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BOYLESPORTS INTERNATIONAL MEDIA GUIDE 2009

The Boylesports International takes place at Cheltenham on Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12, offering £575,500 in prize money over the two days. Based in Dundalk, Co Louth, independent Irish bookmaker Boylesports generously supports three races over the two days.

Taking centre stage at the Boylesports International is the £150,000 Boylesports.com International, a Grade Two hurdle race over two miles and a furlong on the Saturday and one of the most lucrative hurdle contests of the entire season.

Underscoring the importance of this event is a £200,000 bonus payment for any horse winning both the Boylesports.com International and the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle in the same season. If won, this will be split £180,000 for the owner, £10,000 for the trainer and £10,000 for the successful yard's stable staff. The winner of both races would therefore amass over £500,000. Rooster Booster captured both contests in the 2002/03 season, as did Salmon Spray (1965/66 season) and Comedy Of Errors (1974/75 season), so the double is achievable.

Osana got the better of Katchit in the 2007 Boylesports.com International and the same horses filled the first two places in the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle at The Festival the following March, with Katchit prevailing on that occasion. Last year's Boylesports.com International was held at Ascot due to the Saturday card at Cheltenham being abandoned due to a waterlogged course. Binocular was the victorious horse, defeating Celestial Halo by four and a half lengths. Both horses lined up in the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle with Celestial Halo finishing second to Punjabi and Binocular taking third.

The Boylesports International also features the £150,000 Grade Three Boylesports.com Gold Cup on Saturday, December 12, while on Friday, December 11, the £50,000 Listed Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase, won by subsequent Grand National victor Mon Mome in 2008, takes centre stage.

Other highlights include the £42,500 Grade Two Unicorn Homes Relkeel Hurdle on the Saturday, which also features the £30,000 Grade Two Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle.

This media guide contains a wealth of history and statistics on the three key races - the Boylesports.com International, the Boylesports.com Gold Cup and the Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase - plus a history of the Glenfarclas Cross Country Handicap Steeple Chase and a full race programme for both days.

***For further information, please contact Cheltenham Racecourse's Communications Manager
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THE BOYLESPORTS.COM GOLD CUP HISTORY

The Boylesports.com Gold Cup was introduced at Cheltenham in December, 1963, three years after the successful Mackeson Gold Cup (now the Paddy Power Gold Cup) which is held the previous month.

Originally under the sponsorship of Massey Ferguson, the very valuable and prestigious handicap chase had a number of sponsors before settling with the title, the Tripleprint Gold Cup, in 1992.

In 2005, it was called the Robin Cook Memorial Gold Cup in remembrance of the former Foreign Secretary and great racing enthusiast, who passed away in August of the same year. The first running under the Boylesports banner was in 2006.

The Irish took the first three runnings of the race, thanks to the efforts of Limeking, Flying Wild and Flyingbolt.

The Tom Dreaper-trained Flyingbolt was an exceptional horse. After winning the 1965 Boylesports.com Gold Cup by 15 lengths under top-weight of 12st 6lb, he went on to The Festival, where he captured the 1966 two-mile Champion Chase and followed up by running third to Salmon Spray in the Champion Hurdle the next day.

Flyingbolt took the Irish Grand National the following month under the huge burden of 12st 7lb to earn comparisons to his illustrious stablemate, Arkle. Illness and injury thereafter prevented the chestnut gelding from realising his full potential.

Bob Turnell had two successes as a trainer, the first with The Laird in 1966, ridden by Jeff King. The Laird went on to be second in the 1968 totesport Cheltenham Gold Cup.

His second winner, Arctic Bow, was partnered by his son Andy Turnell and they easily beat Soloning by six lengths for owner Jim Joel.

Fulke Walwyn, one of the greatest-ever jump trainers, captured the 1968 running with Tassilo, while the admirable Titus Oates, trained by Gordon Richards and ridden by Ron Barry, defied 11st 13lb in 1969. Richards also trained two other winners, Clever Folly (1989) and Addington Boy (1996).

Leap Frog, trained by Tom Dreaper, was another Irish winner in 1971 off 12st 1lb, after earlier in that year running second to L'Escargot in the totesport Cheltenham Gold Cup.

The late Fred Winter gained the first of his three Boylesports.com Gold Cup wins as a trainer courtesy of the great Pendil in 1973. His other training successes were with Observe in 1982 and Fifty Dollars More the following season.

Pendil won back-to-back King George VI Chases at Kempton Park in 1972 and 1973, and was just caught by The Dikler in the 1973 totesport Cheltenham Gold Cup.

He is the only winner of the Boylesports.com Gold Cup to have also won the other feature race at the meeting, the Boylesports.com International, which he did in 1970.

The late David Nicholson was responsible for sending out Another Coral to victory in the 1992 Boylesports.com Gold Cup. The nine-year-old received a marvellous ride from Richard Dunwoody to get the better of Second Scheduled by five lengths.

Norman Williamson was in the plate on Irish challenger Go Roger Go, who triumphed in a great finish in 2000, while the Irish enjoyed further success in the 2005 race when the Noel Meade-trained Sir Oj came with a storming late run to land the spoils.

Mick Fitzgerald partnered the Nicky Henderson-trained Iris Royal to a head success over Risk Assessor in 2003 and the same partnership was successful in 2002 with Fondmort, who beat Foly Pleasant by six lengths.

Fondmort became the seventh horse to win both the Paddy Power Gold Cup and the Boylesports.com Gold Cup, albeit in different seasons, when he was given another magnificent ride by Fitzgerald to land the first-named contest in 2003 by eight lengths from Poliantas.

Richard Johnson captured his second Boylesports.com Gold Cup in 2004 when Monkerhostin capitalised on Our Vic's last fence fall to stride home seven lengths clear of Thisthatandtother to give trainer Philip Hobbs an initial success in the race.

Johnson's previous Boylesports.com Gold Cup triumph came aboard Legal Right for trainer Jonjo O'Neill in 1999.

The latest Irish-trained winner was Sir Oj in 2005, who came with a tremendous late run to prevail by a length from Le Passing for trainer Noel Meade and jockey Paul Carberry.

Exotic Dancer in 2006 captured both the Paddy Power Gold Cup and the Boylesports.com Gold Cup, becoming the eighth horse to complete the double. The Jonjo O'Neill-trained gelding demonstrated tremendous improvement throughout the season, taking the Grade Two Letheby & Christopher Chase at Cheltenham in January and then finding only Kauto Star too strong in the totesport Gold Cup at The Festival before winning a Grade Two chase at Aintree.

The biggest shock in the history of the Boylesports.com Gold Cup came in 2007 when Tamarinbleu put up a superb front-running performance to record a 22/1 success. Trained by David Pipe and ridden by Denis O'Regan, the gelding's victory was certainly no fluke as he went on to win a Grade One chase at Ascot and was also placed in Grade One contests at Haydock and Aintree.

Pegwell Bay (1988), Senior El Betrutti (1997) and Exotic Dancer (2006) are the three horses to have captured the Paddy Power Gold Cup and Boylesports.com Gold Cup in the same season.

BOYLESPORTS.COM GOLD CUP FACTS & FIGURES

* The Boylesports.com Gold Cup usually takes place over two miles and five furlongs on the New Course at Cheltenham. In 2003, because of the lack of rain over the summer and during the autumn, the handicap chase was run over two miles and four and a half furlongs on the Old Course at Cheltenham.

* There have been 39 runnings, the first in 1963. Frost intervened in 2001, 1995 and 1976, snow in 1990 and 1981, while the 1967 event was lost due to a foot and mouth epidemic. The 2008 race was lost due to a waterlogged course.

* Limeking, trained in Ireland by Danny Morgan, won the inaugural running, defeating Flying Wild by two lengths.

* In all, there have been six Irish-trained winners of the Gold Cup. The victories of Limeking (1963), Flying Wild (1964) and Flyingbolt (1965) ensured that the first three runnings all went to Ireland. However, no horse hailing from the Emerald Isle was successful between Leap Frog (1971) and Go Roger Go, victorious in 2000. Sir Oj became the sixth Irish-trained winner when successful in 2005.

* Arkle, the greatest steeplechaser of all time and triumphant in the Cheltenham Gold Cup three times, suffered a rare reversal in the 1964 Boylesports.com Gold Cup. Anne Duchess of Westminster's charge was saddled with the burden of 12st 10lb (which included a 3lb penalty for winning the Hennessy just seven days beforehand) and finished a staying-on third behind the useful Irish mare Flying Wild (receiving 32lb) and Buona Notte (receiving 26lb).

