

## THE LESTERS 2009

The 2009 Annual Lesters Awards Ceremony, aka horseracing's party of the year, was for the second consecutive year held at the Hilton Metropole Hotel, Birmingham on **Thursday 9 April 2009**.

The 2009 Lesters Ceremony was sponsored by Desert Springs Resort and Golf Club, the leading European destination for Golf and Luxury Spanish homes, located in Almeria, South East Spain, as well as sponsoring the International Jockey of the Year Award. Other individual award sponsors were Axia Fx, At The Races, Racegoers Club, The Racing Post, Russell Jones & Walker Solicitors and Mercedes Benz. Weatherbys Bank and William Hill sponsored the evening's champagne reception and casino respectively. Our thanks go to all our sponsors for supporting the evening.

The Lesters Awards were first established by the Jockeys Association in 1990 by the then Chief Executive Michael Caulfield. The awards are the Jockeys equivalent to the Oscars and acknowledges achievements on both the Flat and Jump.

Each Lester Awards category, apart from the Flat and Jump Ride of the Year Award, is voted by the membership of the PJA. The Flat Ride of the Year was sponsored by The Racing Post and voted on by their readers and At The Races sponsored the Jump Ride of the Year Award with their viewers also voting for the winner.

Tony Dobbin and Mick Fitzgerald were presented with the PJA Directors Award and the AP McCoy Lifetime Achievement Award respectively. These two awards are not necessary awarded annually but both winners were elected for their outstanding contribution to the racing industry and the Professional Jockeys Association throughout their careers.

***The 2009 Lesters Award winners are detailed below:***



**Desert Springs Resort & Golf Club International Jockey of the Year Award - Ruby Walsh** (*kindly collected by Robert Thornton*)



**The PJA Directors Awards - Tony Dobbin**



**The Axia Fx Apprentice Jockey of the Year Award - William Buick**



**Lady Jockey of the Year Award - Hayley Turner**



**The Racing Post Flat Ride of the Year - Jim Crowley, Chester Cup, Bulwark, 07.05.08**



**Russell Jones & Walker Solicitors Flat Jockey Special Recognition - Dale Gibson**



**Conditional Jockey of the Year Lester Award - Brian Hughes**



**At The Races Jump Ride of the Year Lester Award - Robert Thornton, Nenuphar Collonges, The Albert Bartlett Novices Chase, Cheltenham, 14.03.08**



**Jump Jockey Special Recognition - Brian Harding**



**Racegoers Club Flat Jockey of the Year Award - Ryan Moore (kindly collected by Tony Hind)**



**The AP McCoy Lifetime Achievement Award - Mick Fitzgerald**

**For further information, please contact, Izzy Desailly, PJA Commercial Manager, on 01635 44102 or [id@thepja.co.uk](mailto:id@thepja.co.uk).**