

INDEX TO THE THIRD 2010 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL MEDIA INFORMATION PACK

This media information pack was compiled by Racenews on Tuesday, January 19, and is embargoed until noon on Wednesday, January 20. The pack contains the entries and related information for the 2010 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle (Tuesday, March 16).

Page 1, the index, will be updated with each pack to ensure easy reference to the information received in the build-up to the 2010 Festival at Cheltenham from Tuesday, March 16, to Friday, March 19, which has prize money of over £3.4 million. If you have any queries about the information in the pack or its delivery, please ring Racenews on 020-7704-0326 or email racenews@racenewsonline.com. Each pack is also available on Cheltenham's Internet site, www.cheltenham.co.uk

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CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until noon, Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Meeting - The Festival, Dates - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, March 16 - 19
First race - 1.30pm each day
Tickets available from www.cheltenham.co.uk or by calling 08445 793 003

RECORD IRISH-TRAINED ENTRY OF 21 FOR SMURFIT KAPPA CHAMPION HURDLE

Having failed to make the frame in the past two renewals of the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle, the Irish domination of the hurdling showpiece looks set to return with a vengeance in this year's contest, with Irish trainers being responsible for 21 of the 34 entries for the highlight of the first day of The Festival on Tuesday, March 16.

Heading the challenge from across the Irish Sea is the Noel Meade-trained **Go Native**, who is seeking a second win at The Festival having triumphed in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle last season. The seven-year-old has already plundered two of Britain's top hurdling prizes this season, following up a comfortable victory in the Grade One Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle in November with a hard-fought success over **Starluck** in the Grade One Christmas Hurdle at Kempton the following month.

Solwhit was third behind Go Native at Newcastle but the Charles Byrnes-trained six-year-old recorded a third Grade One victory when defeating the 2007 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle victor **Sublimity** in the Leopardstown Christmas Hurdle. Both horses are set to re-oppose in this weekend's Irish Champion Hurdle, where they could meet the progressive **Donnas Palm**, who landed the Grade Two Tara Hurdle on his latest appearance.

Voler La Vedette has been forced to miss her intended engagement in the Irish Champion Hurdle but the talented six-year-old, a 13-length winner over Go Native in a Grade Three Hurdle at Down Royal in November, may bid to become the first mare to land the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle since Flakey Dove in 1994.

A trio of entries from the stable of Willie Mullins includes last season's David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle heroine **Quevega**, while Philip Fenton has given an entry to the exciting novice **Dunguib**, who sauntered to a 10-length success in last year's Weatherbys Champion Bumper and was an equally impressive winner of the Grade One Royal Bond Novice Hurdle on his latest start.

The home defence is set to be headed by last year's JCB Triumph Hurdle winner **Zaynar**, who has posted two impressive Grade Two victories so far this season including a facile six-length verdict in the Unicorn Homes Relkeel Hurdle at Cheltenham's Boylesports International in December.

A horse with a 100 per cent record at Cheltenham this season is **Khyber Kim**, trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies. The eight-year-old came with a tremendous run from way off the pace to land the Greatwood Hurdle at The Open in November and then successfully stepped up in class to land one of the leading trials for the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle, the Boylesports.com International, in December when he had **Celestial Halo**, **Medermit**, **Punjabi** and **Ebadiyan** in arrears. If successful on March 16, Khyber Kim would collect a £200,000 bonus from Boylesports for winning both the Boylesports.com International and the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle.

As well as Zaynar, Nicky Henderson could also be represented by last year's winner Punjabi as well as **Binocular**, who was a close third in the same race. The latter, owned by J P McManus, was fifth behind Go Native on his seasonal return in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle but ran a better race to be third behind the Noel Meade-trained gelding at Kempton, when he went down by just over a length in total.

Frank Berry, racing manager to J P McManus, reported: "Binocular is still on course for the Contenders Hurdle at Sandown on February 6 and Nicky is very happy with him at the moment. He came out of the Christmas Hurdle in good shape and I thought that he ran a cracker there – he wasn't beaten too far and it was a much better performance than Newcastle.

"We didn't have any real excuses at Kempton so he has a little to find on Go Native on the formbook. We will get Sandown out of the way before focusing on The Festival but he looks in good form at the moment and we couldn't be happier with him."