* The highest weight ever carried to victory in the Boylesports.com Gold Cup was the 12st 7lb shouldered by Pendil in 1973. Other notable weight-carrying performances were Flyingbolt with 12st 6lb in 1965 and Leap Frog with 12st 1lb in 1971. Pendil is the only horse to have also won the other major race at the Boylesports International, the Grade Two hurdle currently run as the Boylesports.com International, which he did in 1970.

* In addition to holding the weight-carrying record for the Boylesports.com Gold Cup, Pendil also has the distinction of being the shortest-priced winner, at 8/11.

* Nine favourites or joint-favourites have won the Boylesports.com Gold Cup - Flyingbolt (1965, 5/2), Titus Oates (1969, 9/4), Leap Frog (1971, 3/1), Arctic Bow (1972, 9/2), Pendil (1973, 8/11), Fifty Dollars More (1983, 3/1), Oregon Trail (1986, 3/1), Kings Fountain (1991, 7/4) and Addington Boy (1996, 7/4).

* A fancied horse - if not the favourite - usually wins the Boylesports.com Gold Cup, with 30 victors having been returned at single-figure odds, including 10 of the last 12. In 2007, Tamarinbleu became the longest-priced winner in the contest's history when scoring at 22/1.

* Female trainers have saddled the Boylesports.com Gold Cup winner three times - Auriol Sinclair with Simian (1970), Jenny Pitman with Bueche Giorod (1980) and Susan Nock with Senior El Betrutti (1997).

* Gordon Richards and Fred Winter were the most successful trainers in the history of the Boylesports.com Gold Cup with three winners each. Richards sent out Titus Oates (1969), Clever Folly (1989) and Addington Boy (1996), while Winter had Pendil (1973), Observe (1982) and Fifty Dollars More (1983).

* Among current trainers, Nicky Henderson and Jonjo O'Neill are the winning-most with two Boylesports.com Gold Cup triumphs each. Henderson scored courtesy of Fondmort (2002) and Iris Royal (2003) while O'Neill's two winners were Legal Right (1999) and Exotic Dancer (2006).

* Tony Dobbin, now retired, became the fourth jockey to have ridden more than one Boylesports.com Gold Cup winner when partnering Exotic Dancer in 2006, having been on board Addington Boy in 1996. Richard Johnson, the only current rider among them, won on Monkerhostin (2004) and Legal Right (1999), Mick Fitzgerald won on Iris Royal (2003) and Fondmort (2002), while Brendan Powell won on Pegwell Bay (1988) and Dublin Flyer (1994).

* Pegwell Bay (1988), Senior El Betrutti (1997) and Exotic Dancer (2006) are the only three horses to have landed the Paddy Power Gold Cup and Boylesports.com Gold Cup in the same season.

* Five other horses have won both of the very valuable handicap chases but in different years. Fondmort took the 2003 Paddy Power Gold Cup and the Boylesports.com Gold Cup the previous season, while Dublin Flyer (PP 1995, BS 1994), Another Coral (PP 1991, BS 1992), Beau Ranger (PP 1987, BS 1984) and Fifty Dollars More (PP 1982, BS 1983) also achieved double glory.

* No horse has won the Boylesports.com Gold Cup twice.

BOYLESPORTS.COM GOLD CUP ROLL OF HONOUR

YEAR	HORSE	AGE/WEIGHT	TRAINER	JOCKEY	SP	RAN
2008	<i>Abandoned</i>					
2007	Tamarinbleu	7-11-08	David Pipe	Denis O'Regan	22/1	16
2006	Exotic Dancer	6-11-04	Jonjo O'Neill	Tony Dobbin	8/1	12
2005	Sir Oj	8-10-00	Noel Meade (IRE)	Paul Carberry	16/1	16
2004	Monkerhostin	7-10-02	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	4/1	13
2003	Iris Royal	7-10-13	Nicky Henderson	Mick Fitzgerald	7/1	17
2002	Fondmort	6-10-05	Nicky Henderson	Mick Fitzgerald	5/1	9
2001	<i>Abandoned</i>					
2000	Go Roger Go	6-11-00	Edward O'Grady (IRE)	Norman Williamson	7/1	12
1999	Legal Right	6-10-13	Jonjo O'Neill	Richard Johnson	6/1	9
1998	Northern Starlight	7-10-01	Martin Pipe	Tony McCoy	15/2	13
1997	Senor El Betrutti	8-11-03	Sue Nock	Graham Bradley	9/1	9
1996	Addington Boy	8-11-10	Gordon Richards	Tony Dobbin	7/4f	10
1995	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1994	Dublin Flyer	8-10-02	Tim Forster	Brendan Powell	100/30	11
1993	Fragrant Dawn	9-10-02	Martin Pipe	Declan Murphy	14/1	11
1992	Another Coral	9-11-04	David Nicholson	Richard Dunwoody	11/2	10
1991	Kings Fountain	8-11-10	Kim Bailey	Anthony Tory	7/4f	8
1990	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1989	Clever Folly	9-10-04	Gordon Richards	Neale Doughty	4/1	6
1988	Pegwell Bay	7-10-13	Tim Forster	Brendan Powell	7/2	10
1987	Bishops Yarn	8-10-07	Toby Balding	Richard Guest	100/30	5
1986	Oregon Trail	6-10-07	Simon Christian	Ronnie Beggan	3/1jf	6
1985	Combs Ditch	9-11-09	David Elsworth	Colin Brown	13/2	7
1984	Beau Ranger	6-9-10	John Thorne	John Hurst	8/1	10
1983	Fifty Dollars More	8-11-10	Fred Winter	Richard Linley	3/1f	13
1982	Observe	6-10-11	Fred Winter	John Francome	11/2	15
1981	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1980	Bueche Giorod	9-10-00	Jenny Pitman	Bryan Smart	14/1	15
1979	Father Delaney	7-10-10	Peter Easterby	Alan Brown	12/1	12
1978	The Snipe	8-10-00	John Webber	Anthony Webber	20/1	14
1977	Even Melody	8-11-02	Neville Crump	Colin Hawkins	8/1	11
1976	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1975	Easby Abbey	8-11-10	Peter Easterby	Ron Barry	5/1	9
1974	Garnishee	10-10-06	Tom Jones	David Mould	12/1	9
1973	Pendil	8-12-07	Fred Winter	Richard Pitman	8/11f	8
1972	Arctic Bow	7-10-12	Bob Turnell	Andy Turnell	9/2 jf	11
1971	Leap Frog	7-12-01	Tom Dreaper (IRE)	Val O'Brien	3/1f	12
1970	Simian	8-11-08	Auriol Sinclair	David Moore	4/1	7
1969	Titus Oates	7-11-13	Gordon Richards	Ron Barry	9/4f	11
1968	Tassilo	10-10-01	Fulke Walwyn	Aly Branford	8/1	14
1967	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1966	The Laird	5-10-09	Bob Turnell	Jeff King	13/2	8
1965	Flyingbolt	6-12-06	Tom Dreaper (IRE)	Pat Taaffe	5/2f	11
1964	Flying Wild	8-10-06	Dan Moore (IRE)	Tommy Carberry	100/8	7
1963	Limeking	6-10-12	Danny Morgan (IRE)	Toss Taaffe	100/9	14

IRISH-TRAINED RUNNERS IN THE BOYLESPTS.COM GOLD CUP (1990-2008)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Position</u>
1990	Meeting abandoned		
1991	Toranfield	Fran Lennon	4th
1992	Second Scheduling	Arthur Moore	2nd
1993	No Irish runners		
1994	Nuaffe	Pat Fahy	2nd
1995	Meeting abandoned		
1996	Royal Mountbrowne Anabatic Belvederian	Aidan O'Brien Michael O'Brien Mouse Morris	5th 6th U
1997	No Irish runners		
1998	No Irish runners		
1999	No Irish runners		
2000	GO ROGER GO Hill Society Lyreen Wonder	EDWARD O'GRADY Noel Meade Arthur Moore	WON P F
2001	Meeting Abandoned		
2002	Youneverwalkalone Killultagh Storm	Christy Roche Willie Mullins	3rd 8th
2003	Risk Accessor Kadoun Adamant Approach	Christy Roche Michael O'Brien Willie Mullins	2nd 8th 11th
2004	Mossy Green	Willie Mullins	P
2005	SIR OJ	NOEL MEADE	WON
2006	Ross River	Tony Martin	7th
2007	No Irish runners		
2008	Meeting abandoned		

