

New Year 2012 Edition

GRIFFINS RICHARD DAVIS AWARDS: YORKSHIRE SWEEPS THE BOARD



Winners: David Meara & Gihan Arnolda



Colm Sharkey (l) with Sarah & David O'Meara at Cheltenham

Two northern -based former jockeys - **David O'Meara**, now a racehorse trainer in Nawton and **Gihan Arnolda**, who is currently working and training as a Professional Chef in York - took top honours in this year's Griffins Richard Davis Awards.

This was the 16th year of The Griffins Richard Davis Awards - the annual career development honours established by JETS in memory of the late Richard Davis who had started planning for his future before his fatal race fall in 1996. They recognise the effort, initiative and forethought which jockeys and former jockeys put into developing new careers.

Former jump jockey, David O'Meara took the **Griffins Achievement Award** (worth £2750) which goes to the candidate judged to have achieved the most in developing a second career over the past year. He is the first trainer ever to take the Award. Former Flat jockey, Gihan Arnolda, took the **Injured Jockeys Fund Progress**

Award which goes to the individual who has achieved the most progress in their career development (worth £2000).

The winners received their awards on Sunday 13 November at Cheltenham in an official presentation in the paddock before racing. Terry Boothby, a Partner at long term sponsors, Griffins, presented The Achievement Award and IJF Trustee, Ian Balding presented The Progress Award.

Explaining the Injured Jockeys Fund involvement in the Awards, Chief Executive, Lisa Hancock commented: "In the past, jockeys would be forced to retire through injury or otherwise, without any skills to fall back on and we would help pick up the pieces later down the line. Now we are delighted to see so many more becoming self-sufficient. We see our investment in JETS as being key to the long-term well-being of our potential beneficiaries in years to come."



David Meara (centre), Gihan Arnolda (centre right) with the Davis family and Terry Boothby (far left)

RACING AHEAD

Continuing our look at jockeys who have secured alternative careers within racing...

COLM JOINS CURRAGH BLOODSTOCK

Having secured himself a place on the 2011 BHA Graduate Scheme following the completion of his management degree at Limerick University, **Colm Sharkey** (pictured opposite) is now working in business development for the Curragh Bloodstock Agency in Newmarket and relishing the new role.

Ann Munnely, Director of BBA, Ireland commented: "Colm's CV impressed us immediately. He had gained a wealth of knowledge and experience in the racing industry, having ridden as a conditional in the UK and as an amateur for Charlie Swan in Ireland. His experience, combined with his degree in Marketing and Entrepreneurship and his acceptance on the BHA graduate program, marked him out as someone we would definitely want to meet.

"Having completed his placement with British Bloodstock Marketing at the end of September, Colm now works for us, based in our UK office in Newmarket. He has really hit the ground running and we are very happy with how he has taken to this new and challenging role," ends Munnely.

KILGARRIFF AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Former Apprentice and Conditional, **Luke Kilgarriff** has been awarded a JETS scholarship to help fund the tuition fees for his first year of degree study at Bath University in order to further his ambition to be a primary school teacher.

"Never in a million years would I have thought when I was riding that I'd one day be a teacher; and certainly without JETS advice, encouragement and the scholarship, I would never have considered it possible," comments Luke.



Richard Davis

THE GRIFFINS RICHARD DAVIS A

The 16th year of our Awards, in memory of the late Richard Davis

THE WINNERS

Achievement Award Winner: DAVID O'MEARA



NH Jockey (1998-2008)
New Career:
Trainer

Now 34 years of age, David had always planned to make the transition from jockey to the training ranks and planned ahead accordingly, enlisting careers advice from JETS and investing in LGV driver training and qualifying through the official BHA Trainers' Modules at the Northern Racing College and British Racing School, in conjunction with his riding; working first as an Assistant Trainer. Just two seasons into his new career as a racehorse trainer with Helmsley Racing in Nawton and he has trained over 90 winners on the flat and over jumps, including a Group 2 (*Blue Bajan*) and Listed Hurdle race winner (*Viva Colonia*).

