



# UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE

MEDIA PACK

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THE JOCKEY CLUB  
CHELTENHAM



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# EPATANTE AMONG 36 ENTRIES FOR UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE

Ante-post favourite Epatante is one of 36 entries for the G1 Unibet Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham on Tuesday, 10 March, details of which are revealed today.

The two-mile hurdling championship is the highlight on day one of The Festival™ presented by Magners and has a total prize fund of at least £450,000.

**Epatante**, the 3/1 market leader with Unibet, started her campaign with a smooth success in a limited handicap hurdle at Newbury in November and followed that up with an impressive victory in the G1 Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

Her trainer Nicky Henderson is the most successful handler in Unibet Champion Hurdle history with seven wins, while her owner J P McManus has won the race a record eight times.

If successful on 10 March, Epatante would become the fifth mare to claim Unibet Champion Hurdle honours, after Annie Power (2016), Flakey Dove (1994), Dawn Run (1984) and African Sister (1939).

Henderson's quintet of entries also features another G1-winning mare in **Verdana Blue, Pentland Hills**, the winner of last season's G1 JCB Triumph Hurdle at The Festival, and G2 Unibet International Hurdle victor **Call Me Lord**.

**Silver Streak** finished third in the 2019 Unibet Champion Hurdle and has continued in fine form this season. After readily landing a Listed hurdle at Kempton Park in October, the seven-year-old finished third behind **Cornerstone Lad** (Micky Hammond) in the G1 Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle on 30 November and then chased home Epatante at Kempton Park, when the five-length runner-up.

Trainer Evan Williams said: "Silver Streak is in good order and the Unibet Champion Hurdle is the target.

"It is likely that he will go straight there, though the Kingwell at Wincanton [15 February] is a possibility beforehand.

"He ran really well in the Christmas Hurdle and keeps running with credit in these big two-mile hurdles.

"With a bit of luck, hopefully he could be placed in the Champion Hurdle again."

Willie Mullins, who has captured the Unibet Champion Hurdle four times since 2011, accounts for four of the 16 Irish-trained contenders. His team includes the Susannah Ricci-owned pair of **Saldier** and **Sharjah**, who have both landed G1 contests in Ireland this season, plus the 2019 G1 Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle victor **Klassical Dream**.

There are four novices among the entries, with two of them hailing from the stable of Gordon Elliott – G1 Sky Supreme Novices' Hurdle favourite **Abacadabras** and last year's G1 Weatherbys Champion Bumper hero **Envoi Allen**. Royal Gait in 1992 is the most recent novice to win the Unibet Champion Hurdle.

Ireland's hand is strengthened further by unbeaten mare **Honeysuckle** (Henry de Bromhead), who secured the second G1 of her career in the Hatton's Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse on her latest start in December.

Other unexposed entries include progressive handicapper **Not So Sleepy** (Hughie Morrison), who bolted up in the G3 Betfair Exchange Trophy at Ascot in December, and recent Sandown Park runner-up **Eldorado Allen** (Colin Tizzard).

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### **Unibet Champion Hurdle – Unibet prices:**

3/1 Epatante, 7/1 Saldier, 8/1 Pentland Hills, 9/1 Sharjah, 10/1 Honeysuckle, Klassical Dream, 12/1 Envoi Allen, 16/1 Call Me Lord, 25/1 Abacadabras, Coeur Sublime, Fusil Raffles, Not So Sleepy, Silver Streak, 33/1 Thomas Darby, Verdana Blue, 40/1 Apple's Jade, Ballyandy, Cornerstone Lad, Darasso, Petit Mouchoir, 50/1 Eldorado Allen, Samcro, 66/1 Felix Desjy, Quick Grabim, Thebannerkingrebel, 100/1 Aramon, Darver Star, Elgin, Gumball, Le Patriote, Mengli Khan, Monsieur Lecoq, Pacify, Mohaayed, Nelson River

### **Cheltenham Racecourse**

Cheltenham Racecourse is situated in Prestbury on the northern outskirts of the historic spa town of Cheltenham. The Home of Jump Racing, Cheltenham Racecourse is the venue for the world's pre-eminent Jump meeting. The Festival™ presented by Magners, which happens in March over four days every year, next takes place from Tuesday, 10 March, to Friday, 13 March, 2020 inclusive and tickets are on sale. Set against the beautiful backdrop of the Cotswolds, Cheltenham Racecourse is a stunning natural arena and offers the highest-quality action throughout the Jump season.

More information is available at [www.cheltenham.co.uk](http://www.cheltenham.co.uk) and through:

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Cheltenham is part of The Jockey Club which stages thrilling sporting occasions including The Randox Health Grand National, The Festival™ presented by Magners and The Investec Derby. Millions of people every year enjoy the special experiences The Jockey Club offers through racing, music, food and entertainment. Governed by Royal Charter, every penny made goes back into British Racing to help the sport thrive. The Jockey Club was founded in 1750 and today is the largest commercial group in Britain's second-biggest spectator sport, operating 15 racecourses nationwide, The National Stud, Jockey Club Estates, Jockey Club Catering, Jockey Club Live and the charity, Racing Welfare. For more information, visit [www.thejockeyclub.co.uk](http://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk)

**If you need any information about racing at Cheltenham, please contact: Sarah Jane Muirie, Communications Manager - Jockey Club Racecourses South West 01242537683 [SarahJane.Muirie@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:SarahJane.Muirie@thejockeyclub.co.uk)**

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# ENTRY STATISTICS

## Number of Entries Unibet Champion Hurdle

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
36	27	23	28	19	23	18	34	27	31	34	34
2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
38	28	35	35	48	44	40	47	33	41	44	50

## Irish-trained Entries Unibet Champion Hurdle

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
16	12	11	13	5	12	6	10	11	7	21	15
2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
19	17	13	12	13	12	12	11	7	6	10	14

## Breakdown of Entries by Trainer

### 7 entries

Gordon Elliott IRE - **Abacadabras, Apple's Jade, Coeur Sublime, Envoi Allen, Felix Desjy, Mengli Khan, Samcro**