RECORD OF CURRENT TRAINERS IN THE BOYLESPTS.COM GOLD CUP (SINCE 1983)

Kim Bailey

1989 1 KINGS FOUNTAIN
1993 4 Stunning Stuff
1996 4 Bertone
1998 9 Bertone

Tracey Barfoot-Saunt

2005 7 Mixsterthetrixster

Peter Bowen

2007 8 Yes Sir

Michael Chapman

2003 10 Ei Ei

Henry Daly

2003 9 Young Spartacus
2003 BD Hand Inn Hand
2007 5 Palarshan

Ben De Haan

2003 F Indian Scout

Simon Dow

1999 6 Chief's Song

Tim Easterby

1997 6 Simply Dashing
1998 2 Simply Dashing

David Elsworth

1985 1 COMBS DITCH
1989 3 Barnbrook Again

Pat Fahy IRE

1994 2 Nuaffe

James Fanshawe

2006 8 Reveillez

Merrick Francis

1988 7 Dunkirk

Jonathan Geake

2007 9 Black Hills

Richard Guest

2005 10 Our Armageddon

Milton Harris

2007 6 Magic Sky

Nicky Henderson

1983 2 The Tsarevich
1984 2 Classified
1984 6 The Tsarevich
1992 4 Freeline Finishing
1993 3 Freeline Finishing
1996 P Big Matt
1999 P Stormyfairweather
2002 1 FONDMORT
2003 1 IRIS ROYAL
2004 7 Fondmort
2004 UR Scots Grey
2005 9 Scots Grey
2005 BD Fondmort
2007 P Copsale Lad

Philip Hobbs

1989 P Joint Sovereignty
1997 3 Bells Life
1998 4 Dr Leunt
1998 6 Stormy Passage
1999 4 Stormy Passage
2000 4 In The Blood
2002 7 Wave Rock
2004 1 MONKERHOSTIN
2004 F Farmer Jack
2005 3 Lacdoudal

Alan Jarvis

1983 5 Greenways
1984 3 Kathies Lad

Malcolm Jefferson

2007 11 Roman Ark

Alan King

2004 F Massac
2006 4 Tikram
2007 P II Duce

Henrietta Knight

2002 2 Foly Pleasant
2003 P Foly Pleasant
2004 6 Impek

Richard Lee

1998 7 Super Coin
2000 P Or Royal

John Mackie

1992 6 Sacre D'Or

Tony Martin IRE

2006 7 Ross River

Noel Meade IRE

2000 P Hill Society
2005 1 SIR OJ

Gary Moore

2004 5 Tikram

Arthur Moore IRE

1992 2 Second Scheduling
2000 F Lyreen Wonder

Mouse Morris IRE

1996 U Belvederian

Willie Mullins IRE

2002 8 Killultagh Storm
2003 11 Adamant Approach
2004 P Mossy Green

Ferdy Murphy

1993 P Brandeston
2003 7 Ballinclair King
2004 3 Europa
2005 5 Europa
2007 10 New Alco

Paul Nicholls

1998 3 Mr Strong Gale
1999 3 Irbee
2000 8 Soldat
2002 5 Fadalko
2003 4 Royal Auclair
2003 6 Armatürk
2004 2 Thisthatandtother
2004 4 Armatürk
2005 2 Le Passing
2005 F Thisthatandtother
2006 3 Taranis
2006 5 Thisthatandtother
2006 9 Cerium
2007 2 Le Volfoni
2007 P New Little Bric

Aidan O'Brien IRE

1996 5 Royal Mountbrowne

Edward O'Grady IRE

2000 1 GO ROGER GO

Jonjo O'Neill

1998 5 All The Aces
1999 1 LEGAL RIGHT
2005 11 Quazar
2005 SU Risk Accessor
2006 1 EXOTIC DANCER
2006 10 Butler's Cabin

Jim Old

1983 F Maori Venture

Amanda Perrett

1997 5 Fine Thyne

David Pipe

2006 6 Madison du Berlais
2006 11 Contraband
2006 P Bannow Strand
2007 1 TAMARINBLEU
2007 P Abragante

Nicky Richards

1998 F Addington Boy
2003 3 Telemoss
2007 4 Faasel

Christy Roche IRE

2002 3
Youlneverwalkalone
2003 2 Risk Accessor

Richard Rowe

1999 F Sir Dante

Oliver Sherwood

1994 P Coulton

Andy Turnell

1983 12 Bishops Bow
1984 5 Bishop's Bow
1996 8 Old Bridge

Nigel Twiston-Davies

1991 5 Tipping Tim
1992 3 Tipping Tim
1993 2 Young Hustler
1994 7 Tipping Tim
1998 P Queen Of Spades
2003 P Eskleybrook
2003 F Redemption
2005 6 Redemption
2006 2 Knowhere
2007 3 Patman Du Charmil
2007 P Knowhere

Alistair Whillans

1997 4 Major Bell

Sarah Williams

1994 U Country Lad

Venetia Williams

1999 2 Nordance Prince
2000 9 Samakaan
2002 6 Golden Goal
2003 P Banker Court
2007 7 Idole First

RECORD OF CURRENT JOCKEYS IN THE BOYLESPORTS.COM GOLD CUP (SINCE 1983)

Mark Bradburne
2003 9 Young Spartacus

Paddy Brennan
2007 P Knowhere

Paul Carberry
2005 1 SIR OJ

Philip Carberry
2007 9 Black Hills

David Casey
1999 F Dawn Leader
2002 8 Killultagh Storm

Barry Cash
2000 F Lyreen Wonder

Mr Denis Cullen
2003 8 Kadoun

James Davies
2003 F Indian Scout

David England
2007 3 Patman Du Charmil

Tony Evans
2006 2 Knowhere

Johnny Farrelly
2006 10 Butler's Cabin

Barry Geraghty
2004 P Mossy Green

Andrew Glassonbury
2005 8 Therealbandit

Rodi Greene
2002 9 Exit Swinger
2006 11 Contraband

Brian Harding
2005 11 Quazar
2007 4 Faasel

Liam Heard
2006 5 Thisthatandtother

Richard Johnson
1997 9 Kadi
1998 U Potter's Bay
1999 1 LEGAL RIGHT
2000 9 Samakaan
2002 7 Wave Rock
2003 BD Hand Inn Hand
2004 1 MONKERHOSTIN
2005 3 Lacdoudal
2007 5 Palarshan

Fergus King
2007 11 Roman Ark

Graham Lee
2007 10 New Alco

Jason Maguire
2004 3 Europa
2005 5 Europa

Warren Marston
1993 10 Another Coral
2003 F Redemption

Jimmy McCarthy
2000 7 Blowing Wind

Tony McCoy
1997 2 Challenger Du Luc
1998 1 NORTHERN STARLIGHT
1999 5 Northern Starlight
2000 6 Exit Swinger
2002 4 Cyfor Malta
2003 5 It Takes Time
2005 SU Risk Accessor
2006 8 Reveillez
2007 P Abrugante

Richard McGrath
1998 5 All The Aces

Robbie McNally
2003 6 Armaturk

Jamie Moore
2004 5 Tikram

Timmy Murphy
2000 8 Soldat
2003 2 Risk Accessor
2004 F Our Vic
2005 P Our Vic
2006 P Bannow Strand

Tom O'Brien
2007 8 Yes Sir

Alan O'Keeffe
2007-7 Idole First

Henry Oliver
2005 7 Mixsterthetrixster

Denis O'Regan
2007 1 Tamrinbleu

Charlie Poste
2007 6 Magic Sky

Davy Russell
2006 7 Ross River

Nick Scholfield
2007 2 Le Volfoni

Tom Scudamore
2006 6 Madison Du Berlais

Sam Thomas
2003 P Banker Count
2006 9 Cerium
2007 P New Little Bric

Andrew Thornton
1999 4 Stormy Passage
2000 P Or Royal

Robert Thornton
1997 7 Destin D'Estruval
2003 P Foly Pleasant
2004 F Massac
2006 4 Tikram
2007 P Il Duce

Andrew Tinkler
2004 UR Scots Grey
2005 9 Scots Grey

Joe Tizzard
1998 3 Mr Strong Gale
1999 3 Irbee
2005 2 Le Passing

Lee Vickers
2003 10 Ei Ei

Ruby Walsh
2002 5 Fadalko
2003 11 Adamant Approach
2004 2 Thisthatandtother
2006 3 Taranis

Christian Williams
2003 4 Royal Auclair
2004 4 Armaturk
2005 F Thisthatandtother

BOYLESPORTS.COM INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

The £150,000 Boylesports.com International, run over two miles and a furlong, is one of the most valuable hurdle races of the season. Any horse that wins the Boylesports.com International and goes on to take the showpiece two-mile hurdle at The Festival in March, the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle, will land their connections a bonus of a further £200,000.

