnerships including work with Alder Hey Children's Charity, Everton in the Community, Liverpool Military Veterans, Riding for the Disabled Association, Racing Together, Racing to School, Liverpool John Moores University, Walton Centre Charity and Barrie Wells Trust, plus several local schools and community groups.

The disabled riding sessions, in collaboration with Beechley Stables RDA,

have been a great success at Aintree, with lots of local children and adults experiencing horse riding round the iconic Parade Ring as well as learning how to groom and care for horses.

In collaboration with Everton in the Community, the ACP host tours of Aintree Racecourse and use the history of the Grand National to positively support individuals suffering with mental wellbeing concerns and illnesses.

Introduced in 2017, the virtual reality headsets have been hugely popular with both adults and children allowing



*Annual visit to Alder Hey*

users to experience the Randox Health Grand National Festival. The headsets are taken into schools as well being used on tours of Aintree.

The annual jockey visit to Alder Hey Children's Hospital is now in its 14th year and has been a stalwart of Aintree's community offering. Last year was exceptional in the new Alder Hey Hospital, with lots of jockeys spending their Ladies Day morning visiting ill children at the hospital. There was also a special performance in the atrium by Laura Wright who performed Disney songs for the children and their families.

In 2018, the ACP is launching an initial three-year programme in support of military veterans in our community, in partnership with the Liverpool Military Veterans HQ. This work will help dozens of veterans and their families, both from physical and mental wellbeing perspectives.

Aintree is proud to have been the Beacon Racecourse for Racing Together, British Racing's Community Engagement Programme, for the past three years and to have worked closely with several local schools, including Maricourt School, as part of this, whether through inviting the schoolchildren into Aintree to inspire them around the Grand National and its fabulous history or dozens of Aintree staff going to the school and talking to hundreds of children about jobs at racecourses and the Grand National.

In December, 2016, the Peter O'Sullivan Community Hub was official opened by Sir A P McCoy and the Mayor of Sefton. It is the main focal point of ACP's



activities and provides an educational environment for all ages and abilities.

John Baker, Regional Director of Aintree Racecourse said: "Community engagement is at the heart of everything that we do at Aintree.

"We're fortunate to be based in a fantastic sporting city and have a very passionate and welcoming community around Aintree and the wider Merseyside region.

"The Grand National has been in their community for nearly 180 years and I'm sure they are very proud of what the Grand National and Aintree means to Merseyside.

"It's the race that stops the nation and is part of British sporting heritage, but it's also very much a local event for the people of Liverpool."

For enquiries and to find more about the Aintree Community Programme, please email [Aintree.community@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:Aintree.community@thejockeyclub.co.uk)

# WELFARE & SAFETY

**Modifications to the Grand National course have been made over the years for welfare and safety reasons, which culminated in 2013 with plastic frames being introduced into most of the famous fences and the start being moved forward around 90 yards, thus bringing the horses closer to the first fence.**

Both measures have been very successful. Probably for the first time ever in the Grand National's history, the 2013 renewal saw all 40 runners and riders navigate the first seven fences, including Becher's Brook. There were 17 finishers in 2013, 18 in 2014, 19 in 2015, 16 in 2016 and 19 again in 2017.

Andrew Tulloch, Regional Head of Racing at Jockey Club Racecourses North West & Aintree's Clerk of the Course, revealed: "We have made quite a few changes over the years and we are very happy with the plastic frames and how the fences ride.

"We are delighted with what happened during the last five Grand Nationals and no further major changes to the course are planned but, as always, welfare is uppermost in our minds and we do not stand still, reviewing everything on an annual basis."

Minor modifications take place each year and Tulloch continued: "The 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 Grand Nationals went well and our thanks go to trainers, owners, jockeys, the welfare organisations with whom we consult, and many others within equestrian disciplines that we involve."

**WE HAVE MADE QUITE A FEW CHANGES OVER THE YEARS AND WE ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THE PLASTIC FRAMES AND HOW THE FENCES RIDE**

*Andrew Tulloch, Regional Head of Racing*

20

*The details of the changes made before the 2013 renewal of the Grand National are listed below.*

## GRAND NATIONAL START

The start was moved forward by around 90 yards, closer to the first fence and away from the crowds and grandstands. The distance of the Grand National was shortened officially to four miles, three furlongs & about 110 yards in 2013, rather than four and a half miles.

The race distance changed again from 2016 and officially became four miles, two furlongs and about 110 yards due to changes in the measuring methodology used by the British Horseracing Authority. The distance is four miles, two furlongs and 74 yards to be exact, but the trip raced over can alter depending on rail movements to utilise the freshest ground.

The 'no-go' zone is defined by a line on the track and was extended from 15 yards to 30 yards from the starting tape. The starter's rostrum was moved to a position between the starting tape and the 'no-go' zone to reduce the potential for horses to get on top of the starting tape prematurely.

More user-friendly start tapes are used, with increased visibility. A concerted drive to redress the sometimes much faster approaches towards the tape which can occur in bigger races was instituted from the autumn of

2012. It involved a more consistent methodology across the starting teams in the application and enforcement of the Rules at the start of a race.

A specific briefing between the starting team and the jockeys takes place on the day of the Randox Health Grand National. Additional measures were put in place to minimise the possibility of a riderless horse travelling an extended distance before being caught prior to the start.

The British Horseracing Authority introduced a number amendments to starting procedures for Jump races, which were written into the Rules of Racing and came into being on October 13, 2014. The new procedures were ratified by both the BHA Board and Rules Committee after a constructive meeting between the BHA, Professional Jockeys Association (PJA), Aintree and Cheltenham Racecourses led to a series of proposals for the improvements.

The field must come forward at a walk and no faster than a jig-jog, and races will not be started if the field lines up and commences to move forward before the starter raises his flag or if the field approaches the start faster than a jig-jog before the tape is released and the flag lowered. If a false start occurs, the field will regroup at the marker pole and a standing start to the satisfaction of the starter will be effected, with a walk-in start not tried again. The Grand National

of 2015 was the first to experience this new starting procedure. All went smoothly that year and did so again in 2016.

There was a hiccup in 2017 when subsequently 26 jockeys were given a one-day ban after a false start delayed the off of the Randox Health Grand National.

The riders, including Derek Fox on the winner One For Arthur, admitted they did not follow the starter's instructions properly. The Aintree stewards referred 31 of the 40 jockeys who took part to the BHA, with five being cleared at the May 5 hearing. A BHA statement explained the background: "As the runners moved to the start, the starter asked them to take a turn in order for delayed runners to join the group. Although the jockeys did eventually take a turn, they did not do so immediately when requested."

There have been talks between the PJA and the BHA since to try and make sure the start is a smooth one in 2018.

## FENCE DESIGN

Aintree and the British Horseracing Authority embarked on a three-year research and development programme looking at alternative fence designs for the Grand National course in 2011 and this focused on utilising materials other than the existing timber and protective rubber padding that made up the central frame of a fence.

A number of Grand National fences with different frames were trialled successfully at the Becher Chase fixture in December, 2012 when two races were run over the Grand National course.

All the timber central frames in the plain fences (fences 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14) on the Grand National course were then replaced with the Easyfix plastic birch unit. The three timber frames in the open ditches (fences 3, 11 & 15) were replaced with natural birch.

## BECHER'S BROOK

Forming part of the racecourse's ongoing programme of works, Becher's Brook, the sixth and the 22nd fence jumped in the Grand National, underwent further levelling of the wider landing zone, correcting the settlement which occurred following works carried out in 2011.

This 2012 work did not change the dimensions or the character of the fence (the current drop, i.e. the difference in height between the level of the ground on take-off and landing sides, remains at 10 inches on the inside of the course and six inches on the outside).

## LANDING AREAS

Following the 2011 Review, the landing area of the first fence was levelled to smooth out undulations existing in the natural terrain. This process was extended to fences 4, 5 and 13. All works were carried out during summer of 2012.

## THE HORSE COMES FIRST

The Horse Comes First is an initiative designed to increase awareness of the first class care and attention racehorses receive throughout and after their careers in racing. British racing is among the best regulated animal activities in the world.

Together with the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare, the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) is a co-signatory to the National Equine Welfare Protocol and through its commitment to horse welfare British racing has a track record to be proud of.

In a horse population estimated to be around one million, racehorses in Britain are among the healthiest and best looked after two per cent in the country. British racing is committed to providing the best possible standards of veterinary care and since 2000 the sport has invested over £32 million in veterinary research and education projects, investment from which all breeds of horse benefit.

The Horse Comes First works closely with the charity Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) and the initiative is backed by leading organisations and veterinary surgeons in British racing, including the BHA, the Racecourse Association, the Racehorse Owners Association,

the National Trainers Federation, the PJA, the National Association of Stable Staff, The Jockey Club and the Arena Racing Company.

## RETRAINING OF RACEHORSES

Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) is a charity whose principal responsibility is to facilitate the re-training of former racehorses into fulfilling second careers, and provide funding and care should former racehorses become unwanted and vulnerable. Established in 2000, the charity's primary ongoing source of funding is the British racing industry followed by donations. Its database of former British-trained racehorses now active in other equine disciplines exceeds 10,000. RoR stages hundreds of classes nationwide each year for former racehorses in an ever-increasing range of disciplines, from showing and dressage to polo and eventing. It also provides an extensive education programme for new owners of former racehorses and funds a number of approved centres to rehabilitate and rehome horses. The thoroughbred is an intelligent and versatile horse and, through the establishment of a wide range of competitions and classes for former racehorses in a range of disciplines, RoR has successfully created a demand for horses who have completed their racing career. On the very rare occasions that a former racehorse is found in need of care, RoR has an Emergency Relief Fund available to ensure they are looked after.

## RSPCA

The RSPCA celebrated its 190th birthday in 2014 and has been working to improve the welfare of horses since 1824 through a combination of education, cooperation with industry partners and enforcing legislation. One hundred years ago horses comprised the majority of work, indeed the RSPCA was the lead animal organisation to assist horses used in the First World War. After this the role of horses changed from the working horse in transport and agriculture to the sport and recreational equine evident today. This has resulted in their welfare once again becoming a priority for the society and the RSPCA's stance remains one of improving their welfare by education, advice and, as a last resort, the recourse to legislative enforcement of the law. This stance and working in cooperation with other equine charities, together with enforcement of new legislation, has seen some improvement and the reduction of horses being abandoned or kept in poor conditions. The society has for many years worked as a critical but constructive observer to the racing industry, resulting in a productive dialogue with those who regulate the sport and racecourse management. This pragmatic approach has seen many changes in the regulation of the whip, fence placement and design, and improvement in the

general racing environment for the welfare of the racehorse, with an important result being a substantial reduction in fatality and injury.

## WORLD HORSE WELFARE

World Horse Welfare is a leading international charity that has been improving the lives of horses in the UK and worldwide since 1927. Practical, influential and forward-thinking, the charity supports the responsible use of horses in sport and is an independent welfare advisor to the British Horseracing Authority and International Equestrian Federation. Uniquely, World Horse Welfare's work covers the full spectrum of the horse world. In Britain the charity runs the largest horse rescue and rehoming scheme, each year investigating and resolving thousands of welfare problems. Through its centre near Blackpool and three other nationwide centres, World Horse Welfare provides horses in need with specialist care and rehabilitation before finding them loving new homes. In the developing world, the charity's international programmes alleviate the suffering of many thousands of working horses by providing essential knowledge for horse owning communities who depend on horses for their livelihoods.

Roly Owers, Chief Executive of World Horse Welfare, commented: "World Horse Welfare does not accept the claim that horses are unwilling participants in sport. Horses bred to compete will rise to the challenge, as anyone who has ever taken part in equestrian sport knows. This notion that sport is bad for horses needs to be challenged - and challenged forcefully. Yes, sport horses are well cared for, but that is no more than one should expect. However, the sheer amount of investment that flows into the horse industry and the resulting research that is conducted on horse health and welfare has done an enormous amount for horses everywhere."

## THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

The British Horse Society (BHS) is the UK's largest equestrian charity. Established in 1947, it works to improve the lives of all horses through raising standards and providing the best quality advice and education. The BHS believes education creates a better life for horses - whether that's providing world-renowned qualifications for people working in the industry or advising equestrian enthusiasts how to give horses the utmost care. By offering the best riding schools and instructors, the best places to ride and the best qualifications and training, it can move closer to the goal of ensuring every horse is protected and well cared for. The BHS doesn't just talk about the issues that matter most to equestrians, it takes action.

21





# RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL RACE REPORT 2017



**“Scottish flags are flying high” declared ITV Racing’s commentator Richard Hoiles as One For Arthur and Derek Fox powered to an impressive victory in the £1-million Randox Health Grand National at Aintree late on the afternoon of Saturday, April 8, 2017.**

**Trained in the County of Kinross, between Edinburgh and Perth, by Lucinda Russell, One For Arthur is only the second winner of the Randox Health Grand National from a Scottish base.**

The first was Rubstic, representing Denholm-based trainer John Leadbetter and ridden by Maurice Barnes, in 1979.

Russell, who is assisted by her partner, eight-time champion Jump jockey Peter Scudamore, is only the fourth woman to saddle the winner of the world’s greatest chase, joining Jenny Pitman, Venetia Williams and Sue Smith.

It was a warm day at Aintree and watering of all courses had taken place overnight, with five millimetres applied to the Grand National Course, the Mildmay Course and the Hurdle Course.

The official going on the Grand National Course for the 170th running of the world’s greatest chase was Good to Soft, Good in places.

A sell-out crowd of 70,000 attended and Randox Health, the Northern Ireland medical diagnostics company founded by Dr Peter FitzGerald, backed the

famous feature race for the first time as part of a five-year sponsorship deal.

One For Arthur, owned by the Two Golf Widows, started a 14/1 chance on the back of his excellent six-length victory in the G3 Classic Handicap Chase on soft going at Warwick in January, 2017, making him the shortest-priced winner of the four and a quarter mile showpiece over 30 fences since Ballabriggs in 2011.

After two false starts, Fox settled One For Arthur in the rear of the maximum field of 40 on the first circuit as a strong pace was set up front by the Gigginstown House Stud-owned pair of Roi Des Francs (Gordon Elliott/Jack Kennedy) and Rogue Angel (Mouse Morris/Bryan Cooper).

High-profile fallers early on included Scottish National hero Vicente (Paul Nicholls/Brian Hughes, 16/1), who went at the first, and The Young Master (Neil Mulholland/Mr Sam Waley-Cohen, 20/1), whose departure at Becher’s Brook first time caused Raz De Maree (Gavin Cromwell, 33/1) to jink and part company with Ger Fox, while 10/1 hope Definitely Red (Brian Ellison/Danny Cook) was pulled up with a tack problem before Valentine’s Brook.



Scudamore, whose father Michael won the 1959 Grand National on Oxo, added: “It is very satisfying. One For Arthur looked well in the paddock and I felt that we had done everything we possibly could to get this horse here.

“I was worried about the ground – if you had said to me an hour before the race, ‘you could take him home now because the ground is too fast’, I would have put him in the lorry and done so.

“Lucinda and I fight like cats and dogs to do this together. It’s not me and it’s not her.

“It’s lovely to give a young man like Derek the opportunity – he is a very, very good horseman. He was hurt and Jack Berry House got him back. It’s a great advert for Jack Berry House and they must be as delighted as I am that he has won.

“Sometimes loyalty is still a great thing and I was very pleased that we stuck by Derek and he won the National. It is a great thrill.

“This is granddad’s lucky tie. I don’t usually believe in things, but there must be something in it. I would wear lucky underpants if I thought they did any good!”



Blaklion (Noel Fehily), sent off the 8/1 favourite and bidding to give trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies his third Grand National victory, moved through to take the lead jumping the 27th fence and extended his advantage to four lengths crossing the Melling Road.

One For Arthur latched on to the back of the chasing pack approaching the home turn and then made eye-catching headway to join Blaklion in the air over the penultimate fence.

The eight-year-old jumped the 30th and last obstacle with a narrow advantage and, after shrugging off Irish challenger Cause Of Causes (Gordon Elliott/Mr Jamie Codd, 16/1), stayed on willingly to score by four and a half lengths.

Cause Of Causes held on to second, with Saint Are (Tom George/Paddy Brennan, 25/1), who was runner-up to Many Clouds in 2015, relegating the tiring Blaklion to fourth in the closing stages. There were 19 finishers out of the 40 runners.

Russell, who saddled the first of her four Grand National runners back in 1996, said: “This means everything.

**THE HUSBANDS ARE HERE TODAY – THEY WERE NOT GOING TO MISS OUT!**

“It’s incredible. One For Arthur jumped fantastically and Derek gave him a great ride.

“One For Arthur has done us proud, he’s done Scotland proud, and he’s done everyone at the yard proud.

“Derek is amazing – I know he’s a horseman and everything, but his timing is fantastic as well, and the self-confidence he has is brilliant. He had One For Arthur jumping brilliantly.

“Before the Melling Road, I turned to the owners and shouted, ‘We’re going to win the National!’ With a horse like that and a jockey like that, what could be better? It was a bold call, but it was right.”

Irishman Derek Fox joined a growing list of riders to win the world’s greatest chase at the first attempt, following on from countryman David Mullins, Ryan Mania and Liam Treadwell in recent years.

“It’s unbelievable!” exclaimed Fox. “He’s won so easily. The only concern I had was that he’d be too slow and get too far back – it’s tricky to win a National if that happens as you need more things to go your way, but he jumped so well.

“After we had gone one circuit, I was thinking ‘I can’t be going as well as I am’ as we were so near the leaders. He jumped all the way down the back – he was going so well that I thought I might take him a bit wider as he was making two or three lengths with every jump.

“He’s the gamest horse I’ve ever ridden and he galloped all the way to the line. It’s a sign of a true racehorse to win the Grand National.”

Fox faced a race against time to be fit for the ride after sustaining a fractured wrist and dislocated shoulder in a fall at Carlisle a month beforehand.

“I’d just like to thank Jack Berry House for getting me back after the injury,” added the 24-year-old.







2017 WINNING JOCKEY



# DEREK FOX

Irishman Derek Fox continued the excellent recent record of first-time riders in the Randox Health Grand National as he guided One For Arthur to an impressive victory in 2017.

Fox rode One For Arthur with plenty of confidence towards the rear of the 40-strong field before making eye-catching headway on the outside rounding the home turn.

The pair jumped into the lead at the last and stayed on strongly to win by four and a half lengths.

"As we crossed Valentine's, I was closing and closing and thought I might be there too soon," reflected Fox. "For a brief moment, I took a small pull on him. I ended up in front earlier than I wanted to.

"It's a lonely run for a horse on his own and the sound of the crowd started to distract him, so I just kept him up to his work all the way to the line. He's an eight-year-old by Milan and only just coming to his prime."

Since the turn of the century, David Mullins (2016), Ryan Mania (2013), Liam Treadwell (2009), Niall Madden (2006) and Ruby Walsh (2000) have all landed the world's greatest chase at their first attempt.

"It's a dream come true," said Fox. "Not everyone can be champion jockey as it's a very tricky thing to achieve, but this

race just gives a standard jockey like me, a chance to shine on the big stage.

"It's amazing - there are loads of good lads that never get the opportunity to ride a big winner so I do appreciate exactly what this means.

"I couldn't believe I was coming to win the National. You see the footage of horses like Many Clouds and you never think it's going to happen to you. It's better than I thought it could be."

The Sligo native, who had his first winner on Saoirse's Sister at Clonmel on March 10, 2011, was a major doubt to be able to take the



**I WAS VERY LOW AND SOME DAYS I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T MAKE IT**

from Russell and her partner Peter Scudamore, the eight-time champion Jump jockey between 1981 and 1992.

Fox recalled: "I had two rides at Carlisle and then two rides at Aintree before reuniting with One For Arthur.

"I was so determined to get back. Luckily, I've had a great partnership with the horse all season and he's obviously an improving sort. I'm very lucky to have got the ride on him in the first place."

Fox, born on May 14, 1992, started his career in Ireland, working for Mark McNiff and Noel Kelly, before moving to Scotland to team up with Russell in 2013. His best tally in a season

ride, having sustained a fractured wrist and dislocated shoulder in a fall at Carlisle on March 9, with the Randox Health Grand National on April 8. It was a race against time.

He spent three weeks at the Injured Jockeys Fund Rehabilitation Centre in Malton, Yorkshire, Jack Berry House, receiving a range of treatments to hurry along his recovery.

"For the first two weeks after I was injured, I was very hot and cold," said Fox, "I was very low and some days I thought I wouldn't make it.

"As soon as I had the fall Lucinda [Russell] sent me down to the Jack Berry House and she was always trying to get me back (into the saddle) in time.

"But no matter how much anybody does, a bone can only heal as quickly as it heals. I just had to try and stay as fit as I could and hope that I would pass the doctor. Luckily I did."