### 5 entries

Nicky Henderson - **Call Me Lord, Epatante, Fusil Raffles, Pentland Hills, Verdana Blue**

### 4 entries

Willie Mullins IRE - **Aramon, Klassical Dream, Saldier, Sharjah**

### 2 entries

Henry de Bromhead IRE - **Honeysuckle, Petit Mouchoir**

Jamie Snowden - **Pacify, Thebannerkingrebel**

### 1 entry

Tony Carroll - **Nelson River**

Gavin Cromwell IRE - **Darver Star**

Micky Hammond - **Cornerstone Lad**

Jessica Harrington IRE - **Supasundae**

Philip Hobbs - **Gumball**

Alan King - **Elgin**

Hughie Morrison - **Not So Sleepy**

Olly Murphy - **Thomas Darby**

Dr Richard Newland - **Le Patriote**

Fergal O'Brien - **Quick Grabim**

Joseph O'Brien IRE - **Darasso**

Dan Skelton - **Mohaayed**

Colin Tizzard - **Eldorado Allen**

Nigel Twiston-Davies - **Ballyandy**

Evan Williams - **Silver Streak**

Jane Williams - **Monsieur Lecoq**

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# THE UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE

Grade 1, £450,000 Total Prize Fund. Cheltenham, 3.30pm, Tuesday, March 10, two miles and half a furlong (2m 87y). For four-year-olds and upwards who are allotted a rating of 130 or more by the senior BHA Head of Handicapping following a review of the horses entered and taking account of races run up to and including the day prior to confirmation - horses who are not qualified for a rating in GB, IRE or FR may also be entered (such horses may be eligible providing the Handicapper is satisfied that the horse's racecourse performances up to and including the day prior to confirmation would merit a minimum rating of 130 - the decision of the BHA Head of Handicapping shall be final). Weights: 4yo: 11st 2lb; 5yo+: 11st 10lb; fillies & mares allowed 7lb. Entries closed January 14 (36 entries). Scratchings deadline February 11, £22,500 supplementary stage & six-day confirmation stage March 4, final declaration 10.00am, March 8, maximum number of runners 26.

Horse	Age	Owner	Trainer
<b>Abacadabras (FR)</b>	6	Gigginstown House Stud	Gordon Elliott IRE
<b>Apple's Jade (FR)</b>	8	Gigginstown House Stud	Gordon Elliott IRE
<b>Aramon (GER)</b>	7	Aramon Syndicate	Willie Mullins IRE
<b>Ballyandy</b>	9	Options O Syndicate	Nigel Twiston-Davies
<b>Call Me Lord (FR)</b>	7	Simon Munir & Isaac Souede	Nicky Henderson
<b>Coeur Sublime (IRE)</b>	5	Chris Jones	Gordon Elliott IRE
<b>Cornerstone Lad</b>	6	Mrs B M Lofthouse	Micky Hammond
<b>Darasso (FR)</b>	7	J P McManus	Joseph O'Brien IRE
<b>Darver Star (IRE)</b>	8	SSP Number Twenty Two Syndicate	Gavin Cromwell IRE
<b>Eldorado Allen (FR)</b>	6	J P Romans & Terry Warner	Colin Tizzard
<b>Elgin</b>	8	Elite Racing Club	Alan King
<b>Envoi Allen (FR)</b>	6	Cheveley Park Stud	Gordon Elliott IRE
<b>Epatante (FR)</b>	6	J P McManus	Nicky Henderson
<b>Felix Desjy (FR)</b>	7	Gigginstown House Stud	Gordon Elliott IRE
<b>Fusil Raffles (FR)</b>	5	Simon Munir & Isaac Souede	Nicky Henderson
<b>Gumball (FR)</b>	6	Terry Warner	Philip Hobbs
<b>Honeysuckle</b>	6	K Alexander	Henry de Bromhead IRE
<b>Klassical Dream (FR)</b>	6	Mrs J Coleman	Willie Mullins IRE
<b>Le Patriote (FR)</b>	8	Canard Vert Racing Club	Dr Richard Newland
<b>Mengli Khan (IRE)</b>	7	Gigginstown House Stud	Gordon Elliott IRE
<b>Mohaayed</b>	8	June Watts	Dan Skelton
<b>Monsieur Lecoq (FR)</b>	6	Jane Williams	Jane Williams
<b>Nelson River</b>	5	CCCP Syndicate	Tony Carroll
<b>Not So Sleepy</b>	8	Lady Blyth	Hughie Morrison
<b>Pacify</b>	8	The Duchess Of Cornwall & Chips Keswick	Jamie Snowden
<b>Pentland Hills (IRE)</b>	5	Owners Group 031	Nicky Henderson
<b>Petit Mouchoir (FR)</b>	9	Gigginstown House Stud	Henry de Bromhead IRE
<b>Quick Grabim (IRE)</b>	8	Mrs G S Worcester	Fergal O'Brien
<b>Saldier (FR)</b>	6	Susannah Ricci	Willie Mullins IRE
<b>Samcro (IRE)</b>	8	Gigginstown House Stud	Gordon Elliott IRE
<b>Sharjah (FR)</b>	7	Susannah Ricci	Willie Mullins IRE
<b>Silver Streak (IRE)</b>	7	L Fell	Evan Williams
<b>Supasundae</b>	10	Ann & Alan Potts Limited	Jessica Harrington IRE
<b>Thebannerkingrebel (IRE)</b>	7	Sir Chips Keswick	Jamie Snowden
<b>Thomas Darby (IRE)</b>	7	Diana Whateley	Olly Murphy
<b>Verdana Blue (IRE)</b>	8	Doreen Tabor	Nicky Henderson

**36 entries**

**16 Irish-trained**

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# UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE ENTRIES WITH PREVIOUS FORM AT THE FESTIVAL

