



## TOP JOCKEYS HONOURED AT THE LESTERS 2019

Nine accolades were presented to the winners of the Professional Jockeys Association's Lesters Awards 2019 tonight on Sky Sports Racing. Faced with no option to stage the awards as a traditional venue-based event due to a lack of title sponsor, the PJA and Sky Sports Racing joined forces to host a live broadcast of the popular awards ceremony, which celebrates the achievements of Jockeys over the past twelve months.

Hosted by regular *Get In!* show partners Jason Weaver and Luke Harvey in the Sky Sports studio, special guests and awards winners such as Richard Johnson, Hollie Doyle, Pat Smullen and Noel Fehily were in attendance to receive their coveted trophy.

Richard Johnson and Oisin Murphy, who won their respective Jockeys Championships this year, were chosen as the Jump Jockey of the Year and Flat Jockey of the Year award recipients.

Leading jockey Hollie Doyle was voted Lady Jockey of the Year following her fantastic season which saw her break the British record for the most winners in a year by a female Jockey, overtaking Josephine Gordon's previous record of 106 annual winners.

Champion Apprentice Jockey Cieren Fallon received the Lester for Apprentice Jockey of the Year whilst Jonjo O'Neill Jnr was presented with the Conditional Jockey of the Year award after a very successful season which saw him win the Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys Handicap Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival 2019.

Sky Racing viewers chose Mattie Batchelor's ride on Noble Glance at Fontwell on 22nd August as their Jump Ride of the Year whilst Racing TV viewers voted for Paul Hanagan's ride on Dutch Decoy at Hamilton on 30th August for 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 Pat Smullen taking the Flat honours and Noel Fehily receiving the Jump Special Recognition award.

Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the Professional Jockeys Association, said:

"The Lesters are always a special occasion for the Jockeys so we can't thank Sky Sports Racing enough for agreeing to host this live special with Luke and Jason, as well as Racing TV for assisting us with the rides of the year footage.

"We're delighted for all the winners and hope they enjoy their early Christmas present. Particular congratulations go to Pat and Noel, as joining the illustrious roles of honour of Special Recognition recipients clearly demonstrates the regard in which they are held by their peers."

We are currently trying to source a sponsor for the event and very much hope that it will be back next year for another fantastic evening of celebration of our members."

## **Winners of the Lesters 2019**

- Lady Jockey of the Year: Hollie Doyle
- Apprentice Jockey of the Year: Cieren Fallon
- Flat Ride of the Year: Paul Hanagan, Dutch Decoy, Hamilton, 30.08.19
- Flat Jockey Special Recognition: Pat Smullen
- Conditional Jockey of the Year: Jonjo O'Neill Jnr
- Jump Ride of the Year: Mattie Batchelor, Noble Glance, Fontwell, 22.08.19
- Jump Jockey Special Recognition: Noel Fehily
- Flat Jockey of the Year: Oisin Murphy
- Jump Jockey of the Year: Richard Johnson

21st December 2019

### **Notes for Editors:**

For further information, please contact Izzy Desailly, Membership and Commercial Manager of the Professional Jockeys Association on [id@thepja.co.uk](mailto:id@thepja.co.uk).