The famous green and gold silks, carried to victory in the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle on three occasions by the mighty Istabraq, may also be sported by French import **Rock Noir**, who recently joined the stable of Jonjo O'Neill after rattling off five consecutive wins at Auteuil for Marcel Rolland last year. On his latest start, the five-year-old got the better of **Jumbo Rio** in a thrilling finish to the Grade One Prix Renaud du Vivier in November.

Berry added: "Rock Noir hasn't been back in training for very long and we would need to get a run into him before Cheltenham before deciding whether to go for the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle. He has settled in well at Jonjo's but we haven't got any firm plans for him at the minute.

"His form in France is very good and it will be interesting to see how he stacks up against the English horses when he does run."

Other notable contenders include last year's runner-up Celestial Halo, who is set to start in Sunday's Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown, the 2008 champion **Katchit**, and Medermit, who found only Go Native a neck too strong in last year's Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

For further information, please contact Cheltenham Racecourse's Communications Manager Andy Clifton on 07876 330 090

SMURFIT KAPPA CHAMPION HURDLE ENTRIES INFORMATION

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
34	34	38	28	35	35	48	44	40	47
2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
33	41	44	50	66	24	42	50	37	38

IRISH-TRAINED ENTRIES

2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
21	15	19	17	13	12	13	12	12	11
2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
7	6	10	14	12	6	9	14	5	6

SMURFIT KAPPA CHAMPION HURDLE FACTS

1. The Champion Hurdle was inaugurated in 1927, with a value to the winner of £365. 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.
2. There have only been two sponsors of this great race since its inception. This statistic conceals a dramatic turn of events in 1990, when a major banking group, whose intended sponsorship was to raise the added value of the race by 66 per cent to £120,000, withdrew before its first running. The Smurfit Group stepped in at that point and has remained a loyal sponsor ever since. In 2009, the race will have total prize money of £370,000. Kappa was added to the title in 2006 to reflect the company's new corporate identity.
3. The largest field has been 24 (1964 and 1991) and the smallest three (1932). The first five runnings of the race saw a total of only 24 runners between them. The current safety limit is 28.
4. The Champion Hurdle is a contest for multiple winners. Peter Easterby won the race most often as a trainer, with five victories from three horses, Saucy Kit (1967), Night Nurse (1976 and 1977) and Sea Pigeon (1980 and 1981). Vic Smyth and Fred Winter both had four wins. Nicky Henderson has also had four victories with See You Then (1985, 1986 and 1987) and Punjabi (2009) and is the most successful current trainer. A further five trainers have captured the hurdling crown on three occasions.
5. Among jockeys, Tim Molony won the race most often with four victories, on Hatton's Grace (1951) and Sir Ken (1952, 1953 & 1954). Fred Winter, Jimmy Uttley, Steve Smith Eccles and most recently Charlie Swan were each successful three times.
6. The most successful owner is still Dorothy Paget, who won the race four times thanks to Insurance (1932, 1933), Solford (1940) and Distel (1946).
7. Istabraq, successful in the three Champion Hurdles from 1998 to 2000, was retired after failing to become the first horse to win the race four times in 2002. The four other three-time winners are Hatton's Grace (1949-51), Sir Ken (1952-54), Persian War (1968-70) and See You Then (1985-87).
8. The race has been won seven times by entires, but only twice by mares - Dawn Run (1984) and Flakey Dove (1994).
9. Four greys have won, the most recent being Rooster Booster in 2003. The others were Kribensis in 1990, Victor Norman in 1936, and Our Hope in 1938. Only one roan horse has won the Champion Hurdle, Anzio in 1962.
10. Istabraq's success in 2000 in a time of 3 minutes 48.1 seconds beat the previous Champion Hurdle record time, set by Make A Stand in 1997, of 3 minutes 48.4 seconds.
11. Dessie Hughes, who trained Hardy Eustace to win in 2004 and 2005, is only the fourth person to have both ridden and trained a Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle winner, having partnered Monksfield in 1979. The others to have achieved this double were Fred Winter, Fred Rimell and Gerry Wilson.