The Boylesports.com International was run as the Cheltenham Trial Hurdle until 1977 when the name was changed to the Bula Hurdle, after the top-class Cheltenham winner. It has always been one of the leading trials for the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle.

Scottish Memories won the initial running in 1963 while the following two renewals went to winners of the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle, Magic Court and Salmon Spray. Fulke Walwyn saddled the Willie Robinson-ridden Sempervivum to take the 1966 event. Earlier that year, the eight-year-old had finished the runner-up to Salmon Spray in the Champion Hurdle.

Pendil was another high-class performer to win the Boylesports.com International. He was successful in 1970 for trainer Fred Winter and went to even greater heights over fences, capturing the feature chase at this meeting, the Boylesports.com Gold Cup, three years later.

Bula, the racehorse after whom this prestigious event was named for many years, was another success for Winter, prevailing in 1972 by one and a half lengths from the Peter Bailey-trained Canasta Lad, who had himself won the 1971 contest. The great Bula, who was ridden by Paul Kelleway, won the Champion Hurdle in 1971 and 1972. Bula's owner Captain Bill Edwards-Heathcote has maintained his Cheltenham links, having experienced success with Village King in the 2002 Golden Miller Handicap Chase.

Fred Rimell trained Comedy Of Errors to win the Boylesports.com International two years running in 1973 and 1974. Comedy Of Errors was also a dual Champion Hurdle winner (1973 and 1975). Bill Smith rode the gelding to three of those four successes.

The great hurdler Bird's Nest was the first horse to win the Boylesports.com International three times, being successful in 1977, 1978 and 1980. Bob Turnell saddled Bird's Nest to the first two of his successes, with son Andy in the saddle. Andy Turnell went on to complete the three-timer in the saddle and was also the trainer in 1980, following his father's death.

The other three-time winner was Relkeel, who gained successive victories in the Boylesports.com International in 1997 and 1998 for the late David Nicholson. The Relkino gelding went on to complete his hat-trick in 1999, when under the care of Nicholson's former assistant Alan King, and now has a race named after him on the Saturday of the Boylesports International.

The Nicky Henderson-trained Geos won the Boylesports.com International in 2000, when beating Barton by six lengths. He was subsequently successful in Kempton's Christmas Hurdle later in the same month and finished fourth to Hors La Loi III in the 2002 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle. Geos filled the same position in the 2003 Queen Mother Champion Chase at The Festival, having three months earlier finished a creditable two-length third to the Philip Hobbs-trained Rooster Booster in the 2002 Boylesports.com International.

Rooster Booster also lined up at the 2003 Festival, and took the hurdling crown, the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle. His jockey, Richard Johnson, is the most successful current rider in the Boylesports.com International with four successes having also partnered Relkeel to victory in 1999 and 1997, and Detroit City in 2006. Jamie Osborne and Andy Turnell, now trainers, both enjoyed three victories in the race. Rooster Booster returned to Prestbury Park for the next two renewals of the Boylesports.com International, running a close fifth behind the Paul Nicholls-trained Rigmarole in 2003 and fourth to Back In Front a year later.

Edward O'Grady's Back In Front - the second Irish-trained winner of the race after the Jim Bolger-trained Condor Pan in 1988 - was a four-length winner in 2004 under Davy Russell, from subsequent three-time Ladbrokes World Hurdle winner Inglis Drever.

Harchibald, runner-up in the 2005 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle, made it two winners in two years for the Irish with a classy performance in 2005. Noel Meade's star hurdler travelled brilliantly under Paul Carberry, and despite finding trouble approaching the last flight, picked up in tremendous style to be the decisive winner from Intersky Falcon.

Detroit City was the victorious horse in 2006, coming home a length in front of the 2004 and 2005 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle victor Hardy Eustace. Something of a Cheltenham specialist having also won the JCB Triumph Hurdle and the Greatwood Hurdle at the course in 2006, the Philip Hobbs-trained gelding disappointed when starting 6/4 favourite but only finishing sixth in the 2007 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle.

In 2007, the Boylesports.com International proved a great guide to the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle. The David Pipe-trained Osana, in receipt of 4lb, prevailed by eight lengths from Katchit in the December contest. The pair re-opposed in the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle in March, 2008, when Katchit got the better of his conqueror by a length.

Last year waterlogging prevented the Boylesports.com International taking place at Cheltenham, but the race was re-scheduled at Ascot the following weekend. Binocular, who had finished runner-up in the 2008 Supreme Novices' Hurdle at The Festival, prevailed by four and a half lengths from Celestial Halo, who had taken the previous season's JCB Triumph Hurdle. Chomba Womba finished third with the 2008 Smurfit Champion Hurdle victor Katchit fourth and Crack Away Jack sixth.

Binocular went straight to the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle, where he started the 6/4 favourite and finished a close third behind stablemate Punjabi. Celestial Halo took second in the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle with Crack Away Jack fourth, proving what a high-class race the Boylesports.com International is.

BOYLESPORTS.COM INTERNATIONAL FACTS & FIGURES

* The Boylesports.com International was first run in 1963 when Scottish Memories was successful.

* Up until 1977, it was run as the Cheltenham Trial Hurdle. It was renamed in 1977 to reflect Bula's successes at Cheltenham, including the Champion Hurdle in 1971 and 1972. He also won a division of the Supreme Novices' Hurdle in 1970 and finished third in the 1975 Cheltenham Gold Cup. Boylesports sponsored the Boylesports.com International for the first time in 2006.

* Bula won the race subsequently named in his honour in 1972, the same year as his second Champion Hurdle victory.

* Six horses in total have won both the Boylesports.com International and the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle:

	<i>INTERNATIONAL</i>	<i>CHAMPION</i>
Magic Court	1964	1964
Salmon Spray	1965	1966
Bula	1972	1972
Comedy Of Errors	1973, 1974	1973, 1975
Sea Pigeon	1975	1980, 1981
Rooster Booster	2002	2003

* Salmon Spray, Comedy Of Errors (1974 success) and Rooster Booster are the three horses to win the two contests in the same season.

* The shortest-priced winner was Comedy Of Errors (1973) at 2/5.

* Solway Sands (1968) provided the biggest shock in the history of the contest when winning at 33/1.

* Overall, favourites have a fair record with 18 wins in 41 runnings (just under 44%).

* The Boylesports.com International is a good race for multiple winners, with Comedy Of Errors (1973, 1974) and Large Action (1994 and 1996) both winning the race twice.

* In addition, Bird's Nest (1977, 1978, 1980) and Relkeel (1997, 1998 and 1999) were both triumphant three times.

* Bob Turnell and Oliver Sherwood are the two most successful trainers in the race's history. In addition to winning twice with Bird's Nest (1977, 1978), Turnell also saddled Salmon Spray (1965). Oliver Sherwood's three wins came courtesy of Large Action (1994 & 1996) and Cruising Altitude (1989).

* Richard Johnson is the winning-most jockey, recording four victories. Relkeel (1997 & 1999), Rooster Booster (2002) and Detroit City (2006).

* The largest field was in 1977 when 10 runners went to post, while only four horses lined up in 1966, 1974, 2001 and 2006.

