



BHA DEVELOPMENT AWARD FINALISTS 2025

OLIVER BOYDEN – Conditional Jockey

ELIZABETH GALE – Apprentice Jockey

CONOR RABBITT – Conditional Jockey

1. OLIVER BOYDEN

Age: 24

Based: Worcestershire

Race Riding Career: 3 Winners, 29 Rides



Personal Development Highlights: Oliver works closely on all aspects in and out of the saddle with his Jockey Coach William Kennedy. He has a huge passion for sports psychology and did a short online course in Sports Psychology before embarking on a part time Sports Psychology degree with the Open University. Achieving top marks in all his first 5 assignments, he is hoping to offer a Sports Psychology service to jockeys in the future in particular focusing on the mental health challenges relating to injury.

Oliver said: *"It has been a frustrating time dealing with my injury though I have had brilliant support from my Jockey Coach and all of the industry support has been excellent. I think sports psychology is vital for athletes and I am hoping to work with all sports people and jockeys in the future. I have taught myself the guitar and think having other interests alongside your riding is hugely important."*

JETS Support/Training Courses:

- Communication and Media training
- JETS and GBR Jockey Ambassador Training

2. ELIZABETH GALE

Age: 23

Based: Worcestershire

Race riding career: 22 Winners, 303 Rides



Personal Development Highlights: Elizabeth started her career as a Conditional before changing to an Apprentice licence which required her to learn more about breeding and take on Michael Hills and George Baker as Jockey Coaches alongside William Kennedy to help her with Flat racecourses and race tactics as well as focusing on her fitness to enable her to ride at lower weights. Dedicated to her research and Personal Development, Elizabeth continues to learn French, is investigating a Sports Science qualification and has completed online leatherwork education courses.

Elizabeth said: *"I feel completed dedicated to my professional riding career and thoroughly enjoy documenting all of my research and concentrating on my racing education. I loved the challenge of going from riding over jumps to riding on the flat and, winning the Irish Ladies Derby for Joseph O'Brien was an absolute dream come true. I have always been enthusiastic about my personal development, enjoy improving my French speaking and I am particularly excited to embark on a Sports Science qualification."*

JETS Support/Training Courses:

- Communication and Media training
- JETS and GBR Jockey Ambassador Training

3. CONOR RABBITT

Age: 23

Based: North Yorkshire

Race Riding Career: 46 Winners, 436 Rides



Personal Development Highlights: Conor has addressed all aspects of his personal and professional development. Working with his Jockey Coach Brian Harding, he has also completed Jockey Ambassador training through JETS and presenter and pundit

training. Recently during injury rehabilitation, he's focused on gaining education and experience in the bloodstock industry. He's shadowed bloodstock agents and has now started his own business, CR Bloodstock. Successful with his first three purchases, Conor also has a mare with a foal on the ground that he plans to break in and produce for the breeze up sales in the future.

Conor said: *"I really enjoyed all the training I've done and gaining bloodstock knowledge, not only at the races, but also in my role working with people at the sales. I was delighted to send horses to run at the Galway Festival and even more pleased they ran with such credit. Working in bloodstock and at the sales is a natural passion of mine and I love the challenge of finding suitable horses for owners and trainers alongside my riding."*

JETS Support/Training Courses:

- Communication and Media training
- JETS and GBR Jockey Ambassador Training



IJF PROGRESS AWARD FINALISTS 2025

ALED BEECH – Counselling

TOMMY EYSTON – Neuroscience

DALE IRVING – Equine Dentistry

1. **ALED BEECH**

Age: 31

From: Newmarket

Second Career: Counselling



Race Riding Career: Aled rode for six years on the Flat from 2016 to 2022 with 669 rides and 37 winners.

Career Development: Aled has chosen a second career as a therapeutic counsellor after recognising the mental and physical challenges of working in racing and the fact that the right support can be hard to find when it's most needed. Aled approached JETS who have helped him carry out Level 2 and 3 Counselling courses whilst riding work. He plans to progress onto a Level 4 Diploma and eventually gain accreditation from the BACP and practice Counselling as a profession, ideally working within the racing community.

Aled said: *"I want to use my lived experience, combined with professional training, to offer meaningful support to the people in this industry. My aim is to be someone people can turn to who truly understands both the world they live in and the challenges they face."*

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance. Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Studies Level 3 and Introduction to Counselling Skills Level 2 Certificate.

2. TOMMY EYSTON

Age: 25

From: Devon

Second Career: Neuroscience



Race Riding Career: Tommy rode as a Conditional from 2022 before switching to a Cat B Amateur licence. She's had 140 rides with 14 winners.

Career Development: Tommy always had an interest in the sciences, completing a Chemistry degree before turning Conditional and is now pursuing a second career in neuroscience research, focusing specifically on treatments for psychiatric disorders such as depression, addiction and PTSD. She used JETS during injury periods to complete online courses and then after switching back to amateur status she started her Master's degree at the University of Exeter with the benefit of a JETS scholarship contributing towards tuition fees. She is now carrying out an internship with the Exeter Psychedelic Research group using ketamine-assisted therapy to treat alcohol use disorder and then hopes to get a job as a Research Assistant or undertake a PhD to open the door to a research career.