He returned to the saddle on April 5, after lots of encouragement

came in 2015/16 when he rode 26 winners in Britain and five in Ireland.

He was appointed first rider to Russell in April, 2016, upon the retirement of long-standing stable jockey Peter Buchanan.

"I could not work for nicer people," said Fox. "Lucinda is one of the best trainers around - especially when it comes to training staying chasers.

"She's primed One For Arthur for the Randox Health Grand National and thought he'd improved 10lb from his last run - which I didn't think was possible, but who am I to say any different?"

"I hadn't sat on a horse for over three weeks so for Lucinda and Scu to put me on and keep the faith in me, it's the best feeling I've ever had - there's not too many chances to ride a horse like that.

"My uncle Mark Michael McNiff trains in Sligo and taught me everything I know about racing. He's taught me all I know since a very early age - he got me into racing and got me going.

"He's very helpful to speak to and always rings me after racing. He's very good for advice and very blunt - he's quite difficult to please!"

All the advice and lots of input from many skilled people helped Fox recover from his injuries in time for his moment of destiny on One For Arthur.

There won't be a repeat for One For Arthur in the 2018 Randox Health Grand National as the horse sustained a slight tendon injury in October and is spending this season on the sidelines.









# GINGER MCCAIN & FRED RIMELL

witnessed a remarkable transformation as the horse returned sound. Red Rum went and won his first five races for Ginger.

The horse's success under 10st 5lb in the 1973 Grand National at the age of eight became the stuff of legend as the 9/1 joint-favourite wore down gallant top-weight, the Australian horse Crisp (12st), in the dying strides for a remarkable victory by three quarters of a length in a then course record time of 9m 1.9s under Brian Fletcher.

Red Rum was never better than during the 1973/74 campaign when he won four more races before collecting his second Grand National, this time carrying top-weight of 12st. Giving 1lb to the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner L'Escargot, Red Rum started third favourite at 11/1. He won easily by seven lengths when again partnered by Brian Fletcher and, only three weeks later, Red Rum captured the Scottish Grand National too.

Between the autumn of 1974 and spring of 1976, the horse ran in 18 chases, winning twice and being placed seven times including his second when Irish challenger L'Escargot turned the tables in the 1975 Grand National. Red Rum carried 12st again and was beaten 15 lengths.

Ginger, bombarded with media criticism for running Red Rum too often, was called on to retire his stable star. But Red Rum showed good form when sixth in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury in November, 1975 and was beaten by the Fred Rimell-trained Rag Trade in the 1976 Grand National, finishing runner-up again, two lengths behind, after Tommy Stack took over from Fletcher in the saddle.

The 1976/77 season began dismally. After an initial small win at Carlisle, Red Rum appeared lacklustre in his next four races and even Ginger began to think that he might have 'gone'. Red Rum finally showed something like his true form when

sixth in his prep race to the 1977 Grand National, the Greenall Whitley Chase at Haydock Park. He then dazzled the trainer in his last gallop before Aintree.

Again ridden by Stack, Red Rum at the age of 12 tackled his fifth Grand National in 1977 and Churchtown Boy's mistake at the second last fence settled things in the former's favour, with an easy success by 25 lengths under 11st 8lb.

Sir Peter O'Sullivan's now legendary commentary for BBC Television was heard in millions of living rooms up and down the country as Red Rum took his place among the racing immortals: "The 12-year-old Red Rum, being preceded only by loose horses ... they're coming to the 'Elbow' with a furlong now between Red Rum and his third Grand National triumph. He's coming up to the line to win it like a fresh horse in great style. It's hats off and a tremendous reception - you've never heard one like it at Liverpool. Red Rum wins the National."

The phenomenal chaser - the best Grand National horse ever - was trained for a sixth attempt at the race in 1978 as a 13-year-old but, the day before, he pulled up lame. The problem proved to be a hairline fracture and the great horse had to be retired.

There was time for a glorious final chapter to Ginger's training career as, 27 years after Red Rum's tremendous final Grand National victory, he walked back into the hallowed Aintree winner's enclosure alongside Amberleigh House.

Amberleigh House was owned by Halewood International, whose founder and driving force John Halewood died in October, 2011. Halewood International, through its brand Crabbie's, sponsored the Grand National from 2014 to 2016 in his memory.

Ginger's son Donald was by now an integral part of the family's training establishment, having returned to the fold after the move from Southport to Cholmondeley in Cheshire. The handover of the training licence from father to son occurred in June, 2006.

Donald, who had one Grand National ride when Sure Metal finished 17th in 1996, continued the strong McCain link with the Grand National as he saddled Ballabriggs to an emotional victory in the 2011 renewal, just five months before Ginger passed away peacefully at home, aged 80, on September 19 that year.

Ginger's achievements and long association with Aintree were commemorated at the Grand National meeting in 2012 with the unveiling of a one-and-a-half time life-size bronze overlooking the parade ring. A life-size bronze of Red Rum, produced by former jockey Philip Blacker, has stood at Aintree Racecourse since 1988.

While Ginger forged a legend from nothing in the small yard behind his Southport car showroom, Fred Rimell inherited a Grand National-winning tradition from his father Tom, who sent out Forbra from the famous Kinnersley yard in Worcestershire to win the Aintree feature in 1932.

Regardless of his family heritage in racing, Rimell's achievements were remarkable. He was Britain's champion Jump jockey four times - 1938/39, 1939/40, 1944/45 (jointly) and 1945/46 - but, as a rider, he endured wretched luck at Aintree.

He missed out on partnering Forbra due to his inexperience and never rode a winner at the course. In five attempts in the Grand National, Rimell completed only once when Provocative finished a distant 12th behind Battleship in 1938. His career in the saddle was cut short when he broke his neck for a second time in the space of eight months in 1947, after which he took over the training licence from his father.

Rimell, born on June 24, 1913, turned Kinnersley into one of the most powerful yards in England, winning four champion Jump trainer titles and almost every big race in the calendar before his death in 1981, including the Cheltenham Gold Cup with Woodland Venture (1967) and Royal Frolic (1976), plus the Champion Hurdle with Comedy Of Errors (1973 and 1975).

At Aintree, Rimell reigned supreme, complementing his four Grand National triumphs with three victories in the Grand Sefton Chase, courtesy of Nicolaus Silver (1961), Red Thorn (1964) and his subsequent Scottish Grand National hero The Fossa (1965).

E.S.B.'s 1956 Grand National victory under Dave Dick was memorable for the sensational collapse of The Queen Mother's Devon Loch 50 yards from the line, with the race all but won. Devon Loch's mishap under Dick Francis left E.S.B. to stride home 10 lengths clear of Gentle Moya. The 10-year-old was a fine horse in his own right and also gained the 1957 Great Yorkshire Chase and the Lancashire Chase two years later.

Rimell unearthed an Aintree specialist for the 1961 marathon in the handsome form of Nicolaus Silver, one of only three greys to have won the Grand National. Nicolaus Silver cost £2,600 at the 1960 Ballsbridge Sales in Ireland. He captured the big Aintree race the following spring by five lengths, with Bobby Beasley in the saddle, from Merryman II at 28/1. He went on to take the Grand Sefton under 11st 10lb and ran in the next two Grand Nationals, completing the course both times (seventh in 1962 and 10th in 1963).

Gay Trip was twice successful in the Mackeson Gold Cup (1969 and 1971) over an extended two and a half miles at Cheltenham, but proved a revelation over nearly two miles further around Aintree in 1970 when he triumphed by 20 lengths

under 11st 5lb with 40-year-old Pat Taaffe up after regular jockey Terry Biddlecombe was injured. He fell at the first in the 1971 Grand National and, giving 22lb to Well To Do, failed by only two lengths to overhaul that rival when runner-up in 1972.

Rimell was the first Jump trainer to accrue prize money of £100,000 in a season in 1976 and Rag Trade's success under John Burke that spring at 14/1 saw him achieve another record as the initial trainer to win the Grand National four times.

Rag Trade, bred in Ireland, was trained by George Fairbairn when he arrived in Britain. He won the Haydock National Trial and would have taken the Kim Muir Chase at the 1975 Cheltenham Festival, only to fall at the last. He was sold shortly afterwards at Doncaster Sales for a then huge 18,000 guineas to a syndicate headed by London hairdresser Pierre "Teasie Weasie" Raymond, who had already experienced winning the Grand National with Ayala in 1963.

Rag Trade ran in the 1975 Grand National when trained by Arthur Pitt, finishing 10th and last. Transferred to Fred Rimell that summer, the horse had luck on his side when taking the Welsh National at Chepstow and then beat Red Rum by two lengths in the following year's Grand National. Raymond was a celebrity hairdresser in London and particularly notable for the flamboyant suits which he often wore to irritate officials at Royal Ascot.

Rimell was also the first handler to add the great race to a Cheltenham Gold Cup victory in the same season since Basil Briscoe saddled Golden Miller to win both contests in 1934. The association with racing continued after Fred's death in 1981 through his widow Mercy, who died at the age of 98 in July, 2017. She kept the training licence and saddled 232 wins in her own name before retirement in 1989.

Her notable successes included Gaye Brief's victory in the Champion Hurdle and the Aintree Hurdle in 1983, while the gelding's full-brother Gaye Chance captured the Liverpool Hurdle at Aintree in 1982 and was successful in Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham two years later.

But she did not enjoy a similar level of success in the Grand National. Gala's Image, previously successful in the two-mile Arkle Challenge Trophy at the Cheltenham Festival, fared best of her runners when completing in seventh behind Little Polveir in 1989.

Two of Fred and Mercy's grandchildren have competed over the Grand National fences. Katie Rimell finished third on Three Counties, trained by her grandmother, in the 1989 Fox Hunters' Chase, while her brother Mark, who became a trainer himself, fell at the 21st fence on Camelot Knight in the 1995 Grand National.

## Amberleigh House's triumph in the 2004 Grand National provided Red Rum's trainer Ginger McCain with a fourth success in the great Aintree race.

**The victory of John Halewood's horse saw McCain join Fred Rimell in the record books as the winning-most trainer in the Grand National's long history.**

The son of a dispatch manager, Donald McCain, or Ginger as he would universally become known due to the colour of his hair, was born on September 21, 1930 in humble surroundings at Birkdale, Southport, not far from Aintree Racecourse.

He watched his first Grand National in 1940 and was immediately taken by the sense of occasion that surrounded the famous race. "To a young boy, it seemed like the whole world had turned up ... It made a big impression on me and ended up changing my life in ways I could never have dreamed of," he recollected in his autobiography some 65 years later.

While dividing his time between driving a taxi and running a second-hand car showroom in Southport, Ginger also trained a horse or two under a permit from 1953 until taking out a full licence in 1969. Among his fares was his future wife Beryl and they were married on March 25, 1961, the same day that Fred Rimell sent out the second of his four Grand National successes with Nicolaus Silver.

Ginger also had Frank Sinatra and Norman Wisdom in the back of his cab, but it was another passenger, Noel Le Mare, who would ignite the dream of winning the Grand National.

Le Mare, who made his fortune in civil engineering, had been seduced by the magic of the Grand National ever since he watched the spectacle unfold when working as an apprentice fitter for a Fleetwood, Lancashire firm in 1906, but it was not until he was nearly 80 that the retired millionaire found a trusted ally to share his long-held ambition.

The trainer and owner purchased Red Rum, born on May 3, 1965, for 6,000 guineas (a guinea equals £1.05) at Doncaster Sales in August, 1972, but any dreams of National glory looked to have gone awry as Red Rum hobbled out of his stable lame a day after arriving at Southport.

Ginger's preparation of a horse almost crippled by pedal osteitis marked him as a trainer of exceptional ability, if unconventional methods. With no grass gallops, McCain worked his horses on the vast expanse of Southport beach and, as a child, had noticed the beneficial effect of sea water on the horses that shrimpers used. He sent his new acquisition into the cold waters of the Irish Sea and

# IRISH-TRAINED WINNERS

YEAR	HORSE	AGE/WGT	JOCKEY	TRAINER	OWNER	SP
<b>IRISH WINNERS SINCE 1900</b>						
2016	<i>Rule The World</i>	09-10-07	David Mullins	Mouse Morris	Gigginstown House Stud	33/1
2007	<i>Silver Birch</i>	10-10-06	Robbie Power	Gordon Elliott	Brian Walsh	33/1
2006	<i>Numbersixvalverde</i>	10-10-08	Niall Madden	Martin Brassil	Bernard Carroll	11/1
2005	<i>Hedgehunter</i>	09-11-01	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	Trevor Hemmings	7/1F
2003	<i>Monty's Pass</i>	10-10-07	Barry Geraghty	Jimmy Mangan	Dee Racing Syndicate	16/1
2000	<i>Papillon</i>	09-10-12	Ruby Walsh	Ted Walsh	Betty Moran	10/1
1999	<i>Bobbyjo</i>	09-10-10	Paul Carberry	Tommy Carberry	Bobby Burke	10/1
1975	<i>L'Escargot</i>	12-11-03	Tommy Carberry	Dan Moore	Raymond Guest	13/2
1958	<i>Mr What</i>	08-10-06	Arthur Freeman	Tom Taaffe	David Coughlan	18/1
1955	<i>Quare Times</i>	09-11-00	Pat Taaffe	Vincent O'Brien	Mrs W Welman	100/9
1954	<i>Royal Tan</i>	10-11-07	Bryan Marshall	Vincent O'Brien	Joe Griffin	8/1
1953	<i>Early Mist</i>	08-11-02	Bryan Marshall	Vincent O'Brien	Joe Griffin	20/1
1947	<i>Caughoo</i>	08-10-00	Eddie Dempsey	H McDowell	John McDowell	100/1
1939	<i>Workman</i>	09-10-06	Tim Hyde	Jack Ruttle	Sir Alexander Maguire	100/8
1920	<i>Troytown</i>	07-11-09	Mr Jack Anthony	Algy Anthony	T Collins-Gerrard	6/1
1900	<i>Ambush II</i>	06-11-03	Algy Anthony	Algy Anthony	Prince Of Wales	4/1

- Matthew was the first Irish-trained victor of the Grand National in 1847 when he saw off 26 rivals. Returned as the 10/1 joint favourite, he was the subject of a minor gamble after a woman magician in a mesmeric state had foreseen his victory.
- Abd-El-Kader landed successive gambles for his owner/trainer Joseph Osborne when the bay gelding became the first dual winner of the Grand National in 1850 and 1851. A regular contributor to racing newspaper Bell's Life, County Meathbased Osborne reportedly won £10,000 from a bet of £150 when the rank outsider triumphed for the first time. The small bay gelding returned 12 months later and obliged at the much shorter odds of 7/1, netting his owner/trainer a further £10,000 in successful ante-post bets.
- In 1855, Wanderer scored in heavy ground at 25/1, but the Irish then had to wait 24 years for another Grand National triumph.
- The Liberator, a 5/1 chance, won on his third Grand National attempt in 1879, having finished third behind Austerlitz two years earlier, and was partnered to victory by amateur Garrett Moore, the owner too and son of John Moore the trainer. The Liberator returned the following season to finish the two-length runner-up under top-weight of 12st 7lb to another Irish-trained victor, 8/1 hope Empress, whose amateur jockey Tommy Beasley and trainer Henry Linde were

- back at Aintree in 1881, sending out Woodbrook to win in the snow.
- Beasley gained his third victory in 1889 aboard the tough 11-year-old mare Frigate, an 11/2 chance trained and owned by Matthew Maher. His brother Harry triumphed in 1891, training and riding the 4/1 favourite Come Away to a popular victory, despite squeezing Cloister for room in the closing stages. Captain Roddy Owen, who partnered the runner-up, threatened to punish Harry "in an old-fashioned manner" after the race.
- Algy Anthony also rode and trained a Grand National winner but in different years. He was in the saddle when Ambush II, sent off at 4/1, beat dual winner Manifesto in 1900 for owner the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII). Ambush II has a place in history as the only horse to carry the colours of a British monarch to victory in the famous race.
- Winner of the Grand Steeplechase de Paris, the Algy Anthony-trained Troytown hardly saw another rival in the 1920 renewal, making all to record a thrilling 12-length victory under amateur Jack Anthony at 6/1.
- The Jack Ruttle-trained Workman landed a gamble in 1939, beating Macmoffat by three lengths. The nine-year-old, sent off at 100/8, was owned by the Liverpool-born industrialist Sir Alexander Maguire and ridden by a champion showjumper Tim Hyde.

- The Grand National was run on a Saturday for the first time in 1947 and 100/1 chance Caughoo prevailed in the fog by 20 lengths, beating 56 other horses, despite a dismissed protestation that winning jockey Eddie Dempsey had taken a short cut in the gloom.
- Trainer Vincent O'Brien made the Grand National his own between 1953 and 1955 with Early Mist, Royal Tan and Quare Times in a remarkable and record-breaking run of success.
- 20/1 chance Early Mist was an impressive 12-length winner under Bryan Marshall in 1953, while Royal Tan was successful by a neck at 8/1 in an exciting finish a year later for the same jockey, with both horses owned by Joe 'Mincemeat' Griffin.
- Pat Taaffe took the ride on Quare Times in 1955 and the gelding destroyed the opposition in bottomless ground, beating Tudor Line by 12 lengths when sent off at 100/9. Subsequently, the great trainer sent out six winners of the Epsom Derby, the most famous Flat race, while Taaffe partnered Arkle to three Cheltenham Gold Cup victories and also had a second National winner at the age of 40 on Gay Trip in 1970.
- The jockey's father Tom Taaffe also enjoyed Grand National success as a trainer with Mr What in 1958. The eight-year-old, an 18/1 chance, had previously raced solely in Ireland, but took a liking to the Aintree fences and the heavy going to beat Tiberetta by 30 lengths, one of the widest winning margins. He won the race as a novice.
- L'Escargot emulated the great Golden Miller in 1975 when becoming only the second horse to triumph in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National, although he did not complete the double in the same season, something achieved by Golden Miller back in 1934. The Dan Moore-trained gelding, sent off at 13/2, was the comfortable winner by 15 lengths under 11st 3lb, beating Red Rum who had been victorious in the previous two seasons (when L'Escargot was third and second) and went on to record a record-breaking third triumph in 1977.

- L'Escargot was owned by Raymond Guest, former American ambassador to Ireland, and captured the Cheltenham Gold Cup in both 1970 and 1971. Guest also owned two Epsom Derby winners, Larkspur in 1962 and Sir Ivor in 1968.
- Having ridden L'Escargot to victory, Tommy Carberry returned in 1999 as the trainer of 10/1 shot Bobbyjo. Landing a major gamble, the nine-year-old was ridden by Tommy's son Paul, and became the fourth horse to achieve the Grand National and Irish National double.
- A year later, another famous father/son combination prevailed, also at a well-backed 10/1 when the Ted Walsh-trained Papillon triumphed under Ruby, giving the jockey Grand National success at his first attempt.
- After two "home" victories, 2003 saw the Jimmy Mangan-trained Monty's Pass record an impressive 12-length success and the 10-year-old had been the subject of one of the biggest-ever gambles in the history of the Grand National to score at 16/1.
- Ruby Walsh partnered 7/1 market leader Hedgehunter to an impressive win in 2005 when the Willie Mullins-trained nine-year-old became the first winner for 22 years to carry more than 11 stone to victory, making up for a last-fence fall the previous year. Hedgehunter finished the gallant runner-up the following year, behind another Irish-trained winner, the Niall Madden-ridden 11/1 chance Numbersixvalverde, who was trainer Martin Brassil's first runner in the world's greatest chase.
- Another Irish trainer emerged victorious on his initial attempt at Grand National glory in 2007. Gordon Elliott had not even enjoyed a winner in his homeland, but Silver Birch was a game scorer, beating McKelvey by three quarters of a length in a great finish to succeed at 33/1.
- Michael "Mouse" Morris completed a quick-fire double of National victories with the Michael O'Leary-owned Rule The World, who triumphed at odds of 33/1 in the 2016 Grand National. The trainer captured the Irish equivalent at Fairyhouse with Rogue Angel 12 days earlier. Rule The World became the 25th winner of the Grand National to be trained in Ireland and the first since Silver Birch was successful in 2007.
- Cause Of Causes, owned by J P McManus, trained by Gordon Elliott and ridden by amateur Jamie Codd, finished runner-up in the 2017 Randox Health Grand National, only failing to cope with the British-trained winner One For Arthur.

