



## IJF PROGRESS AWARD FINALISTS 2023

**THOMAS BROWN** – Emergency Care Assistant

**JASON DIXON** – Trainee Equine Dentist

**RYAN HATCH** – Equine Training Instructor & Assessor

### 1. **THOMAS BROWN**

**Age:** 31

**From:** Newmarket



**Second Career:** Emergency Care Assistant

**Race Riding Career:** Thomas rode for 7 years as an Apprentice jockey achieving 123 winners from over 1200 rides including the 2016 John Smiths Cup.

**Career Development:** Following a meeting with JETS, Thomas explored various career options that may give him the adrenalin rush as a jockey and that was challenging, rewarding and similar to racing in terms of communicating and socialising with people from all walks of life. A career in the emergency services seemed like a great option and with JETS support he explored the career path more, gaining work experience with on course paramedics and decided to pursue a job with the ambulance service. He carried out a first aid course and used JETS to prepare for an interview with East of England Ambulance Service. He has now passed a course to become an Emergency Care Assistant, working shifts and is planning to progress next with an Emergency Medical Technician course and continue on the pathway to become a qualified Paramedic.

**Thomas said:** “My personal development, mindset and attitude to life has all been impacted so positively by this role and everyday feels like I’m achieving something new. I no longer get up for work just to earn money, it feels more than that, I am making a difference to myself and others. The way EEAST value career progression and include many different pathways within their training gives me the inspiration to better myself and progress each day. Every day is a challenge but I’m excited where it takes me!”

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, Job Search Assistance, CV preparation, Interview Technique. Red Cross first aid course

## 2. JASON DIXON

**Age:** 27

**From:** Worcester



**Second Career:** Trainee Equine Dentist

**Race Riding Career:** Jason rode as a Conditional Jockey and had 22 winners from around 300 rides.

**Career Development:** Jason explored various career options with JETS before settling on equine dentistry as a career he’d like to focus on. He has not looked back since and JETS have supported him with funding his training and infound other former jockeys as mentors to help him develop his skills whilst carrying out his

Trident Dentistry qualification. His ex valet Chris Maude put him in touch with former jockey Anthony Tory who has taken Jason under his wing whilst he develops his experience and slowly grows his own business. He hopes in time that he will be able to share his skills and knowledge with other jockeys also wishing to be an equine dentist. He also hopes to travel and gain experience working abroad in particular in America.

**Jason said:** "I get a great sense of accomplishment when I have finished working on a horses mouth and I think it's a job well done. More so than I did from riding winners. For a lad to come from a council suburb of Dublin to riding winners on TV to then treating horses for royalty, I owe a lot to a lot of people who helped me get here, from all the trainers who gave me experience to the IJF and Jets who helped fund my second career. It goes to show the wonders horse racing can do for people."

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance. Job Search assistance, Work Placement. Trident Equine Dentistry course

### 3. RYAN HATCH

**Age:** 30

**From:** Hartpury, Gloucestershire



**Second Career:** Equine Training Instructor & Assessor

**Race Riding Career:** Ryan rode as a Jump jockey for 6 years and enjoyed wins at both the Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals including two Grade 1 races but had to stop riding after sustaining a serious injury at Cheltenham.

**Career Development:** After his injury, Ryan continued to work in racing but due to the physical demands of a racing yard, he was keen to find a rewarding non-riding role. With the support of JETS, he gained a role working for RMF Training based in the West Midlands, offering a brand new educational initiative providing equine training through an Equine Management Training Course to unemployed people in the area. He has also delivered equine courses in two different HMP prisons and the course has now placed a number of students within the equine industry. Ryan has thrived in the role, adapting quickly to teaching adults from diverse backgrounds with little or no experience with horses. He has completed various courses and is

currently through a Level 3 Vocational Achievement Qualification, all the time gaining confidence and seeing his students gain confidence too.

**Ryan said:** “It has been a steep learning curve as I started to learn, study and basically return to the classroom with homework to complete and lessons to plan however the experience has been hugely rewarding. I have been able to share my passion for horses with others who have never had the resources or help to be able to get involved in a career in the equine industry, a career that gave me my greatest moments and could give any of my trainees theirs too!”

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS consultation, Training advice, Career Guidance, CV Preparation, Work Placement and Job search assistance.