THE SMURFIT KAPPA CHAMPION HURDLE

Class 1, Grade One, £370,000 Total Prize Fund. Cheltenham, 3.20pm, Tuesday, March 16. For four-year-olds and upwards which 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 March 9 - horses which 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 March 9 would merit a minimum rating of 130 - the decision of the BHA Head of Handicapping shall be final), two miles & half a furlong. Weights: 4yo: 11st 3lb; 5yo+: 11st 10lb; fillies & mares allowed 7lb. Entries closed January 19, entries revealed January 20 (**34 entries**). Scratchings deadline February 16, £18,500 supplementary stage & six-day confirmation stage March 10, final declaration 10.00am, March 14. Form figures supplied by Weatherbys and are correct up to and including the racing of Monday, January 18.

Form	Horse	Age	Owner	Trainer
2131/4-6	AL EILE (IRE)	10	Michael Ryan	John Queally IRE
340123-	AMERICAN TRILOGY (IRE)	6	Fulton,Donlon,Kilduff & Scott-MacDonald	Paul Nicholls
22-0115	BAHRAIN STORM (IRE)	7	Patrick Sweeney	Pat Flynn IRE
1/113-53	BINOCULAR (FR)	6	J P McManus	Nicky Henderson
3004-60	BLUE BAJAN (IRE)	8	Dr John Hollowood	Andrew Turnell
1155-24	CAPE TRIBULATION	6	David Abell	Malcolm Jefferson
2120-12	CELESTIAL HALO (IRE)	6	The Stewart Family	Paul Nicholls
1U/4/-434	DE VALIRA (IRE)	8	D Mac A'Bhaird	James Morrissey IRE
200-111	DONNAS PALM (IRE)	6	Grand Alliance Racing Club	Noel Meade IRE
11-D111	DUNGUIB (IRE)	7	Daniel Harnett/Mrs E A Lawlor	Philip Fenton IRE
2r-435P	EBADIYAN (IRE)	5	Rita Shah	Oliver Brady IRE
	FIULIN	5	R J H Geffen	Evan Williams
1-41211	GO NATIVE (IRE)	7	Docado Syndicate	Noel Meade IRE
1211-13	HURRICANE FLY (IRE)	6	George Creighton & Rose Boyd	Willie Mullins IRE
221123	JUMBO RIO (IRE)	5	Patrick Wilmott	Edward O'Grady IRE
	KARGALI (IRE)	5	Margaret Comer	Luke Comer IRE
3460-42	KATCHIT (IRE)	7	D S J P Syndicate	Alan King
500-511	KHYBER KIM	8	Caroline Mould	Nigel Twiston-Davies
1125-33	MEDERMIT (FR)	6	The Dunkley & Reilly Partnership	Alan King
425-525	MUIRHEAD (IRE)	7	Mrs Pat Sloan	Noel Meade IRE
1-21123	NOBLE PRINCE (GER)	6	Des Sharkey	Paul Nolan IRE
1F31-24	PUNJABI	7	Raymond Tooth	Nicky Henderson
0/311-30	QUEVEGA (FR)	6	Hammer & Trowel Syndicate	Willie Mullins IRE
310-010	RAISE YOUR HEART (IRE)	7	Gaeltacht Gang Syndicate	Joanna Morgan IRE
211-111	ROCK NOIR (FR)	5	J P McManus	Jonjo O'Neill
6	ROYAL AND REGAL (IRE)	6	Brian Comer	Luke Comer IRE
11-1131	SOLWHIT (FR)	6	Top Of The Hill Syndicate	Charles Byrnes IRE
143-122	STARLUCK (IRE)	5	Andrew Wates	Alan Fleming
2140-22	SUBLIMITY (FR)	10	Bill Hennessy	Robbie Hennessy IRE
044011	THOUSAND STARS (FR)	6	Hammer & Trowel Syndicate	Willie Mullins IRE
1106-1	TORPHICHEN	5	Thomas Barr	Edward O'Grady IRE
15-1111	VOLER LA VEDETTE (IRE)	6	Mrs M Brophy	Colm Murphy IRE
420-046	WON IN THE DARK (IRE)	6	Gerard Crehan	Sabrina Harty IRE
111-11	ZAYNAR (FR)	5	Men In Our Position	Nicky Henderson