## TRAINER FACTS

- Rubstic, trained by John Leadbetter in Roxburghshire, was the first Scottish-trained winner in 1979. One For Arthur became the second successful horse to be trained in Scotland, when scoring for Kinross handler Lucinda Russell in 2017.
- The only Welsh-trained horse to win was Kirkland in 1905.
- Two French-trained horses have won the Grand National, Huntsman (1862) and Cortolvin (1867). Both were trained in Chantilly by Yorkshireman Harry Lamplugh, who also rode Huntsman to victory.
- Ginger McCain and Fred Rimell share the accolade of most successful trainer in the Grand National's history with four wins. McCain triumphed in the great race through the record-breaking Red Rum (1973, 1974 & 1977) and Amberleigh House (2004), while Rimell was responsible for E.S.B. (1956), Nicolaus Silver (1961), Gay Trip (1970) and Rag Trade (1976).
- Seven trainers have saddled three winners:
  1. William Holman (1856, 1858 & 1860)
  2. William Moore (1894, 1896 & 1899)
  3. Aubrey Hastings (1906, 1915 & 1924)
  4. Tom Coulthwaite (1907, 1910 & 1931)
  5. Vincent O'Brien (1953, 1954 & 1955)
  6. Neville Crump (1948, 1952 & 1960)
  7. Tim Forster (1972, 1980 & 1985)
- Vincent O'Brien, who later switched his attentions to Flat racing, remarkably had a different winner in three successive years - Early Mist (1953), Royal Tan (1954) and Quare Times (1955).
- Five successful trainers since 1900 had earlier ridden Grand National winners as well - Algy Anthony, Tommy Carberry, Aubrey Hastings, Fulke Walwyn and Fred Winter.
- Fred Winter has a unique place in Jump racing history as the only person to have won the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Champion Hurdle and Grand National as both a trainer and a jockey. He trained two Grand National winners - Jay Trump (1965) and Anglo (1966) - and partnered two victors, Sundew (1957) and Kilmore (1962) - during a tremendous career.
- Jenny Pitman, who became the first woman to train a Grand National winner, sent out Corbiere (1983) and Royal Athlete (1995) to succeed. Her Esha Ness also 'won' the void race in 1993.
- Three other women have trained a winner of the Grand National
  1. Venetia Williams (Mon Mome 2009)
  2. Sue Smith (Auroras Encore 2013)
  3. Lucinda Russell (One For Arthur 2017)
- Nigel Twiston-Davies is the only current trainer to have won the Grand National more than once - being successful with Earth Summit (1998) and Bindaree (2002).
- Martin Pipe, who broke many records during his training career, had more runners in a Grand National than any other trainer when saddling 10 of the 40-strong field in 2001 - with the remounted Blowing Wind doing best in third place. He saddled the 1994 winner Miinnehomea.
- Martin Pipe's son David, who became the trainer at Pond House Stables on the Devon/Somerset border in 2006, followed the family tradition by winning the 2008 Grand National with Comply Or Die, owned by the late David Johnson.
- The two other father and son combinations to train at least one winner each have been Ginger and Donald McCain, and Tom and Fred Rimell. Ginger's tremendous achievements are listed on pages 46 & 47, while Donald McCain sent out Ballabriggs in 2011. Dad Tom Rimell was responsible for the 1932 scorer Forbra, while Rimell junior's terrific exploits are also spelt out on pages 46 & 47.
- A select band of five trainers have managed to win Britain's two most famous races - the Grand National and the Derby. George Blackwell (GN: 1923 Sergeant Murphy; D: 1903 Rock Sand), Richard Dawson (GN: 1898 Droghead; D: 1916 Fifinella, 1929 Trigo, 1930 Blenheim), James Jewitt (GN: 1876 Regal; D: 1884 Harvester, 1892 Sir Hugo), Vincent O'Brien (GN: 1953 Early Mist, 1954 Royal Tan, 1955 Quare Times; D: 1962 Larkspur, 1968 Sir Ivor, 1970 Nijinsky, 1972 Roberto, 1977 The Minstrel, 1982 Golden Fleece) and Willie Stephenson (GN: 1959 Oxo; D: 1951 Arctic Prince).
- Oliver Sherwood and his wife Tarnya, responsible for the 2015 winner Many Clouds, both rode in the Grand National. Oliver partnered Venture To Cognac to finish eighth in 1983, while the then Tarnya Davis, a professional jockey, pulled up Numerate at the 21st fence in 1989.
- The last two permit-holders (train just horses they or their family own) to send out Grand National winners were Norman Mason, who triumphed with Red Marauder in 2001 and Frank Gilman, the Leicestershire-based farmer, who was responsible for Grittar in 1982.

2017 WINNING TRAINER



# LUCINDA RUSSELL

**Lucinda Russell became only the second Scottish-based trainer to win the Randox Health Grand National as One For Arthur stormed to an impressive victory in 2017, 38 years after the success of Rubstic in 1979.**

Scotland's leading trainer, who has sent out over 600 winners from her family's Arlary House Stables near Milnafort in the County of Kinross since starting out in 1995, also joined a select group of women handlers to taste glory in the world's greatest chase, emulating Jenny Pitman, Venetia Williams and Sue Smith.

Having moved from Edinburgh as a young child (born on June 24, 1966), Russell grew up surrounded by horses and credits an early Grand National memory as a defining moment that eventually put her on the path to training.

"I remember getting a real kick out of Red Rum winning his third Grand National (1977) and I think that's when I fell in love with racing," she explained.

"The Grand National is such an incredible race, everyone has their own story about it. Straight after the race I kept thinking, 'This is incredible, I've just won the Grand National!' and it doesn't really sink in. It's just been my ambition all the time.

"Everyone kept saying beforehand that the worst question a journalist can ask you is 'how would it feel to win the National?' and you think 'Oh for goodness sake, what would it mean? - it means everything, of course it does.

"It's really funny how everything went right. The preparation for One For Arthur - when we worked out what training he was going to have, we built in an extra week for something to go wrong like lose a shoe.

"We had the race in mind for him all season and we were dead keen that he should get to Aintree in the best possible shape.

"We had all bases covered with lots of people doing all different things - massage people, vets, our farrier - and it has been amazing to produce a horse to win the greatest chase in the world."

Russell, who holds a degree in psychology from St Andrews University, enjoyed a successful career as a three-day eventer and at bringing on horses to Badminton standards and selling them on.

She did well as a point-to-point trainer and won on one of her three rides in that sphere, but she recalls that it was a two-horse race - at Fife in April, 1993, when she guided Panegyrist to victory. She trained a hunter chase winner with Gunmetal Boy at Kelso on April 5, 1993.

After a brief career in marketing, she took out a full trainers licence in August, 1995, and the following month she saddled her first winner with her first runner, Fiveleigh Builds at Perth in September, 1995

A first runner in the Grand National followed during the same season as Greenhill Raffles finished in 14th behind Rough Quest.

**VERY, VERY GOOD HORSES HAVE SOMETHING ABOUT THEM AND ONE FOR ARTHUR CERTAINLY HAS IT.**

Two subsequent runners prior to One For Arthur also completed the course without being able to mount serious challenges, with Strong Resolve coming home 17th in 2005 and Silver By Nature finishing 12th six years later.

Her father Peter is chairman of Ian Macleod Distillers, which produces Isle of Skye Scotch Whisky and Glengoyne Single Malt Whisky.

Russell was formerly married to leading three-day eventer Magnus Nicholson and she is assisted by her current partner, legendary Jump jockey Peter Scudamore, the eight-time champion jockey who was closest to winning the Grand National when third on Corbiere in 1985 from 12 rides in the race.

Her best season numerically came in 2013/2014 when she sent out 66 winners.

Irish point-to-point graduate One For Arthur was purchased for £60,000 by Russell and bloodstock agent Tom Malone at Brightwells sale at Cheltenham Racecourse in December, 2013, on behalf of the Two Golf Widows, Bel McClung and Debs Thomson.

They had considered quite a few horses in the sale, but Russell and the two owners were adamant it had to be One For Arthur.

Before the Randox Health Grand National victory, he had already established himself as a progressive staying chaser.

The son of Milan had shaped well over the Grand National fences when a close fifth in the Becher Handicap Chase earlier in the season before warming up for the big race with an impressive victory in the G3 Classic Handicap Chase at Warwick on soft going in January - a performance that guaranteed his place in the Grand National.

"One For Arthur jumped fantastically and I thought Derek gave him a great ride," commented Russell after seeing the eight-year-old triumph at Aintree. "I have such



faith in the horse and Derek, and I knew that we had produced him for the minute.

"He's a fabulous horse and you only have to ride him once or twice to know he's a real superstar. I think that the first time that Derek rode him at Kelso at the start of the season, he came back and said 'I've never ridden a horse like that' and it's just great for him now to win the Grand National.

"Very, very good horses have something about them and One For Arthur certainly has it."

One For Arthur's Aintree success also capped a tremendous season for jockey Derek Fox, who had been appointed stable jockey to Russell following the retirement of Peter Buchanan in April, 2016.

"Derek is amazing," Russell commented. "I know he's a horseman and everything, but his timing is fantastic as well, and the self-confidence he has is brilliant. He had One For Arthur jumping brilliantly.

"He is so mentally and physically tough. He had a broken wrist four weeks beforehand and we were really worried about him, but he has absolutely come back and given the horse the ride of his life.

"Before the Melling Road, I was up with the owners and we just shouted 'We're going to win the National!'

"With a horse like that and a jockey like that, what could be better? Derek is great at getting these horses to finish strongly and I knew that he would stay, so maybe it was a bit bold but it was right."

Russell was quick to pay tribute to her team for getting One For Arthur to Aintree in peak condition, including Scudamore whose father Michael won the 1959 Grand National on Oxo.

Scudamore said: "There were times before Christmas when I thought: 'I have been champion jockey, why am I exposing myself to this poor humiliation?'

"We changed a few things at Christmas-time and it picked up again. Sometimes loyalty is still a great thing and I was very pleased that we stuck by Derek and he won the National."

Russell added: "I always say that it's fine, I am the figurehead and I am saying what is going on, but actually it is everyone back home who have done so much, from the farrier getting up on a Saturday morning to our vet coming here.

"We have got a fantastic team behind us and it is great - long may it continue.

"One For Arthur is owned by two fantastic ladies from the Borders, who have really come on board with us and are having the greatest times of their lives as well.

"They have been so loyal to us and have let us get on and train the horse. They have been behind us the whole way and the great thing is how much they are enjoying it now.

"Winning the Grand National has elevated my confidence that I can train at the highest level and that's important to me.

"But, it's not really about me. I'm getting all of this publicity just now but in truth it's about everyone behind you - they're the ones that look after all these horses and do all the hard work for all of us."

One For Arthur was ruled out of this year's Randox Health Grand National with a slight tendon injury, but Russell is hoping that the chaser can return to Aintree for the 2019 renewal of the Randox Health Grand National.









# THE TWO GOLF WIDOWS

**The Two Golf Widows, a partnership between Bel McClung and Debs Thomson, won the Radox Health Grand National with their first runner in the world's greatest chase, when One For Arthur proudly prevailed at Aintree on April 8, 2017.**

It was a tremendous thrill for the two Scots to see One For Arthur win so well, receive the winner's trophy and enjoy the prolonged celebrations at Aintree, then at trainer Lucinda Russell's base near Milnathort and long beyond.

Belinda (Bel) McClung, who is married to Fraser, hails from Ancrum near Jedburgh, while Kelso native Deborah (Debs) is based in Gullane near Jedburgh, where she lives with her partner Colin Dempster.

The pair went to school and pony club together, but drifted out of each other's lives. Both women went on to own horses in various partnerships at trainer Lucinda Russell's yard and met up again there.

They got into racehorse ownership together as they wanted an activity they could enjoy while their menfolk played golf.

McClung has also acted as a raceday steward at Ayr, Kelso and Musselburgh racecourses in Scotland.



Speaking after their success last year, Thomson said: "It was just a great feeling. One For Arthur was at the back quite a bit and people thought he had fallen.

"He was only mentioned at the second last and he was going so well we were confident he was going to win.

"Coming down the home straight, we thought we had got a definite chance.

"When he crossed the Melling Road, the trainer said we had got a Grand National winner, but I was not quite as confident.

"The way he jumps is like a stag and he just knocked them off one by one.

"We were just screaming when he came over the last fence till he crossed the line - it was an amazing feeling. It was a dream just getting him to the Grand National and then to win!"

McClung added: "One For Arthur showed his class. I thought at Warwick (on his previous start) he looked the best he ever had and Tom Malone, who bought him, said the same.

"I thought the going might be a bit too quick for him at Aintree and then he was out the back. But he was lobbing along and demonstrated his class."

Recalling how the Two Golf Widows was formed, McClung explained: "We were at Kelso races and had had a lot of gin and decided to get a horse together.

"We went to Cheltenham sales and got One For Arthur [for £60,000 in December, 2013]."

The son of Milan had by that time run in five Irish point-to-points, being placed twice and winning his final one, a 12-runner three-mile maiden at Lingstown by three lengths the month before.

Bred by John Dwan at his Ballyreddin Stud in Co. Kilkenny, One For Arthur was sold for 14,000 euros as a yearling and then for 34,000 euros as a three-year-old in 2012.

He has since won seven of his 19 races for Russell and been placed second or third in another eight of those outings.

Thomson added: "We always hoped he'd be a National horse in the making. When he was hurdling, we always thought he'd be a chaser - he's a fabulous jumper and a stayer.

"Our dream was to get him to Aintree, but to actually win, well I'm lost for words. I'm just delighted.

"When we were younger, we had ponies and hunted. We liked racing and we both have had horses before with Lucinda,

"The partnership name is slightly tongue-in-cheek - but my partner Colin is on the golf course every weekend. There's probably two weekends a year when he's not! And Fraser's a keen golfer.

"Bel and I decided to have a horse together and that is when we found Arthur. We didn't realise we had just bought such an amazing horse, but he has given us such a wonderful journey."

Although One For Arthur was only the second Scottish-trained winner of the Radox Health Grand National after Rubstic in 1979, One Arthur's success in 2017 for the Two Golf Widows continued a good recent run for Scottish-owned horses.

The 2014 hero Pineau De Re was owned by Scottish-born John Provan, while the three owners of the 2013 winner Auroras Encore all had connections with Scotland.

One For Arthur sustained a slight tendon injury late last year and therefore will miss the 2017/2018 season, but it is expected he will back in pre-training by late summer.

The horse, who had had four months of rest in his box and walking, was allowed out in a field for the first time since the injury on January 24, 2018, after his tendon had scanned well.

He will commence work on a water treadmill in a month or so and is on target for a return to pre-training.



# SUCCESSFUL OWNERS

## 2017 TWO GOLF WIDOWS

### ONE FOR ARTHUR

School friends Belinda McClung and Deborah Thomson, who both live in Scotland, decided to buy One For Arthur to give themselves an interest while their partners were playing golf. They chose well and One For Arthur became only the second Scottish-trained winner of the Randox Health Grand National.

## 2016 GIGGINSTOWN HOUSE STUD

### RULE THE WORLD

Gigginstown House Stud in Co Westmeath, Ireland belongs to Michael O'Leary, chief executive of Ryanair, Europe's largest budget airline. As well as winning the Grand National with Rule The World, O'Leary also saw his colours carried to victory by Don Cossack in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Rogue Angel in the Irish Grand National, both the month before. Gigginstown House Stud ended the 2015/2016 season as champion owner in both Britain & Ireland.

## 2015 TREVOR HEMMINGS

### MANY CLOUDS (2015), BALLABRIGGS (2011) & HEDGEHUNTER (2005)

Trevor Hemmings started his working life as an apprentice bricklayer and was involved with a Southport holiday village for Pontins - a company he would later own alongside

a host of other business interests. The Isle of Man resident followed Fred Pontin (Specify - 1971) and outdid his mentor with Grand National success - becoming the joint winning-most owner in the race's history with a third victory, all with different horses, in 2015 at the age of 80 thanks to Many Clouds.

## 2014 JOHN PROVAN PINEAU DE RE

Derbyshire-based John Provan, who was born in Glasgow, once rode against Princess Anne as an amateur rider on the Flat. He runs a printing company in Birmingham and met Dr Richard Newland after moving to the same village as the trainer.

## 2013 DOUGLAS PRYDE, JIM BEAUMONT & DAVID VAN DER HOEVEN

**AURORAS ENCORE**  
Douglas Pryde, Jim Beaumont and David van der Hoeven are based in Scotland, but both Pryde and Beaumont boast strong connections with Liverpool, having been residents in the city. They met each other at Aintree during the Grand National in the 1980s and entered racehorse ownership with the aim of winning the big race at Aintree and their fairytale came true.

## 2012 JOHN HALES NEPTUNE COLLONGES

The year 2012 proved very fruitful for John Hales. Not only did he win the Grand National with the grey Neptune Collonges, but his company Golden Bear Products produced the official soft toys for the Olympics in London.

## 2010 J P MCMANUS DON'T PUSH IT

Legendary Irish owner J P McManus' persistence was rewarded when Don't Push gave him a first Grand National success after 28 years of trying.

## 2009 VIDA BINGHAM MON MOME

Mon Mome was former England international bridge player Vida Bingham's third racehorse, although the 75-year-old had been going racing ever since she was a child.

## 2008 DAVID JOHNSON COMPLY OR DIE

The son of a docker from London's East End, David Johnson started work at Midland Bank at the age of 16 and subsequently made a fortune in the money business. Johnson died in July, 2013, aged 67.

## 2007 BRIAN WALSH SILVER BIRCH

One of the youngest owners ever to win the Grand National, 26-year-old Irishman Brian Walsh bought Silver Birch with a view to running him in the Pardubicka in the Czech Republic, but ended up winning the Grand National.

## 2006 BERNARD CARROLL

**NUMBERSIXVALVERDE**  
The winner was named after the Irish owner's holiday home in the Algarve, Portugal. Bernard Carroll, a Dublin-based property developer, had owned racehorses since 1975.

## 2004 JOHN HALEWOOD

**AMBERLEIGH HOUSE**  
Merseyside native John Halewood founded Halewood International, a major producer and importer of speciality drinks, in 1978 from his garage. He passed away in October, 2011, but his company's close links to the great race and the area led to it sponsoring the Grand National through the Crabbie's brand between 2014 and 2016.

## 2002 RAYMOND MOULD

**BINDAREE**  
Raymond Mould reputedly sold his Arlington Group for £20 million in 1989 and was chairman of Pillar Property when it was purchased by British Land for £811 million in 2005. He owned plenty of racehorses before his death in September, 2015.

## 2001 NORMAN MASON

**RED MARAUDER**  
The son of a master baker from Sunderland, Norman Mason made his millions from a network of bingo halls and amusement arcades in his native North East.

## 2000 BETTY MORAN PAPHILLON

Better known in her native America as a leading Flat owner and breeder, Betty Moran's family wealth derived from the pharmaceutical giant SmithKline Beecham.

## 1998 THE SUMMIT PARTNERSHIP

**EARTH SUMMIT**  
The six members of the Summit Partnership included Nigel Payne, Aintree's press officer, and ex-professional footballer Ricky George.

## 1997 SIR STAN CLARKE

**LORD GYLLENE**  
Sir Stan Clarke started his working life as a plumber and built his fortune largely through property development. He also founded Northern Racing. He died aged 71 in September, 2004.

## 1995 GARY & LIBBY JOHNSON

**ROYAL ATHLETE**  
Wokingham car dealer Gary Johnson bought Royal Athlete for only £1,500, but the fragile horse proved to be a money spinner for his owner.

## 1994 FREDDIE STARR MIINNEHOMA

The comedian did not attend Aintree due to superstition, but instead chose to link up by mobile phone after the triumph with trainer Martin Pipe and presenter Des Lynam on BBC television.

## 1992 PATRICIA THOMPSON

**PARTY POLITICS**  
Patricia and her husband David are best known as the owners of Cheveley Park Stud in Newmarket and for their Flat performers who run in the stud's colours. Mrs Thompson has purchased other Grand National prospects since.

## 1991 SIR ERIC PARKER SEAGRAM

Ivan Straker, chairman of Seagram Distillers which sponsored the Grand National through Seagram and then Martell, turned down the chance to buy the racehorse Seagram, who won in the colours of Sir Eric Parker, former chief executive of Trafalgar House. Parker, who bred racehorses as well as owning them, passed away at the age of 81 in October, 2014.

## 1990 LOIS DUFFEY MR FRISK

The American owner was 80 when successful with the Kim Bailey-trained Mr Frisk and lived until the age of 96.

## THREE WINS

- James Machell (Disturbance 1873, Reugny 1874 and Regal 1876).
- Sir Charles Assheton-Smith, previously Charles Duff, (Cloister 1893, Jerry M 1912 and Covertcoat 1913).
- Noel Le Mare (Red Rum 1973, 1974 and 1977).
- Trevor Hemmings (Hedgehunter 2005, Ballabriggs 2011 and Many Clouds 2015).

## TWO WINS

- John Elmore (Lottery 1839, Gay Lad 1842).
- Joseph Osborne (also trainer of Abd-El-Kader 1850 and 1851).
- Christopher Capel (Little Charley 1858, Anatis 1860).
- Lord Coventry (Emblem 1863, Emblematic 1864).
- Lord Poulett (The Lamb 1868 and 1871).
- Noel Furlong (also trainer of Reynoldstown 1935 and 1936).
- Stanley Howard (Eremon 1907 and Jenkinstown 1910).
- Joe Griffin (Early Mist 1953, Royal Tan 1954).
- Pierre "Teasie Weasie" Raymond (Ayala 1963, Rag Trade 1976).

