

## Notes to Editors

1. This year is the 253<sup>rd</sup> Gimcrack Dinner – 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 World War II, nor in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions).
2. 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 Sky Bet Ebor Festival in August.
3. The Gimcrack Stakes was first run in 1846.
4. In 2024, the toast to British Racing will be made at the conclusion of a speech by John Wallinger, who owns the winning horse. The colt, Cool Hoof Luke, won this year's Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Gimcrack Stakes. The name is a nod towards the nickname of reigning world darts champion, Luke Humphries being Cool Hand Luke, which in turn acknowledges the 1967 Paul Newman film of that name.
5. It was the first win in the race for trainer Andrew Balding who is based in Kingsclere in Hampshire.
6. The winning rider was Oisin Murphy, his second success in the famous contest, having partnered Threat to success in 2019. The combination “kept on well” from Shadow Of Light (subsequent dual Group One winner), at a SP of 8/1.
7. The all-time most successful trainer in the race is William I'Anson Junior, 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 also had four wins with Sharp N'Early (1988), Rock City (1989), River Falls (1991) and Bannister (2000). Kevin Ryan is the third handler that has reached that number, courtesy of Emaraty Ana (2018) joining Astaire (2013), Blaine (2012) and Amadeus Wolf (2005).
8. Should the connections choose to campaign the colt in the first Classic of 2025, the 2,000 Guineas, then Cool Hoof Luke, would have the opportunity to become

the sixth Gimcrack winner to do this particular double, following in 1870 – Bothwell; 1934 – Bahram; 1949 – Palestine; 1976 – Nebbiolo; and 2001 – Rock of Gibraltar.

9. The 2023 winning horse, Lake Forest, has subsequently won the Golden Eagle Stakes, a \$10M AUD race held at Royal Randwick.
10. A response to the toast will come from Conor Grant, Chairman of Racecourse Media Group.
11. The final, more informal, toast, will be given by trainer, Richard Phillips.
12. 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, trained by Ian Balding, father of this year's winning trainer. Also in 1970, on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration, the Dinner was attended by HM King Charles III.
13. The 253<sup>rd</sup> Dinner will be attended by c200 invited guests from the racing world.
14. The race, dinner and indeed a dining room at York, are all 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 Gimcrack's battling qualities that they founded a racing club in his honour and this year sees its 253<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
15. In 2024, York Racecourse was honoured to be judged RCA Showcase Champion-Racecourse of the Year.
16. The views expressed in the speeches are those of the respective speakers and not those of York Racecourse.