



RICHARD DAVIS AWARD FINALISTS 2022



BHA DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HUGH NUGENT – Jump Jockey

ALEXANDER THORNE – Jump Jockey

THOMAS WILLMOTT – Conditional Jockey

1. HUGH NUGENT

Age: 27

From: Herefordshire



Racing Riding Career: First licensed in 2018, based with Venetia Williams, Hugh has ridden 42 winners from 421 rides.

Personal Development Highlights:

Following an injury last year, Hugh utilised all the facilities and support offered through the Injured Jockeys Fund and in particular Oaksey House. He worked hard on his fitness and received regular physio to help him get back race riding. Hugh employed the help of the PJA Nutrition team to help speed up his recovery and to

help keep his weight at a manageable level while he was off. Starting in lockdown, Hugh started to learn Russian as a second language. Working with a tutor, he has taken written and speaking exams and he is now up to the equivalent of university level. Hugh particularly enjoys being able to converse with the Ukrainian staff in the yards where he rides out and can see a future for himself as an interpreter as a second career.

Hugh said: “Jockeys are so fortunate to have a lot of support while they are riding for things like their fitness, physios, and nutrition. It’s very easy to get wrapped up in racing but having another outlet in learning to speak Russian has given me other aims and targets in my life.”

JETS Support/Training Courses: Training Advice, Career Guidance, Interview Training, Personal Development Plan. Russian language classes, media training.

2. ALEXANDER THORNE

Age: 27

From: Marlborough



Race Riding Career: Licensed since 2016, based with Alan King, Alex has had 35 winners from 335 rides.

Personal Development Highlights:

Alex suffered a shoulder injury that kept him on the side-lines for almost a year. Using his time off race riding wisely, Alex has undertaken accountancy and bookkeeping courses and has been working at a large hotel and spa as a financial assistant. He is really keen to help jockeys with all aspects their finances in the future and believes by being in the weighing room he is ideally situated to help them. Alex is a keen DJ, enjoys meditation and is particularly enthusiastic about his fitness, diet and nutrition. He is learning to cook more of his own meals to ensure he is consuming less processed meats.

Alex said: “Racing can take over your life. I think it’s really important to be self-aware, take time to yourself and look after your mind with the exercise, nutrition and other stimulation that is of real benefit.”

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS Consultation, Training Advice, Career Guidance, Work Placement. Bookkeeping course.

3. THOMAS WILLMOTT

Age: 22

From: Selkirkshire



Race Riding Career: First licensed in 2017/18, Thomas is Conditional to Sue Smith. He's had 42 winners from 556 rides including aboard Romeo Brown in the Pertemps Network Long Distance Handicap Hurdle (GBB race) at Haydock.

Personal Development Highlights: Thomas has worked hard with his Jockey Coach Brian Harding both on course and at home during schooling sessions or by recording equicisor sessions at home which he then sends to Brian. He has also worked with PJA performance psychologist Aodhagan Conlon to help him through the ups and downs of race riding and work on his mindset. He manages his nutrition well to maintain his weight healthily and as well as going to Jack Berry house to use the facilities there, he also has a personal trainer he works with at home. He also has begun working towards his second career after riding as a funeral director, using JETS to fund modules whilst he was off injured and gaining experience working for a Funeral Director in Scotland when time allows.

Thomas said: "Whilst riding comes first, everybody knows that it won't last forever so I'm lucky to have known what I want to do as a second career and have already started a dual career working toward qualifications to help prepare me for the future."

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS Consultation, Training Advice, Career Guidance, Interview Technique, Work Placement, Personal Development Plan. Foundation Funeral Practitioner and media training.



IJF PROGRESS AWARD

MEGAN CARBERRY – Sports & Exercise Therapy

SAM WELTON – Civil & Structural Engineering

RYAN WITHEY – Equine Dentistry

1. MEGAN CARBERRY

Age: 28

From: North Yorkshire



Second Career: Sports and Exercise Therapy

Race Riding Career: Rode both on the Flat and over Jumps with 39 winners in total. She was Yorkshire Champion Apprentice in 2014 and as a Conditional with Brian Ellison, she enjoyed success aboard Dominada.