## OLDEST WINNING OWNER

Jim Joel was 92 when Maori Venture won the 1987 Grand National, while Noel Le Mare came in at three years younger (89) when Red Rum gained his record-breaking third Grand National success in 1977.

## YOUNGEST WINNING OWNER

Bryan Burrough, a 23-year-old stockbroker from Henley, owned Corbiere, who was trained by Jenny Pitman to win in 1983. Brian Walsh was 26 when Silver Birch took the 2007 renewal.

# FACTS & FIGURES



## GREYS

### WINNERS

Three different grey horses have won the Grand National four times:

- The Lamb (1868 and 1871)
- Nicolaus Silver (1961)
- Neptune Collonges (2012).

### GREYS PLACED SINCE 1997

1997	Suny Bay (2nd)
1998	Suny Bay (2nd)
2002	What's Up Boys (2nd)
2002	Kingsmark (4th)
2008	King Johns Castle (2nd)

## STARTERS & FINISHERS

### SMALLEST NUMBER OF FINISHERS

- Two horses finished in 1928 when 42 started, with Tipperary Tim beating the remounted Billy Barton by a distance.
- Three finished in both 1913 and 1951.
- The remounting of horses was banned in all races by the British Horseracing Authority in November, 2009.

### MOST FINISHERS

- 23 went past the winning post in 1984, from 40 starters.
- There were 22 finishers in 1963, 1987 and 1992.

### MOST RUNNERS

- 66 in 1929, while 57 lined up in 1947.
- The maximum field size is now 40.

### LEAST RUNNERS

10 lined up in 1883.

## GOING

YEAR	GOING	F	R
2017	Good to Soft	19	40
2016	Soft	16	39
2015	Good to Soft	19	39
2014	Good to Soft	18	40
2013	Good to Soft	17	40
2012	Good	15	40
2011	Good	19	40
2010	Good	14	40
2009	Good to Soft	17	40
2008	Good	15	40
2007	Good	12	40
2006	Good to Soft	9	40
2005	Good to Soft	21	40
2004	Good	11	39
2003	Good	14	40
2002	Good	11	40
2001	Heavy	4	40
2000	Good/Good to Firm	17	40
1999	Good	18	32
1998	Heavy	6	37
1997	Good	17	36
1996	Good	17	27
1995	Good	15	35
1994	Heavy	6	36
1993	Void race	-	-
1992	Good to Soft	22	40
1991	Good to Soft	17	40
1990	Firm	20	38
1989	Heavy	14	40
1988	Good to Soft	9	40
1987	Good	22	40
1986	Good to Soft	17	40
1985	Good to Soft	11	40
1984	Good	23	40
1983	Soft	10	41
1982	Good	8	39
1981	Good	12	39
1980	Heavy	4	30
1979	Good	7	34
1978	Firm	15	37
1977	Good	11	42
1976	Firm	16	32
1975	Good	10	31
1974	Good	17	42
1973	Firm	10	38
1972	Soft	9	42
1971	Good	13	38

## MARES

### WINNING MARES

1. Charity (1841)
2. Miss Mowbray (1852)
3. Anatis (1860)
4. Jealousy (1861)
5. Emblem (1863)
6. Emblematic (1864)
7. Casse Tete (1872)
8. Empress (1880)
9. Zoedone (1883)
10. Frigate (1889)
11. Shannon Lass (1902)
12. Sheila's Cottage (1948)
13. Nickel Coin (1951)

### PLACED MARES SINCE 1951

1. Gentle Moya (2nd 1956)
2. Tiberetta (3rd 1957, 2nd 1958 & 4th 1959)
3. Miss Hunter (3rd 1970)
4. Eyecatcher (3rd 1976 and 1977)
5. Auntie Dot (3rd 1991)
6. Ebony Jane (4th 1994)
- Dubacilla (4th 1995)

## TIME

### FASTEST

Mr Frisk (1990) 8m 47.8s.

### SLOWEST

Lottery (1839) 14m 53s.

*These times are based on the distance of about four and a half miles which was run over up to and including 2012.*

The race has taken place over four miles, two furlongs and 74 yards since 2013, with the fastest time of the four runnings to date being 8m 56.8s by Many Clouds in 2015.

## WINNING DISTANCES

### SHORTEST WINNING DISTANCE

Neptune Collonges won by a nose from Sunnyhillboy in 2012.

### FURTHEST WINNING DISTANCE

A distance - Cloister (1893), Covertcoat (1913), Shaun Splash (1921), Tipperary Tim (1928), Mr What (1958), Red Marauder (2001).

## AGE OF THE WINNERS

### MOST COMMON WINNING AGE

- Nine-year-olds have won 45 of the 170 runnings of the Grand National where the winner's age was recorded.
- The best recent record is by 11-year-olds, accounting for three of the last six winners - Neptune Collonges (2012), Auroras Encore (2013) and Pineau De Re (2014), though eight-year-olds Many Clouds (2015) and One For Arthur (2017) have triumphed since 2015.

### OLDEST WINNER

Peter Simple (1853), aged 15.

### YOUNGEST WINNER

- Alcibiade (1865), Regal (1876), Austerlitz (1877), Empress (1880) and Lutteur III (1909) were all aged five when successful in the Grand National.
- Since 2012, only seven-year-olds and upwards can take part.

### WINNING AGES IN THE LAST 30 RUNNINGS

8-y-o	1. Party Politics (1992)
	2. Bindaree (2002)
	3. Many Clouds (2015)
	4. One For Arthur (2017)
9-y-o	1. Rhyme 'N' Reason (1988)
	2. Lord Gyllene (1997)
	3. Bobbyjo (1999)
	4. Papiillon (2000)
	5. Hedgehunter (2005)
	6. Comply Or Die (2008)
	7. Mon Mome (2009)
	8. Rule The World (2016)
10-y-o	1. Rough Quest (1996)
	2. Earth Summit (1998)
	3. Monty's Pass (2003)
	4. Numbersixvalverde (2006)
	5. Silver Birch (2007)
	6. Don't Push It (2010)
	7. Ballabriggs (2011)
11-y-o	1. Maori Venture
	2. Mr Frisk (1990)
	3. Seagram (1991)
	4. Miinnehoma (1994)
	5. Red Marauder (2001)
	6. Neptune Collonges (2012)
	7. Auroras Encore (2013)
	8. Pineau De Re (2014)
12-y-o	1. Little Polveir (1989)
	2. Royal Athlete (1995)
	3. Amberleigh House (2004)

## RESERVES

- Since 2000, every year bar three (2004-39, 2015-39 & 2016-39) has seen a full field of 40 line up. This is partly due to a system of reserves begun in 2000.
- Runners are declared 48 hours before the race and up to four reserves can be utilised if one of the original declarations is a non-runner by 1pm (used to be 9am up to and including 2015) on the day before the race. The change to the deadline for reserves was made after Carlito Brigante was taken out in 2015 at 11.12am on the Friday, leaving 39 to face the starter.
- A total of eight reserves have run in the Randox Health Grand National. Cerium and Royal Rosa were the latest to line up in 2010.

### DETAILS OF RESERVES

2017	no reserves utilised
2016	no reserves utilised
2015	no reserves utilised
2014	no reserves utilised
2013	no reserves utilised
2012	no reserves utilised
2011	no reserves utilised
2010	1. CERIUM (FR) (Mr Pointment vet's certificate) 2. ROYAL ROSA (FR) (Abbeybraney self-certificate)
2009	no reserves utilised
2008	ARDAGHEY (IRE) (Opera Mundi vet's certificate)
2007	no reserves utilised
2006	no reserves utilised
2005	NATIVE EMPEROR (Turnium lame)
2004	1. MONTREAL (FR) (Silver Streak vet's certificate) 2. BRAMBLEHILL DUKE (IRE) (Red Striker ground)
2003	BRAMBLEHILL DUKE (IRE) (Kingsmark vet's certificate)
2002	no reserves utilised
2001	MERRY PEOPLE (Inn At The Top ground)
2000	no reserves utilised

## FESTIVAL FACTS

# AMATEUR WINNERS

In the 170 runnings of the Grand National, 41 have been won by amateur riders. Many of the top riders in the early days of Jump racing were non-professional and 27 19th century Grand Nationals went to amateurs.

### FIRST AMATEUR WINNER

Mr Bartholomew Bretherton, aboard Jerry in 1840.

### MOST SUCCESSFUL AMATEUR

- Three wins for Jack Anthony on Glenside (1911), Ally Sloper (1915) and Troytown (1920)
- Tommy Beasley on Empress (1880), Woodbrook (1881) and Frigate (1889)
- Tommy Pickernell on Anatis (1860), The Lamb (1871) and Pathfinder (1875).

### MOST RECENT AMATEUR WINNER

Marcus Armytage on Mr Frisk in 1990. Armytage is racing correspondent of The Daily Telegraph and Horse & Hound.

### MOST RECENT AMATEUR PLACING

Jamie Codd finished second on Cause Of Causes in 2017.

### MOST SUCCESSFUL RIDER OVER GRAND NATIONAL FENCES

Sam Waley-Cohen, with six wins over the Grand National fences, is the most successful current rider over the Grand National fences, followed by leading professional Ruby Walsh who has enjoyed five victories.

Amateur jockey Waley-Cohen came fourth on Oscar Time in the 2013 Grand National and finished second on the same horse in 2011. His victories have included back-to-back victories on Katarino in the 2005 and 2006 Fox Hunters' Chases. In 2006, uniquely he won two races over the famous fences at the same Grand National Festival, also capturing the Topham Chase on Liberthine.

His other victories over the unique fences have come through Warne in the 2014 Fox Hunters', Oscar Time in the 2014 Becher Chase and Rajdhani Express in the 2015 Topham Chase.

### OLDEST WINNER

Amateur Dick Saunders aged 48 on Grittar in 1982 on his first and only ride.

### OLDEST TO COMPLETE

American Tim Durant was 68 when 15th on Highlandie in 1968 after he remounted at Becher's second time).

### QUALIFIED TO RIDE

Since 2012, any jockey - amateur or professional - riding in the Grand National must have partnered at least 10 winners over fences and a minimum of 15 winners in total in hurdles and chases.

### WINNING AMATEURS SINCE 1900

1990	<b>Mr Marcus Armytage</b>	Mr Frisk	16/1
1982	<b>Mr Dick Saunders</b>	Grittar	7/1F
1980	<b>Mr Charlie Fenwick</b>	Ben Nevis	40/1
1965	<b>Mr Tommy Smith</b>	Jay Trump	100/6
1946	<b>Captain Bobby Petre</b>	Lovely Cottage	25/1
1936	<b>Mr Fulke Walwyn</b>	Reynoldstown	10/1
1935	<b>Mr Frank Furlong</b>	Reynoldstown	22/1
1928	<b>Mr Bill Dutton</b>	Tipperary Tim	100/1
1925	<b>Major John Wilson</b>	Double Chance	100/9
1923	<b>Capt Tuppy Bennet</b>	Sergeant Murphy	100/6
1920	<b>Mr Jack Anthony</b>	Troytown	6/1
1915	<b>Mr Jack Anthony</b>	Ally Sloper	100/8
1911	<b>Mr Jack Anthony</b>	Glenside	20/1
1906	<b>Mr Aubrey Hastings</b>	Ascetic's Silver	20/1

### AMATEURS IN THE LAST 12 RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONALS

2017	<b>Mr Jamie Codd,</b> <b>Ms Katie Walsh,</b> <b>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen</b>	Cause Of Causes, Wonderful Charm The Young Master	2nd 19th Fell 19th
2016	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b> <b>Mr Patrick Mullins</b> <b>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen</b> <b>Ms Katie Walsh</b>	Sir Des Champs On His Own Black Thunder Balleycasey	Fell 15th Fell 15th PU 21st UR 29th
2015	<b>Mr Sam-Waley-Cohen</b> <b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Oscar Time First Lieutennant	15th 16th
2014	<b>Ms Katie Walsh</b> <b>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen</b>	Vesper Bell Long Run	13th Fell 9th
2013	<b>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen</b> <b>Ms Katie Walsh</b>	Oscar Time Seabass	4th 13th
2012	<b>Ms Katie Walsh</b> <b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Seabass Organisedconfusion	3rd UR 8th
2011	<b>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen</b> <b>Ms Nina Carberry</b> <b>Mr Ryan Mahon</b> <b>Mr Patrick Mullins</b> <b>Mr Robbie McNamara</b>	Oscar Time Character Building The Tother One Dooney's Gate Majestic Concorde	2nd 15th Fell 6th Fell 6th UR 24th
2010	<b>Mr Sam Twiston-Davies</b> <b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Hello Bud Character Building	5th 7th
2009	<b>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen</b>	Ollie Magern	Fell 2nd
2008	<b>Mr Nick Scholfield</b>	Cornish Sett	12th
2007	<b>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen</b> <b>Mr J T McNamara</b> <b>Mr Tom Greenall</b>	Liberthine Clan Royal Sonevafushi	5th 11th PU 29th
2006	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Forest Gunner	9th
2005	<b>Mr David Dunsdon</b> <b>Mr Tom Greenall</b>	Joly Bey Glenelly Gale	14th PU 28th



John Francome, who went closest twice on Rough And Tumble - third in 1979 and second the following year.

Of current jockeys, Richard Johnson, so long in Sir A P McCoy's shadow, has tried 20 times without success, coming nearest to victory with two seconds - What's Up Boys in 2002 & Balthazar King in 2014.

### MCCOY RECORD

Sir A P McCoy, who retired following a record-breaking career which included his 20th consecutive British champion Jump jockey title, in April, 2015, holds the joint record for the most rides in the Grand National, with 20 mounts between 1995 and 2015. The current champion Jump jockey Richard Johnson had his 20th ride in 2016. McCoy had to wait until his 15th ride in the Grand National - on Don't Push It in 2010 - for success. He was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June, 2010, voted the 2010 BBC Sports Personality of the Year and knighted following his retirement in 2015.

### FIRST-TIME SUCCESS

Plenty of riders have won the Randox Health Grand National on their first attempt.

*The most recent are:*

Derek Fox (2017 One For Arthur), David Mullins (2016 Rule The World), Ryan Mania (2013 Auroras Encore), Liam Treadwell (2009 Mon Mome), Niall 'Slippers' Madden (2006 Numbersixvalverde), Ruby Walsh (2000 Papillon), Jason Titley (1995 Royal Athlete), Nigel Hawke (1991 Seagram), Jimmy Frost (1989 Littler Polveir), Mr Dick Saunders (1982 Grittar) and Maurice Barnes (1979 Rubstic).

### RODE & TRAINED

Since 1900 five successful jockeys went on to train Grand National winners as well - Algy Anthony, Tommy Carberry, Aubrey Hastings, Fulke Walwyn and Fred Winter.

### SPRING DOUBLE

Together with the Lincoln Handicap run on the Flat at Doncaster, the Randox Health Grand National forms leg two of the 'Spring Double'. The only jockey to have won both contests is Dave Dick, who captured the Lincoln on Gloaming in 1941 and the Grand National on E.S.B. in 1956.

## JOCKEY FACTS

### MOST WINS

George Stevens is the winning-most jockey in Grand National history with five successes - Free Trader (1856), Emblem (1863), Emblematic (1864) and The Colonel (1869 and 1870).

*Six riders have won the race three times:*

1. Tom Olliver (1842, 1843 & 1853)
2. Tommy Pickernell (amateur 1860, 1971 & 1875)
3. Tommy Beasley (amateur 1880, 1881 & 1889)
4. Arthur Nightingall (1890, 1894 & 1901)
5. Jack Anthony (amateur 1911, 1915 & 1920)
6. Brian Fletcher (1968, 1973 & 1974)

### YOUNGEST

The youngest jockey to win the Grand National was 17-year-old Bruce Hobbs on Battleship in 1938. He had his first ride in the race the year before at the age of 16 after turning professional. He went on to be a successful trainer on the Flat, mostly based in Newmarket, and died at the age of 84 in 2005.

### OLDEST

The oldest rider to capture the Grand National was 48-year-old amateur Dick Saunders on Grittar in 1982, his first and only ride in the race - he retired from race riding immediately afterwards. He was the first member of the Jockey Club to partner a Grand National winner. He passed away in January, 2002.

### CURRENT JOCKEYS

Ruby Walsh and Leighton Aspell hold the best record of current jockeys, having won the Randox Health Grand National twice.

Walsh scored on Papillon (2000) and Hedgehunter (2005), while Aspell became the first jockey since Brian Fletcher (Red Rum) in 1974 to win consecutive Grand Nationals, thanks to Pineau De Re (2014) and Many Clouds (2015). Aspell was the first jockey to ride successive Grand National winners on different horses since Bryan Marshall in 1954 (Royal Tan that year & Early Mist 1953).

### RETIRED JOCKEYS

Among retired jockeys, Richard Dunwoody enjoyed two successes, with Miinnehomia (trained by Martin Pipe in 1994) and in 1986 West Tip, the Michael Oliver-trained horse on whom he also finished second in 1989 and fourth in both 1987 and 1988.

Carl Llewellyn, who hung up his race riding boots in 2009 to become business partner of trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies, is another to have two winners courtesy of Party Politics (trained by Nick Gaselee in 1992) and Earth Summit (Twiston-Davies in 1998).

### NO SUCCESS

Many highly successful jockeys have tried and failed to win the Grand National, including eight-time champion Peter Scudamore, who did best from 12 rides when third in 1985 on Corbiere, and seven-time champion

# BETTING

## SOME FAMOUS GAMBLERS

- The very first winner Lottery (1839) was made 5/1 favourite following his earlier success in the Cheltenham Steeplechase.
- Another successful 19th century punt came to fruition in 1866 when owner/trainer Edward Studd had £1,000 at 40/1 about Salamander. His £40,000 winnings would equate to nearly £3 million at today's values.
- Manifesto hit the bookies hard on both occasions he won the Grand National; in 1897 and 1899. He was sent off 6/1 favourite for his first win when owned by heavy-gambling Irish solicitor Harry Dyas. He was 5/1 second favourite two years later when scoring for new owner John Bulteel - the 4/1 favourite was his half-sister Gentle Ida, who fell.
- Golden Miller was the 2/1 market leader in 1935, making him the shortest-priced runner in the long history of the Grand National. Dorothy Paget's great chaser had captured the Aintree race in 1934 (at 8/1), but unseated his jockey Gerry Wilson at the 11th fence the following year when 22/1 chance Reynoldstown prevailed. Golden Miller, trained by Basil Briscoe for owner Dorothy Paget, won the Cheltenham Gold Cup a record five times.

- A confident Vincent O'Brien told owner Joe 'Mincemeat' Griffin to have a good bet on Early Mist, who started 20/1 for the 1953 renewal. Griffin won £100,000 when his horse came in and he also owned the 1954 winner Royal Tan, trained by Irish-based O'Brien too.
- Prolific gambler Terry Ramsden bet £50,000 each-way at 8/1 about Mr Snugfit from Mick Easterby's Yorkshire stables in the 1986. The horse, who was also combined in doubles and trebles, returned a profit when coming home fourth.
- Papillon's success in 2000 for trainer Ted Walsh and his jockey son Ruby was a popular victory. Tipped by the Racing Post's Pricewise column at 33/1 on the morning, he was sent off at 10/1 by race time.
- Part-owner Mike Futter estimated his total winnings were £800,000 when Monty's Pass scored in 2003. The five-person Dee Racing syndicate netted over £1 million on the winner, who started at 16/1 but had been backed down from 66/1 by his owners and others.

## SHORTEST-PRICED WINNERS

Poethlyn (1919) at 11/4  
Huntsman (1862) at 3/1  
Roquefort (1885) at 100/30

## PRIZE MONEY

- Prize money for the Randox Health Grand National has reached a colossal £1 million.
- The level of prize money has rocketed - £250,000 was on offer when Lord Gyllene won in 1997 before reaching £975,000 in 2012 and 2013, with the first £1-million Grand National in 2014.
- The Randox Health Grand National is by far the richest Jump race in Britain, with the Timico Cheltenham Gold Cup, worth £625,000, the next most valuable, and indeed the world. A soaring pound against the yen has meant the Randox Health Grand National is now worth more than both of Japan's top chases, the Nakayama Grand Jump and Nakayama Daishogai, which each have prize money of jpy142,660,000 in 2018.