Date	Pos	Race	Jockey	SP
<b>Abacadabras (Gordon Elliott IRE)</b>				
13/03/2019	4	Weatherbys Champion Bumper	Ms Lisa O'Neill	14/1
<b>Apple's Jade (Gordon Elliott IRE)</b>				
18/03/2016	2	JCB Triumph Hurdle	Bryan Cooper	12/1
<b>14/03/2017</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle</b>	<b>Bryan Cooper</b>	<b>7/2</b>
13/03/2018	3	David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle	Jack Kennedy	1/2F
12/03/2019	6	Unibet Champion Hurdle	Jack Kennedy	7/4F
<b>Aramon (Willie Mullins IRE)</b>				
12/03/2019	6	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Paul Townend	8/1
<b>Ballyandy (Nigel Twiston-Davies)</b>				
<b>16/03/2016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Weatherbys Champion Bumper</b>	<b>Sam Twiston-Davies</b>	<b>5/1</b>
14/03/2017	4	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Sam Twiston-Davies	3/1JF
13/03/2019	3	Coral Cup	Sam Twiston-Davies	14/1
<b>Coeur Sublime (Gordon Elliott IRE)</b>				
15/03/2019	2	JCB Triumph Hurdle	Davy Russell	20/1
<b>Elgin (Alan King)</b>				
14/03/2017	7	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Wayne Hutchinson	14/1
13/03/2018	5	Unibet Champion Hurdle	Wayne Hutchinson	12/1
<b>Envoi Allen (Gordon Elliott IRE)</b>				
<b>13/03/2019</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Weatherbys Champion Bumper</b>	<b>Mr Jamie Codd</b>	<b>2/1F</b>
<b>Epatante (Nicky Henderson)</b>				
14/03/2019	9	Dawn Run Mares' Novices' Hurdle	Barry Geraghty	15/8F
<b>Felix Desjy (Gordon Elliott IRE)</b>				
14/03/2018	6	Weatherbys Champion Bumper	Keith Donoghue	8/1
12/03/2019	5	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Sean Flanagan	11/1
<b>Gumball (Philip Hobbs)</b>				
16/03/2018	PU	JCB Triumph Hurdle	Richard Johnson	40/1
<b>Klassical Dream (Willie Mullins IRE)</b>				
<b>12/03/2019</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle</b>	<b>Ruby Walsh</b>	<b>6/1</b>
<b>Mengli Khan (Gordon Elliott IRE)</b>				
13/03/2018	3	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Jack Kennedy	14/1
14/03/2019	3	Marsh Novices' Chase	Jack Kennedy	9/1
<b>Mohaayed (Dan Skelton)</b>				
17/03/2017	7	Randex Health County Handicap Hurdle	Ian Popham	16/1
<b>16/03/2018</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Randex Health County Handicap Hurdle</b>	<b>Bridget Andrews</b>	<b>33/1</b>
15/03/2019	7	Randex Health County Handicap Hurdle	Bridget Andrews	40/1
<b>Monsieur Lecoq (Jane Williams)</b>				
15/03/2019	10	County Handicap Hurdle	Lizzie Kelly	13/2
<b>Nelson River (Tony Carroll)</b>				
15/03/2019	4	JCB Triumph Hurdle	Harry Bannister	66/1
<b>Pentland Hills (Nicky Henderson)</b>				
<b>15/03/2019</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>JCB Triumph Hurdle</b>	<b>Nico de Boinville</b>	<b>20/1</b>
<b>Petit Mouchoir (Henry de Bromhead IRE)</b>				
15/03/2016	8	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	David Mullins	20/1
14/03/2017	3	Unibet Champion Hurdle	Bryan Cooper	6/1
13/03/2018	3	Racing Post Arkle Novices' Chase	Davy Russell	4/1
14/03/2019	14	Stayers' Hurdle	Rachael Blackmore	25/1

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# UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE ENTRIES WITH PREVIOUS FORM AT THE FESTIVAL CONTINUED

Date	Pos	Race	Jockey	SP
<b>Quick Grabim (Fergal O'Brien)</b>				
15/03/2017	17	Weatherbys Champion Bumper	Noel Fehily	25/1
<b>Saldier (Willie Mullins IRE)</b>				
16/03/2018	5	JCB Triumph Hurdle	David Mullins	14/1
<b>Samcro (Gordon Elliott IRE)</b>				
14/03/2018	1	Ballymore Novices' Hurdle	Jack Kennedy	8/11F
<b>Sharjah (Willie Mullins IRE)</b>				
13/03/2018	8	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Paul Townend	20/1
12/03/2019	BD	Unibet Champion Hurdle	Mr Patrick Mullins	20/1
<b>Silver Streak (Evan Williams)</b>				
12/03/2019	3	Unibet Champion Hurdle	Adam Wedge	80/1
<b>Supasundae (Jessica Harrington IRE)</b>				
11/03/2015	6	Weatherbys Champion Bumper	Jonathan Burke	17/2
15/03/2016	7	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Jonathan Burke	12/1
15/03/2017	1	Coral Cup	Robbie Power	16/1
15/03/2018	2	Stayers' Hurdle	Robbie Power	6/1
14/03/2019	7	Stayers' Hurdle	Robbie Power	9/1
<b>Thebannerkingrebel (Jamie Snowden)</b>				
14/03/2018	PU	Weatherbys Champion Bumper	Gavin Sheehan	33/1
<b>Thomas Darby (Olly Murphy)</b>				
12/03/2019	2	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	Richard Johnson	28/1
<b>Verdana Blue (Nicky Henderson)</b>				
16/03/2017	4	Mares' Novices' Hurdle	Jeremiah McGrath	25/1
12/03/2019	5	Unibet Champion Hurdle	Davy Russell	33/1

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# RECORD OF TRAINERS WITH ENTRIES IN THE UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE

(SINCE 1997 PLUS ANY WINNERS BEFOREHAND)

