

# JOHN SMITH'S FOX HUNTERS' CHASE

## (AMATEUR RIDERS)

Year	Form	Winner	Age/Wt	SP	Trainer	Last Race (no. days)	Tactics
2007	F1	Scots Grey	12-12-0	9/2	N Henderson	1st Newbury Hunters Chase (20)	Made all
2006	-	Katarino	11-12-0	11/2	R Waley-Cohen	1st Fox Hunters' Chase (365)	Tracked leaders
2005	11	Katarino	10-12-0	10/3F	R Waley-Cohen	1st Paxford Open pt-to-pt (10)	Held up
2004	3	Forest Gunner	10-12-0	13/2	R Ford	3rd Fontwell Foxhunter's Trial (39)	Made most
2003	11415	Divet Hill	9-12-0	11/2	Mrs A Hamilton	unpl Kelso H'cap Chase (33)	Prominent
2002	213	Torduff Express	12-12-0	8/1	P Nicholls	3rd Christie's Foxhunter Chase (21)	Chased leaders
2001	12	Gunner Welburn	9-12-0	4/1F	Mrs C Bailey	2nd Fontwell Hunter Chase (45)	Chased leaders
2000	1	Bells Life	11-12-0	11/2	P Hobbs	1st Bangor Hunter Chase (54)	Prominent
1999	12	Elegant Lord	11-12-0	7/4F	E Bolger (Ire)	2nd Christie's Foxhunter Chase (21)	Prominent
1998	F1111	Cavalero	9-12-0	33/1	H Manners	1st Taunton Hunter Chase (29)	Chased ldrs half-way

**Race Distance:** 2m 5f 110y

**Winners' Market Position:** 0 1 3 1 4 3 3 1 2 2

**Fate of the Favourite:** 2 1 2 1/2 2 F 2/3 1 4 F

### THE LAST 6 WINNERS WERE NOT BROUGHT THROUGH TRADITIONAL POINTING OR HUNTING RANKS

As *Scots Grey* proved when winning this race last year, the dynamics of this contest for amateur riders over one circuit of the Grand National course have changed markedly in recent times. Long gone, seemingly, are the days when the good old-fashioned hunter chaser put his experience and sure-footedness to good use over these towering fences, as this is now a race for classier types who have been there and got the Bermuda shorts, in quality handicap chases. *Katarino*, previously a winner of the Triumph Hurdle in his pomp, had mostly plied his trade in the very top handicaps prior to succeeding in this race in 2005 and 2006 and, using *Scots Grey* as a guide, he seems to have paved the way for a different type of performer to step up to the plate. Compare this race to the equivalent at the Cheltenham Festival, where we find the trends to be quite the opposite with 18 of the last 19 winners of that prize coming from the point-to-point field.

### 14 OF THE LAST 15 WINNERS FINISHED PLACED AT WORST LAST TIME OUT

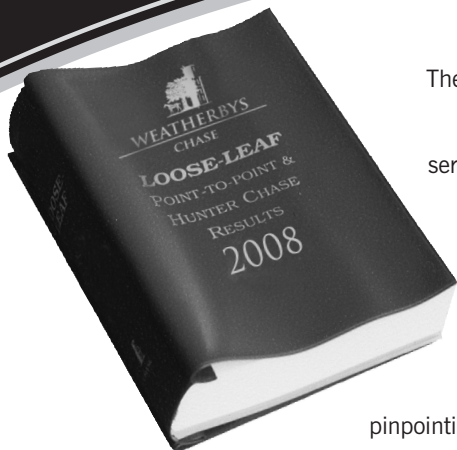
Other than *Divet Hill* in 2003, *Scots Grey* held together the record since 1997 of the winner arriving here on the back of a top-three finish on their most recent start, suggesting we should be concentrating on in-form horses. Nicky Henderson's charge had previously scored three weeks earlier at Newbury, advancing the count to the tune of six last-time-out winners that scored on their latest outing in that period. Furthermore, other than *Forest Gunner* in 2004, each victor in that time span had secured at least one success during the same campaign backing up the view that only performers right on top of their game need apply. There doesn't appear to be a definitive trend in the preparation time needed to win this race as horses can win on the back of a recent run or in the case of *Katarino* in 2006, defy a long absence.

### 22 OF THE LAST 24 WINNERS WERE AGED NINE OR OLDER

Half-way up the run-in last season's renewal, it looked as if *Pak Jack* was going to lay the recent ghost of seven-year-olds not winning. However, thankfully he folded up and trends followers were collecting again when *Scots Grey* ensured that the older brigade once again had the final say. As the roll of honour implies, experience counts for plenty over these daunting fences so great credit should be afforded to Richard Barber's charge (now in the care of Richard Philips) for being able to cope with such an arduous test for one so young. Moreover, other than *Bothar Na*, who finished fourth the year before, and *Mely Moss*, third in 1999, no horse younger than eight has managed to finish in the frame in the last decade. True, those figures are slightly distorted due to the fact most hunter chases are contested by double-figure aged horses, but it still should pay to concentrate on the runners in the twilight of their career.



