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Cheltenham Gold Cup stolen from Mould

The jeweller responsible for making the Cheltenham Gold Cup has offered his sympathies to Raymond Mould after the 1988 trophy won by Charter Party was stolen this morning.

But of more concern to Nigel Dimmer, whose family firm Martin & Co have been manufacturing a new Gold Cup every year since 1935, could be another piece taken from a break-in to Mould's home in Wormington near Broadway.

Gloucestershire police reported a Challenge Cup trophy and Britannia Handicap trophy to have been stolen from the prominent owner.

"I believe it is Raymond's Gold Cup that has been stolen. I think it's absolutely awful for something like that to happen to a lovely man who has done so much for National Hunt racing," said Dimmer, who was himself responsible for trophy presentations at Cheltenham for 45 years.

"There is a new Gold Cup made every year. We make it in this country. Parts are made in Birmingham and it is assembled in London. It's terrible news, but the cup is replaceable.

"What I would be extremely concerned about, though, would be if the Grand Annual (Challenge Cup) Trophy, that he won this year, had been taken. It is a beautiful piece of silver, a one-off and part of Cheltenham's heritage. I would appeal for it to be returned."

Bronze ornaments in the shape of a hare, a spaniel with a pheasant in its mouth and two horses being ridden by jockeys were also stolen, along with a dark wooden clock with gold sides and a gold mechanism, two silver trophies, a silver fisherman ornament and a cigarette case, police said. The total value of the haul was put at £150,000.

Mould, who went back to his house before returning to London, said: "Even if the Gold Cup was melted down I wouldn't think it would be worth more than a couple of hundred pounds, but it has far more sentimental value to me."

Charter Party was trained by the late David Nicholson and was ridden to Gold Cup success by Richard Dunwoody.

Dunwoody said: "The Gold Cup is the pinnacle of our sport. It is arguably the most prestigious race in our sport. It doesn't personally affect me but I am disappointed and it must be a huge disappointment to Raymond to have lost these trophies. Hopefully they will be able to recover them."

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