BOYLESPORTS.COM INTERNATIONAL ROLL OF HONOUR

YEAR	HORSE	AGE/WEIGHT	TRAINER	JOCKEY	SP	RAN
2008**	Binocular	4-11-04	Nicky Henderson	Tony McCoy	Evsf	5
2007	Osana	5-11-00	David Pipe	Paddy Brennan	7/1	8
2006	Detroit City	4-11-04	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	4/6f	4
2005	Harchibald	6-11-08	Noel Meade IRE	Paul Carberry	10/11f	9
2004	Back In Front	7-11-08	Edward O'Grady IRE	Davy Russell	5/2f	7
2003	Rigmarole	5-11-04	Paul Nicholls	Robert Thornton	25/1	7
2002	Rooster Booster	8-11-04	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	11/8f	9
2001*	Valiramix	5-11-04	Martin Pipe	Tony McCoy	1/2f	4
2000	Geos	5-11-04	Nicky Henderson	Mick Fitzgerald	14/1	8
1999	Relkeel	10-11-08	Alan King	Richard Johnson	13/2	7
1998	Relkeel	9-11-08	David Nicholson	Adrian Maguire	8/1	5
1997	Relkeel	8-11-00	David Nicholson	Richard Johnson	8/1	8
1996	Large Action	8-11-08	Oliver Sherwood	Jamie Osborne	5/4f	7
1995	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1994	Large Action	6-11-04	Oliver Sherwood	Jamie Osborne	8/11f	8
1993	Staunch Friend	5-11-08	Mark Tompkins	Declan Murphy	6/1	7
1992	Halkopous	6-11-02	Mark Tompkins	Adrian Maguire	8/1	6
1991	Royal Derbi	6-11-08	Neville Callaghan	Declan Murphy	9/2	5
1990	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1989	Cruising Altitude	6-11-04	Oliver Sherwood	Jamie Osborne	8/11f	8
1988	Condor Pan	5-11-02	Jim Bolger IRE	Charlie Swan	12/1	8
1987	Pat's Jester	4-11-02	Dick Allan	Peter Niven	11/2	8
1986	Floyd	6-11-02	David Elsworth	Colin Brown	7/2	8
1985	Corporal Clinger	6-11-02	Martin Pipe	Paul Leach	20/1	9
1984	Browne's Gazette	6-11-04	Monica Dickinson	Mr Ronnie Beggan	7/2	5
1983	Amarach	5-11-06	Roger Fisher	Jimmy Duggan	7/2jf	9
1982	Ekalco	6-11-10	Roger Fisher	Jonjo O'Neill	2/1jf	5
1981	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1980	Bird's Nest	10-11-06	Andy Turnell	Andy Turnell	5/2f	7
1979	Celtic Ryde	4-11-03	Peter Cundell	Martin O'Halloran	11/4	5
1978	Bird's Nest	8-11-06	Bob Turnell	Andy Turnell	evensf	5
1977	Bird's Nest	7-11-06	Bob Turnell	Andy Turnell	11/4	10
1976	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1975	Sea Pigeon	5-11-02	Gordon Richards	Jonjo O'Neill	5/1	7
1974	Comedy Of Errors	7-11-10	Fred Rimell	Ken White	6/4	4
1973	Comedy Of Errors	6-11-12	Fred Rimell	Bill Smith	2/5f	5
1972	Bula	7-11-12	Fred Winter	Paul Kelleway	8/13f	8
1971	Canasta Lad	5-11-08	Peter Bailey	Jeff King	5/1	8
1970	Pendil	5-11-08	Fred Winter	Paul Kelleway	7/2	6
1969	Celtic Gold	7-12-01	Arthur Stephenson	Stan Murphy	9/2	7
1968	Solway Sands	4-11-06	John McMurchie	Brian Fletcher	33/1	7
1967	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1966	Sempervivum	8-11-11	Fulke Walwyn	Willie Robinson	8/11f	4
1965	Salmon Spray	7-12-01	Bob Turnell	Johnny Haine	3/1	5
1964	Magic Court	6-12-01	Tommy Robson	Pat McCarron	4/7f	6
1963	Scottish Memories	9-11-11	Arthur Thomas	C Finnegan	6/4f	7

* run at Newbury

** run at Ascot

RECORD OF CURRENT TRAINERS IN THE BOYLESPORTS.COM INTERNATIONAL (SINCE 1983)

Dick Allan
1987 1 **PAT'S JESTER**
1988 7 Pat's Jester

Kim Bailey
1989 6 Biloxi Blues

Jim Bolger IRE
1988 1 **CONDOR PAN**

John Carr IRE
2007 4 Sublimity

Noel Chance
2003 4 Flame Creek
2004 F Flame Creek

Francois Doumen FR
2002 5 Never

Simon Dow
1989 7 Highland Bounty

Tim Easterby
2000 2 **Barton**

David Elsworth
1984 5 Easter Lee
1985 4 Robin Wonder
1986 1 **FLOYD**
1986 3 **Robin Wonder**
1987 7 Robin Wonder
1988 2 **Floyd**
1989 4 Floyd
1991 5 Oh So Risky
1992 4 Oh So Risky
1993 3 **Muse**
1994 3 **Absalom's Lady**
1996 4 Muse

James Fanshawe
2000 P Hors La Loi III
2001 3 **Hors La Loi III**
2002 F Hors La Loi III

Roger Fisher
1983 1 **AMARACH**

Nick Gifford
2007 6 Straw Bear

Steve Gollings
2005 5 Royal Shakespeare

Richard Hannon
1996 6 Right Win

Jessica Harrington IRE
2003 6 Spirit Leader
2007 P Macs Joy

Nicky Henderson
1999 5 Katarino
2000 1 **GEOS**
2002 2 **Landing Light**
2002 3 **Geos**
2007 5 Afsoun
2008 1 **BINOCULAR**
2008 3 **Chomba Womba**

Barry Hills
1989 2 **Nomadic Way**
1991 2 **Nomadic Way**

Philip Hobbs
2002 1 **ROOSTER BOOSTER**
2003 5 Rooster Booster
2004 4 Rooster Booster
2006 1 **DETROIT CITY**

Reg Hollinshead
1985 5 Out Of The Gloom

Dessie Hughes IRE
2006 2 **Hardy Eustace**

Malcolm Jefferson
1998 F Dato Star

Howard Johnson
1992 6 Boro Smackeroo
2004 2 Inglis Drever
2005 U Akilak
2006 4 Arcalis

Alan King
1999 1 **RELKEEL**
2005 4 Penzance
2007 2 **Katchit**
2007 3 **Penzance**
2008 4 Katchit

Emma Lavelle
2008 5 Crack Away Jack

Charlie Mann
1997 8 Bimsey

Noel Meade IRE
2005 1 **HARCHIBALD**

Hughie Morrison
2002 4 Marble Arch

Willie Mullins IRE
2003 2 **Davenport Milenium**

Pat Murphy
1997 4 Shooting Light
1999 3 Shooting Light

Paul Nicholls
2003 1 **RIGMAROLE**
2005 6 Phar Bleu
2005 7 Sporazene
2007 7 Desert Quest
2008 2 **Celestial Halo**

Aidan O'Brien IRE
1996 3 **Theatreworld**
1997 5 Just Little

Edward O'Grady IRE
2004 1 **BACK IN FRONT**

Jonjo O'Neill
2003 3 **Hasty Prince**
2005 2 **Intersky Falcon**

Jim Old
1983 F Cima
1997 3 **Collier Bay**
1999 F Sir Talbot
2001 4 Sir Talbot

David Pipe
2007 1 **OSANA**

Richard Price
1993 4 Flakey Dove
1994 2 **Flakey Dove**

Dr Philip Pritchard
2002 7 Fifth Generation
2004 6 Knockrigg

John Quinn
2006 3 Crow Wood

Nicky Richards
2001 2 **The French Furze**
2002 6 The French Furze
2003 7 The French Furze
2004 5 The French Furze
2005 3 **Faasel**

Christy Roche IRE
2000 P Youlneverwalkalone

Oliver Sherwood
1987 2 **Aldino**
1989 1 **CRUISING ALTITUDE**
1994 1 **LARGE ACTION**
1996 1 **LARGE ACTION**
1997 6 Large Action

Sir Michael Stoute
1992 5 Kribensis

Mark Tompkins
1992 1 **HALKOPOUS**
1993 1 **STAUNCH FRIEND**
1993 2 **Halkopous**

Nigel Twiston-Davies
1986 4 Mrs Muck
1987 6 Mrs Muck
1997 7 Moorish
2000 5 Mister Morose

Steve Woodman
1993 F King Credo

RECORD OF CURRENT JOCKEYS IN THE BOYLESports.COM INTERNATIONAL (SINCE 1983)

Leighton Aspell
1999 3 Shooting Light

Paddy Brennan
2006 4 Arcalis
2007 1 OSANA

Paul Carberry
2005 1 HARCHIBALD

Philip Carberry
2007 4 Sublimity

Jack Doyle
2008 5 Crack Away Jack

Seamus Durack
2003 4 Flame Creek

Barry Geraghty
2004 F Flame Creek
2007 P Macs Joy
2008 3 Chomba Womba

Rodi Greene
2002 7 Fifth Generation

Brian Harding
2002 6 The French Furze
2004 5 The French Furze

Philip Hide
2000 3 Mr Percy

Richard Johnson
1997 1 RELKEEL
1998 3 Midnight Legend
1999 1 RELKEEL
2002 1 ROOSTER BOOSTER
2003 5 Rooster Booster
2004 4 Rooster Booster
2006 1 DETROIT CITY
2007 3 Penzance