Tommy said: *"As a Conditional jockey, I suffered multiple significant injuries in a short space of time, I did not want to give up everything I had worked towards in racing but I was also aware that I was fortunate enough to have an education behind me which I did not want to put to waste either so as an amateur, I have the opportunity to continue race riding but also start on my second career path as a research scientist."*

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance. Interview Technique Training. MSc in Neuroscience and New Scientist Academy courses.

3. DALE IRVING

Age: 31

From: Scotland

Second Career: Equine Dentistry



Race Riding Career: Dale rode for ten years as a Jump jockey until 2020, with 760 rides and 72 winners.

Career Development: After his riding career finished, Dale decided he wanted to stay working with horses and that equine dentistry offered a solid future which he can do alongside doing work as a valet and a stall handler as well. JETS has given him career advice every step of the way and helped with funding his initial equine dentistry training. His plan is to carry out exams and become fully certified so he can eventually set up his own business.

Dale said: *"All I really wanted to be was a jockey but after speaking to JETS you soon realise there is plenty more out there and I now feel I have found a great career for myself. It will require a lot of work and study but I think it will be worth it in the long run."*

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance. Job Search assistance, Interview Technique training. Introduction to Equine Dentistry. Level 3 Diploma in Racehorse Care & Management. Trailer Towing.



THE JOCKEY CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS 2025

THOMAS BROWN – Ambulance Service

JOSHUA CRANE – Pilot

ALEXANDER THORNE – Accounting

1. THOMAS BROWN

Age: 33

From: Suffolk

Second Career: Ambulance Service



Race Riding Career: Thomas rode for seven years until 2017 firstly as an Apprentice and then as a full professional. He had over 1200 rides and 123 winners including the John Smith's Cup at York.

Career Development: Thomas' experience as a jockey meant he'd witnessed first-hand the professionalism, calmness, and compassion from medical teams looking after jockeys and realised he had many transferable skills which would serve him well in the ambulance service. After sustaining an injury riding out and talking with JETS, they set up some shadowing work with the racecourse medical team and a first aid foundation course and advanced driving course before applying to the East of England Ambulance Service. Since then he has qualified as an Emergency Care Assistant and now, as a Student Emergency Medical Technician, he's undertaking a Paramedic degree combining on the job training with academic study, with the eventual aim of qualifying as a Critical Care Paramedic. He has also taken part in jockey workshops

sharing his journey and re-enforcing the message that jockeys have so many transferable skills to offer in a second career.

Thomas said: *“I feel I have carried forward the determination, discipline and ability to perform under pressure as a jockey into my second career working for the Ambulance Service. I have had to adapt to a completely new profession, balancing academic study with the demands of long and unpredictable shifts but I’m proud to give back to others and have a positive impact on the community every day.”*

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, CV Preparation, Interview Technique Training. LGV Medical, Theory, and Hazard Perception. Emergency First Aid at Work.

2. JOSHUA CRANE

Age: 34

From: Suffolk

Second Career: Pilot



Race Riding Career: Josh rode as an Apprentice for five years until 2014 and had 50 rides and 9 winners.

Career Development: From a young age Josh had a passion for both horses and aviation so after he retired as a jockey, he decided to embark on a career to become an airline pilot. With the help of career advice from JETS and partial funding for his training, including a scholarship, he has gained a position with his first choice airline Jet2. Throughout his training, which took place over several years, he has been a work rider for Godolphin who have supported him with taking time off to complete the various pilot modules, exams and flying hours he’s needed to gain his pilot qualification. His ambition is to progress to a senior level and provide training and mentoring to others.

Josh said: *“Switching from life as a jockey and work rider to training as an airline pilot has been the biggest challenge of my life. I’ve also had to balance family life and funding the substantial training costs but I’ve stayed resilient and kept moving forward. I hope my journey shows other jockeys that, with hard work and determination, second careers are always possible.”*

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, CV Preparation, Interview Technique Training. CPL Skills Test. APS MCC Course. Interview Training. Airbus Sim Training.

3. ALEXANDER THORNE

Age: 30

From: Solihull

Second Career: Accounting



Race Riding Career: Alexander rode as a Jump jockey for seven years until 2023 and had 350 rides and 39 winners.

Career Development: Alexander initially used a period of injury to explore accounting and finance career paths. With JETS funding and support, he completed his Level 2 to 4 Accounting qualifications as well as a Microsoft Office diploma to help prepare him for an office environment. He then secured a position with an accountancy firm based near Lambourn before moving on to a role in the finance department of a large international marketing company. He continues to gain further qualifications eventually aiming for Chartered status and to set up his own practice, ideally enabling him to provide support to others in the racing community. He has also developed a passion for endurance running and is now among the top 1000 ultra-runners in the UK.

Alexander said: *"I hope that I am a strong example to jockeys who are struggling in their careers that they can achieve as much (if not more) post career and that their lives do not come to a grinding halt upon retirement."*

JETS Support/Training Courses: JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, Job Search Assistance. AAT Level 3 & 4 Accounting. Microsoft Office Diploma. AAT Foundation Bookkeeping.