

## 250<sup>th</sup> Gimcrack Dinner – did you know?

1. This year is the 250th Gimcrack Dinner – a black tie event held at York Racecourse on the second Tuesday of December each year. It is in fact more than 250 years since the dinner first started in 1767 (the dinner did not happen from 1941-44 because of WWII, not in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions).
2. To mark this occasion a commemorative booklet has been produced celebrating the Horse, the Dinner and the Race; to see a digital copy that can then be downloaded, [click here](#).
3. According to tradition, the event is addressed by the owner of the horse which wins the Gimcrack Stakes, sponsored by Al Basti Equiworld- Dubai, at the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival in August. The Gimcrack Stakes was first run in 1846.
4. In 2021, the toast to British Racing will be made at the conclusion of a speech by Paul Hensey on behalf of Al Shaqab Racing, a copy can be found [here](#). Their colt, Lusail, won this year's Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Gimcrack Stakes. Trained in Wiltshire by Richard Hannon. It was a second win in the race for this generation of Hannon following the 2019 success of Threat. However, the now retired, Richard Hannon Senior, was responsible for the victor on four occasions, most recently with Bannister in millennium season.
5. The winning rider was Pat Dobbs, marking his first success in the famous contest when stretching his mount out in the final furlong, to win comfortably at odds of 7/2.
6. The all-time most successful trainer in the race is William I'Anson, Jr. a Yorkshire handler, who had seven winners over the first half century of renewals with Pursebearer (1881), Castor (1885), Lady Muncaster (1886), Derwentwater (1887), Lockhart (1889), Royal Stag (1890), Barbette (1903). Amongst trainers of more recent vintage. Richard Hannon Snr had

four wins with Sharp N'Early (1988), Rock City (1989), River falls (1991), Bannister (2000). Kevin Ryan recently matched that number, with Emaraaty Ana (2018) joining Astaire (2013), Blaine (2012) and Amadeus Wolf (2005)- this year the yard finished in second place courtesy of Gis A Sub.

7. Should the connections choose to campaign the colt in the first Classic of 2022, the 2,000 Guineas, then he will have the opportunity to become the sixth Gimcrack winner to do this particular double, following 1870 – Bothwell;1934 – Bahram;1949 – Palestine;1976 – Nebbiolo; and 2001 – Rock of Gibraltar.
8. A response to the toast will come from Niall Sloane of ITV Racing, a copy can be found [here](#), though Covid-19 guidelines from his employer, mean Niall will be unable to join guests in the room, this year.
9. The final, more informal speech, will be given by Roger Dakin, former England hockey international.
10. One of the most famous years in the history of the Gimcrack Stakes and Dinner was 1970, when the race was won by the great Mill Reef, who went on to take the Derby. The following year, on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration, the dinner was attended by HRH Prince Charles.
11. The 250<sup>th</sup> Dinner will be attended by 170 invited guests from the racing world.
12. The race, dinner and indeed dining room are named in honour of a star racehorse from the earliest days of the sport, Gimcrack. This grey colt was foaled in 1760 and though little more than a pony in stature, he won 27 of his 30 races during an eleven- year career. Leading racing figures at the time such as Prime Minister, Lord Rockingham. were so impressed with his battling qualities that they founded a racing club in his honour and this year sees its 250<sup>th</sup> meeting.
13. The views expressed in the speeches are those of the respective speakers and not those of York Racecourse.