Year	Pos	Horse	Jockey	SP
<b>Henry de Bromhead IRE - Honeysuckle, Petit Mouchoir</b>				
2008	14	Sizing Europe	Andrew McNamara	2/1F
2015	6	Supasundae	Jonathan Burke	17/2
2016	6	Identity Thief	Bryan Cooper	8/1
2017	3	Petit Mouchoir	Bryan Cooper	6/1
2018	4	Identity Thief	Sean Flanagan	50/1

**Tony Carroll - Nelson River**

**No previous runners**

<b>Gavin Cromwell IRE - Darver Star</b>				
<b>2019</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Espoir D'Allen</b>	<b>Mark Walsh</b>	<b>16/1</b>

**Gordon Elliott IRE - Abacadabras, Apple's Jade, Coeur Sublime, Envoi Allen, Felix Desjy, Mengli Khan, Samcro**

2018	3	Mick Jazz	Davy Russell	25/1
2019	6	Apple's Jade	Jack Kennedy	7/4F

**Micky Hammond - Cornerstone Lad**

**No previous runners**

<b>Jessica Harrington IRE - Supasundae</b>				
1997	3	Space Trucker	John Shortt	9/2
2005	5	Macs Joy	Barry Geraghty	7/1
2006	2	Macs Joy	Barry Geraghty	13/2
2012	6	Oscars Well	Robbie Power	14/1
<b>2014</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Jezki</b>	<b>Barry Geraghty</b>	<b>9/1</b>
2015	4	Jezki	A P McCoy	6/1

**Nicky Henderson - Call Me Lord, Epatante, Fusil Raffles, Pentland Hills, Verdana Blue (continues on next page)**

<b>1985</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>See You Then</b>	<b>Steve Smith Eccles</b>	<b>16/1</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>See You Then</b>	<b>Steve Smith Eccles</b>	<b>5/6F</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>See You Then</b>	<b>Steve Smith Eccles</b>	<b>11/10F</b>
2000	3	Blue Royal	Mick Fitzgerald	16/1
2000	7	Katarino	Norman Williamson	25/1
2002	4	Geos	Richard Johnson	16/1
2002	5	Landing Light	Mick Fitzgerald	100/30
2002	12	Regal Exit	John Kavanagh	66/1
2003	7	Landing Light	Mick Fitzgerald	14/1
2004	PU	Geos	Mick Fitzgerald	20/1
2007	3	Afsoun	Mick Fitzgerald	28/1
2008	3	Punjabi	Barry Geraghty	25/1
2008	7	Afsoun	Mick Fitzgerald	16/1
2009	14	Sentry Duty	Andrew Tinkler	33/1
<b>2009</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Punjabi</b>	<b>Barry Geraghty</b>	<b>22/1</b>
2009	3	Binocular	A P McCoy	6/4F
<b>2010</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Binocular</b>	<b>A P McCoy</b>	<b>9/1</b>
2010	3	Zaynar	Andrew Tinkler	15/2
2010	9	Punjabi	Barry Geraghty	15/2
2011	3	Oscar Whisky	Barry Geraghty	7/1
2012	4	Binocular	A P McCoy	4/1
2013	5	Binocular	A P McCoy	10/1
2013	6	Khyber Kim	Paddy Brennan	50/1
2013	F	Grandouet	Barry Geraghty	13/2
2014	2	My Tent Or Yours	A P McCoy	3/1
2015	8	Vaniteux	Barry Geraghty	25/1
2016	2	My Tent Or Yours	Barry Geraghty	10/1
2016	5	Top Notch	Daryl Jacob	14/1
2016	8	Sign Of A Victory	Andrew Tinkler	66/1
2016	10	Hargam	Mark Walsh	16/1
2016	PU	Peace And Co	Nico de Boinville	16/1
<b>2017</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Buveur D'Air</b>	<b>Noel Fehily</b>	<b>5/1</b>

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# RECORD OF TRAINERS WITH ENTRIES IN THE UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CONTINUED

(SINCE 1997 PLUS ANY WINNERS BEFOREHAND)

Year	Pos	Horse	Jockey	SP
<b>Nicky Henderson - Call Me Lord, Epatante, Fusil Raffles, Pentland Hills, Verdana Blue (continued from previous page)</b>				
2017	2	My Tent Or Yours	Aidan Coleman	16/1
2017	9	Brain Power	David Mullins	13/2
<b>2018</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Buveur D'Air</b>	<b>Barry Geraghty</b>	<b>4/6F</b>
2018	PU	Charli Parcs	Noel Fehily	100/1
2019	5	Verdana Blue	Davy Russell	33/1
2019	F	Buveur D'Air	Barry Geraghty	11/4
2019	PU	Brain Power	Nico de Boinville	33/1
<b>Philip Hobbs - Gumball</b>				
<b>2003</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Rooster Booster</b>	<b>Richard Johnson</b>	<b>9/2</b>
2003	6	In Contrast	Barry Geraghty	25/1
2004	2	Rooster Booster	Richard Johnson	11/8F
2005	8	Rooster Booster	Richard Johnson	16/1
2007	6	Detroit City	Richard Johnson	6/4F
2009	7	Snap Tie	Richard Johnson	40/1
2011	5	Menorah	Richard Johnson	3/1
<b>Alan King - Elgin</b>				
2006	F	Penzance	Robert Thornton	40/1
<b>2008</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Katchit</b>	<b>Robert Thornton</b>	<b>10/1</b>
2009	6	Katchit	Robert Thornton	12/1
2010	7	Medermitt	Robert Thornton	11/1
2011	11	Mille Chief	Robert Thornton	16/1
2013	UR	Balder Succes	Wayne Hutchinson	100/1
2014	8	Grumeti	Wayne Hutchinson	66/1
2017	DQ	Yanworth	Mark Walsh	2/1F
<b>Hughie Morrison - Not So Sleepy</b>				
2002	2	Marble Arch	Ruby Walsh	25/1
2003	12	Marble Arch	Timmy Murphy	25/1
<b>Willie Mullins IRE - Aramon, Klassical Dream, Saldier, Sharjah</b>				
1999	9	Alexander Prize	Ruby Walsh	11/2
2000	PU	Balla Sola	Conor O'Dwyer	50/1
2003	8	Holy Orders	Shay Barry	100/1
2003	14	Scolardy	David Casey	66/1
2004	13	Davenport Milenium	Timmy Murphy	25/1
2008	12	Ebaziyan	Davy Condon	33/1
2009	20	Ebaziyan	Paul Townend	50/1
<b>2011</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Hurricane Fly</b>	<b>Ruby Walsh</b>	<b>11/4F</b>
2011	4	Thousand Stars	Paul Townend	33/1
2012	3	Hurricane Fly	Ruby Walsh	4/6F
2012	8	Zaidpour	Paul Townend	22/1
<b>2013</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Hurricane Fly</b>	<b>Ruby Walsh</b>	<b>13/8F</b>
2014	4	Hurricane Fly	Ruby Walsh	11/4F
<b>2015</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Faugheen</b>	<b>Ruby Walsh</b>	<b>4/5F</b>
2015	2	Arctic Fire	Danny Mullins	20/1
2015	3	Hurricane Fly	Paul Townend	8/1
<b>2016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Annie Power</b>	<b>Ruby Walsh</b>	<b>5/2F</b>
2016	3	Nichols Canyon	Paul Townend	15/2
2016	PU	Sempre Medici	David Mullins	16/1
2017	4	Footpad	Ruby Walsh	14/1
2017	8	Wicklow Brave	Paul Townend	22/1
2018	PU	Yorkhill	David Mullins	14/1
2018	2	Melon	Paul Townend	7/1
2018	6	Faugheen	Ruby Walsh	4/1
2018	7	Wicklow Brave	Patrick Mullins	14/1
2019	2	Melon	Paul Townend	20/1
2019	4	Laurina	Ruby Walsh	5/2
2019	BD	Sharjah	Mr Patrick Mullins	20/1