Career Development: Megan was first interested in Sports and Exercise Therapy after spending time in rehabilitation at Jack Berry House. She consulted with JETS to find a suitable course and was awarded a Scholarship to help her carry out her studies in which she gained a First class degree, a remarkable achievement having not studied since being at school. She has also gained work experience on a placement at Jack Berry House and is hoping to use her qualification and experience to work with jockeys. She has now gone on to complete a one year Masters course, all the time juggling with parenthood and riding out for Brian Ellison.

Megan said: “I have managed to balance family, study and work over the past 3 years and still achieve the highest grades possible. I think I’ve shown that with great determination you can achieve anything in life. I’m looking forward to completing my Masters and gaining a First as that’s the standard I’ve set for myself.”

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, Assistance with Work Placement at Accountancy firm. Scholarship grant for BSc course at York St John University.

2. SAM WELTON

Age: 32

From: Cattal, Yorkshire



Second Career: Civil & Structural Engineering

Race Riding Career: Sam rode as a Conditional from 2010 to 2014 for various trainers in both England and France. He changed to an Amateur licence when he returned to Yorkshire and switched to transporting horses and pre-training work for trainers.

Career Development: Sam first approached JETS in 2014 to get his LGV licence so he could help transport horses to racecourses. After the birth of his daughter in 2015, Sam realised he needed to focus on the long term and decided to pursue a career in the engineering industry which he felt opened up lots of career opportunities to him. He did an Access to Higher Education Science course at York College which enabled him to secure a place at Bradford University to study Civil and Structural Engineering which JETS has partially funded through their scholarship scheme. Sam struggled, as many university students, did during Covid with the additional challenges of remote learning, and has relied on JETS for support and has recently graduated from Bradford University. He has managed to do this whilst also working for Racetech and is now considering various options to take his career forward.

Sam said: “On top of the pressures of Covid and remote learning, I had a professional diagnosis of dyslexia and ADHD. Therefore to have graduated with degree in Civil and Structural Engineering, having suffered these afflictions is something I am very proud of. I’m hugely grateful to JETS, the IJF, Sporting Chance and Racing Welfare for all of the help and assistance I have been given to be able to be in the very happy and healthy position I am in now.”

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance. LGV Driver Training, Masters in in Civil Engineering.

3. RYAN WITHEY

Age: 26

From: Wincanton, Somerset



Second Career: Equine Dentistry

Race Riding Career: Ryan rode as an Amateur Jump jockey in point to points and against professionals and had 12 winners. He qualified for JETS support as an IJF beneficiary.

Career Development: Ryan first started considering a career away from riding after suffering a broken foot with multiple fractures. With a young family to support he initially carried on working milking cattle whilst still recovering from injury. With the support of both JETS and IJF, he decided to look into an equine dentistry career after spending time with an equine dentist who worked at a yard where he was based and gaining a basic understanding. JETS has then helped fund his training courses, advising him on what he need to do to qualify and finding him work experience. He was then recommended to Equine Dental Services South West where he now works whilst continuing to attend Trident training courses and improving his knowledge by working with other dentists. Once he has built up his case studies, he can then complete his exams and become fully qualified as a registered equine dental technician.

Ryan said: "I have constantly been looking to improve my skills in my spare time, spending time with other equine dentists in different parts of the country. I have learned so much and am really hoping the experiences will stand me in good stead as I look to qualify fully as a British Association of Equine Dental Technicians."

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, CV Preparation, Work Placement and recruitment support. Trident UK Equine Dentistry School and Advanced Equine Dentistry Theory Course.



