



PRESS RELEASE

PJA STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF RICHARD JOHNSON'S RETIREMENT

Richard "Dickie" Johnson, four-time Champion Jump Jockey and PJA Jumps President, has today announced his retirement with immediate effect.

PJA Chief Executive Paul Struthers, said:

"Dickie took over as Jumps President following AP McCoy's retirement and has been actively involved in the PJA ever since. He is the nicest, kindest, most professional jockey I have ever had the pleasure of dealing and on both a personal and professional level I am delighted he is retiring from the saddle on his own terms.

"I cannot think of a single person who would have a bad word to say about him. Yet whilst there's a common saying that nice guys don't win, Dickie has been at the top of his profession for close to 30 years and only someone as remarkable as AP McCoy prevented him from being Champion Jump Jockey more than the four times he was.

"He was the most amazing role model to other jockeys –incredibly professional in every aspect and a great communicator. Like so many senior jockeys before him, Dickie didn't look out for just himself. He was passionate about the plight of all jockeys and was an excellent and active President of the PJA. He's devoted himself to the racing industry and thoroughly deserves to enjoy a happy retirement from the saddle with his family. We and his colleagues will miss him terribly."

PJA Chairman Jon Holmes, for whom as an owner Dickie has ridden for on many occasions, said:

"Richard Johnson represents the finest qualities of a sportsman: professional, dedicated, modest, and every inch a competitor. His long-term relationship with Philip Hobbs, an example of his loyalty, brought great dividends for both parties. He rode more than twenty five winners for me as an owner and was always a role model for younger jockeys. The sport will be poorer for his absence, and as Chair of the PJA on behalf of all our members I thank him for his outstanding contribution, and wish him a happy and fruitful retirement from the saddle."

Saturday 3rd April 2021