Graham Lee
2005 U Akilak

Warren Marston
1993 5 Royal Derbi

Jimmy McCarthy
1997 6 Large Action

Tony McCoy
1997 2 Pridwell
1998 4 Pridwell
1999 2 Far Cry
2000 6 Seebald
2001 1 VALIRAMIX
2002 4 Marble Arch
2003 3 Hasty Prince
2005 2 Intersky Falcon
2006 3 Crow Wood
2007 6 Straw Bear
2008 1 BINOCULAR

Timmy Murphy
1999 F Sir Talbot
2000 4 Hitman
2004 3 Westender
2005 P Westender

Davy Russell
2004 1 BACK IN FRONT

Tom Scudamore
2005 5 Royal Shakespeare

Sam Thomas
2007 7 Desert Quest

Andrew Thornton
2000 P Hors La Loi III

Robert Thornton
1997 7 Moorish
2003 1 RIGMAROLE
2005 4 Penzance
2007 2 Katchit
2008 4 Katchit

Ruby Walsh
2002 F Hors La Loi III
2003 2 Davenport Milenium
2008 2 Celestial Halo

Christian Williams
2005 7 Sporazene

NEPTUNE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT HANDICAP CHASE HISTORY

The £50,000 Listed Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase, the highlight of the card at Cheltenham on Friday, December 11, was first held in 1963 as the Bishop's Cleeve Handicap Chase over three miles. The distance of the race has alternated during its history, though the contest has always been run between three miles and three miles, one and a half furlongs (the present distance).

The very first running was held on a Monday and was won by 2/1 favourite John O'Groats, trained by Syd Dale at Epsom and ridden by Paul Kelleway.

In 1970 the race saw a fine weight-carrying performance from the seven-year-old The Dikler, who triumphed under the welter-burden of 12st. He landed his biggest success at Prestbury Park in the 1973 Cheltenham Gold Cup, edging out Pendil in a memorable finish. Fulke Walwyn, The Dikler's trainer, had further success in this race with Prairie Dog in 1971 and Diamond Edge in 1980.

Rubstic, who landed the spoils in 1975 as a six-year-old for the trainer/jockey combination of Gordon Richards and Jonjo O'Neill, proved a staying chaser of high rank and went on to capture the 1979 Grand National for different connections, beating the 1977 Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase winner, Zongalero.

Mighty's Honour became the first Irish-trained winner of the Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase when obliging for trainer Dan Moore in 1978. Only Flashing Steel in 1993 has added to that tally for Ireland.

The 1980s saw trainer Fred Winter land the contest on three occasions courtesy of Brown Chamberlin (1982), Musso (1983) and I Haventalight (1986), while Run And Skip, successful in 1985, showed that stamina was his forte by taking the Welsh National at Chepstow later that season.

Josh Gifford sent out the winner in 1984 in the shape of Door Latch, who went on to beat all bar a certain Desert Orchid in the 1986 King George VI Chase at Kempton. Gifford had first won the Cheltenham prize in 1979 with Jack Madness, and captured the Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase a further three times with the tough Yorkshire Gale (1995, 1996 & 1997), making him the most successful trainer in the race's history.

Flashing Steel provided Irish handler John Mulhern with a profitable day out in 1993, coming home five lengths to the good over Ushers Island, with Topsham Bay further back in third. The winner, owned by the late Irish Taoiseach Charles Haughey, progressed to finish fourth to The Fellow in the Cheltenham Gold Cup later in the season and won the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse under top weight in 1995. Among current trainers, Nicky Henderson and Venetia Williams lead the way. Henderson's victories came courtesy of Master Bob (1990) and Marlborough (2000), while Williams scored with Royal De Vassy (2001) and Mon Mome (2008).

Norman Williamson is the winning-most rider in the event's history, having completed a quintet of successes aboard Third In Line (1991), Whispering Steel (1994), Yorkshire Gale (1996 & 1997) and Royale De Vassy (2001). Tony McCoy's trio of victories came on Yorkshire Gale (1995), Tamarindo (1998) and Horus (2002) and he is the most successful current jockey.

In recent years, horses of the calibre of Marlborough (2000) and Kingscliff (2003) have claimed the Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase, while in 2005 the Paul Nicholls-trained Royal Auclair proved too strong for All In The Stars under an excellent ride from Liam Heard. D'Argent gave the trainer/jockey combination of Alan King and Robert Thornton a first success in the contest in 2006 when getting the better of New Alco and My Will in a thrilling finish, with two short-heads splitting the three horses.

There was another blanket finish in 2007 with just over two lengths separating the first four horses home. It was the David Pipe-trained Over The Creek who prevailed, just getting the better of Simon, Monkerhostin and Principe Azzuro.

Last year's race went the way of Mon Mome, who ran on well to deny the 2006 RSA Chase victor Star De Mohaison by half a length. On the basis of that victory, he started favourite for the Welsh National at Chepstow later in the month, but could only muster eighth. He was then beaten on his next three starts before recording a famous 100/1 success in the John Smith's Grand National at Aintree.

NEPTUNE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT HANDICAP CHASE

FACTS & FIGURES

- * The race has been run 39 times in total. It was not held in 1964, 1968 or 1969. Frost intervened in 1976 and 1987, snow caused the abandonment of the 1981 card, and the 1967 meeting was lost due to the foot and mouth epidemic.
- * Favourites boast an excellent record, having obliged on 21 occasions (a 54% strike rate), most recently Over The Creek in 2007.
- * Kingscliff at 4/7 in 2003 is the shortest-priced winner, while Lavenshaw in 1972 and Duntree in 1992 both scored at 14/1 and are the longest-priced winners.
- * Josh Gifford's five victories through Jack Madness (1979), Door Latch (1984) and hat-trick hero Yorkshire Gale (1995, 1996 & 1997) make him the most successful trainer in the race's history.
- * Among current trainers, Nicky Henderson and Venetia Williams lead the way, with two wins each. Henderson scored with Master Bob (1990) and Marlborough (2000), while Williams triumphed with Royale De Vassy (2001) and Mon Mome (2008).
- * Norman Williamson is the winning-most rider in the race's history, having completed a quintet of successes aboard Third In Line (1991), Whispering Steel (1994), Yorkshire Gale (1996 & 1997) and Royale De Vassy (2001).
- * Tony McCoy's trio of wins came on Yorkshire Gale (1995), Tamarindo (1998) and Horus (2002), and he is the most successful current jockey.
- * There have been only two Irish-trained winners - Mighty's Honour in 1978 and Flashing Steel in 1993.
- * The Dikler (1970), Diamond Edge (1980) and Brown Chamberlin (1982) all shouldered 12st to victory, while at the other end of the spectrum, Lavenshaw (1972), Rubstic (1975), Musso (1983), Yorkshire Gale (1995), Tamarindo (1998) and Royale De Vassy (2001) scored with only 10st on their backs.
- * Tamarindo, a five-year-old when triumphant in 1998, is the youngest ever winner of the race.
- * The admirably tough Yorkshire Gale was 11 when bringing up the hat-trick in 1997 as was 1988 victor Bucko, making them the oldest winners of the race.
- * The largest field was in 2007, when Over The Creek overcame 15 opponents.
- * Yorkshire Gale won the contest three times and is the only multiple winner.
- * Rubstic (1975) and Mon Mome (2008) both subsequently won the Grand National, while The Dikler (1970) went to success in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

NEPTUNE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT HANDICAP CHASE ROLL OF HONOUR

