

Crayford

The Crayford and Bexleyheath stadium closed on 18th May 1985 and work began on the new stadium on a different part of the site. The grand opening took place on 1st September 1986 and the new stadium would be called Crayford after the decision was made to drop the Bexleyheath part, whereas the previous stadium sat on a twenty acre site, the new one would only cover five acres and include a sports complex.

In 1987 Crayford took possession of the Golden Jacket after spells at Hall Green and Monmore. Harringay had held the event in the afternoon and it was very popular due to the television exposure of the event. Crayford also provided a new matinee meeting for their Ladbrokes betting shops. Another new competition called the Crayford Rosebowl was inaugurated and hurdles became very popular at the track.

The dimensions of the all-sand circuit were a small 334m circumference with distances of 380, 540, 714 and 874 metres with an outside Sumner hare. Facilities included a restaurant for 138 covers, two bars and a twin-tier glass fronted covered stand.

Also within the stadium was a sports hall complex, a fitness area and a swimming pool.

Several of the old Crayford & Bexleyheath trainers had found new homes including Linda Mullins moving on to Romford and John Honeysett joining Wembley but Dink Luckhurst, John Gibbons and Terry O'Sullivan returned. The Racing Manager was Roy Dwight and General Manager Roy Lakey soon to be replaced by Paul Lawrence and Barry Stanton respectively.

Dinky Luckhurst trained Breeks Rocket to Grand National success in 1988 and eight years later Dynamic Display repeated the achievement for Barry O'Sullivan.

The likes of Jim Reynolds and Lorraine Sams were attracted to the stadium in the early nineties and in the late nineties Crayford saw further noteworthy performances. Pure Patches won the 1998 Gold Collar and also made the 1999 Derby final. Two consecutive Cesarewitch wins in 1999 & 2000 by Bubbly Prince and Lady Jean kept Crayford in the limelight and Haughty Ted won the Gold Collar in 2001 for Dink Luckhurst.

The Guys and Dolls competition arrived at the track in 1997 but in 2000 the track lost their Racing Manager as Paul Lawrence parted company with them in a shock move, he was replaced by deputy Harry Bull, Danny Rayment was promoted to deputy racing manager.

Ken Tester and Steve Gammon both joined the track following the closures of Wembley and then Catford. Two daughters took over from their long serving fathers; Julie Luckhurst replaced Dink in 2006 and Gemma Davidson from John who sadly passed away in 2010. Former Crayford bookmaker Tony Morris retired in 2009.

Another Grand National wins by the Gemma Davidson trained Plane Daddy continued Crayford's relationship with hurdle racing and Lorraine Sams introduced a greyhound to the industry in 2006 called Spiridon Louis. The black and white dog would become the 2007 greyhound of the year after winning the St Leger, TV Trophy and Regency.

The summer of 2015 brought two significant changes; the first was the appointment of Dean Childs from Hove and the second was the return of the Guys and Dolls competition which had ended back in 2008.

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Selected Track Records

Distance	Name	Time	Date	Notes	
380m	Justa Mo	23.66	09.05.1987		
	Sail on Delaney	23.53	28.01.1989		
	Clonlusk Villa	23.46	26.01.1991		
	Genotin Laura	23.31	17.05.1993		
	Lots of Jolly	23.31	16.07.1994		
	Rossa Ranger	23.36	15.04.2002		
	Chasing a Dream	23.18	05.05.2002		
	Skibbs Flyer	23.06	14.10.2002		
	Kingdom Club	23.01	27.09.2003	Guys and Dolls Final	
	Tictac Tyson	22.97	07.05.2011		
	You Never Listen	=22.97	19.02.2015		
	Target Harris	22.88	18.07.2015		
540m	Baby Pol	34.01	04.08.1987		
	Hello Blackie	33.93	11.08.1990		
	Side Wink	33.46	09.01.1992		
	Break On Thru	33.43	14.10.2002		
	Sportsman	33.26	03.02.2003		
	Sunshine Sophie	33.13	28.02.2004		
	714m	Favourite Return	46.86	22.05.1987	
Harry Lime		46.17	31.08.1987		
Fort Leader		45.61	16.02.1989		
Heavenly Lady		45.25	08.02.1993		
Blues Best Tayla		45.19	24.02.2001		
Rosden Image		45.07	14.10.2002		
Foreign Chick		45.13	14.10.2002		
Centour Corker		45.02	03.02.2003		
Centour Corker		44.74	03.03.2003	Golden Jacket Final	
Double Take		44.57	21.02.2004	Golden Jacket semi-final	
874m		Astrosyn Trace	57.21	26.10.1987	
		Clonbrin Black	56.15	15.10.1993	
1048m	Stansted Flyer	69.81	07.09.1996		
	Musical Fawn	68.80	22.02.2014		
380mH	Off You Sail	24.29	15.06.1987		
	Parktown Ranger	23.96	21.01.1989		
	Ladys Champion	23.86	24.09.1994		
	Dynamic Display	23.70	1996+		
540mH	Brecks Rocket	35.30	1988+		
	Cahara Gamble	35.08	17.06.1991		
	Cahara Gamble	35.01	03.08.1991		
	Rainys Pet	34.85	10.08.1991		
	Rainys Pet	34.67	17.08.1991		
	Sunshine Sandy	34.32	11.03.1993		
	El Tenor	34.16	13.04.1998		
	Selby Ben	33.68	26.05.2003		

+ Date when record was held, not necessarily the year it was set.