34 Entries

21 Irish-trained

BREAKDOWN OF ENTRIES BY TRAINER WITH PAST SUCCESSSES IN THE SMURFIT KAPPA CHAMPION HURDLE

3 Entries

Nicky Henderson (1985, 1986 & 1987 See You Then, 2009 Punjabi)

Noel Meade IRE

Willie Mullins IRE

2 Entries

Luke Comer IRE

Alan King (2008 Katchit)

Paul Nicholls

Edward O'Grady IRE

1 Entry

Oliver Brady IRE

Charles Byrnes IRE

Philip Fenton IRE

Alan Fleming

Pat Flynn IRE

Sabrina Harty IRE

Robbie Hennessy IRE

Malcolm Jefferson

Joanna Morgan IRE

James Morrissey IRE

Colm Murphy IRE (2006 Brave Inca)

Paul Nolan IRE

Jonjo O'Neill

John Queally IRE

Andy Turnell

Nigel Twiston-Davies

Evan Williams

Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle - Analysis

The £370,000 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle is the highlight of the first day of The Festival and the 2010 renewal has attracted 34 initial entries, of which a record 21 are trained in Ireland.

Defending his crown in the hurdling showpiece is **Punjabi**, who won by a neck from **Celestial Halo** in 2009 with **Binocular** a head back in third. Punjabi and Binocular form two thirds of the formidable trio entered by Nicky Henderson, with last year's JCB Triumph Hurdle victor **Zaynar** another possible starter for Seven Barrows. If the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle were to go to a Henderson-trained runner in 2010, it would make him the joint most successful trainer ever in the contest with five victories, alongside Peter Easterby.

Heading the 21 Irish-trained entries is **Go Native**, last year's Supreme Novices' Hurdle hero who is unbeaten on his last two outings in Grade One company, with victories in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle and the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton. Go Native's trainer Noel Meade could also be represented by **Donnas Palm**, successful on his last three starts in lesser company and **Muirhead**, who chased home the Oliver Brady-trained **Ebadiyan** in a Listed contest at Naas yesterday.

Solwhit has won four of his last five starts, all of which have come in Grade One company, with his most recent triumph coming in the December Festival Hurdle at Leopardstown on December 29, when he had the 2007 Champion Hurdle victor **Sublimity** in second and **Hurricane Fly**, a leading novice last season, back in third. The mare **Voler La Vedette** has landed five of her last six starts and had Go Native behind her when winning at Down Royal in November. She represents the Colm Murphy stable, successful with Brave Inca in 2006. Another possible female starter is **Quevega**, successful in the Grade Two David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle at The Festival last season.

Probably the most intriguing entry is **Dunguib**. An outstanding winner of the Weatherbys Champion Bumper at The Festival in 2009, the seven-year-old has recorded three effortless victories over hurdles this season. If he were to line up, he would be aiming to become the first novice to succeed since Alderbrook in 1995. However, connections have stated that his more likely target at The Festival is the Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

One horse who seems totally at home around Cheltenham is **Khyber Kim**. The eight-year-old, trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies, came with a tremendous run from off the pace to land the Greatwood Hurdle at The Open on November 15 and returned to Cheltenham the following month to collect the Grade Two Boylepsports.com International, when he again came with a perfectly timed challenge and had Celestial Halo, last year's Supreme Novices' Hurdle runner-up **Medermid**, Punjabi and Ebadiyan behind him.

Other interesting contenders include the 2008 Smurfit Champion Hurdle hero **Katchit**, who could bid to follow in the footsteps of Comedy Of Errors (1973 and 1975) by attempting to regain his crown and **Starluck**, last year's JCB Triumph Hurdle fourth who went down by a short-head when a fast-finishing second behind Go Native in the Christmas Hurdle.

