



NEWS RELEASE

TV PRESENTER JEREMY KYLE TO HOST 'THE LESTERS'

THE Professional Jockeys Association has signed up Jeremy Kyle as a host for 'The Lesters' – horse racing's equivalent of the Oscars.

The TV presenter is a big fan of horse racing, and is a racehorse owner with Highclere Thoroughbreds.

PJA Chief Executive Kevin Darley said: "The Lesters is horse racing's most glamorous night of the year, and the 'Shadwell Stud 20th Lesters' promises to be the best ever.

"We are delighted to have secured the services of such a household name as Jeremy Kyle for the occasion. He will co-host with Channel 4 Racing's Derek Thompson.

"We have come a long way since the inaugural Lesters at London's Café Royal in 1991, and it is now an event attended by 600 people from the world of racing, sport and television."

Jeremy Kyle said that he was honoured to co-present the awards night with Derek Thompson.

"I've always loved my racing, my wife is a horse breeder and rides horses too, and we own a horse in training with Nick Gifford," he said.

"Racing is my passion and, although my work means I don't get racing as much as I would like, I follow the sport closely on TV. When Tommo asked me to be his co-host, I had no hesitation in saying yes. I am looking forward to meeting my heroes Tony McCoy and Ruby Walsh."

The event is taking place at the Hilton Park Lane in London on Sunday 28 February and tickets are now on sale from the PJA's website (www.thepja.co.uk) or from the Association on 01635 44102.

The evening begins at 7pm with a Champagne reception followed by a sumptuous three-course meal at 7.30pm. The evening's entertainment includes the awards ceremony, an auction of exclusive items hosted by John Francome, plus a casino, live band and DJ until the early hours.

New for 2010 are platinum tables. Each platinum table will be hosted by a champion jockey or racing celebrity, there will be a choice of wine from a wine list as well as a half page advertisement in The Lesters brochure and complimentary group photo for each guest.

Shadwell's support extends to the coveted Flat Jockey of the Year Award which has been presented in the past to many of racing's elite including Pat Eddery, Michael Roberts, Kevin Darley and, more recently, Frankie Dettori who said: "The Lesters are the Oscars of our industry, and quite rightly they are named after the greatest jockey. I love being awarded a Lester, it's great - I'm only sorry that I haven't won as many over the years as Tony McCoy has!"

Tony McCoy said: "The Lesters has the name of the greatest jockey of all associated with it and it is the biggest and best night out of the year for jockeys. To win a Lester is to receive recognition from your peers which is the best recognition of all."

Champion Flat Jockey Ryan Moore said: "I am always very proud when I win a Lester. It's important when your achievements on the track are recognised by your fellow jockeys. It's a very good evening and I am pleased to be a part of it."

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