

NEWS RELEASE

CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS BATTLE FOR CHAMPIONSHIP



Rhys Flint & Nick Scholfield (Photos by Dan Abraham)

A P McCoy will be crowned champion jockey for the 15th time this Saturday. But the battle for the 2009/10 conditional jockeys' championship is poised to go all the way to the wire.

Rhys Flint put himself in the driving seat on Sunday afternoon, securing two victories in the last two races at Wincanton Racecourse to give himself a two-win cushion – 39 victories to 37 – over rival Nick Scholfield.

Whereas the full professional championship traditionally comes to the end at Sandown Park, the conditional riders' title race usually finishes at Market Rasen Racecourse.

Indeed, the final races of the jump racing year take place in Lincolnshire.

Kevin Darley, Chief Executive of the Professional Jockeys Association, said: "Rhys and Nick are both fantastic riders. They each have great futures, and their battle for this year's conditional jockeys' championship has been quite superb."

Both riders are going for broke this week, starting with five rides each at Kempton Park on Monday.

Rhys Flint, 19, benefits from his association with the top National Hunt yard of Philip Hobbs – ten of his winners have been supplied by the Somerset-based trainer.

"I'm really grateful to Mr Hobbs, Jim Old and my father [John Flint] who are doing everything they can to help me win. Everyone has been very supportive," he said.

Nick Scholfield, 20, who gets plenty of rides from champion trainer Paul Nicholls, Andy Turnell and Andrew Haynes, said: "No matter what happens, it's been a great season. I'm really happy with the way things have gone."

Market Rasen Racecourse's managing director Pip Kirkby said: "We're always very proud to host the climax to the jump racing season, and we hope to look forward to welcoming either Rhys and Nick or both here this Saturday for the conclusion to the conditional jockeys' title race."

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