YEAR	HORSE	AGE/WEIGHT	TRAINER	JOCKEY	SP	RAN
2008	Mon Mome	8-10-08	Venetia Williams	Aidan Coleman	11/2	15
2007	Over The Creek	8-10-04	David Pipe	Christian Williams	6/1f	16
2006	D'Argent	9-10-05	Alan King	Robert Thornton	10/1	15
2005	Royal Auclair	8-11-05	Paul Nicholls	Liam Heard	13/2	11
2004	Therealbandit	7-11-09	Martin Pipe	Timmy Murphy	13/2	12
2003	Kingscliff	6-11-02	Robert Alner	Andrew Thornton	4/7f	7
2002	Horus	7-11-04	Martin Pipe	Tony McCoy	5/2f	10
2001	Royale De Vassy	7-10-00	Venetia Williams	Norman Williamson	7/1	11
2000	Marlborough	8-11-11	Nicky Henderson	Mick Fitzgerald	9/2f	12
1999	Star Traveller	8-10-02	Henry Daly	Richard Johnson	3/1	6
1998	Tamarindo	5-10-00	Martin Pipe	Tony McCoy	11/4f	12
1997	Yorkshire Gale	11-10-10	Josh Gifford	Norman Williamson	3/1jf	5
1996	Yorkshire Gale	10-11-10	Josh Gifford	Norman Williamson	11/10	2
1995	Yorkshire Gale	9-10-00	Josh Gifford	Tony McCoy	10/1	6
1994	Whispering Steel	8-11-10	Kim Bailey	Norman Williamson	10/3	7
1993	Flashing Steel	8-11-02	John Mulhern IRE	Richard Dunwoody	4/1jf	8
1992	Duntree	7-10-03	David Nicholson	Hywel Davies	14/1	10
1991	Third In Line	8-10-03	John Edwards	Norman Williamson	7/2	4
1990	Master Bob	10-11-04	Nicky Henderson	John Kavanagh	7/2	7
1989	Royal Cedar	8-10-06	John McConnochie	Richard Dunwoody	6/4f	6
1988	Bucko	11-10-04	Jimmy Fitzgerald	Mark Dwyer	7/2	6
1987	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1986	I Haventalight	7-10-11	Fred Winter	Peter Scudamore	6/4f	6
1985	Run And Skip	7-10-04	John Spearing	Peter Scudamore	6/4f	6
1984	Door Latch	6-10-07	Josh Gifford	Peter Hobbs	6/5f	8
1983	Musso	7-10-00	Fred Winter	Ben de Haan	5/1	8
1982	Brown Chamberlin	7-12-00	Fred Winter	John Francome	8/13f	8
1981	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1980	Diamond Edge	9-12-00	Fulke Walwyn	Bill Smith	2/1f	10
1979	Jack Madness	7-10-11	Josh Gifford	Richard Rowe	15/8f	6
1978	Mighty's Honour	7-11-11	Dan Moore IRE	Tommy Carberry	6/1	12
1977	Zongalero	7-10-10	Tom Jones	Steve Smith-Eccles	7/2f	9
1976	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1975	Rubstic	6-10-00	Gordon Richards	Jonjo O'Neill	10/11f	4
1974	What A Buck	7-10-04	David Nicholson	Jeff King	4/1	13
1973	Bruslee	7-10-11	Michael Scudamore	Andy Turnell	11/8f	8
1972	Lavenshaw	8-10-00	David Barons	Nigel Wakley	14/1	7
1971	Prairie Dog	7-10-06	Fulke Walwyn	Stan Mellor	9/4f	7
1970	The Dikler	7-12-00	Fulke Walwyn	Barry Brogan	5/4f	9
1969	No Race					
1968	No Race					
1967	<i>Abandoned</i>					
1966	Bassnet	7-10-12	Alec Kilpatrick	Peter Jones	9/4	8
1965	Phemius	7-11-05	Neville Crump	Gerry Scott	5/2f	7
1964	No Race					
1963	John O'Groats	9-11-01	Syd Dale	Paul Kelleway	2/1f	9

RECORD OF CURRENT TRAINERS IN THE NEPTUNE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT HANDICAP CHASE (SINCE 1983)

Robert & Sally Alner
1997 5 Harwell Lad
1998 P Cool Dawn
2003 1 KINGSLIFF
2007 P Kingscliff

Kim Bailey
1991 4 A Lad Insane
1994 1 WHISPERING STEEL
1995 P Unholy Alliance
1996 2 Glemot
1999 3 Clinton
2000 6 Supreme Charm

Kevin Bishop
1983 P Easter Carnival

Peter Bowen
2004 7 Swansea Bay
2005 5 Ballycassidy
2007 F Blue Splash

Owen Brennan
1998 5 Strath Royal

Henry Daly
1999 1 STAR TRAVELLER
2003 2 Haut Cercy
2007 4 Principe Azzurro
2008 3 Possol

Victor Dartnall
2005 P Lord Sam

Francois Doumen FR
2001 P Rubissimo
2002 8 Djeddah
2004 F Kelami
2006 13 Innox
2007 8 Kelami
2007 10 L'Ami

Mick Easterby
1994 4 Silver Stick

David Elsworth
1992 2 Givus A Buck

Nick Gifford
2004 5 Joly Bey

Milton Harris
2007 9 Herecomestanley

Nicky Henderson
1990 1 MASTER BOB
1991 3 Master Bob
1992 P Windy Ways
1999 P Esprit De Cotte
2000 1 MARLBOROUGH
2002 3 Marlborough
2005 U Liberthine
2006 4 Liberthine

Philip Hobbs
1989 F Watersmeet Down
1994 3 Clever Shepherd
2004 4 Double Honour
2007 3 Monkerhostin
2007 5 Parsons Legacy
2008 P Parsons Legacy

Ron Hodges
1990 F Rare Bid

Michael Hourigan IRE
2006 9 Church Island

Howard Johnson
1993 2 Ushers Island
2004 U Ballybough Rasher

Frank Jordan
2006 14 Model Son

Alan King
1999 2 Mulligan
2000 7 Russell Road
2005 3 Fork Lightning
2006 1 D'ARGENT
2008 8 Trigger The Light

Annabel King
1986 2 Queensway Boy

Henrietta Knight
1995 2 Edimbourg
2002 7 Be My Manager

Richard Lee
1998 2 Macgeorge
2000 4 Samuel Wilderspin
2001 5 Samuel Wilderspin

Tony Martin IRE
2002 5 Ross Moff

Gary Moore
2008 P Verasi

Hughie Morrison
2001 3 Frenchman's Creek
2004 3 Frenchman's Creek

John Mulhern IRE
1993 1 FLASHING STEEL

Ferdy Murphy
2002 3 Ballinclair King
2005 4 Joes Edge
2006 2 New Alco

Paul Nicholls
1998 6 Belmont King
1998 R Court Melody
1999 5 Galapiat Du Mesnil
2000 2 Torduff Express
2001 4 Earthmover
2003 5 Exit To Wave
2004 2 Royal Auclair
2005 1 ROYAL AUCLAIR
2005 P Exit Swinger
2006 3 My Will
2006 7 Cornish Rebel
2007 11 Ofarel D'Airy
2007 P Cornish Sett
2008 2 Star De Mohaison
2008 P Turko

Jim Old
1984 6 Herr Capitan

Jonjo O'Neill
2002 9 Rith Dubh
2003 7 Master Tern

Richard Phillips
2002 6 Go Ballistic

David Pipe
2006 5 Puntal
2006 F Commercial Flyer
2007 1 OVER THE CREEK
2008 11 Comply Or Die
2008 P Itsmyboy

Dr Philip Pritchard
2004 9 Happy Hussar

John Quinn
2008 4 Character Building

Lydia Richards
2001 P Eau De Cologne

Nicky Richards
1998 3 Unguided Missile
2008 5 Harmony Brig
2008 10 One Sniff

Richard Rowe
2000 3 Montroe

Simon Sherwood
1991 2 Latent Talent

John Spearing
1985 1 RUN AND SKIP
1988 2 Run And Skip
2007 2 Simon
2008 7 Simon

Tom Taaffe IRE
2002 P Good Shuil

Alison Thorpe
2007 7 Model Son

Andy Turnell
1984 F Maori Venture
1986 5 Tracys Special

Nigel Twiston-Davies
1993 6 Indian Tonic
1994 2 Indian Tonic
1995 4 Ghia Gneuiagh
1997 4 Young Hustler
2000 P Bosuns Mate
2001 7 Beau
2004 6 Baron Windrush
2005 P Lord Maizey
2006 11 Ardaghry
2007 P Baron Windrush
2008 6 Fundamentalist
2008 9 Irish Raptor

John Upson
1992 3 Very Very Ordinary

Karen Waldron
2005 6 Liverpool Echo

Ted Walsh IRE
2006 12 Jack High

Paul Webber
2001 P Jolly Green Giant
2006 8 No Full

Venetia Williams
2000 P Bleu Superbe
2001 1 ROYALE DE VASSY
2002 2 Bramblehill Duke
2006 6 Nil Desperandum
2007 6 Flying Enterprise
2008 1 MON MOME

RECORD OF CURRENT JOCKEYS IN THE BOYLEPOKER.COM CHASE (SINCE 1983)