## OUTSIDERS WINNING

100/1	Mon Mome (2009) Foinavon (1967) Caughoo (1947) Gragalach (1929) Tipperary Tim (1928)
66/1	Auroras Encore (2013) Ayala (1963) Russian Hero (1949) Rubio (1908)
50/1	Last Suspect (1985) Anglo (1966) Sheila's Cottage (1948) Forbra (1932)

# WEIGHTS

## HIGHEST WINNING WEIGHT

- 12st 7lb carried by four winners to victory: Poethlyn (1919), Jerry M (1912), Manifesto (1899) and Cloister (1893).
- This is a record that will not be broken as the top-weight was lowered to 12st in 1956, then went down to 11st 12lb in 2002 and reduced to 11st 10lb in 2009.
- Since Poethlyn, only four horses have triumphed with 12st or more - Red Rum (12st in 1974), Reynoldstown (12st 2lb in 1936), Golden Miller (12st 2lb in 1934) and Sprig (12st 4lb in 1927).

## LOWEST WINNING WEIGHT

- 9st 6lb was carried by by Freetrader in 1856.
- The minimum weight now is 10st, regardless whether a horse's rating merits less (termed "racing from out of the handicap").
- The Randox Health Grand National's popularity in recent years has seen few entries, if any, from out of the handicap make the final field.

## SPECIAL DISCRETION

- The Randox Health Grand National is the only race where the official handicapper specially frames the weights, often taking into account past Aintree form.
- The weights are announced at a launch in London (February 13, 2018) and do not change afterwards as there are no penalties for success subsequently.
- British Horseracing Authority Head of Handicapping Phil Smith, who is due to retire in July, 2018, has framed the weights since 1999. Smith has encouraged the best horses to take part by compressing the weights at the top of the handicap since 2001 - giving them a more lenient mark than their official rating, mainly because of the race's long distance of over four and a quarter miles.

He was rewarded with the closest finish in Grand National history in 2012 when Neptune Collonges defied 11st 6lb to beat Sunyhillboy by a nose, while Many Clouds, the 2015 Grand National winner, carried 11st 9lb, the highest victorious weight since Red Rum's 12st in 1974.

## WEIGHTS CARRIED BY LAST 20 WINNERS

11st 9lb	Many Clouds (2015)
11st 6lb	Neptune Collonges (2012)
11st 5lb	Don't Push It (2010)
11st 1lb	Hedgehunter (2005)
11st 0lb	Mon Mome (2009) Ballabriggs (2011)
10st 12lb	Papillon (2000)
10st 11lb	Red Marauder (2001) One For Arthur (2017)
10st 10lb	Amberleigh House (2004)
10st 9lb	Comply Or Die (2008)
10st 8lb	Numbersixvalverde (2006), Monty's Pass (2003)
10st 7lb	Rule The World (2016)
10st 6lb	Silver Birch (2007), Pineau De Re (2014)
10st 5lb	Earth Summit (1998)
10st 4lb	Bindaree (2002)
10st 3lb	Auroras Encore (2013)
10st 0lb	Bobbyjo (1999)

# FEMALE RIDERS

## FIRST TO TAKE PART

Charlotte Brew on Barony Fort in 1977.

## FIRST TO COMPLETE

Geraldine Rees, eighth on Cheers in 1982.

## BEST POSITION

Katie Walsh, third on Seabass in 2012.

**Charlotte Brew** attracted huge media attention when partnering her own horse Barony Fort who refused four out in 1977. She was a guest on the BBC Sports Personality of the Year show and the Daily Mirror arranged a day-trip on Concorde to Washington. She was also unseated in the 1982 race.

**Geraldine Rees** was 26 when completing the course (albeit in last place) in 1982. She fell at the first a year later and went on to train for 12 years in Lancashire, retiring in 2010.

**Venetia Williams** is the only female trainer to have saddled a Randox Health Grand National winner who has also ridden in the race. She fell at Becher's first time when partnering 200/1 chance Marcolo in 1988 and trained 100/1 shot Mon Mome to score in 2009.

**Gee Armytage** had to pull up her aptly-named mount, Gee-A, in 1988. A dual Cheltenham Festival-winning rider, she is the sister of Marcus Armytage - amateur rider of the 1990 winner Mr Frisk.

**Rosemary Henderson** finished fifth when aged 51 on her own 100/1 shot Fiddlers Pike in 1994. She subsequently wrote a book, 'Road To The National', about her exploits.

There was huge media interest in **Carrie Ford** when she finished fifth in 2005 on Forest Gunner, trained by her then husband Richard. Ford, 33 at the time, had given birth to her daughter Hannah 10 weeks earlier.

**Tarnya Davis** partnered 100/1 chance Numerate in 1989 and pulled him up at before the 21st fence. She subsequently married amateur rider Oliver Sherwood, who finished eighth on Venture To Cognac in 1983. In 2015, Oliver and Tarnya Sherwood were responsible for training the Grand National winner Many Clouds.



Lizzie Kelly after her success in the 2017 Betway Bowl Chase

**Nina Carberry** is the most experienced Grand National female rider, having finished the course on four of her six starts, doing best when seventh on Character Building in 2010. Carberry's late father Tommy rode the 1975 winner L'Escargot and saddled the 1999 hero Bobbyjo, ridden by her brother Paul. Their brother Philip has also twice taken part in the Randox Health Grand National. Amateur rider Nina Carberry is married to Ruby Walsh's brother Ted junior. Nina and Paul Carberry became the first brother and sister to ride in the same Grand National in 2012, while Katie and Ruby Walsh did the same in 2013 and 2017.

**Katie Walsh** has gained the best position by a female rider in the Grand National, finishing third on Seabass in 2012. She led up Papillon, when trained by her father and ridden by Ruby to win in 2000. A photograph of a mud-splattered Walsh in Seabass's colours, taken by Spencer Murphy, won the 2013 Taylor Wessing photographic portrait prize. Katie Walsh is an Ambassador for Aintree Racecourse and has participated in the Randox Health Grand National five times.

## COMPLETE RECORD OF FEMALE RIDERS

2017	<b>Ms Katie Walsh</b>	Wonderful Charm	28/1 19th
2016	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Sir Des Champs	20/1 F 15th
	<b>Ms Katie Walsh</b>	Ballycasey	50/1 UR 29th
2015	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	First Lieutenant	14/1 16th
2014	<b>Ms Katie Walsh</b>	Vesper Bell	40/1 13th
2013	<b>Ms Katie Walsh</b>	Seabass	11/2F 13th
2012	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Organisedconfusion	20/1 UR 8th
2012	<b>Ms Katie Walsh</b>	Seabass	8/1JtF 3rd
2011	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Character Building	25/1 15th
2010	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Character Building	16/1 7th
2006	<b>Ms Nina Carberry</b>	Forest Gunner	33/1 9th (last)
2005	<b>Carrie Ford</b>	Forest Gunner	8/1 5th
1994	<b>Mrs Rosemary Henderson</b>	Fiddlers Pike	100/1 5th
1989	<b>Tarnya Davis</b>	Numerate	100/1 PU 21st
1988	<b>Penny Ffitch-Heyes</b>	Hettinger	200/1 F 1st
1988	<b>Gee Armytage</b>	Gee-A	33/1 PU 26th
1988	<b>Miss Venetia Williams</b>	Marcolo	200/1 F 6th
1987	<b>Jacqui Oliver</b>	Eamons Owen	200/1 UR 15th
1984	<b>Mrs Valerie Alder</b>	Bush Guide	33/1 F 8th
1983	<b>Mrs Joy Carrier</b>	King Spruce	28/1 UR 6th
1983	<b>Mrs Geraldine Rees</b>	Midday Welcome	500/1 F 1st
1982	<b>Miss Charlotte Brew</b>	Martinstown	100/1 UR 3rd
1982	<b>Mrs Geraldine Rees</b>	Cheers	66/1 8th (last)
1981	<b>Mrs Linda Sheedy</b>	Deiopea	100/1 Ref 19th
1980	<b>Mrs Jenny Hembrow</b>	Sandwilan	100/1 PU 19th
1979	<b>Mrs Jenny Hembrow</b>	Sandwilan	100/1 F 1st
1977	<b>Miss Charlotte Brew</b>	Barony Fort	200/1 Ref 4 out

(Ms, Miss, Mrs denotes an amateur rider)



# OVERSEAS INTEREST

The Grand National has attracted global interest and challenges throughout its long and distinguished history.

## USA

American owners have long been captivated by the Grand National. Olympic Gold-winning polo player Foxhall Keene, one of the founding fathers of Jump racing in the USA, was represented by Chorus (8th) and Prophet III (fell) in 1908. The winner that year, Rubio, also boasted trans-Atlantic connections, having been bred at the Rancho del Paso Stud in California.

- The first success for an American owner came in 1923. Sergeant Murphy had been bought by John Sanford, a carpet trader, and given to his son, Stephen, who was then at Cambridge University.
- That victory proved the catalyst for renewed interest in the USA and a second triumph followed when Jack Horner prevailed in 1926, having been bought by another US polo player, Charles Schwartz, two weeks before the race for £4,000 from fellow American and amateur rider Morgan Blair.

- Kentucky-bred gelding Billy Barton had proved himself to be a champion in both America and Cuba, gracing the cover of Time magazine, but Howard Bruce's chaser fell when leading at the final fence in the 1928 Grand National. Jockey Tommy Cullinan remounted Billy Barton and came home a gallant second as only two horses finished in desperate conditions.
- Jock Hay Whitney was one of the unluckiest owners in the history of the Grand National. The US Ambassador to the United Kingdom won the Cheltenham Gold Cup with Easter Hero in 1929 and the nine-year-old was a gallant second in that year's Grand National under the mammoth weight of 12st 7lb.
- Whitney was responsible for 14 Grand National runners in total between 1929 and 1951, with Sir Lindsay finishing third in 1930 and Thomond II occupying the same position in both 1934 and 1935. The multi-millionaire also had the opportunity to buy future dual Grand National winner Reynoldstown when the great chaser was five, but could not travel to Ireland to see the horse due to work commitments.
- American sewing-machine heir F Ambrose Clark sold the seven-year-old Kellsboro' Jack to his wife Florence for £1 in 1933 on the advice of trainer Ivor Anthony in the hope that the new owner would bring more luck. Kellsboro' Jack, who started at 25/1, won by three lengths.
- Another Grand National win for America came in 1938 via Battleship, owned like Trouble Maker by Marion du Pont Scott, wife of Hollywood star Randolph Scott. The 11-year-old entire Battleship stood at just 15.2 hands, but had won the American Grand National in 1934 before being sent to England to be trained by Reg Hobbs. He was ridden at Aintree by 17-year-old Bruce Hobbs, the youngest victorious rider.
- An American flavour returned in 1963 with the seventh home Owen's Sedge being owned by Gregory Peck and the Oscar-winning film actor also saw his colours carried in the race by Different Class, who was brought down in 1967 and returned to Aintree 12 months later to take third.
- American owners were back in the winner's circle in 1964 with the Fulke Walwyn-trained 18/1 chance Team Spirit, a 12-year-old having his fifth start in the race owned by Ronald B Woodard and John K Goodman along with Englishman Gamble North.
- There was an even stronger US connection to the 1965 winner as the Pennsylvanian bred Jay Trump, a dual Maryland Hunt Cup victor for owner Mary Stephenson, was ridden by American amateur Tommy Crompton Smith. Jay Trump was trained by Fred Winter in Lambourn.

- This North American run of success continued with Highland Wedding in 1969, co-owned by Thomas H McCoy Jnr and Canadian Charles Burn, while The Beeches, who finished fourth, carried the famous colours of philanthropist Paul Mellon.
- American-owned horses continued to make their mark, thanks to Raymond Guest's L'Escargot in 1975, Redmond C Stewart's dual Maryland Hunt Cup winner Ben Nevis (ridden by American amateur Charlie Fenwick) in 1980, Lois Duffey's Mr Frisk in 1990 and most recently Betty Moran's Papillon in 2000.

## EUROPE

- Two French-trained horses have been successful in the Grand National. Huntsman in 1862 and Cortolvin in 1867 were both English-bred chasers trained at Chantilly, France's main training centre to the north of Paris, by a Yorkshire-born expatriate, Harry Lamplugh.
- Six other winners have been bred in France - Alcibiade (1865), Reugny (1874), Lutteur III (1909), Mon Mome (2009), Neptune Collonges (2012) and Pineau De Re (2014).
- Lutteur III, noted as a British-trained Grand National victor in 1909, held plenty of allegiance to France. His jockey Georges Parfremont and owner James Hennessy were Frenchmen and the horse had only arrived at the Epsom yard of trainer Harry Escott that season to get accustomed to the English style of racing.
- The current century has seen many more French-bred horses race in Britain and the recent success of three French-bred horses in the Randox Health Grand National is no surprise.
- Mon Mome, who broke a 100-year hoodoo as far as French-breds were concerned, caused a Grand National shock when storming to a 100/1 victory under Liam Treadwell in 2009. Born in West France on April 29, 2000, and whose name means 'My Kid', he had just one run in his native country, finishing second in a 13.5-furlong Flat ace at Pontivy in Brittany. Trainer Venetia Williams then purchased the horse and later passed him on to owner Vida Bingham.
- Neptune Collonges, a rare grey Grand National winner in 2012, started his career in France under the care of Jacques Ortet, racing six times for five successes, before joining Paul Nicholls, while Pineau De Re (2014), bred by the Ile de Re-based Michel Hardy, was sold as an unraced three-year-old for 20,000 euros at a sale at Saint-Cloud and moved first to Ireland and then England.



- The Fellow, trained by Francois Doumen in France, fell at the 24th fence in the 1994 Grand National when attempting to become only the second horse to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Grand National in the same season. He was the first of Doumen's 14 attempts to win the Grand National, with Innox in 2005 doing best when seventh. His son Thierry rode the challengers up to and including 2004.
- Prince Karl Kinsky, an Austro-Hungarian nobleman, was the first jockey from outside Britain and Ireland to ride when he made a winning debut on board his own mare Zoedone in 1883.
- Beltran de Osorio y Diez de Rivera, the 18th Duke of Albuquerque, who was born in 1919, made seven appearances. The Iron Duke, as the Spanish nobleman became known, completed (one week after breaking his collarbone) in eighth place on Nereo in 1974, but was better known for his failures and long list of injuries.
- Horses trained in Hungary, the former Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic and Norway have all run in Grand Nationals, although none has ever completed the course.
- Former Russian premier Georgi Malenkov was the guest of Aintree's owner, Mirabel Topham, in 1956 and five years later the Russians sent over National challengers Grifel and Reljef. Grifel's jockey Vladimir Prakhov was forced out of the saddle by his reins at Becher's, remounting before he pulled up at the water. Reljef parted company with Boris Ponomarenko at Valentine's
- Hungarian chaser Buszke was pulled up in 1868, while Gyi Lovam, the first Czechoslovakian challenger in 1931, came to grief at Becher's, was remounted but fell again four fences later. The Czech-trained Essex, Frazee and Quirinus all carried automatic top-weight in the 1980s and 1990s but failed to complete.

The 2000 renewal saw the first Norwegian-trained runner in the shape of Trinitro, but he got no further than the first fence.

## JAPAN

- Fujino-O captured four consecutive renewals of the prestigious Nakayama Daishogai in Japan before being sent to Britain to be prepared for Aintree by trainer Fulke Walwyn. The seven-year-old was given the automatic top-weight of 12st and failed to get competitive under his welter burden in 1966, eventually refusing under Jeff King.
- Tsuyoshi Tanaka, the son of a champion boxer, became the first Japanese jockey to ride in the Grand National in 1995, although his taste of the Aintree experience proved to be brief as he fell at the first fence on The Committee.

## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

- Crisp, the courageous Australian gelding, led the field a merry dance in 1973 under top-weight of 12st, only to be caught near the line by Red Rum, who carried 10st 5lb and was to become the Grand National's finest hero.
- Both the 1904 winner Moifaa and 1991 victor Seagram were bred in New Zealand.

# THE GRAND NATIONAL TIMELINE

1829

The first official races at Aintree were organised by a syndicate headed by the owner of Liverpool's Waterloo Hotel, William Lynn. He leased the land from Lord Sefton, set out a course and built a grandstand. Lord Molyneux laid the foundation stone on February 7, 1829, and placed a bottle full of sovereigns in the footings. The first Flat fixture was held five months later on July 7. A horse called Mufti won the opening race, the one and a quarter mile Croxteth Stakes. Aintree started out by putting on three race meetings a year.

1835

Aintree staged its first National Hunt (Jump) fixture.

1839

The Grand National was run at Aintree for the first time on Tuesday, February 26, under the guise of the Grand Liverpool Steeplechase over four miles, with an estimated 40,000 people attending. The obstacles included a stone wall, a stretch of ploughed land and two hurdles to finish. A horse named Lottery, the 5/1 favourite, took the honours. Captain Martin Becher was unseated from his mount, Conrad, when leading at the sixth fence on the first circuit and the fence, also the 22nd obstacle when jumped on the second circuit, became known as Becher's Brook.

1840

The 12 runners included Valentine who corkscrewed over the obstacle which is now the ninth and 25th jumped in the Grand National, Valentine's Brook.

1841

Charity was the first of 13 mares to win the Grand National.

1843

Edward William Topham, a respected handicapper, was responsible for turning the Grand National into a handicap for the first time after it had been a weight-for-age race for the first four years of its existence.

1847

Matthew was the first of 25 Irish-trained winners when 27 runners lined up - the biggest field so far.

1848

Edward Topham took over the lease of Aintree in 1848 and became Clerk of the Course.

1849

Not to be confused with a grey of the same name who was twice placed in the Grand National in the early 1840s, Peter Simple, a bay gelding, won the great chase on his first attempt in 1849. He became a regular at Liverpool, failing to finish the following three years, but returning with a second victory in 1853.

1850

Tiny in stature, but with a huge heart, Irish-trained Abd-El-Kader became an instant favourite with the Aintree crowd when defying his build to negotiate the Grand National fences and win. A new record of 32 horses lined up and the time of 9m 57.5s was the fastest seen.

1851

Abd-El-Kader became the first dual Grand National winner. Unquoted in the betting prior to his 1850 victory, the bookmakers were not so generous when installing him 7/1 joint favourite a year later. But the handicapper seemed to have a shorter memory, and, just 6lb higher than the previous year, Abd-El-Kader obliged. Seven horses in all have won two Grand Nationals. Red Rum is the only three-time winner. This was the third Irish-trained success.

1852

Miss Mowbray was the second of 13 mares to win the Grand National.

1853

Peter Simple became the oldest horse to win the Grand National and provided jockey Tom Olliver with his third success. Aged 15, Peter Simple was two years older than any other Grand National winner to this day. He was the second dual winner, having first succeeded in 1849. He returned to Aintree in 1854 for what was to be his sixth and last Grand National appearance, but failed to get round under top-weight.

1854

The first clear favourite, 4/1 chance Bourton, won on his third attempt, scoring by 15 lengths.

1855

Wanderer, a 25/1 chance, took the spoils and thus became the fourth Irish-trained winner.

1856

George Stevens, the most successful Grand National jockey with five triumphs, gained his first victory on Freetrader, the previous year's runner-up. He followed up on Emblem (1863), Emblematic (1864) and The Colonel (1869 and 1870).

1857

There were seven false starts before the 28-strong field got away.

1858

The winner Little Charley was ridden by William Archer, ace Flat jockey Fred Archer's father.

1859

One of the closest finishes saw 7/1 second favourite Half Caste prevail by a short-neck over Jean Du Quesne.

1860

The 7/2 favourite Anatis became the third of 13 mares to win and the first of four to score in the 1860s, a golden decade for females.

1861

Another mare, Jealousy, won by two lengths from the fast-finishing The Dane, and was the fourth of her sex to succeed.

1862

Huntsman, owned by the Viscount de Namur, became the first French-trained winner. The 3/1 favourite was trained by Harry Lamplugh. Sady, young jockey James Wynne died after his mount O'Connell was brought down.

1863

The Grand National became a longer race, with a new official distance of four and a half miles. Emblem was the fifth mare to succeed when scoring by 20 lengths.

1864

Emblem's full-sister Emblematic continued the great record of mares in the early 1860s. They were the only successful full-sisters, while Emblematic was the sixth mare to triumph.

1865

Five-year-old Alcibiade made his public debut when winning. He was the first of five horses his age to be successful in the Grand National (the minimum age to participate is now seven). Alcibiade had to overcome snowy conditions to triumph under Captain Henry Coventry of the Grenadier Guards, a cousin of Lord Coventry who owned the 1863 and 1864 winners.

1866

Owner Edward Studd backed his 40/1 winner Salamander with £1,000. His winnings equate to nearly £3 million at today's values.

1867

Chantilly-based Harry Lamplugh, successful with Huntsman in 1862, sent over Cortolvin to become the second French-trained winner. None has succeeded since.

1868

The Lamb, who also triumphed in 1871, became the first of only three victorious greys, with the others being Nicolaus Silver (1961) and Neptune Collonges (2012). Standing at only 14 hands' tall, he was originally bought as a pet and named The Lamb because of his dainty constitution. He was transformed into a racehorse by trainer Ben Land. Hungarian challenger Buszke ran but did not finish.

