



## **TOP JOCKEYS HONOURED AT THE STOBART LESTERS 2017**

Nine accolades were presented to the winners of the Stobart Lesters Awards 2017 tonight on At The Races. Faced with fixture list clashes and no option to stage the Awards as a traditional venue based event, the PJA and ATR joined forces to host a one-off live broadcast of the popular awards ceremony which recognises the achievements of Jockeys over the past twelve months.

Hosted by HWPB Broadcaster of the Year Luke Harvey and regular Get In! show partner Jason Weaver in the ATR studio, special guests and awards winners such as Josephine Gordon, Callum Rodriguez and Kieran Shoemark were in attendance to receive their coveted trophy.

**Richard Johnson** and **Silvestre de Sousa** won their second Stobart-sponsored Jockeys championships, over Jumps and on the Flat respectively, and were chosen as Stobart Jump Jockey of the Year and Stobart Flat Jockey of the Year.

Leading Lady Jockey **Josephine Gordon** was voted Lady Jockey of the Year following her fantastic season which saw her become only the second lady Jockey to ride over 100 winners in a calendar year after Hayley Turner.

Champion Conditional Jockey **Harry Cobden** received the Lester for Conditional Jockey of the Year and **Kieran Shoemark** was presented with the Apprentice Jockey of the Year award after finishing runner-up in the Stobart Apprentice Championship following a tight battle with Champion David Egan.

At The Races and Racing UK viewers chose **Derek Fox's** ride on One for Arthur in the Randox Health Grand National as their Jump Ride of the Year whilst **Callum Rodriguez's** ride on Nakeeta in the Betfred Ebor at York won the Flat Ride of the Year award.

The two special recognition awards were presented to two stalwarts of the weighing room who announced their retirement earlier this year with **Jimmy Fortune** taking the Flat honours and **Paul Moloney** receiving the Jump Special Recognition award.

Andrew Tinkler, Stobart Group's Executive Director, said: "The Lesters are a superb occasion for the celebration of the great achievements of our Jockeys, both on the Flat and over Jumps. The contribution of Jockeys to the sport of horse racing is hugely valued and we at Stobart are delighted to play a part in honouring these fine sporting stars. We are very much looking forward to the event coming back next year on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and to support the PJA in hosting another fantastic evening of celebration for their members."

Nigel Payne, Chairman of the Professional Jockeys Association, said: "The Stobart Lesters are always a special occasion for the Jockeys so we can't thank At The Races enough for agreeing to produce a Stobart Lesters special programme with Luke and Jason, as well as Racing UK for assisting us with the rides of the year footage. Recognition by one's peers is the best recognition of all and each of those Jockeys who won this evening will be thrilled

and will cherish the honour. Very well done to Josephine, Kieran, Harry, Callum, Derek, Jimmy, Paul, Silvestre and Richard.'

"In addition, on behalf of the PJA's members I would like to say a very big thank you to Andrew Tinkler and our title sponsor, Stobart Group, not just for supporting the Lesters but for sponsoring Jockeys collectively which helps provide them with Career Ending Insurance since 2011."

### **Winners of the Stobart Lesters 2017**

**Lady Jockey of the Year:** Josephine Gordon

**Apprentice Jockey of the Year:** Kieran Shoemark

**Flat Ride of the Year:** Callum Rodriguez, Nakeeta, Betfred Ebor, York

**Flat Jockey Special Recognition:** Jimmy Fortune

**Conditional Jockey of the Year:** Harry Cobden

**Jump Ride of the Year:** Derek Fox, One For Arthur, Radox Health Grand National, Aintree

**Jump Jockey Special Recognition:** Paul Moloney

**Flat Jockey of the Year:** Silvestre De Sousa

**Jump Jockey of the Year:** Richard Johnson

ENDS

For further information, please contact:  
Izzy Desailly, Membership and Commercial Manager of the Professional Jockeys Association, on 01635 778108.