SMURFIT KAPPA CHAMPION HURDLE ROLL OF HONOUR

(Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle since 2006, Smurfit Champion Hurdle 1991-2005, Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle 1978-1990, no sponsor before 1978)

Year	Winner	Age/Wt	Jockey	Trainer	Owner	SP	Rn
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
2001	<i>No Race (Foot and Mouth)</i>						
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	Tony 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
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
1943-44	<i>No Race</i>						
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
1931	<i>No race</i>						
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

2009 SMURFIT KAPPA CHAMPION HURDLE

RESULT IN DETAIL

£370,000 guaranteed, 2m 1/2f Old Course, 4yo+ which are allotted a rating of 130 or more by the BHA Head of Handicapping following a review of the horses entered and after taking account of races run up to and including March 3; horses which are not qualified a rating in GB, Ireland or France may also be entered; such horses may be eligible providing the Handicapper is satisfied that the horse's racecourse performances up to and including March 3 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 Allowances fillies and mares 7lb Entire 34 pay £430 1st Forfeit 29 pay £860 Confirmed 24 pay £430 Penalty Value 1st £210,937; 2nd £79,143; 3rd £39,627; 4th £19,758; 5th £9,916; 6th £4,958

- 1 PUNJABI (Raymond Tooth) Nicky Henderson 6-11-10 Barry Geraghty 22/1**
2 CELESTIAL HALO (IRE) (The Stewart Family) Paul Nicholls 5-11-10 Ruby Walsh 17/2
3 BINOCULAR (FR) (J P McManus) Nicky Henderson 5-11-10 Tony McCoy 6/4F
4 CRACK AWAY JACK (Gdm Partnership) Emma Lavelle 5-11-10 Noel Fehily 16/1
5 MUIRHEAD (IRE) (Mrs Pat Sloan) Noel Meade 6-11-10 Davy Condon 33/1
6 KATCHIT (IRE) (DSJP Syndicate) Alan King 6-11-10 Robert Thornton 12/1
7 SNAP TIE (IRE) (Diana Whateley) Philip Hobbs 7-11-10 Richard Johnson 40/1
8 JERED (IRE) (J P McManus) Noel Meade IRE 7-11-10 David Casey 33/1
9 HARDY EUSTACE (IRE) (Lar Byrne) Dessie Hughes IRE 12-11-10 Paddy Flood 100/1
10 WON IN THE DARK (IRE) (Gerard Crehan) Sabrina Harty IRE 5-11-10 Davy Russell 33/1
11 OSANA (FR) (Thomas Barr) David Pipe 7-11-10b1 Andrew McNamara 13/2
12 WHITEOAK (IRE) (Brendan Richardson) Donald McCain Jnr 6-11-3 Jason Maguire 16/1
13 BLUE BAJAN (IRE) (Dr John Hollowood) Andrew Turnell 7-11-10 Graham Lee 80/1
14 SENTRY DUTY (FR) (Peter Spiller) Nicky Henderson 7-11-10 Andrew Tinkler 33/1
15 SUBLIMITY (FR) (Bill Hennessy) Robert Hennessy IRE 9-11-10 Philip Carberry 20/1
16 ALPH (Andy Chard, Boris Thompson, Alan Jackson) Roger Teal 12-11-10 Colin Bolger 250/1
17 HARCHIBALD (FR) (Des Sharkey) Noel Meade IRE 10-11-10 Paul Carberry 33/1
18 BRAVE INCA (IRE) (Novices Syndicate) Colm Murphy IRE 11-11-10 David Elsworth 25/1
19 ASHKAZAR (FR) (David Johnson) David Pipe 5-11-10b1 Timmy Murphy 14/1
20 EBAZIYAN (IRE) (Peter Garvey) Willie Mullins IRE 8-11-10 Paul Townend 50/1
21 RIVER LIANE (FR) (Valerie Courtney) Tom Cooper IRE 5-11-10 Niall Madden 125/1
PU BEF 3 OUT CYBERGENIC (FR) (Judith Wilson) Paul Murphy 11-11-10 Keith Mercer 250/1
F 3 OUT OTHERMIX (FR) (Power Panels Electrical Systems Ltd) Tom George 5-11-10 Paddy Brennan 100/1

23 ran Non-runner: 20 Sizing Europe (vet's certificate) Time: 4m 0.9s

Distances: nk, hd, 2 1/4, 2 3/4, nk, 8, 3 1/4, 1/2, 3, 3/4, 3 1/4, 3 1/4, 5, 14, 7, 3/4, 5, 14, 7, 3/4, 3 1/4, 2 1/2, 2 3/4, 10

Breeder: Capt. J Wilson Breeding: b g Komaite (USA) - Competa Totes: Win: £25.80; Places: £6.20; £3.00; £1.60; Exacta: £247.90

