

## PRESS RELEASE

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LESTERS 2021 WINNERS

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED**

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FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY\***

(\*except once individual winners have been live tweeted by @pjaofficial on the evening)

Nine accolades were presented to the winners of the Professional Jockeys Association Lesters Awards 2021 tonight on Sky Sports Racing, as the PJA and Sky Sports Racing joined forces for the third time to host a live broadcast of the popular award ceremony, which celebrates the achievements of Jockeys over the past twelve months.

William Buick won his first Flat Jockey of the Year Lester, having won Apprentice Jockey of the Year back in 2007 and 2008. Hollie Doyle added to her tally of Lesters, picking up the Female Jockey of the Year for the second year in a row.

Jockeys Marco Ghiani and Danny McMenemy received their first career Lesters for Apprentice Jockey of the Year and Conditional Jockey of the Year, and it was another Lesters first when Harry Skelton picked up Jump Jockey of the Year, a fitting tribute to Harry who was crowned Champion Jockey in 2021.

Ray Dawson's inspired front running ride on Marshall Dan at Sandown on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was voted by Racing TV viewers as the Flat Ride of the Year. In contrast, the never-say-die, persistent, ride that Sean Quinlan gave For Jim at Hexham on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 got the vote from Sky Racing viewers for their Jump Ride of the Year.

Richard Johnson OBE, four times Champion Jockey and such a familiar face on the jumps circuit until his retirement in April 2021, won the Jump Jockey Special Recognition award. This is Johnson's seventh Lester and is a tribute to his enduring popularity amongst his colleagues in the weighing room.

Dale Gibson, Interim Chief Executive of the Professional Jockeys Association said:

“The annual Lesters awards are always entertaining and a reminder to viewers of the special talent that Jockeys possess. Receiving an accolade remains a highlight for any Jockey, especially when the award is voted for by your colleagues. We congratulate all the winners, especially those in receipt of their first trophy. Once again, many thanks, as ever to Sky Sports Racing for their continued support in hosting the event”

### **Winners of the Lesters 2021**

- Female Jockey of the Year: Hollie Doyle
- Apprentice Jockey of the Year: Marco Ghiani
- Flat Ride of the Year: Ray Dawson, Marshall Dan, Sandown, 10. 09.21
- Flat Jockey Special Recognition: Joe Fanning
- Conditional Jockey of the Year: Danny McMenamin
- Jump Ride of the Year: Sean Quinlan, For Jim, Hexham 9.10.21
- Jump Jockey Special Recognition: Richard Johnson
- Flat Jockey of the Year: William Buick
- Jump Jockey of the Year: Harry Skelton

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **Notes for Editors**

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