



## 2019 LESTERS AWARDS TO BE HOSTED LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

Nominees for the Lesters 2019 Awards were announced today on Sky Sports Racing with the broadcaster due to host the 2019 Lesters Awards live on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Sky Sports Racing has come together with the PJA to host the popular Lesters Awards ceremony which recognises the achievements of jockeys over the past twelve months. Regular *Get In!* show partners Luke Harvey and Jason Weaver will be joined in the studio by special guests and award winners.

A lack of a title sponsor this year sadly left organisers without the option of staging the Awards as a traditional, venue-based event.

Voting for seven of the Lesters awards is by ballot among members of the Professional Jockeys Association, with the *Flat Ride of the Year* chosen by Racing TV viewers and the *Jump Ride of the Year* selected by Sky Sports Racing viewers. Both polls are now closed and all winners will be announced during the live show.

Viewers can watch the awards live from 5.30pm on Sky Sports Racing, with the show getting under way following quality live afternoon racing action from Ascot, Lingfield and Newcastle.

Sky Sports Racing Director of Broadcast, Rob Dakin said:

“We are delighted to team up with the PJA on this project once again, giving the Lesters live broadcast exposure for the first time on Sky Sports Racing. We’re always keen to showcase the incredible skills and dedication of our leading jockeys and this special programme will be a must-watch for all racing fans.”

Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the PJA, said:

“With no title sponsor for the event this year, we were facing potentially another blank year for the Lesters so we were delighted when Sky Sports Racing agreed to produce a Lesters special, as they did in 2017. I am sure Luke and Jason will make it another fun evening for the deserving award winners as well as the Sky Sports Racing viewers. We are currently working on plans to bring back the awards ceremony in 2020 and hope to have some good news in the New Year.”

4<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### Notes for Editors:

For further information please contact Izzy Desailly, Commercial Manager at the PJA, on 01635 778108 or email [id@thepja.co.uk](mailto:id@thepja.co.uk)

**NOMINEES 2019 (Alphabetical order)**

<b><u>Apprentice Jockey of the Year</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean Davis</li> <li>• Cieren Fallon</li> <li>• Darragh Keenan</li> <li>• Harrison Shaw</li> </ul>
<b><u>Conditional Jockey of the Year</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Bowen</li> <li>• Ross Chapman</li> <li>• Jonjo O’Neill Jnr</li> <li>• Lorcan Williams</li> </ul>
<b><u>Flat Ride of the Year</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frankie Dettori, Enable, King George VI and QE Qipco Stakes, Ascot, 27/07/19</li> <li>• Paul Hanagan, Dutch Decoy, Ladbrokes Play 1-2-Free Nursery Handicap, Hamilton, 30/08/19</li> <li>• Tom Marquand, Magic Shuffle, Queens Square Wealth Management Handicap, Bath, 26/06/19</li> <li>• Jason Watson, Quadrilateral, Bet365 Fillies Mile, Newmarket, 11/10/19</li> </ul>
<b><u>Jump Ride of the Year</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mattie Batchelor, Noble Glance, Sky Sports Racing Virgin 535 Novices Hurdle, Fontwell, 22/08/19</li> <li>• Nico De Boinville, Diablo du Rouhet, Heineken UK Handicap Chase, Perth, 09/06/19</li> <li>• Rex Dingle, Goring One, Starsports.bet Conditional Jockeys Handicap Chase, Lingfield, 04/01/19</li> <li>• Bryony Frost, Frodon, Ryanair Chase, Cheltenham, 14/03/19</li> </ul>
<b><u>Lady Jockey of the Year</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridget Andrews</li> <li>• Nicola Currie</li> <li>• Hollie Doyle</li> <li>• Bryony Frost</li> </ul>
<b><u>Flat Jockey Special Recognition</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frankie Dettori</li> <li>• Pat Smullen</li> <li>• Fergus Sweeney</li> <li>• Robert Winston</li> </ul>
<b><u>Jump Jockey Special Recognition</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aidan Coleman</li> <li>• Noel Fehily</li> <li>• Charlie Poste</li> <li>• Sam Twiston Davies</li> </ul>
<b><u>Flat Jockey of the Year</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Doyle</li> <li>• Tom Marquand</li> <li>• Oisin Murphy</li> <li>• Danny Tudhope</li> </ul>
<b><u>Jump Jockey of the Year</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean Bowen</li> <li>• Brian Hughes</li> <li>• Richard Johnson</li> <li>• Harry Skelton</li> </ul>