1869

The Colonel was sent off at 100/7 for his first Grand National victory in 1869, although the confidence behind the six-year-old may have been more reflective of his jockey George Stevens, who had already won the great race three times, than the form that The Colonel had shown previously.

1870

Despite a hike in the weights, The Colonel attracted considerable support and the 7/2 favourite held off the challenge of The Doctor to win by half a length and hand rider George Stevens his fifth success, a record which still stands. The Colonel was the third dual winner of the Grand National.

1871

The 1868 winner The Lamb was rerouted to the Sefton Chase the following year, finishing fourth, and was then out of action for two years with a wasting disease. This made his 1871 victory all

the more remarkable when becoming the fourth dual Grand National winner.

1872

Six-length scorer Casse Tete was the seventh mare to win.

1873

The 20/1 winner Disturbance gave owner James Machell the first of his three Grand National victories, all with different horses.

1874

James Machell enjoyed his second Grand National win thanks to French-bred Reugny, one of the owner's three runners, who scored as the 5/1 favourite.

1875

Amateur rider Tommy Pickernell enjoyed his third success on Pathfinder.

1876

Regal was the second five-year-old to triumph and gave owner James Machell a third victory in four years following Disturbance (1873) and Reugny (1874). Machell was the first owner to celebrate three Grand National successes.

1877

Austerlitz became the third of a quintet of five-year-olds to triumph.

1878

A small field of 12 lined up, with Shifnal, third in 1876 and sixth in 1877, succeeding at

the third attempt for owner/trainer John Nightingall.

1879

The Liberator, sent off at 25/1, was the fifth Irish-trained victor.

1880

Empress, named after Empress Elizabeth of Austria, was successful for trainer Henry Linde, based at the Curragh in Ireland - the sixth winner from that quarter. She was the fourth five-year-old and the eighth mare to succeed.

1881

Henry Linde sent out the winner for the second successive year, with Woodbrook the seventh Irish-trained victor. Amateur rider Tommy Beasley, successful in 1880, was again triumphant.

1882

A close finish saw Seaman, amateur ridden by his owner Lord Manners, win by a head in a thrilling finish from his half-brother Cyrus.

1883

Zoedone won in 11 minutes and 39 seconds, one of the slowest times ever recorded. The field of 10 runners was the smallest in the race's history. Owned and ridden by Count Karl (Charles) Kinsky, she was the ninth of her sex to win.

## FESTIVAL FACTS

### 1884

A remarkable success was gained by Voluptuary, who had never previously jumped fences in public. When his racing career was over, he regularly appeared on the Drury Lane (London) stage where he had to clear a water jump, ridden by actor Leonard Boyne.

### 1885

The 100/30 favourite Roquefort won when the Grand National was run on turf throughout.

### 1886

25/1 chance Old Joe, trained near Carlisle, took the spoils under professional jockey Tommy Skelton.

### 1887

Another Northern-trained horse, eight-year-old Gamecock, from near Tarporley in Cheshire, triumphed at 20/1.

### 1888

The 50th Grand National at Aintree was won by 40/1 outsider Playfair.

### 1889

Frigate, second in 1884, 1885 and 1888, got his head in front at the age of 11. Trained in Ireland (the eighth victor from across the Irish Sea) by her owner-breeder Matthew Maher, she was the 10th mare to win the Grand National, in which she ran seven times. She gave amateur rider Tommy Beasley his third and final success.

### 1890

Epsom-based trainer John Nightingall sent out his second Grand National winner, following on from Shifnal in 1878, when 4/1 favourite Ilex was the 12-length victor under his son Arthur.

### 1891

Seven-year-old Come Away, trained in Ireland by Harry Beasley and ridden by him, came home the winner as the 4/1 favourite. He was the ninth Irish winner.

### 1892

Thick fog at Aintree did not help spectators, but 11 of the 25 starters finished the race which went to 20/1 chance Father O'Flynn, who was bred in Shropshire.

### 1893

Jockey Harry Barker achieved the amazing feat of finishing second in both the Grand National and the Derby. He rode Aesop at Aintree and Ravensbury at Epsom Downs. The winner Cloister became the first of four horses to defy 12st 7lb, the highest weight carried to victory, when the 9/2 favourite and scoring by a distance.

### 1894

Why Not, the second of jockey Arthur Nightingall's three Grand National successes, was the joint second-oldest winner at the age of 13 alongside Sergeant Murphy who triumphed in 1923.

### 1895

Third the previous year, Wild Man From Borneo, bred in Ireland, stayed on strongly in the heavy going to win at 10/1.

### 1896

The shock winner, at 40/1, was The Soarer, ridden by Captain David Campbell, the first time a serving cavalry officer was successful.

### 1897

The epitome of a Grand National horse, Manifesto ran in the Grand National eight times, more than any other horse to date. He won the great race twice, was third three times, fourth, eighth and only once failed to complete. This was his first victory and he carried 11st 3lb. Owner/breeder Harry Dyas sold Manifesto to John Bulteel for £4,000 the following year.

### 1898

A snowstorm delayed the start by 10 minutes, but this did not stop the Dick Dawson-trained Drogheda winning on his first start of the year at 25/1.

### 1899

Manifesto established himself as an Aintree favourite and, partnered by George Williamson, won for the second time under a massive 12st 7lb as an 11-year-old. He was the fifth horse to succeed twice and the second of four to defy 12st 7lb - the highest weight carried to victory.

### 1900

The winner Ambush II was owned by the Prince of Wales, who became King Edward VII the following year. He was the 10th Irish-trained winner. Manifesto finished third.

### 1901

A blanket of snow covered the course and, despite a protest from the jockeys, racing went ahead in a ferocious blizzard. Grudon, an 11-year-old entire, made all to give his rider Arthur Nightingall a third victory in the race, following on from Why Not in 1894 and Ilex in 1890.

### 1902

The 20/1 chance Shannon Lass, owned by bookmaker Ambrose Gorham and trained in Sussex by James Hackett, became the 11th mare to win. Manifesto, who missed the previous year's race because of injury, finished third under 12st 8lb with Ernie Piggott, Lester's grandfather, up for the first time. Keith Piggott, Lester's father, trained the 1963 winner Ayala.

### 1903

Ambush II was the first runner owned by a reigning monarch, but fell at the last, leaving 13/2 favourite Drumcree to run on for a three-length victory in a field of 23. Manifesto, with 12st 3lb, came third again, this time ridden by George Williamson.

### 1904

Manifesto ran in the Grand National for a record eighth time. He won twice (1897 and 1899), came third on three occasions (1900, 1902 and 1903) and fourth in 1895. He also fell in 1896. Racegoers turned out in their thousands to cheer the gallant 16-year-old gelding into eighth place on his Grand National swansong carrying 12st 1lb. The Grade One Manifesto Chase is run in his honour at the Grand National Festival. The 1904 Grand National was won by the giant New Zealand horse Moifaa who scored at 25/1.

### 1905

The previous year's second Kirkland, based at Lawrenny Park in Pembrokeshire with trainer Colonel Freddy Lort-Phillips, became the first - and remains the only - winner to be trained in Wales.

### 1906

20/1 Ascetic's Silver, previously successful in the Irish Grand National, emulated his half-brothers Drumcree and Cloister with victory at Aintree with his trainer Aubrey Hastings in the saddle.

### 1907

Lancashire-trained Eremon won despite his jockey Alf Newey breaking a stirrup leather before they had reached the fourth fence.

### 1908

Fred Withington became the first trainer to saddle first and second when Californian-bred Rubio, a 66/1 chance, held Mattie MacGregor. A 15 guineas yearling, Rubio, the first American-bred winner, was restored to health pulling a bus from Towcester station to the Prospect Arms Hotel after breaking down in training.

### 1909

Lutteur III was the final five-year-old to capture the Grand National - the fifth in all, following on from Alcibiade (1865), Regal (1876), Austerlitz (1877) and Empress (1880) (the minimum age to run is now seven). There were 32 runners, the equal highest number of runners.

### 1910

The 1908 Becher Chase victor Jerry M, under top- weight of 12st 7lb, finished a gallant second as he attempted to concede 30lb to the victorious Jenkinstown, the second of three winners for trainer Tom Coulthwaite following Eremon in 1907.

### 1911

Glenside prevailed in a remarkable renewal, when he was the only horse to complete without falling or being brought down. Three other horses were subsequently remounted to finish.

### 1912

The people's favourite Jerry M, who had won the 1910 Grand Steeplechase de Paris and Becher Chase, returned from injury to become the third horse to defy 12st 7lb, the highest weight carried to victory, and win the National as the 4/1 market leader under Ernie Piggott.

### 1913

Following Jerry M and Cloister, Sir Charles Assheton-Smith saw his colours carried to victory for a joint-record third time when Jenkinstown's half-brother Covercoat won by a distance and three finished.



### 1914

Tom Tyler turned down a substantial offer from owner Sir Charles Assheton-Smith for the winner, Sunloch. Shortly after the Aintree triumph, Tyler relented and sold Sunloch to Assheton-Smith, but the horse was never as good thereafter.

### 1915

Ally Sloper, ridden by Mr Jack Anthony who was previously successful on Glenside, became the first Grand National winner to be owned by a woman, Lady Nelson. He was the last six-year-old to succeed.

### 1916-1918

The continuing First World War stopped the Grand National being run at Aintree. A replacement race was organised at Gatwick Racecourse, which no longer exists and was on the site of the international airport. There were three runnings of the substitute race, the results of which do not count as part of Grand National history.

### 1919

Ernie Piggott rode the second of his two winners on 11/4 favourite Poethlyn, having previously scored on Jerry M in 1912. These two winners, together with 1893 scorer Cloister and 1899 victor Manifesto, share the record for the highest weight carried to victory - 12st 7lb.

### 1920

Troytown gave amateur rider Jack Anthony his third success, winning by 12 lengths in heavy ground. The race was worth a record £5,000. Algy Anthony, who in 1900 had ridden and trained Ambush II to victory, handled the 11th Irish-based victor.

### 1921

35 runners, a new record, contested the Grand National, but only Shaun Spadah managed to negotiate the course without mishap, succeeding by a distance. The other three finishers all remounted.

### 1922

Music Hall added to his 1920 Scottish Grand National win with a 12-length success.

### 1923

At 13, Sergeant Murphy became the joint second-oldest winner, along with Why Not in 1894, and the first owned in the United States.

### 1924

Master Robert, a former Donegal plough-horse bought for £50, triumphed under Bob Trudgill for trainer Aubrey Hastings, who also succeeded in 1915 with Ally Sloper.

### 1925

A starting gate was first used and Double Chance went on to victory under the amateur Major John Philip Wilson, who had famously shot

down a Zeppelin over Hull during the First World War.

### 1926

Owned by American Charles Schwartz and ridden by Tasmanian-born William (Billy) Watkinson, Jack Horner scored for trainer Harvey 'Jack' Leader. Watkinson died after a fall at Bogside three weeks later.

### 1927

The first BBC radio commentary of the Grand National was broadcast by Meyrick Good and George Allison. They had to cope with 37 runners, a new record number, and misty conditions, calling home 8/1 favourite Sprig, who carried 12st 4lb, in a thrilling finish.

### 1928

Although 42 horses started, the race ended with just two finishers. Tipperary Tim, the first of five 100/1 chances to succeed, came home a distance ahead of the remounted Billy Barton, the least number of horses to complete a Grand National. Easter Hero's fall at the Canal Turn caused a massive pile-up.

### 1929

The biggest Grand National field ever with 66 starters and, for the second consecutive year, a 100/1 chance won when Gregalach, ridden by Australian Rupert Everett, was successful.

### 1930

By an unknown sire and initially sold for a mere 20 guineas, the 1929 Grand Sefton winner Shaun Goulin was a well-backed second favourite when scoring for local cotton broker Walter Midwood.

### 1931

Grakle won at the fifth attempt in the year that the tote (pari-mutuel or pool betting) first operated at Aintree. He provided trainer Tom Coulthwaite's third success after Eremon (1907) and Jenkinstown (1910).

### 1932

Tom Rimell trained 50/1 chance Forbra, with Tim Hamey up, to win. Rimell's son Fred went on to send out four Grand National winners, a joint-record.

### 1933

Kellsboro' Jack beat 33 rivals to give his owner Florence Clark a famous victory. Her husband, American millionaire F Ambrose Clark, had sold the winner to his wife for just £1 to try and generate a change in luck. The legendary Golden Miller, who was sent off 9/1 favourite, got rid of his jockey at the Canal Turn. There were 19 finishers.

### 1934

Golden Miller, who carried 12st 2lb, became the only horse to win the Grand National and the Cheltenham Gold Cup in the same season. The





winning time of 9m 20.4s at Aintree created a new record, but was surpassed the following year. This was the only occasion Golden Miller completed the Grand National course in five attempts.

### 1935

Mirabel Topham - who went on to be an integral figure in Grand National history - became a director of racecourse lessees Topham Ltd and chairman two years later. The former actress Mirabel Hillier married Arthur Ronald Topham in 1922. Following his brother's death in 1932, Arthur Topham had taken over chairmanship of the family company that had overseen the Grand National since 1839. Golden Miller was again expected to be the star at Aintree, but Dorothy Paget's champion - at 2/1 the shortest-priced Grand National runner ever - unseated his rider and it was Reynoldstown, owned and trained by Noel Furlong, who prevailed in a record time of 9m 20.2s which stood until Red Rum's first victory in 1973. Furlong's amateur son Frank was in the saddle.

### 1936

Reynoldstown, defying 12st 2lb, became the sixth of seven horses to win more than one Grand National. With a fifth Cheltenham Gold Cup under his belt, Golden Miller returned for another attempt at the Grand National, but was brought down at the first. The race was reduced to a duel between Reynoldstown and outsider Davy Jones. Reynoldstown's careless jumping meant that Davy Jones looked the certain winner. But the latter's reins came apart leaving his jockey with no control and, as he veered violently left to run out at the last, Reynoldstown gained a 12-length victory under amateur Fulke Walwyn,

who went on to train the 1964 winner Team Spirit.

### 1937

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Aintree Racecourse for the first time when the appropriately named Royal Mail took the honours.

### 1938

17-year-old Bruce Hobbs became the youngest winning jockey when steering home the American-bred and owned Battleship, trained by his father Reg. He was subsequently a Classic-winning trainer on the Flat.

### 1939

Workman triumphed under Irishman Timmy Hyde, who was having only his second Grand National ride. The Jack Ruttie-trained nine-year-old became the 12th Irish winner.

### 1940

The Lord Stalbridge-trained/owned Bogskar won the final Grand National before the Second World War stopped the event between 1941 and 1945. He was the most recent seven-year-old to succeed.

### 1941-1945

Aintree was used as a base for American troops during the remainder of the Second World War.

### 1946

Lovely Cottage was successful in the first post-World War Grand National and became the 100th Grand National winner at Aintree. Jack Finlay, the second, and Housewarmer, the fourth, both were returned at 100/1. The 3/1 favourite Prince Regent finished third.

### 1947

The Grand National was switched to Saturday from the usual Friday for the first time at the request of Prime Minister Clement Attlee, who reckoned that the new date would be "in the interests of British industry". Caughoo, the 13th winner from across the Irish Sea, prevailed in gloomy conditions, the third horse to win at 100/1, despite protestations that the winning jockey Eddie Dempsey had taken a short cut in the fog. 57 horses lined up at the start and 21 crossed the finishing line.

### 1948

50/1 chance Sheila's Cottage, trained by Neville Crump at Middleham in North Yorkshire, became the first mare to succeed in the Grand National for 46 years and the 12th in all. The bad-tempered nine-year-old celebrated by biting the tip off one of the fingers of winning jockey Arthur Thompson at a photo-shoot two days later. Crump went on to train two more Grand National winners - Teal (1952) and Merryman II (1960).

### 1949

Tophams Ltd purchased Aintree racecourse from Lord Sefton for £275,000. Mirabel Topham expanded the Grand National meeting to four days and created the Topham Chase, run over one circuit of the National course. The Fox Hunters' was contested over the same course and distance as the Grand National for the last time, also becoming a one-circuit race. The George Owen-trained Russian Hero, sent off at 66/1, triumphed on the first of his four runs in the Grand National.

### 1950

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, (who became Queen Mother on the death of

her husband in 1952) had her first runner. Monaveen, jointly owned by Princess Elizabeth (the present Queen). Monaveen finished fifth behind the Bobby Renton-trained Freebooter.

### 1951

The Jack O'Donoghue-trained Nickel Coin, partnered by Johnny Bullock, was the 13th and latest mare to win the Grand National as none have triumphed since. There was a very ragged start and the first fence saw 12 horses lose their riders. Only three finished.

### 1952

Teal gave trainer Neville Crump and jockey Arthur Thompson a second Grand National win, following Sheila's Cottage in 1948. There was a false start which delayed proceedings by 12 minutes. Ten of the 47 runners came down at the first fence and, following a dispute with the BBC over copyright, Mirabel Topham employed her own commentators for the radio broadcast. Listeners were told that Teal had departed at the first obstacle.

### 1953

Trainer Vincent O'Brien gained the first of three successive victories, courtesy of 20/1 chance Early Mist owned by Joe 'Mincemeat' Griffin who won £100,000 in bets. O'Brien - who subsequently saddled six Epsom Derby winners and is regarded by many as the greatest trainer ever - went on to score with Royal Tan in 1954 and Quare Times a year later. He passed away on June 1, 2009 at the age of 92. His victors were the 14th, 15th and 16th Irish-trained winners. The Mildmay Course, the brainchild of Mirabel Topham, held its first races. The course was named after Lord Mildmay, a fine amateur

jockey and great supporter of the Grand National. From 1953 to 1975, the Mildmay Course featured scaled-down versions of the Grand National fences which were subsequently replaced by conventional birch fences. All but three of the races run at the present-day Grand National Festival take place on the Mildmay Course.

### 1954

Joe Griffin also owned the second of O'Brien's three consecutive winners - 8/1 hope Royal Tan, ridden by Bryan Marshall who had partnered Early Mist the year before too. The construction of the motor racing circuit, which still circles the Grand National course, began. The circuit was another of Mrs Topham's innovations. It hosted a European Grand Prix and five British Grand Prix. Stirling Moss won his first Grand Prix there in 1955 and was also victorious in both 1957 and 1959. The 1961 British Grand Prix went to Wolfgang von Trips and Jim Clark took the final one to be staged at Aintree in 1962.

### 1955

Due to heavy rain, the water jump was omitted for the first time in the Grand National's history. Quare Times remarkably gave trainer Vincent O'Brien his third victory in as many years, with Pat Taaffe the winning jockey on the 100/9 chance in the 30-strong field.

### 1956

The race was remembered more for the defeat of Devon Loch than the success of the Fred Rimell-trained E.S.B. Owned by Her Majesty, The Queen Mother, Devon Loch had the race won when he inexplicably gave a half-leap just 50 yards from the finish, sprawling and unseating unfortunate jockey Dick Francis, who later became a famous thriller writer. Rimell went on train three more Grand National winners - Nicolaus Silver (1961), Gay Trip (1970) and Rag Trade (1976). He died on July 13, 1981 at the age of 68, while his widow Mercy, who took over training at Kinnersley in Worcestershire, passed away in July, 2017.

### 1957

The Grand National returned to a Friday temporarily in an attempt to reverse falling attendances. Sundew gave Fred Winter his first success as a jockey, with

Wyndburgh second, eight lengths adrift at the line.

### 1958

Sponsorship of the Grand National was received for the first time, with the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes putting up £5,000 towards the prize money, meaning the race was worth a record £13,719 to the winning owner. Mr What, an eight-year-old novice trained in Ireland by Tom Taaffe and ridden by Arthur Freeman, who put up 6lb overweight, relished the heavy ground and scored easily by 30 lengths from a mare Tiberetta, with favourite Wyndburgh fourth. Mr What was the 17th Irish-trained scorer and finished third in both the 1959 and 1962 renewals.

### 1959

Tim Brookshaw rode runner-up Wyndburgh without irons after a stirrup broke at Becher's on the second circuit - the 22nd of the 30 fences. The pair nearly won, finishing a length and a half behind Oxo, trained by Willie Stephenson and partnered by Michael Scudamore, father of multiple champion jockey Peter and grandfather of Tom (jockey) and Michael (trainer) Scudamore.

### 1960

The BBC televised the Grand National for the first time, 33 years after the initial radio coverage. Peter O'Sullivan, Clive Graham and Peter Bromley were the commentators. Neville Crump trained his third and final Grand National winner, 13/2 favourite Merryman II, ridden by Gerry Scott, who acted as the Grand National starter in 1996. Crump was successful for the first time with Sheila's Cottage in 1948 and Teal four years later.