“David impressed the judges with his determination and forward planning. He has proved in a very short time that he has got what it takes to be a trainer, which is definitely not an easy career option,” commented judge, Terry Boothby, for sponsors, Griffins Accountants.

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Injured Jockeys Fund Progress Award Winner: GIHAN ARNOLDA



Flat Jockey (1998-2002/2007-9)
Career Development:
Training to be a Professional Chef

31 year old **Gihan Arnolda** rode both as an Apprentice (1998-2002) and later continued his Flat race riding career between 2007-9. He had over 200 rides and rode 6 winners before his jockey career ended after he broke his pelvis in a bad race riding accident at Yarmouth.

Gihan turned to JETS for guidance on how to become a chef, his second choice of career and is now in his third year of a Diploma in Professional Cookery at York College. He gained Distinction marks at Level 1 and 2 and has been combining his training with work experience in a number of restaurants, including the Michelin-starred restaurant, Reads in Kent. Gihan is currently Chef de Partie at the four-star Royal York Hotel, in York and is also riding out locally to support his partner and two year old daughter. “I had always been passionate about food and my goal is to become a Head Chef at either 4 or 5 star hotels or in fine dining establishments and one day open my own restaurant,” explains Gihan.

“Gihan’s application was impressive because it shows that, with hard work and determination, jockeys can come back from career-ending injuries to achieve a secure future for themselves,” commented Lisa Hancock.

THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - THE REMAINING CONTENDERS... what they said...

JAMES DIMENT (31):



NH Jockey (2005-9)
New Career:
Partner in landscape business,
Ecological Landscape

“I love working in the business and we are very proud of our achievements which include helping to build a sound proof living willow fence barrier at Lingfield Racecourse and projects for the Malvern Hills Conservators.”

GUY LEWIS (36):



NH Jockey (1992-2000)
New Career:
BHA Racecourse Judge

“Richard Davis was a personal friend of mine. I know his family very well and am good friends with his two brothers. I hope Richard would be proud of me.”



BEN SWARBRICK (26):
Apprentice Jockey (2002-7)
New Career:
Racing Administrator with the RCA

“Perhaps the most difficult decision was to stop race riding. At this stage it would have been relatively easy to find a hands-on role with the horses but I decided that’s not what I wanted. I would love ultimately to work within Senior Management for one of the three racecourse groups.”



NATHAN WILLMINGTON (37):
Conditional Jockey (1993-2000)
New Career:
Sports Massage Therapist & Fitness Coach based in Dorset

“With the Olympics coming to Weymouth for the sailing events, I have been working closely with quite a few of the sailing teams. I am looking forward to helping keep the athletes in good shape in the lead up to, and during the Olympics next year. It is hard work, but hugely rewarding and exciting.”

AWARDS 2011 – THE FULL STORY

THE IJF PROGRESS AWARD – THE REMAINING CONTENDERS

Currently riding and planning ahead:



Conditional, **JOE CORNWALL (21)**
Graduated in Summer 2011 from Warwick University with a degree in Management



NH Jockey, **CHRIS HONOUR (32)**
Training for an ITEC Diploma in Equine Sports Massage

Former Jockeys:



DAVID DA SILVA (30)
Conditional Jockey (2005-9)
Now training to be a gas engineer and working for British Gas



SAM DRURY (22)
Apprentice Jockey (2006-9)
Now training to be a British Horse Society Riding Instructor



DAVID HOWARD (33)
Conditional Jockey (2000-3)
Has already graduated with a BSc Hons in Equine Business Management. Now taking a Masters Degree in Genetics.