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# RECORD OF TRAINERS WITH ENTRIES IN THE UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CONTINUED

(SINCE 1997 PLUS ANY WINNERS BEFOREHAND)

Year	Pos	Horse	Jockey	SP
<b>Olly Murphy - Thomas Darby</b> No previous runners				
<b>Dr Richard Newland - Le Patriote</b> No previous runners				
<b>Fergal O'Brien - Quick Grabim</b> No previous runners				
<b>Joseph O'Brien IRE - Darasso</b> No previous runners				
<b>Dan Skelton - Mohaayed</b>				
2015	7	Bertimont	Harry Skelton	100/1
2018	8	Ch'tibello	Harry Skelton	33/1
<b>Jamie Snowden - Pacify, Thebannerkingrebel</b> No previous runners				
<b>Colin Tizzard - Eldorado Allen</b> No previous runners				
<b>Nigel Twiston-Davies - Ballyandy</b>				
1997	8	Moorish	David Bridgwater	100/1
1997	10	Mistinguet	Carl Llewellyn	33/1
1998	5	Kerawi	Carl Llewellyn	25/1
1998	6	Mistinguet	Chris Maude	40/1
1999	4	Mister Morose	Carl Llewellyn	100/1
1999	11	Gulshan	Carl Llewellyn	66/1
1999	12	Upgrade	Chris Maude	66/1
2002	8	Mister Morose	Carl Llewellyn	100/1
2010	2	Khyber Kim	Paddy Brennan	7/1
2011	9	Khyber Kim	Paddy Brennan	12/1
2014	3	The New One	Sam Twiston-Davies	100/30
2015	5	The New One	Sam Twiston-Davies	100/30
2016	4	The New One	Sam Twiston-Davies	7/2
2017	5	The New One	Sam Twiston-Davies	10/1
<b>Evan Williams - Silver Streak</b>				
2018	9	John Constable	Leighton Aspell	66/1
2019	3	Silver Streak	Adam Wedge	80/1
<b>Jane Williams - Monsieur Lecoq</b> No previous runners				

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# SEASONAL FORM OF RECENT UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE WINNERS

	PRE-FESTIVAL FORM			WINNER	POST-FESTIVAL FORM
	WON G3 Fishery Lane Hurdle Naas IRE 10 November	WON G3 Irish Independent Hurdle Limerick IRE 28 December	WON G3 Limestone Lad Hurdle Naas IRE 27 January	<b>2019 Espoir D'Allen</b>	
	WON G1 Unibet Fighting Fifth Hurdle Newcastle 2 December	WON G1 Unibet Christmas Hurdle Kempton Park 26 December	WON Betfred Contenders Hurdle Sandown Park 3 February	<b>2018 Buveur D'Air</b>	
	WON 32Red.com Novices' Chase Haydock Park 17 December	WON Local Parking Security Novices' Chase Warwick 31 December	WON Betfred Contenders Hurdle Sandown Park 4 February	<b>2017 Buveur D'Air</b>	WON G1 Betway Aintree Hurdle Aintree 6 April
			WON Punchestown. com Mares Hurdle Punchestown IRE 17 February	<b>2016 Annie Power</b>	WON G1 Doom Bar Aintree Hurdle Aintree 7 April
		WON G2 Coral Hurdle Ascot 22 November	WON G1 williamhill.com Christmas Hurdle Kempton Park 26 December	<b>2015 Faugheen</b>	WON G1 Punchestown Champion Hurdle Punchestown IRE 1 May
WON G2 WKD Hurdle Down Royal IRE 1 November	WON G1 Bar One Racing Hatton's Grace Hurdle Fairyhouse IRE 1 December	2nd G1 Ryanair Hurdle Leopardstown IRE 29 December	4th G1 BHP Insurance Irish Champion Hurdle Leopardstown IRE 26 January	<b>2014 Jezki</b>	WON G1 Racing Post Champion Hurdle Punchestown IRE 2 May
	WON G1 Dobbins & Madigans Morgiana Hurdle Punchestown 18 November	WON G1 Istabraq Festival Hurdle Leopardstown IRE 29 December	WON G1 BHP Insurance Irish Champion Hurdle Leopardstown IRE 27 January	<b>2013 Hurricane Fly</b>	WON G1 Rabobank Champion Hurdle Punchestown IRE 26 April
		WON Sportingbet Intermediate Hurdle Newbury 26 November	2nd G1 williamhill.com Christmas Hurdle Kempton Park 26 December	<b>2012 Rock On Ruby</b>	3rd G1 John Smith's Aintree Hurdle Aintree 14 April
	WON G1 Bar One Racing Hatton's Grace Hurdle Fairyhouse IRE 15 December	WON G1 paddypower.com Festival Hurdle Leopardstown IRE 29 January	WON G1 BHP Insurances Irish Champion Hurdle Leopardstown IRE 23 January	<b>2011 Hurricane Fly</b>	WON G1 Rabobank Champion Hurdle Punchestown IRE 6 May
	5th G1 WBX. COM Fighting Fifth Hurdle Newcastle 28 November	3rd G1 williamhill. com Christmas Hurdle Kempton Park 26 December	WON toteplacepot Contenders Hurdle Sandown Park 6 February	<b>2010 Binocular</b>	
	WON G1 WBX. COM Fighting Fifth Hurdle Wetherby 6 December	Fell G1 Stan James Christmas Hurdle Kempton Park 26 December	3rd G2 Bathwick Tyres Kingwell Hurdle Wincaton 14 February	<b>2009 Punjabi</b>	2nd G1 Rabobank Champion Hurdle Punchestown IRE 1 May

