

# FACT SHEET

# CHICQUITA

Brown Mare (1946)



**Breeding:** Blank (GB) – Starr Faithful

**Trainer:** A. Lopes

**Owners:** A. Lopes, F. Dimmatina (on lease from Sir Gordon McArthur)

**Race starts & record:** 36 starts: 16 wins, 11 seconds, 1 thirds

**Stake money:** £56,570

**Major wins:** VATC 1,000 Guineas  
VRC Wakeful Stakes  
VRC Oaks  
VRC Craiglee Stakes (twice)  
MVRC John F. Feehan Stakes  
MVRC Alister Clark Stakes

**Interesting fact:** Chicquita's greatest rival was another champion, Comic Court. Seven times they ran first and second in feature races. In six of these Comic Court was the victor.

Chicquita was a great racemare and a great broodmare. If she had not run up against Comic Court at the peak of his career, she would have been numbered among the all-time champions. As it was, her courage and will-to-win made her the darling of race crowds in the early post-war years.

When offered for sale by her breeder Sir Gordon McArthur, Chicquita failed to reach her modest reserve of 400 guineas. Young trainer Tony Lopes and his business partner, Frank Dimmatina, then approached Sir Gordon with an offer to lease the horse, an offer which was accepted as it would enable Sir Gordon to retain ownership of Chicquita for breeding purposes after her racing days.

In her single start as a two-year-old Chicquita ran unplaced and showed no signs of the brilliance she was to exhibit in her next season. In August, 1949, she began a dazzling sequence of eight consecutive wins, including the fillies' triple Crown of the 1,000 Guineas, Wakeful Stakes and VRC Oaks. In the autumn of 1950 she twice engaged in losing battles with Comic Court, beaten a neck in both the St George Stakes and the Alister Clark Stakes.

In the spring of 1950 Chicquita won the Feehan and Craiglee Stakes, defeating Comic Court, and then ran a courageous second to Grey Boots in the Caulfield Cup. Two more seconds followed, in the Mackinnon Stakes and the Melbourne Cup, defeated on both occasions by Comic Court. In 1951 she returned to her best form winning the Alister Clark Stakes, Liston Stakes and her second Craiglee Stakes. Three weeks later she broke down in the Turnbull Stakes and was immediately retired.

As a brood mare Chicquita was highly successful, nine of her 10 foals being winners, including the brilliant Golden Slipper winner, Eskimo Prince.