Leighton Aspell
2000 3 Montroe

Mark Bradburne
2007 4 Principe Azzurro
2008 3 Possol

Paddy Brennan
2006 8 No Full
2007 P Baron Windrush
2008 9 Irish Raptor

Paul Carberry
2001 3 Frenchman's Creek

Aidan Coleman
2008 1 MON MOME

Davy Condon
2008 10 One Sniff

Dougie Costello
2008 4 Character Building

Tom Doyle
2000 4 Samuel Wilderspin
2001 5 Samuel Wilderspin

Tom Dreaper
2005 4 Joes Edge

Mr David Dunsdon
2004 5 Joly Bey

David England
2008 6 Fundamentalist

Tony Evans
2006 11 Ardaghey

Noel Fehily
2007 P Without A Doubt

Hadden Frost
2008 P Itsmyboy

Barry Geraghty
2002 P Good Shuil
2004 3 Frenchman's Creek
2008 2 Star De Mohaison

Rodi Greene
1990 2 Seagram

Brian Harding
2008 5 Harmony Brig

Liam Heard
2005 1 ROYAL AUCLAIR

Philip Hide
1994 6 Fighting Words
1995 3 Run Up The Flag
2008 P Verasi

Daryl Jacob
2005 2 All In The Stars

Kenny Johnson
1990 3 Nautical Joke

Richard Johnson
1999 1 STAR TRAVELLER
2000 7 Russell Road
2002 6 Go Ballistic
2003 2 Haut Cercy
2004 4 Double Honour
2005 P Lord Sam
2006 5 Puntal
2007 5 Parsons Legacy
2008 P Parsons Legacy

Graham Lee
2006 2 New Alco

Warren Marston
1992 U Mweenish
1995 P Lusty Light

Jimmy McCarthy
2001 P Eau De Cologne

Tony McCoy
1995 1 YORKSHIRE GALE
1998 1 TAMARINDO
2000 P Prince Sorinieres
2001 2 Royal Predica
2002 1 HORUS
2003 6 Cyfor Malta
2004 P Lord Noelie
2005 5 Ballycassidy
2006 13 Innux
2007 10 L'Ami

Andrew McNamara
2006 9 Church Island

Paddy Merrigan
2006 14 Model Son
2007 F Blue Splash

Jamie Moore
2004 8 Puntal

Michael Murphy
2007 7 Model Son

Timmy Murphy
2001 4 Earthmover
2002 7 Be My Manager
2004 1 THERREALBANDIT
2005 7 It Takes Time
2006 F Commercial Flyer
2008 11 Comply Or Die

Tom O'Brien
2007 3 Monkerhostin

Henry Oliver
2000 P Folly Road

Christophe Pieux
2007 8 Kelami

Charlie Poste
2007 9 Herecomestanley

Dr Philip Pritchard
2004 9 Happy Hussar

Davy Russell
2002 3 Ballinclay King
2006 12 Jack High

Tom Scudamore
2000 5 Majadou
2006 6 Nil Desperandum

Sam Thomas
2006 7 Cornish Rebel
2007 11 Ofarel D'Airy
2008 P Turko

Andrew Thornton
1998 P Cool Dawn
2003 1 KINGSCLIFF
2004 7 Swansea Bay
2007 2 Simon
2008 7 Simon

Robert Thornton
2000 6 Supreme Charm
2005 3 Fork Lightning
2006 1 D'ARGENT
2008 8 Trigger The Light

Joe Tizzard
1998 P Court Melody
1999 5 Galapiat Du Mesnil
2000 2 Torduff Express
2003 4 Lord Noelie

Liam Treadwell
2007 6 Flying Enterprise

Mr Sam Waley-Cohen
2005 U Liberthine
2006 4 Liberthine

Robert Walford
2007 P Kingscliff

Ruby Walsh
2001 6 Dark Stranger
2003 5 Exit To Wave
2004 2 Royal Auclair
2006 3 My Will

Christian Williams
2005 P Exit Swinger
2007 1 OVER THE CREEK

GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE

YEAR	HORSE	AGE/WEIGHT	TRAINER	JOCKEY	SP	RAN
2008	GARDE CHAMPETRE	9-11-12	Enda Bolger IRE	Miss Nina Carberry	7/4F	16
2007	WONDERKID	7-10-00	Tony Martin IRE	Ken Whelan	5/1	16
2006	SPOT THEDIFFERENCE	13-11-12	Enda Bolger IRE	Mr J T McNamara	6/1	12
2005	IVOIRE DE BEAULIEU	9-10-00	Ferdy Murphy	Alan O'Keeffe	16/1	16
2004	SPOT THEDIFFERENCE	11-11-12	Enda Bolger IRE	Mr J T McNamara	4/1JF	10
2003	No race					
2002	THE QUADS	10-11-03	Ferdy Murphy	Davy Russell	6/1	10
2001	PADDY'S RETURN	9-11-01	Ferdy Murphy	Paul Carberry	13/2	12

Introduced in the 2001/02 season, this was the first Cross Country Steeple Chase at Cheltenham to be run as a handicap.

Two trainers - Ferdy Murphy and Enda Bolger - have dominated the event.

Ferdy Murphy sent out the first two winners - Paddy's Return in 2001 and The Quads in 2002. Paddy's Return, previously successful in the 1996 Triumph Hurdle at The Festival, saw off 11 rivals to record a length and a half victory over Galapiat Du Mesnil with two Czech challengers, Sankt Moritz and Decent Fellow, finishing third and fourth, while The Quads was a comfortable 10-length winner from the Bolger-trained Eoins Pride in 2002.

The incredibly tough Spot Thedifference is the best horse to have raced over Cheltenham's Cross Country Steeplechase course with a remarkable seven victories. Spot Thedifference landed his first Glenfarclas Cross Country Handicap Steeplechase in 2004, proving four lengths too strong for French Executive.

In the 2005 renewal, Spot Thedifference turned in a rare bad performance over the unique obstacles, only managing 11th place behind another Murphy-trained winner, Ivoire De Beaulieu. However, Ivoire De Beaulieu was a fine Cross Country performer himself, as evidenced by his fourth place in the 2007 Velka Pardubicka in the Czech Republic.

Business as normal was resumed in 2006, when Spot Thedifference defied top-weight for a second victory in the contest, coming home a length in front of French challenger Plum'Tee at the age of 13. The subsequent 2007 John Smith's Grand National winner, Silver Birch, finished eighth.

The 2007 contest saw Tony Martin become only the third trainer to land the race when Wonderkid prevailed by eight lengths from the Bolger-trained Heads Onthe Ground, with Ivoire De Beaulieu in fourth.

Bolger was back in the winner's enclosure last year with Garde Champetre, who saw off his stable companion L'Ami by a length and a quarter. Garde Champetre has developed into a real cross country specialist, as he has also won the Glenfarclas Cross Country Handicap Chase at The Festival in both 2008 and 2009, as well as the Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase at The Open in 2009. Is he the new Spot Thedifference?

THE BOYLESPORTS INTERNATIONAL 2009

Race Programme - New Course

Friday & Saturday, December 11 & 12

First Day - Friday, December 11

Time	Race	Distance	Prize Money
12.05pm	Cheltenham Collection Novices' Chase	2m 5f	£20,000
12.40pm	Caspian Caviar Handicap Hurdle	2m 1f	£10,000
1.15pm	Glenfarclas Cross Country Handicap Steeple Chase	3m 7f	£22,500
1.50pm	Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase (Listed Race)	3m 1f 110yds	£50,000
2.25pm	CF Roberts Electrical & Mechanical Services Conditional Jockeys' H'cap Chase	2m 5f	£11,000
3.00pm	Boylesports Handicap Hurdle	3m	£20,000
3.35pm	EBF "National Hunt" Novices' Hurdle	2m 1f	£10,000

TOTAL £143,500

Second Day - Saturday, December 12

Time	Race	Distance	Prize Money
12.10pm	Cheltenham Military Charity Ball Juvenile Novices' Hurdle	2m 1f	£17,000
12.45pm	Ryman The Stationer Novices' Chase	3m 1f 110yds	£20,000
1.15pm	Jenny Mould Memorial Handicap Chase	2m 110yds	£22,500
1.50pm	Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle (Grade Two)	3m	£30,000
2.25pm	Boylesports.com Gold Cup (H'cap Chase) (Grade Three) (Order of Merit)	2m 5f	£150,000
3.05pm	Boylesports.com International (Hurdle) (Grade Two) (Order of Merit)	2m 1f	£150,000
3.40pm	Unicoil Homes Relkeel Hurdle (Grade Two)	2m 4f 110yds	£42,500

TOTAL £432,000

MEETING TOTAL £575,500