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# UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE FACTS & FIGURES

## Background Information

The Unibet Champion Hurdle was inaugurated in 1927, with a value to the winner of £365. The race is worth £450,000 again this year.

The race was abandoned in 1931 due to persistent frost, in 1943 and 1944 because of the Second World War, and in 2001 because of foot and mouth disease.

There have been four sponsors. Waterford Crystal backed the championship two-mile hurdling contest from 1978 to 1990, while the Smurfit Group sponsored the top hurdle from 1991 to 2010.

Stan James took over in 2011. The betting operator was subsequently purchased by the Kindred Group, which in 2018 changed the sponsorship to another brand, Unibet.

## Biggest Field

The highest number of runners was 24 (1964 and 1991), with the smallest field being three (1932). The first five runnings saw a total of only 24 participants between them.

## Multiple Winners

Five horses have won the Unibet Champion Hurdle three times - Hatton's Grace (1949, 1950, 1951), Sir Ken (1952, 1953, 1954), Persian War (1968, 1969, 1970), See You Then (1985, 1986, 1987) and Istabraq (1998, 1999, 2000).

Ten horses have recorded two victories - Insurance (1932 & 1933), National Sprit (1947 & 1948), Bula (1971 & 1972), Comedy Of Errors (1973 & 1975), Night Nurse (1976 & 1977), Monksfield (1978 & 1979), Sea Pigeon (1980 & 1981), Hardy Eustace (2004 & 2005), Hurricane Fly (2011 & 2013) and Buveur D'Air (2017 & 2018). Comedy Or Errors and Hurricane Fly are the only two horses to have regained the Champion Hurdle crown.

## Most Successful Owner

The most successful owner in the history of the championship race is J P McManus with eight victories, thanks to triple winner Istabraq (1998, 1999 and 2000), Binocular (2010), Jezki (2014), Buveur D'Air (2017 & 2018) and Espoir D'Allen (2019).

## Most Successful Trainer

Nicky Henderson is the most successful trainer, with seven wins - See You Then (1985, 1986 and 1987), Punjabi (2009), Binocular (2010) and Buveur D'Air (2017 & 2018).

## Most Successful Jockey

Tim Molony and Ruby Walsh both have notched up four Champion Hurdle victories.

Molony scored on Hatton's Grace (1951) and Sir Ken (1952, 1953 & 1954), while Walsh triumphed on Hurricane Fly (2011 & 2013), Faugheen (2015) and Annie Power (2016).

Barry Geraghty has the best record of any current rider, with three wins on Punjabi (2009), Jezki (2014) and Buveur D'Air (2018).

## Mares

Four mares have taken Champion Hurdle honours - African Sister (1939), Dawn Run (1984), Flakey Dove (1994) and Annie Power (2016).

## Betting

The biggest shocks in the Unibet Champion Hurdle were provided by Kirriemuir (1965) and Beech Road (1989), who were both returned at 50/1.

At the other end of the scale, the shortest-priced winners were Lion Courage (1935), Sir Ken (1954) and Istabraq (1999), who were all sent off 4/9.

In the 89 runnings, 37 favourites (41.6 per cent) have prevailed.

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## Greys

Four greys have won, the most recent being Rooster Booster in 2003. The others were Kribensis in 1990, Our Hope in 1938 and Victor Norman in 1936. One roan horse has won the Champion Hurdle, Anzio in 1962.

## Age

The oldest winners were Hattons Grace (1951) and Sea Pigeon (1981), both 11-year-olds.

The youngest winners were the four-year-olds Brown Jack (1928), Brown Tony (1930), Seneca (1941) and Forestation (1942).

The overall age breakdown is as follows:

4yo - 4 victories  
5yo - 12 victories  
6yo - 31 victories  
7yo - 22 victories  
8yo - 9 victories  
9yo - 7 victories  
10yo - 2 victories  
11yo - 2 victories

## Record Time

Annie Power recorded the fastest time in 2016, winning in 3m 45.10s to just overcome the previous best of 3m 45.25s set by Jezki in 2014.

## Ridden & Trained Winner

Four winning jockeys also went on train the Champion Hurdle winner.