**WEATHERBYS**  
CHASE



# LOOSE-LEAF RESULTS 2008

The definitive results service, sent weekly to build an unrivalled formbook. Personally produced and comprehensively indexed, the Loose-Leaf Results service covers every race at every meeting in Britain.

The results contain all riders, starting prices and distances, as well as comments in-running. They are fully cross-referenced to the weekly updated index which contains full pedigrees, race numbers and types and ratings for each horse. The best information available, and certainly the most useful tool on the market for pinpointing both Point-to-Point and Hunter Chase winners.

Just a few of the winners highlighted in the 2007 season:

## PRISTEEN SPY

"remote 5th when pu last (needs better ground)". Won at 8/1 two starts later (the first time he raced on good/firm ground that season)

## RUM CAKE (IRE)

"went 2nd near finish, not reach winner.....(scope for improvement)". Won next two completed starts at odds of 6/1 and Evens (13/1 double)

## BALINOVA (IRE)

"kept on (better for race). Won Sandown Hunter Chase on next start at 9/2

## REAL SHARP (IRE)

"led last, kept on very strongly (...has been vastly improved by a change of stable)". Won on his debut in Intermediate company next time at 9/2

## SACRED MOUNTAIN

"never given any encouragement from saddle & looks sure to do better". Won next two races at odds of 5/2 and 7/4 (8.5/1 double)

Call now to order for the forthcoming season:

only **£215** (inc. FREE copy of Mackenzie & Harris 2008 Annual worth £40)

Monthly Payment Plan Available -  
Call for details

1493 Open Maiden (Div 2) 5yo&up, 12st  
1385 STANLEY PARK (vnb) led 2, 2nd til led 1; ft 10l c/r 15; unchal; fin tired  
1427 Sandy Lie (IRE) on hand; 13l 9th; w/w; 12l 8th 13; stayed on frm 3 out; went  
2nd app last; no ch in w/w  
1448 It Might Bounce (vnb) reads 2; 11l 8th /away; blind til hwy 11; ft 10l 2nd  
15; w/hed bet last 2  
1427 Bally Abbas (7a) blind til hwy 7; 7l 5th /away; last place 11; 7l 6th 13; ft 10l 2nd  
3rd 15; w/hd out; Lo when not collapsed last (nept riding - reved w/bucks  
or w/ed)  
1386 Banners Flying (IRE) (b) prom; 6l 4th /away; w/hd up & 9l 7th 13; 20l last 3  
out; to & pu last  
1372 Cowslip Lace (7a) hwy 5; 4l 3rd /away; went 2nd & fell 14 (evidently has some  
ability)  
1456 Merrim (FR) (b) prom to 5; 10th when met & up 9  
1409 Return Fire (vnb) r/h; tk keen hold; led 2-11; 6l 2nd when crashing fall 15  
(lands hind legs first & needs jumping overhaul)  
1427 The Footballresult (7a) (c) r/h; 10th /away; railed 11;  
Rewind (vnb) backed; last when ref & up 1  
1448 Trouble Loves Me (IRE) (c) r/h; 10th /away; last fch up 12; to & pu 13  
1378 Zaffire (IRE) (c) 10s-15s; a last; met 8; to & pu 13  
OFFICIAL DISTANCES: dist 5l TIME: 6min 22.5s  
R. Clark  
A. Williams  
M. Morley  
P. Andrew  
P. York  
H. Kinchin  
P. Millington  
Miss S. Phizackel  
N. Oliver  
J. Hooper  
J. Ridley  
Miss S. Sharratt

Pembrokeshire at Trecoed (RH 7,18J)  
Sat, 2 Jun (GOOD, WATERED)  
1494 Hunt Members, 12st  
109h Admiral Brown (IRE) (vnb, 15) a ci up; led 3 out-nt; battled on game to rgn ahead nr fin  
67l  
1397 Titchfield (USA) (c) led til hwy app 14; gave up 3 lam; used 3 out; led nt; 10v  
1409 Atity (IRE) r/h; hmpd start; cf last; r/h r/h & wind 15  
1375 Cash And Carry (IRE) (vnb) sent to post early & battled on way there; ref to race  
(tumatic)  
OFFICIAL DISTANCES: 1l, 5l TIME: 6min 30.0s  
Lee Evans  
T. Houlbrooke  
K. Yates  
E. Linehan  
James Price

