



## **NOMINATIONS FOR THE STOBART LESTERS 2018** **ANNOUNCED**

The nominations for the Stobart Lesters 2018 – horse racing's own 'Oscars' - were revealed today (WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER).

The prestigious accolades will be awarded at the Stobart Lesters 2018 ceremony three days before Christmas. The glittering awards night celebrating the achievements of Jockeys from Britain will take place at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge in London on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December in front of a packed crowd of around 400 guests.

The event will look back on the 2018 Flat racing season when Silvestre de Sousa was crowned Stobart Champion Flat Jockey for the third time, as well as the momentous 2017/18 Jump racing season when, as well as being crowned Stobart Champion Jockey for the third successive time, Richard Johnson claimed his second Timico Gold Cup on Native River, 18 years on from his first success in the race on Looks Like Trouble.

Richard joins three rising stars of the weighing room James Bowen, Nicola Currie and Hollie Doyle, who are all nominated for two awards this year.

The All Sport Insurance Special Recognition and ARC Jump Jockey Special Recognition awards nominees feature an impressive shortlist of Jockeys who have all announced their retirement from race riding in 2018 with the exception of the new PJA Flat president, PJ McDonald, the only active Jockey nominated in the Flat Jockey Special Recognition category for his breakthrough season riding his first Classic winner on Laurens.

Voting for seven of the Lesters awards is by ballot among members of the Professional Jockeys Association. The *Flat Ride of the Year* has been chosen by readers and users of the sponsoring *Racing Post*. Likewise, the *Jump Ride of the Year*, sponsored by *At The Races*, has been decided by votes on the TV channel's website. Both polls are now closed.

Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the PJA, said: "Jockeys strive for big winners and there is no greater recognition for a Jockey than that of their peers and the public, which is what makes winning a Lester so special."

"This year's Stobart Lesters will be particularly special as we celebrate not only the achievements of Jockeys in 2018 but also say goodbye to some of the weighing room's biggest names.

"This year's Stobart Lesters will be the first time we've returned the event to London in many years and will be held at an exciting new venue, the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge, and will be a memorable occasion. We still have a few tickets remaining but they're selling fast with bookings closing on Friday 14th

December so if anyone wants to join us on the evening they'll need to book very soon!"

Co-hosted by Luke Harvey and, for the first time, Hayley Moore, the Stobart Lesters are an ideal occasion to celebrate the festive season with friends, for corporate hospitality or Christmas parties. Fantastic live music and entertainment will follow the awards ceremony so revelers can dance until the early hours!

Tickets for the Stobart Lesters cost £180 each (including VAT) and can be purchased by contacting the PJA office on 01635 778108.

### **FULL LIST OF NOMINATIONS (in alphabetical order)**



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

Bridget Andrews  
Nicola Currie  
Hollie Doyle  
Rachel Richardson



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

Nicola Currie  
Callum Rodriguez  
Rossa Ryan  
Jason Watson



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

James Bowen  
Ross Chapman  
Ciaran Gethings  
Sean Houlihan



#### **Flat Jockey Special Recognition:**

George Baker  
Steve Drowne  
Ted Durcan  
PJ McDonald

### **RACING POST Flat Ride of the Year:**

Dave Allan on Wells Farhh Go in Newmarket on 12<sup>th</sup> July  
Connor Beasley on Jack Blane at Hamilton on 24<sup>th</sup> September  
Hollie Doyle on Daddy's Poppit at Chelmsford on 6<sup>th</sup> September  
Eoin Walsh on Storm Lightning at Wolverhampton on 22<sup>nd</sup> September

**AT THE RACES** Jump Ride of the Year:

James Bowen on Raz de Maree at Chepstow on 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Lucy Gardner on Snazzman at Fontwell on 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Lizzie Kelly on Coo Star Sivola at Cheltenham on 13<sup>th</sup> March  
Sam Twiston Davies on Politologue at Aintree at 13<sup>th</sup> April



**Jump Jockey Special Recognition:**

Ryan Hatch  
Richard Johnson  
Timmy Murphy  
Andrew Thornton



**Stobart Flat Jockey of the Year:**

Silvestre De Sousa  
James Doyle  
Oisin Murphy  
Danny Tudhope



**Jump Jockey of the Year:**

Noel Fehily  
Brian Hughes  
Richard Johnson  
Harry Skelton

ENDS