### 1961

Nicolaus Silver, trained by Fred Rimell and partnered by Bobby Beasley, became the second grey to win the Grand National - The Lamb was the first when successful in both 1868 and 1871. Nicolaus Silver was also the second of Rimell's four Grand National winners, the first coming five years earlier through E.S.B. Two Russian horses took part, but neither Relief nor Grifel got around. Soft drinks firm Schweppes was involved in the sponsorship in both 1961 and 1962.

### 1962

Fred Winter enjoyed his second Grand National victory aboard the Ryan Price-trained Kilmore, following his success on Sundew five years earlier. Wyndburgh, the runner-up in 1957 and 1959, finished second for the third time, with 1958 victor Mr What third. It was the first time that 12-year-olds finished one, two and three. Scottish-trained Wyndburgh, ridden this time by Tommy Barnes, was having the last of six outings in the Grand National, coming fourth (1958), sixth (1961) and falling (1960) in his other three starts.

### 1963

Brewers Vaux became involved with the sponsorship of the Grand National and the race was run "for the Vaux Gold Tankard". Hollywood actor Gregory Peck came to Aintree to witness his Owen's Sedge finish seventh to 66/1 chance Ayala, trained by Keith Piggott (Lester's father), owned by hairdresser Pierre Raymond and ridden by 19-year-old Pat Buckley. Out of the 47 runners, 22 finished.

### 1964

Fulke Walwyn trained the Grand National winner, 28 years after partnering Reynoldstown to victory as an amateur, when saddling Team Spirit to score at the horse's fifth attempt. Winning American co-owner Ronald Woodward had been stationed at the racecourse during the Second World War.

### 1965

Fred Winter also achieved the rare distinction of both riding and training a Grand National winner when saddling Jay Trump, a dual Maryland Hunt Cup victor in America, in his first season as a trainer. Winter had partnered both Sundew in 1957 and Kilmore in 1962 as a rider and he trained another winner in 1966 with Anglo. Jay Trump was ridden by an American amateur, Tommy Smith. The second, Freddie, started the 7/2 favourite. It was announced that Aintree would be sold to a property developer, casting the future of the world's greatest chase into serious doubt.

### 1966

Paul McCartney celebrated at his local course after Drake's Drum, who had been bought by the Beatle for his father, won a six-furlong Flat race on Grand National day. A name change proved not to be unlucky for 50/1 hope

Anglo, who won the feature contest from 46 rivals, having previously raced as Flag Of Convenience in his early years. Freddie again started favourite, this time at 11/4, and finished runner-up for the second consecutive year. It was a second successive victory for Fred Winter as a trainer, while he also rode two Grand National winners. A Japanese starter, Fujino-O, caused much interest, but did not complete the race.

### 1967

Foinavon won sensationally in bizarre circumstances. At the smallest jump on the second circuit, the 23rd, the riderless Popham Down ran across the fence and caused a pile-up that almost brought the entire field to a standstill. John Buckingham, Foinavon's jockey and riding in the race for the first time, was able to steer his mount wide of the mêlée because they were way behind the leading group and he went on to win on the 100/1 outsider. The Aintree executive named the fence in honour of the winner who was the fourth of five horses to score at 100/1. Buckingham became a jockeys' valet when he stopped race riding in 1971 and his riders won 14 Grand Nationals in 30 years. He died on December 22, 2016. Red Rum ran at Aintree for the first time, dead-heating the day before the Grand National in a two-year-old five-furlong Flat race.

### 1968

Gregory Peck returned to see his Different Class finish third to runaway winner Red Alligator, partnered by Brian Fletcher who went on to enjoy two more Grand National victories on Red Rum, but another American stole the limelight. The 68-year-old "Gallop Grandad" Tim Durant remounted after Becher's on the second circuit to come home 15th. The Yale graduate, himself a former Hollywood actor, won £500 for charity and a case of champagne after completing the race on his third attempt. Red Alligator was trained in County Durham by Denys Smith, who passed away at the age of 92 on November 13, 2016.

### 1969

Former Olympic showjumper Eddie Harty took the winning ride on the Toby Balding-trained and North American-owned Highland Wedding after regular pilot Owen McNally broke his elbow in the build-up to



## FESTIVAL FACTS

initial running as the John Smith's Grand National and prize money increased by £100,000 to £700,000.

### 2006

Numbersixvalverde scored for County Kildare trainer Martin Brassil, the 23rd Irish winner. The winner was named after owner Bernard Carroll's holiday home in the Algarve. Niall 'Slippers' Madden, having his first Grand National mount, was the successful rider on the 10-year-old.

### 2007

33/1 chance Silver Birch followed Bobbyjo (1999), Papillon (2000), Monty's Pass (2003), Hedgehunter (2005) and Numbersixvalverde (2006) to become the sixth Irish-trained winner in nine runnings and the 24th in total. Trained by rookie trainer Gordon Elliott, 29, Silver Birch was bought out of Paul Nicholls' stable and freshened up by racing in cross country chases. There was a false start and a delay to the runners getting away. The fourth Philson Run started at 100/1. Two new grandstands, the Earl of Sefton and Lord Derby, were used for the first time at Aintree

### 2008

Comply Or Die gave David Pipe, son of record-breaking trainer Martin who sent out Miinnehoma to victory in 1994, success in the Grand National during only his second season. The David Johnson-owned nine-year-old, ridden by Timmy Murphy, was the first blinkered runner to win since Earth Summit in 1998. The race carried prize money of £800,000.

### 2009

Venetia Williams, who came down at Becher's first time around on her only ride in the race (1988), was the second woman to train a Grand National winner when Mon Mome, owned by Vida Bingham and ridden by Liam Treadwell (his first ride in the race), stormed to victory. Mon Mome became the most recent of five Grand National winners at the odds of 100/1. There were two false starts. Total prize money went up to £900,000.

### 2010

Don't Push It provided a first John Smith's Grand National victory for jockey A P McCoy, trainer Jonjo O'Neill and owner J P McManus. McCoy, having his 15th ride in the great race, had broken plenty of records, but winning the Grand National meant everything. Don't Push It's triumph led to the multiple champion jockey being voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Prize money was boosted to £925,000 and, for the first time, remounting was not allowed.

### 2011

The McCain family celebrated a fifth training success when Donald sent out Ballabriggs under Jason Maguire and gave owner Trevor Hemmings a second Grand National winner following on from Hedgehunter in 2005 as prize money rose to £950,000. It was an emotional time for proud Ginger McCain, successfully with Red Rum three times and Amberleigh House, who saw his 41-year-old son triumph as well. McCain senior passed away just over five months later; two days short of his 81st birthday. Amateur rider Sam Waley-Cohen came second on Oscar Time. State Of Play, trained by Evan Williams for William & Angela Rucker, finished in the frame for the third consecutive year when fourth. Bypassing of fences occurred for the first time, having been made possible in 2009.

### 2012

Champion Jump trainer Paul Nicholls gained his first success with Neptune Collonges in a thrilling finish under Daryl Jacob, the first grey to win since Nicolaus Silver in 1961 and the third in all. The nose verdict over Sunnyhillboy, partnered by Richie McLernon, was the closest winning margin in Grand National history. Amateur Katie Walsh, whose mount Seabass finished third, also created a Grand National landmark by becoming the highest-placed female rider. There were two false starts. Prize money rose to £975,000 and the minimum age for runners was raised to seven. It was the final Grand National to be run over four

and a half miles and last to be broadcast on BBC Television.

### 2013

Auroras Encore caused a 66/1 shock when prevailing in the hands of Ryan Mania, the first Scotsman to succeed in 117 years. The winner was trained in Yorkshire, the first to be so since Merryman II in 1960, by Sue Smith, who became the third female trainer to win the race following Jenny Pitman and Venetia Williams. Smith is assisted by her husband Harvey, the famous former showjumping champion. The distance of the Grand National was reduced to four miles, three and a half furlongs, as a shorter run to the first fence was introduced, and plastic frames were put into most of the fences. The total prize fund was again £975,000 and 2013 marked the final year of sponsorship by John Smith's. Terrestrial television coverage switched from the BBC to Channel 4 for the first time.

### 2014

Dr Richard Newland, a qualified GP as well as a trainer from a 12-box yard in Worcestershire, and owner John Provan enjoyed success with their first Grand National runner as Pineau De Re scored by five lengths at odds of 25/1. Winning jockey Leighton Aspell, who also celebrated a first Grand National success at the age of 37, retired from race-riding in 2007 only to change his mind 18 months later. There was a false start. Crabbie's, the UK's number one selling Alcoholic Ginger Beer, took over sponsorship of the Grand National, with the prize money raised to a record £1 million.

### 2015

Many Clouds became the first Hennessy Gold Cup (Newbury) winner to go on to victory in the Grand National when beating Saint Are by a length and three quarters. The Oliver Sherwood-trained eight-year-old carried 11st 9lb to victory - the highest weight since Red Rum was successful under 12st in 1974. Leighton Aspell was the first jockey to win the Grand National in consecutive years since Brian Fletcher on Red Rum in 1973 and 1974, and the first to do so on different horses since Bryan Marshall in 1953 and

1954. Trevor Hemmings joined a select group of four people to have owned three Grand National winners. Paul Moloney also registered a noteworthy feat as he was placed in the Grand National for a seventh consecutive year, this time finishing fourth on Alvarado.

### 2016

Rule The World, the 25th Irish-trained winner, remarkably gained his first victory over fences in the Grand National as he beat The Last Samuri by six lengths for the first running at the re-measured distance of four miles, two furlongs and 74 yards. The previous horse to succeed in the Grand National having not won a race over fences beforehand was Voluptuary in 1884, while the last novice chaser to score was Mr What in 1958. David Mullins celebrated his first Grand National ride with victory, while owner Michael O'Leary of Ryanair fame and trainer Mouse Morris also enjoyed initial Grand National success. 13-year-old Vics Canvas blundered badly at Becher's Brook first time around, but Robbie Dunne produced a miraculous recovery and the pair went on to finish third. Richard Johnson had his 20th ride in the race, equalling the record number set by Sir Tony McCoy in 2015, but was out of luck again as he pulled up Kruzhlilin - seconds on What's Up Boys (2002) and Balthazar King (2014) remain his best finishes. This was the final Grand National run under Crabbie's sponsorship and the last to be broadcast on Channel 4.

### 2017

Lucinda Russell became the fourth woman to train the winner of the Grand National following Jenny Pitman, Venetia Williams and Sue Smith as One For Arthur stayed on powerfully to beat Cause Of Causes by four and a half lengths. The winner became the second horse trained in Scotland to win the race, following Rubstic in 1979. Derek Fox continued the fine recent record of jockeys winning on their Grand National debut, emulating Ryan Mania (2013) and David Mullins (2016). Prize money remained at £1-million, with the great race televised on ITV for the first time in its history. There were two false starts.



# RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE

## (CLASS ONE) (GRADE THREE)- RACE CONDITIONS

### RUN

5.15pm, Saturday, April 14, 2018.

### DISTANCE

Four miles, two furlongs & 74 yards (re-measured ahead of the 2016 running according to a new British criteria) over the Grand National fences (30 jumped).

### PRIZE MONEY

Total prize fund of £1,000,000 (includes prizes down to 10th).

1st	£500,000
2nd	£200,000
3rd	£100,000
4th	£65,000
5th	£40,000
6th	£30,000
7th	£20,000
8th	£15,000
9th	£10,000
10th	£5,000

### MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RUNNERS

The race will be limited to 40 runners and four reserves.

### WEIGHT DETAILS

The top-weight is 11st 10lb and no penalties will be applied after the publication of the weights on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. The minimum weight is 10st.

### BREEDER

Randex will give a memento to the breeder of the winner and a memento, in conjunction with the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, to the breeder of the first British-bred horse to finish (British-bred being a horse who has been foaled in Great Britain and was sired by a horse standing in Great Britain at the time of covering).

### PARADE

There will be a parade before the race, unless the weather is too warm. Horses will be led in front of the stands before cantering to the start.

### RACE STAGES

- £1,100 stake to enter - closed at noon on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.
- Weights announced on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. No penalties after the publication of the weights.

- £1,100 extra if not scratched by noon, February 27, 2018
- £1,100 extra if not scratched by noon, March 20, 2018
- £1,700 extra if entry confirmed by noon on Monday, April 9, 2018
- Declarations to run must be made by 10am on Thursday, April 12, 2018

### AGE, SEX AND RATINGS

The Randex Health Grand National is for seven-year-olds and upwards who, have started in a chase during the current season and who, up to and including March 19, 2018 have been placed first, second, third or fourth in a chase with an official distance of 'two miles, seven and a half furlongs' or more and who are allotted a rating of 125 or more by the BHA Head of Handicapping Phil Smith following a review of the horses entered and after taking account of races run up to and including February 11, 2018.

Horses who are not qualified for a rating in Great Britain or Ireland at closing may also be entered. Such horses may be eligible for a weight providing the handicapper is satisfied that the horse's racecourse performances up to and

## FESTIVAL FACTS

including February 11, 2018 would merit a minimum rating of 125. To qualify, horses must have run at least three times in chases run under the Rules of Racing of the same Recognised Racing Authority up to and including February 11. At the handicapper's discretion, such horses may be allocated a rating. The decision of the BHA Head of Handicapping shall be final.

A novice horse shall only be qualified to run in this race if it has run a minimum of three times in chases in Great Britain, Ireland or France in accordance with Rule (F)42.5.

## RIDER QUALIFICATIONS

To be ridden by jockeys or amateur riders who, before April 12, 2018, have ridden not less than 15 winners in chases or hurdle races under the Rules of Racing and/or the Rules of the Irish National Hunt Steeple Chase Committee and ridden not less than 10 of these winners in chases.

## RIDERS

A mandatory briefing, which must be attended by all riders participating in the race, will take place in the Stewards' Room at noon on the raceday, Saturday, April 14, 2018.

## SPONSORSHIP DETAIL

Randox has generously sponsored this race and will present a memento to the winning owner, trainer and jockey. The stable employee in charge of the best turned-out horse will receive a cash prize of £300 and a memento.

All number cloths to be carried in this race have been sponsored and will carry the name/logo of RANDOX. The sponsorship payment of £500 will be distributed equally amongst all horses starting in this race in accordance with Rule (F)131 of the Rules of Racing.

## RUNNERS

Declarations to run for this race must be made by 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2018 and declarations of riders must be made by 1.00 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2018

## SPEED SENSING

All horses who start in this race, as defined in the Rules of Racing, shall be required to carry a speed sensing device in accordance with the provisions of Rule (C)43.4. This provision does not constitute any qualification for the purposes of Schedule (B)2.4.

## SUITABILITY

The British Horseracing Authority may exercise their powers under Rule (F)83.1.2 to refuse to allow a horse duly entered to run when they have reason to be concerned about the horse's suitability for the race. Any horse whose entry is confirmed under Rule (F)87 will not be permitted to run if it subsequently runs in any other race, including Point-to-Point races.

All runners must be presented to the BHA Veterinary Officers for a pre-race veterinary inspection and must pass the inspection. Any horse considered unfit to run will be withdrawn by order of the Stewards of the Meeting under Rule (B)6.1.

Horses may be presented for inspection on the day of racing as advised. Subject to the discretion of the Stewards, any horse which is not presented for a veterinary inspection by the time advised will not be permitted to run under Rule (B)6.1.

## BEST-SHOD HORSE

The Worshipful Company of Farriers will present a memento to the owner and farrier of the best-shod horse, the judging of which will take place during the pre-race veterinary inspection.

## ELIMINATIONS

This race will be restricted to 40 runners plus four reserves.

If elimination is necessary, the balloting of horses set to carry the same weight will be decided upon by using the horses' current handicap mark at the time of elimination. In the event of two or more horses on the same weight having an identical current handicap rating, their elimination sequence will be determined by random ballot.

## RESERVES

The four reserves will be nominated as R1, R2, R3 and R4. The trainers of horses in the list of five-day acceptors who are not among the 40 highest-weighted horses (i.e. within the safety factor) at the 48-hour declaration stage must indicate at that time whether they are prepared to be a reserve. In the event that the number of declared runners exceeds the safety factor, four reserves will be selected.

These horses will be the four horses with the highest handicap rating among those who are subject to elimination from the race after the 48-hour declaration stage and who indicate that they are prepared to stand as reserves. If the trainer does not make any indication and cannot be contacted, the horse will not stand as a reserve.

When the list of declarations is released, the reserves will not be allocated a saddlecloth number but will be listed as R1, R2, R3 and R4. They will take sequentially the number of any horse who becomes a non-runner, with reserves who gain a run placed in the position vacated by that non-runner. They will, therefore be listed in saddle cloth order and not in the order their weight allocation dictates.

Non-runners notified to the Racing Calendar Office in accordance with Rule (F) 97 and Schedule (F) 7 by 1pm on Friday, April 13, 2018, will be replaced by reserves. This means that 1pm on Friday, April 13, 2018, will be the only time when reserves can take a place in the runners' list.

## RAISING OF WEIGHTS AT THE 24-HOUR STAGE

Weights will be raised at 1pm on Friday, April 13, 2018, in the same manner as at the 48-hour declaration stage if there are any relevant non-runners.

Trainers are reminded of the provisions of Schedule F (7) which require that they must notify the Racing Calendar Office immediately when the decision has been made not to run. This will maximise the list of runners and determine whether the weights need to be raised.

## DECLARATION OF RIDERS

Declaration of riders for any reserves, who obtain a run in the Randox Health Grand National, will be required by 1.30pm on Friday, April 13, 2018. In addition, should the weights be raised at the 24-hour stage, revised declarations of riders will be accepted for all declared runners up until 1.30pm on Friday, April 13, 2018. The BHA will amend Rule (F) 45 and (F) 92 in the event that raising of the weights at the 24-hour stage proves necessary.

The BHA will modify the Rules of Racing as a consequence of providing four reserves for the Randox Health Grand National. The penalty referred to in Rule 144 (1) will be waived for any horse who is deemed a non-runner in the Randox Health Grand National by 1pm on Friday, April 13, 2018.

The entire stakes will also be reimbursed to any horse who is eliminated or is a reserve but subsequently fails to obtain a run. Aintree will reimburse reasonable expenses to cover the cost of horse transport of any horse selected as a reserve who does not ultimately run. In the case of an overnight stay at Aintree Racecourse, stable staff will be accommodated in the racecourse hostel.

# TRAINERS & JOCKEYS AT THE RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL FESTIVAL



## LEADING TRAINERS

### Colin Tizzard took the honours for leading trainer at the 2017 Randox Health Grand National with a great haul of five winners.

Out of luck on the first day, Tizzard saddled a remarkable 4,334/1 treble on Ladies Day, which included two G1 victories, with Pingshou taking the Betway Top Novices' Hurdle and Fox Norton landing the JLT Melling Chase.

His third winner of the day came over the Grand National fences in the Randox Health Topham Handicap Chase, when Ultragold belied his 50/1 starting price to take the glory under Harry Cobden (above).

On Grand National Day, there was further G1 rewards for Tizzard as Finian's Oscar came out on top in the Betway Mersey Novices' Hurdle. His fifth winner of the meeting came when Sizing Codelco landed the Listed Betway Handicap Chase. The trainer, based on the Dorset/Somerset border, took the Randox Health Grand National Festival title for the first time.

Nicky Henderson, the top trainer at Aintree for the 2014, 2013 and 2012 Grand National Festivals, did not leave empty-handed in 2017. His three winners were headed by Buveur D'Air, who added his Champion Hurdle success by capturing the G1 Betway Aintree Hurdle. My Tent Or Yours, also trained by Henderson, was runner-up to his stable companion in both the Champion Hurdle and Betway Aintree Hurdle.

Might Bite followed up on his Cheltenham success in the RSA Chase by winning the G1 Betway Mildmay Novices' Chase. Stable companion Whisper finished second in both contests. The third winner for the master of Seven Barrows at Aintree came when Rather Be won the G3 Alder Hey Children's Charity Handicap Hurdle, the opening race on Ladies Day.

Malcolm Jefferson, third last year, died on February 2 at age of 71 after a long illness.