	RODE	TRAINED
Gerry Wilson	Lion Courage (1935)	Brains Trust (1945)
Fred Rimell	Brains Trust (1945)	Comedy Of Errors (1973 & 1975)
Fred Winter	Clair Solei (1955), Fare Times (1959), Eborneezer (1961)	Bula (1971 & 1972), Lanzarote (1974), Celtic Shot (1988)
Dessie Hughes	Monksfield (1979)	Hardy Eustace (2004 & 2005)

## Overseas-Trained Winners

**IRELAND (23):** Distel (1946), Hatton's Grace (1949, 1950, 1951), Another Flash (1960), Winning Fair (1963), Monksfield (1978, 1979), For Auction (1982), Dawn Run (1984), Istabraq (1998, 1999, 2000), Hardy Eustace (2004, 2005), Brave Inca (2006), Sublimity (2007), Hurricane Fly (2011, 2013), Jezki (2014), Faugheen (2015), Annie Power (2016) and Espoir D'Allen (2019).

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# UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE ROLL OF HONOUR

Unibet Champion Hurdle from 2018, Stan James Champion Hurdle 2011-2017, Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle 2006-2010, Smurfit Champion Hurdle 1991-2005, Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle 1978-1990, no sponsor before 1978). No race 1931, 1943, 1944 & 2001.

Year	Winner	Age/Wt	Jockey	Trainer	Owner	SP	Rn
2019	Espoir D'Allen	5-11-10	Mark Walsh	Gavin Cromwell IRE	J P McManus	16/1	10
2018	Buveur D'Air	7-11-10	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	J P McManus	4/6F	11
2017	Buveur D'Air	6-11-10	Noel Fehily	Nicky Henderson	J P McManus	5/1	11
2016	Annie Power	8-11-03	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins IRE	Susannah Ricci	5/2F	12
2015	Faugheen	7-11-10	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins IRE	Susannah Ricci	4/5F	8
2014	Jezki	6-11-10	Barry Geraghty	Jessica Harrington IRE	J P McManus	9/1	9
2013	Hurricane Fly	9-11-10	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins IRE	George Creighton & Rose Boyd	13/8F	9
2012	Rock On Ruby	7-11-10	Noel Fehily	Paul Nicholls	The Festival Goers	11/1	10
2011	Hurricane Fly	7-11-10	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins IRE	George Creighton & Rose Boyd	11/4F	11
2010	Binocular	6-11-10	A P McCoy	Nicky Henderson	J P McManus	9/1	12
2009	Punjabi	6-11-10	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	Raymond Tooth	22/1	23
2008	Katchit	5-11-10	Robert Thornton	Alan King	D S J P Syndicate	10/1	15
2007	Sublimity	7-11-10	Philip Carberry	John Carr IRE	Bill Hennessy	16/1	10
2006	Brave Inca	8-11-10	Tony McCoy	Colm Murphy IRE	Novices Syndicate	7/4F	18
2005	Hardy Eustace	8-11-10	Conor O'Dwyer	Dessie Hughes IRE	Lar Byrne	7/2JF	14
2004	Hardy Eustace	7-11-10	Conor O'Dwyer	Dessie Hughes IRE	Lar Byrne	33/1	14
2003	Rooster Booster	9-12-00	Richard Johnson	Philip Hobbs	Terry Warner	9/2	17
2002	Hors La Loi III	7-12-00	Dean Gallagher	James Fanshawe	Paul Green	10/1	15
2000	Istabraq	8-12-00	Charlie Swan	Aidan O'Brien IRE	J P McManus	8/15F	12
1999	Istabraq	7-12-00	Charlie Swan	Aidan O'Brien IRE	J P McManus	4/9F	14
1998	Istabraq	6-12-00	Charlie Swan	Aidan O'Brien IRE	J P McManus	3/1F	18
1997	Make A Stand	6-12-00	A P McCoy	Martin Pipe	Peter Deal	7/1	17
1996	Collier Bay	6-12-00	Graham Bradley	Jim Old	Wally Sturt	9/1	16
1995	Alderbrook	6-12-00	Norman Williamson	Kim Bailey	Ernie Pick	11/2	14
1994	Flakey Dove	8-11-09	Mark Dwyer	Richard Price	John Price	9/1	15
1993	Granville Again	7-12-00	Peter Scudamore	Martin Pipe	Eric Scarth	13/2	18
1992	Royal Gait	9-12-00	Graham McCourt	James Fanshawe	Sheikh Mohammed	6/1	16
1991	Morley Street	7-12-00	Jimmy Frost	Toby Balding	Michael Jackson Bloodstock Ltd	4/1F	24
1990	Kribensis	6-12-00	Richard Dunwoody	Michael Stoute	Sheikh Mohammed	95/40F	19
1989	Beech Road	7-12-00	Richard Guest	Toby Balding	Tony Geake	50/1	15
1988	Celtic Shot	6-12-00	Peter Scudamore	Fred Winter	David Horton	7/1	21
1987	See You Then	7-12-00	Steve Smith Eccles	Nicky Henderson	Stype Wood Stud Ltd	11/10F	18
1986	See You Then	6-12-00	Steve Smith Eccles	Nicky Henderson	Stype Wood Stud Ltd	5/6F	23
1985	See You Then	5-12-00	Steve Smith Eccles	Nicky Henderson	Stype Wood Stud Ltd	16/1	14
1984	Dawn Run	6-11-09	Jonjo O'Neill	Paddy Mullins IRE	Charmian Hill	4/5F	14
1983	Gaye Brief	6-12-00	Richard Linley	Mercy Rimell	Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin	7/1	17
1982	For Auction	6-12-00	Mr Colin Magnier	Michael Cunningham IRE	F Heaslip	40/1	14
1981	Sea Pigeon	11-12-00	John Francome	Peter Easterby	Pat Muldoon	7/4F	14
1980	Sea Pigeon	10-12-00	Jonjo O'Neill	Peter Easterby	Pat Muldoon	13/2	9
1979	Monksfield	7-12-00	Dessie Hughes	Des McDonogh IRE	Dr Michael Mangan	9/4F	10
1978	Monksfield	6-12-00	Tommy Kinane	Des McDonogh IRE	Dr Michael Mangan	11/2	13
1977	Night Nurse	6-12-00	Paddy Broderick	Peter Easterby	Reg Spencer	15/2	10
1976	Night Nurse	5-12-00	Paddy Broderick	Peter Easterby	Reg Spencer	2/1F	8
1975	Comedy Of Errors	8-12-00	Ken White	Fred Rimell	Ted Wheatley	11/8F	13
1974	Lanzarote	6-12-00	Richard Pitman	Fred Winter	Lord Howard de Walden	7/4	7
1973	Comedy Of Errors	6-12-00	Bill Smith	Fred Rimell	Ted Wheatley	8/1	8
1972	Bula	7-12-00	Paul Kelleway	Fred Winter	Bill Edwards-Heathcote	8/11F	12
1971	Bula	6-12-00	Paul Kelleway	Fred Winter	Bill Edwards-Heathcote	15/8F	9
1970	Persian War	7-12-00	Jimmy Uttley	Colin Davies	Henry Alper	5/4F	14
1969	Persian War	6-12-00	Jimmy Uttley	Colin Davies	Henry Alper	6/4F	17
1968	Persian War	5-11-12	Jimmy Uttley	Colin Davies	Henry Alper	4/1	16
1967	Saucy Kit	6-12-00	Roy Edwards	Peter Easterby	K F Alder	100/6	23
1966	Salmon Spray	8-12-00	Johnnie Haine	Bob Turnell	Mrs John Rogerson	4/1	17
1965	Kirriemuir	5-12-00	Willie Robinson	Fulke Walwyn	Mrs Dorothy Beddington	50/1	19
1964	Magic Court	6-12-00	Pat McCarron	Tommy Robson	J McGhie	100/6	24
1963	Winning Fair	8-12-00	Mr Alan Lillingston	George Spencer IRE	George Spencer	100/9	21
1962	Anzio	5-11-12	Willie Robinson	Fulke Walwyn	Sir Thomas Ainsworth	11/2	14
1961	Eborneezer	6-12-00	Fred Winter	Ryan Price	Dr B N Pajgar	4/1	17
1960	Another Flash	6-12-00	Bobby Beasley	Paddy Sleator IRE	J J Byrne	11/4F	12
1959	Fare Time	6-12-00	Fred Winter	Ryan Price	Gerry Judd	13/2	14
1958	Bandalore	7-12-00	George Slack	Stan Wright	Mrs Dorothy Wright	20/1	18
1957	Merry Deal	7-12-00	Grenville Underwood	Arthur Jones	Arthur Jones	28/1	16
1956	Doorknocker	8-12-00	Harry Sprague	Charlie Hall	Clifford Nicholson	100/9	14
1955	Clair Soleil	6-12-00	Fred Winter	Ryan Price	Gerry Judd	5/2F	21
1954	Sir Ken	7-12-00	Tim Molony	Willie Stephenson	Maurice Kingsley	4/9F	13
1953	Sir Ken	6-12-00	Tim Molony	Willie Stephenson	Maurice Kingsley	2/5F	7
1952	Sir Ken	5-11-12	Tim Molony	Willie Stephenson	Maurice Kingsley	3/1F	16
1951	Hatton's Grace	11-12-00	Tim Molony	Vincent O'Brien IRE	Mrs Harry Keogh	4/1	8
1950	Hatton's Grace	10-12-00	Aubrey Brabazon	Vincent O'Brien IRE	Mrs Harry Keogh	5/2F	12
1949	Hatton's Grace	9-12-00	Aubrey Brabazon	Vincent O'Brien IRE	Mrs Harry Keogh	100/7	14
1948	National Spirit	7-12-00	Ron Smyth	Vic Smyth	Len Abelson	6/4F	12