LUKE KILGARRIFF (27)
Apprentice & Conditional Jockey (2006-9)
Now studying to be a Primary School Teacher
(See front page for more on Luke)

'FROM THE DAY' - INSIDE TRACKS



Niall Hannity interviews Gihan Arnolda for RUK

- Sponsor, Terry Boothby, commented that he felt this year's contenders made up the best quality field ever in the 16 year history of the Awards and all of them should be proud of what they have achieved.
- Fittingly David had his first runner as a trainer at Cheltenham on Richard Davis Awards day. *Viva Colonia* ran a highly creditable fifth in The Greatwood Hurdle.
- Having declared his long term ambition to open his own restaurant, Gihan was well and truly collared by IJF Trustee and Awards Judge Ian Balding who insisted that he should be his first customer when the day comes.
- Despite riding under different codes, it turns out that our two Award winners, David and Gihan, knew each other from riding out together at Tim Easterby's.
- Both David and Gihan have future celebrations to look forward to after this one. David and his wife, Sarah, are expecting their first baby next April and Gihan and partner, Briony are engaged.
- Lucy Wadham, one of the trainers Gihan rode for, was one of the first to congratulate him, reminding him that she had always wanted him to be a jump jockey.
- JETS candidate, **Rodi Greene** ran through the card for our guests at Cheltenham tipping a winner and a place on the day.

CHELTENHAM
RACECOURSE

A big 'thank you' must go to Cheltenham Racecourse and their team for helping make the day possible.

Bulletin Board

Who's training now

These are just a few of the jockeys who have recently trained in, or are currently investing in their future by acquiring new skills:

NAME	COURSE	
Paul Benson John Bramhill	BSc. Business Computing Automobile Valeting, Interior Trim Repair & Detailing	 James Reveley
Sean Fox Rodi Greene Eddie Guest Kelly Harrison	BRS Trainers Module 2 BRS Trainers Module 2 Carpentry & Joinery Level 3 Diploma in Racehorse Care & Management	
Tony Kelly Robert McCarth Kirsty Milczarek	Media Training Media Training Level 3 Diploma in Racehorse Care & Management	 Robert Walford
Jamie Moriarty James O'Farrell	Law & Business Degree Level 3 Diploma in Racehorse Care & Management	
James Reveley Philip Robinson Keith Rutter Ben Swarbrick Robert Walford	Media Training BRS Trainers Module 2 Professional Painting & Decorating IOG Intermediate Horseracing Course BRS Trainers Module 1	

Do you have a business idea?

We know that many jockeys have good business ideas but don't always plan ahead so we thought we would pass on the BBC Dragons advice for a successful business plan:



1. **Set realistic targets**
2. **You make it happen**
3. **Know your figures**
4. **Price it right**
5. **Timing is everything**
6. **Know when to call it a day**

Further advice/info at
www.bbc.co.uk/dragonsden

If you are a jockey already running a business/looking to set up a business which you would like to promote to racegoers, Eclipse Magazine is offering JETS candidates a complimentary ad in their online shop. Contact JETS in the first instance.

JETS wishes all candidates, employers and supporters a Merry Christmas and hopes that the Journal stories continue to inspire others to achieve and use JETS' services.



Congratulations to:



Richard Evans

- **Richard Evans** who has gained his LGV Class 1 Driving Licence.
- **Annabelle Armitage**, who, 4 years ago, JETS and the IJF helped to gain the Biology A Level she needed to start training as a physiotherapist, Annabelle, who is based near York, is now fully qualified and can't wait to start to working.
- JETS' own **Lisa Delany** who completed the Dublin Marathon on a personal best time of 4:01 and is looking to beat the 4 hour barrier with her next target – London's 2012 Marathon.

JETS On-course

Lisa will be based in the Weighing Room before racing (or in the following areas) on:



Dec 15	Southwell (AWT)	Jan 18	Southwell
Dec 21	Ludlow	Jan 24	Kempton
Jan 12	Fontwell	Feb 02	Towcester

Forthcoming Training Courses

The next dates for key racing-related courses coming up can now be found online at <http://www.jets-uk.org/notices.htm>

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