	1ST	2ND	3RD	
<b>LEADING TRAINERS</b>				
2017	Colin Tizzard	5	1	-
	Nicky Henderson	3	5	1
	Malcolm Jefferson	1	2	-
2016	Willie Mullins IRE	6	6	3
	Colin Tizzard	3	-	1
	Nicky Henderson	2	2	-
2015	Paul Nicholls	3	3	2
	Nicky Henderson	3	3	1
	Gordon Elliott IRE	3	-	1
2014	Nicky Henderson	4	1	1
	Alan King	3	1	1
	Paul Nicholls	2	2	2
	Nigel Twiston-Davies	2	2	-
2013	Nicky Henderson	5	3	-
	Kevin Bishop	2	-	-
	Colin Tizzard	1	2	-
	Paul Nicholls	1	2	3
2012	Nicky Henderson	6	4	1
	Paul Nicholls	4	2	6
	Alan King	2	1	-
	Malcolm Jefferson	2	-	-
2011	Paul Nicholls	3	2	2
	Nicky Henderson	3	1	-
	Gordon Elliott IRE	2	-	-
	Howard Johnson	2	-	-
2010	Jonjo O'Neill	3	1	1
	Paul Nicholls	3	-	5
	Nicky Henderson	3	-	1
	Peter Bowen	2	1	-
2009	Alan King	3	1	-
	Jonjo O'Neill	2	1	1
	Paul Nicholls	1	3	1
	John Kieley IRE	1	1	-
	David Pipe	1	1	-
	Venetia Williams	1	1	-
2008	Paul Nicholls	5	4	1
	Nicky Henderson	3	-	-
	David Pipe	2	2	1
	Alan King	2	1	2
2007	Jonjo O'Neill	3	3	1
	John Quinn	2	-	-
	Paul Nicholls	1	2	1
	Peter Bowen	1	2	-
2006	Philip Hobbs	2	2	1
	Paul Nicholls	2	-	4
	Jonjo O'Neill	2	-	1
	Alan King	1	5	1
2005	Nicky Richards	3	-	-
	Paul Nicholls	1	2	2
	Howard Johnson	1	2	1
	Alan King	1	2	1
2004	Martin Pipe*	2	1	3
	Jonjo O'Neill	2	2	-
	Paul Nicholls	1	3	3
	Nicky Henderson	1	1	1
	Sue Smith	1	-	2
2003	Jonjo O'Neill	4	2	-
	Martin Pipe	2	4	4
	Paul Nicholls	2	1	2
	Henrietta Knight	1	-	1
	Venetia Williams	1	-	1
2002	Jonjo O'Neill	4	1	-
	Martin Pipe	3	6	3
	Willie Mullins IRE	2	-	1
	Paul Nicholls	2	-	1
	Philip Hobbs	1	2	-
2001	Philip Hobbs	3	-	1
	Francois Doumen FR	2	-	-
	Tim Easterby	2	-	1
	Len Lingo	2	-	-
	Norman Mason	2	-	-
2000	Philip Hobbs	3	-	3
	Martin Pipe	1	3	2
	Nigel Twiston-Davies	1	2	1
	Pat Hughes IRE	1	1	-
	Norman Mason	1	-	1

\*won on prize money earned



## LEADING JOCKEYS

Robbie Power gained the leading jockey title at the 2017 Randox Health Grand National Festival with four victories.

The Irishman, who won the 2007 Grand National on Silver Birch, was appointed retained jockey by owners Alan and Ann Potts last season and landed the Timico Cheltenham Gold Cup for the duo, who both sadly died later in 2017, aboard Sizing John.

Power's fine run of form for his patrons continued at Aintree. He enjoyed an 84/1 G1 double on Ladies Day, courtesy of Pingshou (above) in the Betway Top Novices' Hurdle and Fox Norton in the JLT Melling Chase.

On Grand National Day, Power was on the mark again with a 43/1 double on more Potts-owned horses - Finian's Oscar in the Betway Mersey Novices' Hurdle and Sizing Codelco in the Listed Betway Handicap Chase.

Barry Geraghty (the leading jockey in 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014) enjoyed a G1 treble in hurdle contests on horses owned by his retaining owner J P McManus - Buveur D'Air in the Betway Aintree Hurdle, Yanworth in the Ryanair Stayers' Hurdle and Defi Du Seuil in the Doom Bar Anniversary 4-Y-O Juvenile Hurdle.

		1ST	2ND	3RD
<b>LEADING JOCKEYS</b>				
2017	Robbie Power	4	1	-
	Barry Geraghty	3	3	-
	Brian Hughes	1	3	-
2016	Paul Townend	2	2	1
	David Mullins	2	1	-
	Paddy Brennan	2	-	-
	Barry Geraghty	1	3	1
2015	A P (Tony) McCoy	2	2	2
	Sam Twiston-Davies	2	2	1
	Ruby Walsh	2	-	2
	Brian Hughes	2	-	-
2014	Barry Geraghty	4	3	-
	Tony McCoy	3	3	5
	Sam Twiston-Davies	2	2	2
	Wayne Hutchinson	2	-	-
2013	Barry Geraghty	3	3	-
	Tony McCoy	2	4	1
	Bryan Cooper	2	-	2
	Brendan Powell	2	-	-
2012	Barry Geraghty	4	3	-
	Ruby Walsh	3	1	2
	Robert Thornton	2	1	-
2011	Barry Geraghty	4	-	-
	Ruby Walsh	3	2	1
	Daryl Jacob	2	-	2
	Paul Carberry	2	-	-
	Paul Gallagher	2	-	-
	Richard Johnson	2	-	-
2010	Tony McCoy	3	1	2
	Barry Geraghty	3	1	1
	Ruby Walsh	3	-	3
	Richard Johnson	1	3	2
2009	Robert Thornton	3	1	1
	Ruby Walsh	2	3	1
	Tony McCoy	2	1	3
	Paddy Brennan	2	-	1
2008	Ruby Walsh	5	4	1
	Timmy Murphy	3	-	-
	Robert Thornton	2	-	1
	Andrew Tinkler	2	-	-
2007	Tony McCoy	3	3	1
	Tony Dobbin	2	1	1
	Noel Fehily	2	-	-
	Ruby Walsh	1	2	1
2006	Tony McCoy	4	1	2
	Ruby Walsh	3	1	2
	Richard Johnson	2	2	-
	Mr Sam Waley-Cohen	2	-	-
2005	Tony McCoy	3	4	-
	Ruby Walsh	3	1	1
	Tony Dobbin	3	1	-
	Timmy Murphy	1	3	1
2004	Graham Lee	2	1	1
	Tony McCoy	2	1	1
	Barry Geraghty	2	-	-
	Jim Culloty	1	1	2
2003	Ruby Walsh	4	1	2
	Tony McCoy	2	3	2
	Barry Geraghty	2	2	-
	Tony Dobbin	2	-	-
2002	Richard Johnson	2	2	-
	Ruby Walsh	2	-	2
	Tony Dobbin	2	-	1
	Liam Cooper	2	-	-
	Tony McCoy	1	4	2
2001	Adrian Maguire	2	1	2
	Russ Garrity	2	1	1
	Tony Dobbin	2	1	-
	Richard Guest	2	1	-
	Richard Johnson	2	1	-
	Thierry Doumen	2	-	-
2000	Norman Williamson	2	2	2
	Richard Johnson	2	-	4
	Tony McCoy	1	3	2
	Carl Llewellyn	1	2	1

\* decided on places

		WINS
<b>LEADING RIDERS</b>		
2017	Robbie Power	4
2016	Paul Townend	2*
2015	A P (Tony) McCoy	2*
2014	Barry Geraghty	4
2013	Barry Geraghty	3
2012	Barry Geraghty	4
2011	Barry Geraghty	4
2010	Tony McCoy	3*
2009	Robert Thornton	3
2008	Ruby Walsh	5
2007	Tony McCoy	3
2006	Tony McCoy	4
2005	Tony McCoy	3*
2004	Graham Lee	2*
2003	Ruby Walsh	4
2002	Richard Johnson	2*
2001	Adrian Maguire	2*
2000	Norman Williamson	2*
1999	Tony McCoy	2*
1998	Tony McCoy	5
1997	Richard Dunwoody	4
1996	Tony McCoy	3*
1995	Jamie Osborne	2*
1994	Adrian Maguire	3*
1993	Graham Bradley	2*
1992	Richard Dunwoody	4
1991	Graham McCourt	2*
1990	Mark Pitman	3
1989	Jimmy Frost	2*
1988	Richard Dunwoody	2*
1987	Michael Bowlby	3
1986	Richard Dunwoody	3
1985	Steve Smith Eccles	2
1984	Tony Mullins	2*



FOR KNOWSLEY.  
FOR LIVERPOOL.  
FOR SEFTON.  
FOR ST HELENS.  
FOR WIRRAL.  
FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF MERSEYSIDE.

STAND WITH US #STANDTALL

For over 130 years, we've served to keep your communities safe. But to continue to do so, we need your help.

To find out how you can support us, including corporate sponsorship, visit: [merseysidepolicemounted.uk](http://merseysidepolicemounted.uk)





PAST RESULTS

YEAR	HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER	AGE/WEIGHT	JOCKEY	SP
<b>4.05PM, RANDOX HEALTH FOXHUNTERS' CHASE, GNC, 2M 5F, £45,000</b>						
1998	Cavalero	John Manners	John Manners	09-12-00	Mr Alex Charles-Jones	33/1
1999	Elegant Lord	J P McManus	Enda Bolger IRE	11-12-00	Mr Philip Fenton	7/4F
2000	Bells Life	Robert Gibbs	Philip Hobbs	11-12-00	Mr David O'Meara	11/2
2001	Gunner Welburn	William Ritson	Caroline Bailey	09-12-00	Mr Julian Prichard	4/1JF
2002	Torduff Express	Two Plus Two	Paul Nicholls	11-12-00	Miss Polly Gundry	8/1
2003	Divet Hill	Ian Hamilton	Ann Hamilton	09-12-00	Mr Dale Jewett	11/2
2004	Forest Gunner	John Gilsenan	Richard Ford	10-12-00	Mrs Carrie Ford	13/2
2005	Katarino	Robert Waley-Cohen	Robert Waley-Cohen	10-12-00	Mr Sam Waley-Cohen	100/30F
2006	Katarino	Robert Waley-Cohen	Robert Waley-Cohen	11-12-00	Mr Sam Waley-Cohen	11/2
2007	Scots Grey	Henry Ponsonby	Nicky Henderson	12-12-00	Mr Richard Burton	9/2
2008	Christy Beamish	Michael Mann	Paul Jones	11-12-00	Mr Josh Guerriero	6/1
2009	Trust Fund	Lord Daresbury	Richard Barber	11-12-00	Mr Tom Greenall	13/2
2010	Silver Adonis	C Sedman & R Corsan	Dr Richard Newland	09-12-00	Mr Tom Weston	50/1
2011	Baby Run	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Nigel Twiston-Davies	11-12-00	Mr Willy Twiston-Davies	3/1F
2012	Cloudy Lane	Trevor Hemmings	Donald McCain	12-12-00	Mr Richard Harding	4/1JF
2013	Tartan Snow	Rory Westwood	Stuart Coltherd	13-12-00	Mr Jamie Hamilton	100/1
2014	Warne	Robert Waley-Cohen	Brian Hamilton IRE	10-12-00	Mr Sam Waley-Cohen	7/2
2015	On The Fringe	Charlie Fenwick M Hankin & C Noell	Enda Bolger IRE	10-12-00	Ms Nina Carberry	5/2F
2016	On The Fringe	J P McManus	Enda Bolger IRE	11-12-00	Mr Jamie Codd	15/8F
2017	Dineur	Gwilym Morris	Mickey Bowen	11-12-00	Mr James King	16/1

YEAR	HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER	AGE/WEIGHT	JOCKEY	SP
<b>4.40PM, RED RUM HANDICAP CHASE (GRADE 3), MC, 2M, £90,000</b>						
1977	Skymas	Matthew Magee	Brian Lusk	12-12-00	Mouse Morris	5/1
1978	Even Melody	Simon Lycett Green	Neville Crump	09-11-06	Colin Hawkins	11/1
1979	Funny Baby	Lt-Col R Martin	George Fairbairn	08-10-07	Ridley Lamb	9/1
1980	Drumgora	D Monahan	Arthur Moore IRE	08-10-07	Tommy McGivern	8/1
1981	Western Rose	R Padmore	Fred Rimell	09-10-07	Sam Morshead	8/1
1982	Little Bay	Adair Catherwood	Gordon Richards	07-10-07	Jonjo O'Neill	14/1
1983	Artifice	Paul Barber	John Thorne	12-11-00	Peter Scudamore	9/1
1984	Little Bay	Adair Catherwood	Gordon Richards	09-11-07	John Francome	11/4F
1985	Kathies Lad	J E Clayton	Alan Jarvis	08-11-07	Steve Smith Eccles	6/5F
1987	Sea Merchant	T McDonagh	Arthur Stephenson	10-10-07	Ridley Lamb	9/1
1988	Prideaux Boy	Graham Roach	Graham Roach	10-10-07	Allen Webb	25/1
1989	Feroda	N McCarthy	Arthur Moore IRE	08-10-07	Tom Taaffe	9/1
1990	Nobalmdun	Ulceby Farms Ltd	Peter Easterby	09-10-07	Lorcan Wyr	11/1
1991	Blitzkreig	J P McManus	Eduard O'Grady IRE	08-10-13	Tommy Carmody	4/1F
1992	Katabatic	Pell-Mell Partners	Andrew Turnell	09-12-00	Simon McNeill	6/5F
1993	Boutzdaroff	Robinson's Publications	Jimmy FitzGerald	11-10-07	Mark Dwyer	9/1
1994	Uncle Ernie	Jimmy FitzGerald	Jimmy FitzGerald	09-10-08	Mark Dwyer	3/1
1995	Coulton	Martin St Quinton	Oliver Sherwood	08-11-08	Jamie Osborne	6/1
1996	Arctic Kinsman	Rosie Hambro	Nigel Twiston-Davies	08-11-00	Carl Llewellyn	13/2
1997	Down The Fell	Sue Johnson	Howard Johnson	08-10-07	Norman Williamson	20/1
1998	Jeffell	Thomas Bailey	Arthur Moore IRE	08-12-00	Conor O'Dwyer	3/1
1999	Flying Instructor	Diana Webber	Paul Webber	09-11-05	Jimmy McCarthy	11/2
2000	Jungli	Mrs P Starkey	Paul Webber	07-10-07	Jimmy McCarthy	12/1
2001	Aghawadda Gold	The Ivy Syndicate	Tom Tate	09-11-02	Russ Garrity	12/1
2002	Dark 'n' Sharp	Ascot Five Plus One	Richard Phillips	07-10-08	Richard Johnson	5/1F
2003	Golden Alpha	David Johnson	Martin Pipe	09-10-13	Tony McCoy	7/1
2004	Tidour	Mrs M Fisher	Paul Webber	08-10-11	Tom Doyle	5/1 F
2005	Fota Island	J P McManus	Mouse Morris IRE	09-11-10	Tony McCoy	100/30F
2006	Jacks Craic	BBB Computer Services	John Spearing	07-10-02	Antony Evans	10/1
2007	Bambi de L'Orme	Mr & Mrs John Poynton	Ian Williams	08-10-02	Dominic Elsworth	13/2
2008	Sian	Paul Beck	Venetia Williams	09-09-09	Aidan Coleman	25/1
2009	Oh Crick	David Sewell	Alan King	06-11-01	Robert Thornton	7/1CF
2010	Chaninbar	John Watts, Caroline Thompson, John Naylor	Milton Harris	07-10-08	Sean Quinlan	20/1
2011	Silk Drum	Andrew & Graham Wylie	Howard Johnson	06-9-09	Paul Gallagher	14/1
2012	Edgardo Sol	Axom XXXII	Paul Nicholls	05-11-00	Ruby Walsh	9/2F
2013	Oiseau De Nuit	Terry Warner	Colin Tizzard	11-11-08	Brendan Powell	20/1
2014	Parsnip Pete	The Parsnips	Tom George	08-10-10	Paddy Brennan	16/1
2015	Surf And Turf	Kevin Frost	Kevin Frost	09-10-05	Brian Hughes	33/1
2016	Katachenko	Trevor Hemmings	Donald McCain	07-10-10	Wayne Hutchinson	9/1
2017	Double W's	Wharton & Wilson	Malcolm Jefferson	07-11-01	Brian Hughes	8/1

YEAR	HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER	AGE/WEIGHT	JOCKEY	SP
<b>5.15PM, GOFFS NICKEL COIN MARES' SO NH FLAT (GRADE 2), FL, 2M 1F, £45,000</b>						
2005	Senorita Rumbalita	Let's Get Ready To Rumble	Alan King	04-10-12	Robert Thornton	9/2
2006	Rhacophorus	Bill Bromley	Chris Down	05-11-04	Ruby Walsh	7/1
2007	Turbo Linn	James Nelson	Alan Swinbank	04-11-04	Tony Dobbin	5/2F
2008	Carole's Legacy	Carole Skipworth & Paul Murphy	Nicky Henderson	04-10-12	Andrew Tinkler	25/1
2009	Candy Creek	Edmond Kent	John Kiely IRE	05-11-04	Ruby Walsh	9/2
2010	Big Time Billy	Miss R L Bryan	Peter Bowen	04-10-05	Mr Michael Byrne	28/1
2011	Tempest River	Fly Like The Wind Partnership	Ben Case	05-11-00	Daryl Jacob	20/1
2012	Eleven Fifty Nine	M Rowe & B Wright	Anthony Honeyball	06-11-01	Rachael Green	6/1
2013	Legacy Gold	Chris Johnson	Stuart Crawford IRE	05-11-01	Mr Steven Crawford	9/1
2014	Avispa	The Wasp Partnership	Alan King	05-11-00	Robert Thornton	25/1
2015	Hollies Pearl	Roy Swinburne	Peter Bowen	05-10-11	Sean Bowen	8/1
2016	Kayf Grace	James & Jean Potter	Nicky Henderson	06-11-00	Nico de Boinville	14/1
2017	Dame Rose	Carl Hinchy	Richard Hobson	04-10-08	Alain Cawley	14/1

THE JOCKEY CLUB  
Since 1750

# THE WORLD IS WATCHING

RANDOX HEALTH  
LADIES DAY  
GRAND NATIONAL

RACE ON

13 APRIL SEE YOU THERE









## FENCE 16 THE WATER JUMP

2FT 6IN FENCE; 12FT  
6IN SPREAD

Situated in front of the stands, the Water Jump is the only fence on the Grand National course to be less than 4ft 6in high and has water after it. Very few horses have fallen here and the fence is perceived by jockeys as the easiest obstacle to negotiate, though four horses fell down in 1968 including the previous year's winner Foinavon. Waterlogging meant that the fence had to be omitted for the first and only time in 1955.

## FENCE 15 THE CHAIR

OPEN DITCH - 5FT 2IN  
FENCE; 11FT SPREAD

One of only two fences to be jumped only once, alongside the Water Jump, the Chair is the biggest fence on the National course at 5ft 2in, with a ditch before. The obstacle was named after a chair which was situated next to the fence, from where a judge used to see if any horses had been beaten by a distance.

## FENCE 9 & 25 VALENTINE'S

5FT FENCE; 5F 6IN ON  
LANDING SIDE

Regarded as the lesser of the two brook fences on the Grand National course and not as tricky as Becher's, Valentine's still requires a good jump from a horse, especially as it is situated after the Canal Turn. The fence is named after Valentine, who attempted to pull himself up at the obstacle in 1840, only to pirouette over the fence and brook before going on to finish third behind Jerry and Arthur.



## FENCE 6 & 22 BECHER'S BROOK 4FT 10IN FENCE; UP TO 5FT 8IN ON LANDING SIDE

The most famous fence in the world, Becher's Brook is named after Captain Martin Becher, the rider who came off Conrad into the brook in the first Grand National of 1839. He is meant to have remarked later that water should not be ingested without brandy or whisky depending on whose account you read. The famous drop (the difference in height between the level of the ground on take-off and landing sides) was reduced after the 2011 Grand National to between 10in (inner) and 6in (outer). Nine horses fell, refused or were brought down on the first circuit in 2004, while 20-time champion jump jockey Tony McCoy, who won the Grand National for the first time in 2010, was six lengths clear on the well-fancied Clan Royal in 2005, when carried out by two loose horses before Becher's on the second circuit.

## FENCE 7 & 23 FOINAVON 4FT 6IN FENCE

This is the joint-smallest standard Grand National fence. Foinavon became part of Aintree folklore in 1967 when the riderless Popham Down veered across the whole field approaching it on the second circuit, bringing down or halting virtually all the remaining runners from the 44 starters. Jockey John Buckingham was able to steer backmarker Foinavon around the pile-up and jump the fence. The pair went on to record a 100/1 surprise, winning by 15 lengths.

## FENCE 8 & 24 CANAL TURN 5FT FENCE

Visually one of the most impressive sights in the Grand National, the 90-degree turn after the Canal Turn can cause jockeys a host of problems, especially if there are loose horses. Situated where the racecourse meets the Leeds-Liverpool canal, the obstacle has been the downfall of plenty, most notably in 2001 when the riderless Paddy's Return forced 10 horses out of the race.

All fences over the Grand National course can be bypassed, as indicated on the course map. Bypassing also provides a run-out for loose horses and discourages them from jumping further fences when loose. This is further complemented by catching pens for loose horses at the fourth fence, the Canal Turn and the 12th fence. If a fence is to be bypassed, course staff will place markers in the fence which is to be omitted. Bypassing of fences is a very important welfare measure which allows veterinary and medical personnel to make a diagnosis or treatment in safety and further protects participants still running in the race.