

## Notes to Editors

1. This year is the 252<sup>nd</sup> 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 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. The Gimcrack Stakes was first run in 1846.
3. In 2023, the toast to British Racing will be made at the conclusion of a speech by Mr Tony Bloom, who owns the winning horse with Mr Ian McAleavey. The colt, Lake Forest, won this year's Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Gimcrack Stakes. Trained in Newmarket by William Haggas, so becoming the fourth horse trained at Somerville4 Lodge to take the prize, following Ajaya (2015), Approve (2010), Conquest (2006).
4. The winning rider was Tom Marquand, his first success in the famous contest. The combination "kept on well" from Johannes Brahms, at a SP of 16/1.
5. 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).
6. Should the connections choose to campaign the colt in the first Classic of 2024, the 2,000 Guineas, then Lake Forest 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.

7. A response to the toast will come from Julie Harrington, Chief Executive of the British Horseracing Authority.
8. The final, more informal, toast, will be given by racing broadcaster, Nick Luck.
9. 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. Also in 1970, on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration, the Dinner was attended by HRH King Charles III.
10. The 252<sup>nd</sup> Dinner will be attended by 201 invited guests from the racing world.
11. 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 252<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
12. The views expressed in the speeches are those of the respective speakers and not those of York Racecourse.