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## UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE ROLL OF HONOUR CONTINUED

Year	Winner	Age/Wt	Jockey	Trainer	Owner	SP	Rn
1947	National Spirit	6-12-00	Danny Morgan	Vic Smyth	Len Abelson	7/1	13
1946	Distel	5-11-10	Bobby O'Ryan	Charlie Rogers IRE	Dorothy Paget	4/5F	8
1945	Brains Trust	5-11-10	Fred Rimell	Gerry Wilson	F Blakeway	9/2	16
1942	Forestation	4-11-00	Ron Smyth	Vic Smyth	Vic Smyth	10/1	20
1941	Seneca	4-11-00	Ron Smyth	Vic Smyth	Sir Malcolm McAlpine	7/1	6
1940	Solford	9-12-00	Sean Magee	Owen Anthony	Dorothy Paget	5/2F	8
1939	African Sister	7-12-00	Keith Piggott	Charles Piggott	H Brueton	10/1	13
1938	Our Hope	9-12-00	Perry Harding	Roderic Gubbins	Roderic Gubbins	5/1	5
1937	Free Fare	9-12-00	Georges Pellerin	Ted Gwilt	Ben Warner	2/1F	7
1936	Victor Norman	5-11-00	Frenchie Nicholson	Morgan Blair	Michael Stephens	4/1	8
1935	Lion Courage	7-12-00	Gerry Wilson	F Brown	R Fox Carlyon	100/8	11
1934	Chenango	7-12-00	Danny Morgan	Ivor Anthony	Pete Bostwick	4/9F	5
1933	Insurance	6-12-00	Billy Stott	Basil Briscoe	Dorothy Paget	10/11F	5
1932	Insurance	5-12-00	Ted Leader	Basil Briscoe	Dorothy Paget	4/5F	3
1930	Brown Tony	4-11-00	Tommy Cullinan	Jack Anthony	Mrs J de Selincourt	7/2	5
1929	Royal Falcon	6-12-00	Dick Rees	Bob Gore	Miss Williams-Bulkeley	11/2	6
1928	Brown Jack	4-11-00	Bilby Rees	Aubrey Hastings	Major Harold Wernher	4/1	6
1927	Blaris	6-12-00	George Duller	Bill Payne	Mrs H Hollins	11/10F	4





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