

## PRESS INFORMATION

### **JETS announces 2010 Griffins Richard Davis Award Winners & new edition DVD** **Firefighter and Farrier take top honours**

Former jockeys, **Alan Daly**, now a Firefighter with Surrey Fire and Rescue; and **Liam Cooper**, now a fully qualified Farrier, have taken the Achievement and Progress categories (respectively) in the 2010 Griffins Richard Davis Awards. These awards are made by the Jockeys Employment and Training Scheme (JETS) to recognise the effort, initiative and forethought which jockeys and former jockeys put into developing new careers.

Alan and Liam receive their awards today (Sunday 14 November) at Cheltenham in an official presentation in the paddock before racing, at 12:40 hours. Terry Boothby, a Partner at long term sponsors, Griffins, will present The Achievement Award (worth £2500 to the winner) and Ian Balding (Injured Jockeys Fund Trustee) will present The Progress Award (worth £2000).

The Griffins Richard Davis Awards are made at the same time as The Jockeys Employment & Training Scheme releases a new edition of its DVD, entitled *Staying Ahead of the Game*, which showcases the various ways jockeys and employers have used JETS and what they think of the scheme.

#### **DALY TAKES GRIFFINS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

35 year old **Alan Daly** rode over 200 winners (from over 3,500 rides) as a flat jockey and sensibly planned well ahead for life after race riding, setting his heart on becoming a Firefighter. He took advantage of training in IT, lorry driving and media skills whilst still a jockey; and subsequently added security and First Aid qualifications to his CV

“Alan epitomises everything JETS is about. He has shown incredible focus on his new ambitions. Despite a very challenging application process and training, and a long wait for a vacancy to come up, he has never once wavered from his choice. He was going to become a Fire Fighter, no matter what,” explains Kevin Darley, PJA Chief Executive and one of the Award judges.

“The training was by far the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do both physically and mentally but I love every second of my new job. I can’t thank JETS enough. Lisa helped me to find my way around the fire service recruitment system, with my applications and preparing me for the various tests and job interviews. The training the Fire Service provides is brilliant and it’s amazing how our team trainers, Ian Rowley and Mark Way turned us from raw material to fully operational firefighters in 10 weeks,” adds Alan.

#### **COOPER TAKES THE INJURED JOCKEYS FUND PROGRESS AWARD**

This year’s Injured Jockeys Fund Progress Award (worth £2000), which goes to the applicant who was judged to have made the most progress in their career development over the past year, has been won by **Liam Cooper**.

Having ridden 182 winners over jumps (many for Jonjo O'Neill) -and most notably being associated with the horse, *Intersky Falcon* - Liam had his race riding career cut short in 2004 by serious injuries and recurrent concussion . He turned to JETS for guidance on how to become a farrier, his second choice of career - the training for which is extremely rigorous and takes a minimum of four years to qualify.

"Liam's application was impressive because it shows that, with hard work and the right sort of help, jockeys can come back from serious injuries to shine in other spheres. We very much see it as one of our roles at the IJF to ensure the long-term well being and self-sufficiency of jockeys once they retire and wish Liam every success in his next goal to become an approved training farrier," comments Lisa Hancock, judge and Chief Executive of The Injured Jockeys Fund.

"I have enjoyed every bit of my apprenticeship and am hoping to concentrate on racing yards where I can put my jockey experience to good use. Being self employed, this award will enable me to invest in my business for the future," adds Liam.

"Alan and Liam are two shining examples of the pool of talent jockeys, as a group, now present to employers. Jockeys are so much better equipped for life after race riding than they used to be and the result is that they are more confident about making the transition, getting braver in their second career choices and have better prospects. We would love to speak to more businesses out there (both in and outside racing) who could use our services and benefit from the talent we now have on our books," explains JETS General Manager and Career Coach, Lisa Delany.

The Griffins Richard Davis Achievement Award is judged by a panel of representatives from the Injured Jockeys Fund, Professional Jockeys Association, Racing Post, JETS and the sponsors, Griffins. The Progress Award is decided by the Injured Jockeys Fund Chief Executive, Lisa Hancock and the IJF Almoners

#### STAYING AHEAD OF THE GAME – THE NEW EDITION JETS DVD IS OUT NOW

The new edition JETS DVD features some new faces, including Achievement winner, Alan Daly, and award contender, former jump jockey, James Diment. They join others including Mick Fitzgerald, Jason Waver, Martin Dwyer and Hayley Turner who all talk about their own involvement with JETS. Robert Thornton, who has seen the DVD already, commented: "I remember the first DVD only vaguely, to be honest, so this all looked fresh to me and is particularly relevant now I'm off injured. It features a good cross section of jockeys including names many will have heard of. The main message I got out of it was not to be afraid of planning for the future and, if you do so, it certainly doesn't mean you're taking your eye off the ball."

A special employer version of the DVD features comments from organisations and businesses who have taken advantage of the employment services offered by JETS. The DVD will be sent out to fully licensed jockeys and racing industry employers after Cheltenham but complimentary copies can also be requested by emailing [info@jets-uk.org](mailto:info@jets-uk.org). Clips will be available to view on the website from 14 November at [www.jets-uk.org](http://www.jets-uk.org)

***/ends/10 November 2010/notes follow***

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For Profiles of shortlisted candidates and a roll call of Past Winners

[http://www.jets-uk.org/latest\\_news.htm](http://www.jets-uk.org/latest_news.htm)

2. JETS: is jointly funded from jockeys' own prize money contributions and The Injured Jockeys Fund. It is currently experiencing the highest level of demand for its services and now typically issues over £65,000 in training grants and scholarships annually.

Since its inception in 1995, jockeys and the IJF have together invested well over £1million in the scheme which has helped over 730 current and former jockeys with career advice and training in new skills, in order to gain employment after race-riding. [www.jets-uk.org](http://www.jets-uk.org).

3. The Richard Davis Awards: This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> year of The Griffins Richard Davis Awards are the annual career development honours established by The Jockeys Employment & Training Scheme in memory of the late Richard Davis who had started planning for his future before his fatal race fall in 1996.

4. Griffins: Newbury-based Griffins are accountants and business advisors to the horseracing industry [www.griffins.co.uk](http://www.griffins.co.uk)

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