



JETS RICHARD DAVIS AWARDS 2015

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER – NIAL HANNITY

Age: 36

From: Thornton Waltham, N. Yorkshire



New Career: TV presenter and Jockeys Agent

Career Development: Niall consulted with JETS about different career options while still riding. He attended various media training days which, along with passion for racing, his knowledge of race form and pedigree, inspired him to pursue a career in broadcasting and is now a regular presenter with Racing UK. In 2014, he also became a jockeys agent, with 9 jockeys on his books and speaks with trainers on a daily basis who value his in depth race knowledge and has achieved some big winners already with his jockeys. He also sits on a panel aiming to help regenerate Jump Racing in the North of England.

Niall said: "Getting paid to work in an industry which I love is something I am immensely proud of. As a jockey I never excelled to the heights of many others, which I feel makes my achievements all the more satisfying. I have worked incredibly hard, seeking opportunities which may open more doors for myself and my family in order to be the best I can."

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, career guidance, training advice and work placement assistance.

Race Riding Career: Conditional/Professional from 1996 – 2005, riding 100 winners.



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IJF PROGRESS AWARD WINNER – KEITH MERCER

Age: 33

From: Richmond, Yorkshire



New Career: Accountancy

Career Development: During his riding career, Keith developed an interest in property and finance and when he was forced to retire through injury, he decided to do an Accountancy degree to help develop a career in these areas. JETS has provided financial support throughout his studies and he has thrived in the very different environment of full time education, achieving high marks in his first year course assessments and continuing with high grades in his second year. He aims to progress successfully to gain his qualification and is exploring opportunities to work abroad.

Keith said: "I am delighted - and honoured - to win the IJF Progress award, I would like to express my thanks to JETS for its invaluable support and assistance in enabling my pursuit of a second career. It is great for jockeys to have an organisation like JETS behind them when they make the often difficult decision to retire from the saddle. Without JETS, it would have been very difficult for me to pursue a degree in accountancy and finance at Teesside University."

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, training advice and career guidance. Media Training, LGV and Racecourse Care & Management courses. Accountancy & Finance Degree 2013

Race Riding Career: Professional Jump jockey from 2004-2012 riding 195 winners including the Scottish Grand National before suffering a career ending injury.