1495 Restricted, 12st  
1294f TOP COMMANDER (IRE) (vnb, 18) 20s-14s; a ci up; went 2nd 3 out; led app  
last; hrd open & just held on  
1463f Eastwell Violet (7a) (vnb) 2 banners; prom; led 6-9 & 11 til hwy & 10m 15;  
judged r/h; railed bet last 2; kpt on w/cf home  
1378f Devil's Teardrop (IRE) (c) led til hwy app 14; gave up 3 lam; used 3 out; led nt; 10v  
1463f Lost Treasure (IRE) (c) (vnb) prom; led 9-11; r/h & wind 15  
imp  
1234f Governors Choice (IRE) (c) (vnb) prom; led 9-11; r/h & wind 15; railed 2 out; no  
1401f Lough Rynn (IRE) (c) (vnb) led 9-11; r/h & wind 15; railed 2 out; no  
1459f Red Rascal (IRE) (vnb) led 9-11; r/h & wind 15; railed 2 out; no  
OFFICIAL DISTANCES: 1st, 5l TIME: 6min 29.0s  
T. Houlbrooke  
M. Lewis  
James Tudor  
Miss I. To

Weatherbys Chase  
Sanders Road, Wellingborough  
Northants NN8 4BX  
T: 01933 304792 F: 01933 304796  
E: orders@weatherbys.co.uk

## 14 OF THE LAST 15 WINNERS STARTED IN THE FIRST FOUR IN THE BETTING

A race consisting of 25 or more hunter chasers ridden by amateur riders jumping round the biggest fences in the country would be enough to make the most serious punter think twice about parting with their hard-earned cash. Remarkably, however, this race has turned out to be one of the most profitable races in *The Racing Calendar* for following the fancied horses. Although the standard of riding in this category has improved immeasurably over the years, there are a handful that stand out from the crowd. Take last year's winning rider, Richard Burton, as an example. No one could argue that he was aboard a decent horse in the shape of *Scots Grey*, but the way he positioned his mount during the race and presented him at his fences, not to mention his strength in a finish was arguably the difference between winning and losing. The top riders are coveted by connections of the leading fancies so therefore, the best horses are likely to hold an even bigger chance than in normal professional races, where the margins are less noticeable. To prove this point, you only have to look at the results of the last decade. Apart from 1998 when *Cavalero* pulled off a 33/1 shock, the winner has come from the first four in the betting. Furthermore, it's also a profitable race for perming together the top three or four in the market in some kind of exotic wager as the first three in the betting 1-2-3 in 1995, 2001 and 2004 filled the first three placings along with the front two in the market leading the way home in 1993, 1996 and 2004. If you had permed together the first four in the betting last year in Exacta bets on the tote, you would have collected once again.



**Scots Grey continues the exceptional record of strongly-fancied horses in the Fox Hunter's Chase**

## THE LAST 13 WINNERS ALL RACED PROMINENTLY

You only have to look at the races run over this course earlier in the season to see why prominent racers tend to dominate in the one-lap events over the National fences. *Mr Pointment*, winner of the Becher Chase, made virtually all the running while *Lampion Du Bost* was always on the coat tails of leaders before taking up the running four out, an hour earlier in the Grand Sefton Chase. Combine those performances with *Scots Grey* and *Dunbrody Millar* at this meeting last year, and you'll see why highlighting front runners before you strike a bet is half the battle in finding the origin of the likely winner. Add to the mix the logic suggesting the best place to be in a race involving purely amateur riders is usually out of trouble and towards the front and you can see why the reason for siding with bold-jumping prominent racers is the recipe to success in this contest. As a further footnote for exchange players, it's also worth bearing in mind for the in-running crowd that the last 13 winners have either made all or been handy through the early skirmishes.

## CHELTENHAM FOXHUNTERS' IS LOSING CREDIBILITY AS A SERIOUS GUIDE

Recent patterns suggest the Christies Foxhunters' at the Cheltenham Festival is no longer the key trial for this race. Using the last two years as a guide, only four of the 24 runners from Cheltenham's amateur-rider showpiece lined up to take on the National fences three weeks later, while that meagre turnout was lessened 12 months ago when just three set foot on the hollowed Aintree turf having galloped twice round Prestbury Park. Like a good meteorologist, the modern-day trainer is quick to adjust their predictions and plans if any given patterns or trends suggest they would be wise to do so and this race looks to be a point in case for one simple reason. Most handlers have now come to terms with the fact that if a horse excels given a stiff test of stamina around the stiff gradients at Cheltenham, there is a good chance they will fail to adapt and get taken off their feet over this sharper, flatter circuit. To back up this view, *Double Silk* in 1993 was the only horse in recent times to complete the Cheltenham-Aintree double so the percentage call is to avoid those that have taken part at the former venue.

## JUST 1 IRISH-TRAINED WINNER IN THE LAST 25 YEARS

The raiders from across the Irish Sea were responsible for a mightily-impressive 12 of the 27 to line up for last year's renewal which was a far cry from their scarce representation in previous contests. Perhaps they fancy their chances more over here realising what rubbish we've had in recent times in this sphere (remember that 1-2-3-4-5 for the