Winning Trainer: NICHOLAS (NICKY) JOHN HENDERSON **Based:** Seven Barrows, Lambourn, Hungerford, Berkshire **Date of birth:** 10/12/50 **Background:** The son of financier and amateur jockey John Henderson MBE, Nicky attended Eton before working in the City for stockbrokers Cazenoves. Ended up in their Sydney office and rode out each morning prior to work before deciding to study farming at Cirencester. Also spent six years as an amateur, riding 78 winners including the Imperial Cup and the Foxhunters Chase at Liverpool. He was assistant to the legendary Fred Winter from 1974 to 1978. In July 1978 he first took out a trainer's licence and trained from Windsor House in Lambourn. He moved to Seven Barrows in 1990. **Cheltenham Festival wins (32):** County (1997 Barna Boy, 1993 Thumbs Up), Kim Muir (1990 Master Bob, 2002 The Bushkeeper, 2005 Juveigneur), Mildmay (1985, 1986 The Tsarevich, 2005 Liberthine), Ladbrokes World Hurdle (1989 Rustle, 2000 Bacchanal), Cathcart (1994 Raymylette, 1990 Brown Windsor, 1999 and 2000 Stormyfairweather), Supreme Novices H (1986 River Ceiriog, 1992 Flown), Queen Mother (1992 Remittance Man), Arkle (1991 Remittance Man, 1993 Travado, 2000 Tiutchev), Smurfit Champion Hurdle (1985, 1986, 1987 See You Then, 2009 Punjabi), Triumph (1985 First Bout, 1987 Alone Success, 1999 Katarino), William Hill National Hunt H'cap Chase (2000 Marlborough), Royal & SunAlliance Chase (2005 Trabolgan), Ryanair Chase (2006 Fondmort), Racing Post Plate (2006 Non So), Grand Annual Chase (2006 Greenhope) **Number of Winners (1982/83-2007/08):** 40, 43, 40, 46, 67, 40, 43, 41, 49, 52, 53, 48, 45, 47, 58, 54, 73, 67, 81, 92, 69, 79; 53; 85; 74; 83; **Wins this Season:** 85

Winning Jockey: Barry Geraghty **Born:** September 16, 1979 **Background:** Barry Geraghty is one of six children from a "horse-mad" family that hails from Drumree in Co Meath. His father 'Tucker' was a useful amateur and trains a few horses in addition to his riding school and livery yard while his brother Ross, who won the 2002 Irish National on The Bunny Boiler, and sister Jill, an amateur, are both jockeys. Geraghty has a background in pony racing, riding his last winner in that sphere in September, 1996, before becoming apprenticed to Noel Meade that month and having his first ride in October, 1996. He has twice been champion jump jockey in Ireland in the seasons 1999/2000 and 2003/04. Voted RTE Sports Personality of the year by Irish television viewers in 2003. Took up the offer of becoming Nicky Henderson's number one jockey following the retirement of Mick Fitzgerald at the end of the 2007/08 season, and he now divides his time between Britain and Ireland. **Based:** Drumree, County Meath, Ireland **First Winner:** Stagalier (EBF Mares' Maiden Hurdle, Down Royal, January 29, 1997) **Achievements:** Champion jockey in Ireland in 1999/2000 and 2003/04 **Cheltenham Festival Wins (15):** Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle (2009 Punjabi), Jewson Novices' Handicap Chase (2008 Finger OnThe Pulse), Irish Independent Arkle Chase (2002 Moscow Flyer, 2009 Forpadydeplasterer), William Hill Trophy Chase (2003 Youlneverwalkalone), Pertemps Final (2003 Inching Closer), Queen Mother Champion Chase (2003, 2005 Moscow Flyer), JCB Triumph Hurdle (2003 Spectroscope), County Hurdle (2003 Spirit Leader), bonusprint.com Stayers' Hurdle (2004 Iris's Gift), totesport Cheltenham Gold Cup (2005 Kicking King), Royal & SunAlliance Chase (2006 Star de Mohaison), Coral Cup (2006 Sky's The Limit), Weatherbys Champion Bumper (2007 Cork All Star) **Other Big Race Wins:** Grand National (2003 Monty's Pass) **Wins in Britain (2001/02-2007/08):** 4; 26; 13; 10; 8; 1; 1; **Wins in Britain this Season:** 42