



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE LESTERS - NOMINEES FOR 2009**

The Professional Jockeys Association (The PJA) is delighted to announce the renewal of the title sponsorship of the Lesters Awards with Desert Springs Resort & Golf Club, the only International award winning luxury family, leisure and desert golf resort in Europe, who also sponsored the event in 2008.

As well as sponsoring the PJA's showcase event of the year, Desert Springs Resort & Golf Club are also sponsoring the International Jockey of the Year award and are donating a fantastic holiday voucher for two people at their Spanish resort as first prize for the evening's casino.

The winners of each award – voted by the PJA membership - will be announced at the 19<sup>th</sup> **Lesters Awards Ceremony** on Thursday 9 April at the Hilton Metropole , Birmingham. The nominees for each categories in alphabetical order are as follows:.

#### **International Jockey of the Year**

- Kevin Manning
- Johnny Murtagh
- Christophe Soumillion
- Ruby Walsh

#### **Apprentice Jockey of the Year**

- William Buick
- Neil Brown
- Holly Hall
- David Probert

#### **Lady Jockey of the Year**

- Holly Hall
- Kelly Harrison
- Ann Stokell
- Hayley Turner

#### **Flat Ride of the Year – as nominated by Racing Post**

- Jim Crowley, Bulwark, Chester Cup, Chester, 07/05/08

- Royston French, Sadeek, Sprint Handicap, Doncaster, 27/07/08
- Darryll Holland, Tungsten Strike, Windflower March Stakes, Goodwood, 23/08/08
- Richard Hughes, Major Cadeaux, Bet 365 Mile, Sandown, 26/04/08

### **Flat Jockey Special Recognition**

- Dale Gibson
- Vince Slattery
- Michael Tebbutt
- Hayley Turner

### **Conditional Jockey of the Year**

- Aidan Coleman
- Donal Fahy
- Rhys Flint
- Brian Hughes

### **Jump Ride of the Year – as nominated by At The Races**

- Johnny Farrelly, Phoenix des Mottes, The Totesport Conditional Maiden Hurdle, Newton Abbot, 31/08/08
- AP McCoy, Mylo, For Every Occasion Handicap Chase, Newton Abbot, 08/05/08
- James Reveley, Endless Power, The Totesport7 Grand Sefton Handicap Chase, Aintree, 23/11/08
- Robert Thornton, Nenuphar Collonges, The Albert Bartlett Novices Hurdle, Cheltenham, 14/03/08

### **Jump Jockey Special Recognition**

- Tony Dobbin
- Mick Fitzgerald
- Brian Harding
- Jimmy McCarthy

### **Jump Jockey of the Year**

- Noel Fehily
- Richard Johnson
- AP McCoy
- Robert Thornton

### **Flat Jockey of the Year**

- George Baker
- Jimmy Fortune
- Ryan Moore
- Jamie Spencer

The evening starts at 7.15pm with the champagne reception followed by the three course dinner. The highlight of the evening will of course be the presentation of awards to the winning Jockeys before the evening entertainment gets in full swing with the always popular casino and the disco where guests will dance the night away until 3.00am!

The PJA would like to thank all the individual Award sponsors for their invaluable support: At The Races, The Racing Post, Racegoers' Club, Axia Fx, Mercedes Benz, Russell Jones & Walker Solicitors. Also, Weatherbys Bank who are sponsoring the champagne reception.

**THE LESTERS - TICKET INFORMATION:**

**Date:** Thursday 9 April 2009 at the Hilton Metropole, Birmingham  
**Tickets:** £150 incl. VAT (incls. Champagne reception, 3 course dinner with ½ bottle wine per person, the Awards, Disco and a Casino.)  
**Contact:** The PJA on 01635 44102  
**Other info source:** [www.thepja.co.uk](http://www.thepja.co.uk)  
**13 March 2009**  
**For further information:** Josh Apiafi 07841 899689 or Izzy Desailly 01635 44102

**PRESS RELEASE ENDS**