THE JOCKEY CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JAKE HODSON – Garden Maintenance & Tree Surgery

EMMA SAYER – Training & Development Manager, Scottish Racing Academy

JORDAN VAUGHAN – Farrier

1. JAKE HODSON

Age: 31

From: Stratford-on-Avon

Second Career: Garden Maintenance and Tree Surgery



Race Riding Career: Jake rode for eight years first as an Amateur and then as a Conditional until 2017. He had 503 career rides and 31 winners under rules.

Career Development: Jake always knew he wanted to do something practical in his second career and work outside so he started to grow his gardening business whilst still riding, using JETS for guidance and support. He has used his contacts built up from racing to develop his business with a number of trainers now on his clientbook. In 2021, he decided to expand his business to include Tree Surgery. He gained various qualifications through JETS to allow him to do this and now has taken on four new staff to enable him to take on more and larger commercial contracts and continue to grow the business and be a market leader in his area.

Jake said: “In moving into a trade that is non horse or racing related, I knew I would have to learn a whole new range of skills and gain qualifications. I feel that I have put a good career plan in place and have worked hard to gain the qualifications and complete the courses needed. Gaining these without the help of JETS would have been incredibly difficult.”

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS Consultation, Training Advice. Chainsaw & Tree Felling Courses, HSE & Environmental Awareness.

2. EMMA SAYER

Age: 30

From: Penrith, Cumbria



Second Career: Training & Development Manager, Scottish Racing Academy

Race Riding Career: Emma rode as an Amateur before getting her Conditional and Apprentice licences with around 600 rides and 59 winners, retiring from riding in 2019.

Career Development: Emma has always been committed to her personal development and gained a PE instructor qualification at university. She travelled extensively as part of her riding career gaining experience in different racing jurisdictions and used JETS to help her apply for the Alex Scott travel scholarship which she did to complement her trainers modules. In 2020, she applied for the role of Level 5 Tutor and Assessor at the Scottish Racing Academy (SRA) and has since been promoted to her current role as Training and Development Manager. She now is able to combine her passion for educating young people with racing and is continually growing her skills and knowledge with new coaching and educator qualifications to help her progress further.

Emma said: “Working for the Scottish Racing Academy is an honour and I feel very privileged to be doing so. It has been a very steep learning curve over the past two years and the growth over the last year I feel demonstrates my commitment and effort to my job as well as initiative, working with trainers, student and members of the racing industry to try and create a more joined up approach to training and education within the racing industry.”

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, CV Preparation, Interview Technique and Recruitment support. Trainers modules and Saddlers Course Level 1.

3. JORDAN VAUGHAN

Age: 28

From: The Wirral, Merseyside



Second Career: Farriery

Race Riding Career: Jordan first rode as an Apprentice in 2012 for George Margaron before moving to Karl Burke's for three years when he rode out dual Group 1 winner Quiet Reflection. He retired from riding in 2017 after 542 rides and 54 winners.

Career Development: Jordan always had an interest in farriery and particularly in the anatomy and conformation of horses. JETS initially supported Jordan with completing LGV driver training so he could earn money whilst waiting to start his training as a farrier and then helped identify the courses he needed to complete in order to become a qualified farrier. JETS have helped Jordan progress through his four year Level 3 Apprenticeship at Warwickshire College which he completed in May 2022, supplementing his income by riding out at weekends and achieving a Distinction along with a prize recognising his achievement in his exams. As a fully qualified farrier, he continues to work for Ed and Will O'Shaunhessy in Newmarket but also has managed to purchase his own tools and forge so he can start building his own client list and continue competing in Farriery competitions.

Jordan said: "All the evenings spent studying, taking part in competitions and practicing in the forge have all been worth it. It's been really hard but I'm so proud of my achievements. I know for a fact I wouldn't be here without JETS who have helped fund my courses and make this positive change to my life. I can now use my skills to help horses in different ways and be a part of improving their performance in whatever field of equestrianism is their specialism."

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS Consultation, Training Advice. Apprenticeship in Farriery, Level 2 Certificate in Forgework, Advanced Certificate in Equine Transport, LGV Driver Training.