

1st November 2024

PRESS RELEASE

VOTING FOR 'RIDES OF THE YEAR' LESTERS OPENS

Embargoed until 9am on Friday 1st November 2024

Sky Sports Racing and Racing TV viewers can now vote for two of the most sought-after Lesters as the polls opened today for the Flat Ride of the Year and Jump Ride of the Year awards 2024. The prestigious accolades will be presented at the Lesters awards, in association with World Pool, which will be held in front of an audience for the first time since 2018 at Newbury Racecourse on Sunday 22nd December.

Hosted by ITV Racing presenters Luke Harvey and Adele Mulrennan, the glittering black-tie evening ceremony will see eight highly coveted Philip Blacker trophies awarded to Britain's finest jockeys, voted for by their peers and the racing public.

The nominations for the Sky Sports Racing Jump Ride of the Year are:

- **Joe Anderson – Transmission – Plumpton – 07 January 2024**

5lb conditional Joe Anderson was a viral sensation following his unbelievable ride aboard Transmission at Plumpton. Anderson performed miracles to stay aboard his mount with way over a circuit to go, not able to regain his irons until many flights of hurdles later. Amazingly still in contention turning for home, Anderson and Transmission delivered a big leap at the last before clearing away for a memorable victory.

- **James Best – Silver Lining – Warwick – 13 January 2024**

From start (where he lined up widest of all to give his mount the space she needed to get to the front on the very short run to the first bend) to finish (where he squeezed just enough out of his mount as the pursuing Galia des Liteaux clawed back the ground), this was an exemplary frontrunning ride aboard a mare who produced the performance of her life to give the rider the greatest day of his career.

- **Harry Cobden – Born Famous – Market Rasen – 22 July 2023**

Harry Cobden had ice in his veins as he took waiting to the extreme on his way to victory here despite being detached and seemingly out of contention with a circuit to run aboard this talented but quirky mare. The combination picked off their rivals one by one in the back straight, but still had a number of runners to pass as they turned for home. However, Cobden nursed and cajoled his mount to the front and kept enough in the tank for a battle from the last.

- **Nico De Boinville – Iberico Lord – Newbury – 10 February 2024**

"AP said 'that was a pretty cool ride.'" High praise indeed via Nicky Henderson for Nico de Boinville's inspired effort on Iberico Lord in Newbury's Betfair Hurdle, in which the rider saved ground up the inside, patiently creeping closer in a well-run race in testing conditions. Still a

couple of lengths down approaching the last, De Boinville only asked for everything from his mount on the run in, edging ahead close home to land the prize.

The nominations for the Racing TV Flat Ride of the Year are:

• William Buick – The Dragon King – Newmarket – 05/10/2024

"I don't know how that happened," said a perplexed Buick after guiding The Dragon King to an astonishing victory at Newmarket. After a slow start, Buick's mount was detached and outpaced in last, and looked an awkward ride, but Buick never gave up and somehow managed to entice him back into contention. It appeared as though The Dragon King had just joined in when he began to power home from the back of the field a furlong out, and viewers were no doubt as puzzled as the rider.

• Ryan Moore – Opera Singer – Goodwood – 01 August 2024

As the runners returned to the winner's enclosure, Oisin Murphy watched the replay on the big screen and saw his mount See The Fire close to within a neck at the line but get no closer to the perfectly-ridden Opera Singer. Perhaps he was wondering what more he could have done? But the truth is that Moore was majestic here, bouncing his filly out of the stalls and kicking from the front at just the right moment to steal the cheap lengths that simply could not be reeled back.

• David Nolan – Garfield Shadow – Chester – 08 May 2024

David Nolan took the plaudits for a paint-scraping ride at Chester in which he showed skill, patience and strength to deliver a narrow victory aboard 20/1 shot Garfield Shadow at the Boodles May Festival, beating subsequent Group 3 winner Al Shabab Storm.

• Jamie Spencer – Terraab – Newbury – 19 April 2024

Textbook Jamie Spencer! The former Champion Jockey was coolness personified aboard Teraabb at Newbury, his mount slowly away and still last with two furlongs to go. With traffic problems facing Spencer's rivals to his left, the rider skilfully navigated his mount away from the trouble, delivering his mount late for a last gasp victory.

Fans can now view the nominated rides and cast their vote for the Jump Ride of the Year at attheraces.com/esters and for the Flat Ride of the Year at racingtv.com/esters2024 with polls closing at midnight on 24th November.

Tickets and tables for the Lesters can still be purchased by downloading a booking form from the PJA website (www.thepja.co.uk/esters) or by calling the PJA Office on 01635 778108. Tickets are available at £200 per person (incl. VAT), or tables for 10 at £1,900 (incl. VAT). With this being the first in-person Lesters for six years and with less than two months to go until the event, we anticipate demand being high so we advise guests to purchase their tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Izzy Desailly, Head of Membership, at the Professional Jockeys Association, on id@thepja.co.uk or 01635 778108