

Next week, Cue Card will line up for a second tilt at the Gold Cup – seven years after he won the Champion Bumper at a mammoth 40-1. In between he has won a further eight Grade 1s, including three runnings of the Betfair Chase and the Ascot Chase twice. Trainer Colin Tizzard's son Joe, the horse's former jockey, helps us celebrate one of racing's most popular performers

THE MAKING OF A STAR

CUE CARD

EARLY YEARS

Born April 30, 2006 **Pedigree** King's Theatre-Wicked Crack (King's Ride)
Breeder: Roland Crellin "His dam Wicked Crack was a bit of a madam - you'd go into the box with her and she'd come at with you with her ears back."
Buyer: Aidan Kennedy "I've been buying horses for the Bishops for a good few years, but it was really Jean who picked him out and brought me along to see him - he was very good-looking with good conformation, and very athletic. What's the key to his longevity? I wish I knew! Part of it is that he's a very sound horse, very well put together, and Colin has done such a good job with the way he's campaigned him - and he has one hell of a heart."
The first race: Fontwell bumper, January 25, 2010 Ridden by trainer Colin Tizzard's son Joe and sent off at 6-1, Cue Card was held up initially before making headway at the halfway point. Taking the lead three furlongs from home, he sauntered clear to win readily by six lengths



Joe says:

He's been pretty sound throughout his career but mostly he just enjoys life and enjoys racing. He goes to the races and you can tell he's happy and he wants to be here, of course you have moments when you think age might be catching up with him, but there's no sign of it yet. If there's been any change it's that he's more of a stayer nowadays. I've got no doubt he stays and no doubt that the Gold Cup is the race for him. He used to tank, pull hard now he runs off the bridle, which is why he'll stay any trip.



Joe says:

When we first got him he wasn't a massive horse. In the Cheltenham bumper, as a four-year-old against five-year-olds and six-year-olds, he looked undeveloped, smaller than he perhaps was, but he's grown into a lovely racing size, not overly big but very athletic. He's a lovely shape, not as big and strong as Thistlecrack in terms of the chest and the ribcage, but very well put together.



Joe says:

He's the perfect racehorse, very well-built with very good conformation - a beautiful-moving horse. They bought him as an untried three-year-old because he floated across the ground.



Joe says:

Dad always walks straight past horses with small ears at the sales - he says that pigs have small ears and he doesn't want to buy a pig. This one's not got small ears at all, but they're not too big either!



Joe says:

He's got a good eye on him. In fact, he's got a good character full stop, a very straightforward horse with nothing bad that jumps out about him. He'd give you no trouble whatsoever in his box. He wouldn't be the first to come for a stroke like some of them do but he'd never put his ears back at you either - he's just a quiet chap who keeps himself to himself. If there were ten people outside his box he'd stand back out of the way, but when you drive in the yard he's the first one looking out to see what's going on. He's got the front box in the yard and he's very inquisitive.

180 HIGHEST RPR, POSTED THREE TIMES

1 TRAINER

€52,000 COST AS A THREE-YEAR-OLD

10 PLACES

16 WINS

35 RUNS

4 JOCKEYS
Joe Tizzard, Aidan Coleman, Daryl Jacob, Paddy Brennan

£1,340,230 TOTAL PRIZE-MONEY

CUE CARD THE GRADE 1s

- March 2010 - Champion Bumper
- February 2013 - Ascot Chase
- March 2013 - Ryanair Chase
- November 2013 - Betfair Chase
- November 2015 - Betfair Chase
- December 2015 - King George VI Chase
- April 2016 - Betfred Bowl
- November 2016 - Betfair Chase
- February 2017 - Ascot Chase



Paddy Brennan (jockey) says:

What is there not to love about Cue Card? He has rejuvenated my career in the saddle and is a joy to ride in his races. He's 11 years old yet still winning Grade 1 chases and will go to Cheltenham as likely favourite for this year's Gold Cup.

Horses like him don't come along very often and every time I go out to ride him I feel like I'm the luckiest rider in the weighing room. The horse is everything to me and it's a privilege to be associated with him.



Tom Park (Racing Post) says:

It's safe to say I would not be working where I am if it wasn't for Cue Card and for that I owe him everything. I've been hooked since I had £2.50 each-way on him in the Champion Bumper when a poor student in Sunderland way back in 2010. I've not looked back since. Cue Card's name has been on my betting slip on every run since and we've shared some awesome days. There have been some bad ones too - I was once asked to leave the student library when I got a little overanimated after he was chinned by Bobs Worth at Newbury - but win or lose (and he will win next week), Cue Card will always be the greatest in my eyes.

FAN ZONE WHY I LOVE CUE CARD

On RPTV Writers and readers tell us why they love the mighty Cue Card