

PRESS RELEASE



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FUTURE CHAMPION APPRENTICES TO BE PRESENTED THE 'TOMMIE JAKES MEMORIAL TROPHY'

The Professional Jockeys Association (PJA) announced today that future winners of the annual Apprentice Jockeys' Championship will now receive the 'Tommie Jakes Memorial Trophy' in memory of the talented young rider who died tragically last October.

The annual apprentice championship, which runs from early May through to Qatar Racing British Champions Day at Ascot in mid-October, is decided on the number of winners. It has been won in the past by some of the sport's greatest jockeys including Ryan Moore, Tom Marquand, Oisin Murphy and Billy Loughnane.

The PJA Board has named the trophy in tribute to Tommie who had earned great praise for his natural talent, horsemanship, work ethic and attitude. He won his first race at the age of 16 on Suzi's Connoisseur at Lingfield in March 2023 and had ridden 59 winners from just 519 rides. The talented young apprentice rider passed away on 30th October 2025 at the age of 19.

Tonie Jakes, mother of Tommie, said:

"Tommie was a much-loved son and brother who we'll remember for his smile, spirit, kind heart, hard work, dedication, love of racing and a dream to succeed. To have his name on the trophy will act as a legacy as well as a reminder to all trainee jockeys of the challenges faced by their contemporaries."

Nick Attenborough, PJA Chair, said:

"Tommie was a very promising young rider who was a shining example to others in the Weighing Room and he had the world at his feet. The naming of this new trophy in his honour will remind all of us to appreciate the challenges faced by teenage apprentices and conditionals as they start their racing career."

Great British Racing, which organises the sport's championships, will also provide a cash prize to the winning apprentice.

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