



## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS

### 1. RODI GREENE

**Age:** 48

**From:** Tiverton, Devon



**Second Career:** Jockey Coach

**Career Development:** Following retirement through injury, Rodi used JETS to undertake a number of training courses before he found his niche as a jockey coach, qualifying with a UKCC Level Three. Since he started in the role in 2012, he has already coached two Champion Apprentices and others who've enjoyed Listed and Festival winners. In the last year alone, 15 of his jockeys have achieved season Personal Best records. Using his considerable experience as a jockey himself, Rodi has combined this knowledge and adopting a flexible approach in order to get the best out of his jockeys. Whether it's just listening or doing more practical sessions and on course briefings, Rodi is renowned for being accessible and is now the busiest jockey coach in the country with 25 jockeys on his books.

**Rodi said:** "When I had my career ending fall, my life changed drastically and at the time it felt as though myself and my family were going to find it very hard to recover. However the support I have received from JETS has been invaluable to us and it really did help me get my feet back on the ground and look to the future with a positive mindset. I'm lucky that a job in racing is all I have ever known as it is something I love with a real passion."

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS Consultation, Training Advice, Career guidance, CV Preparation. Marketing Training, Driver Training, Trainers Modules

**Race Riding Career:** Rode as a Jump jockey from 1990 to 2011 with over 5000 rides and 350 winners including the Coral Cup in 2002 aboard Inamar and the 2003 Sky Bet Chase on Barryscourt Lad.

## 2. JOHN PRITCHARD

**Age:** 38

**From:** Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire



**New Career:** Owner, Charbel Blinds (<https://www.charbelblinds.com/>)

**Career Development:** John was at a career crossroads in 2009 when he was approached by a local owner who had supported him in his riding days to work for his Cotswolds-based Blinds company. It was a steep learning curve as John quickly progressed to manufacturing and installing blinds, with no two days the same which bore some resemblance to John's life as a jockey. During this time John also started working part time for Racing to School, an education charity which provides free outdoor learning activities to children on racecourses. Having researched the industry thoroughly, John decided to set up on his own establishing Charbel Blinds based in Ross-on-Wye in June 2018. The business is thriving with a £30k turnover during the first 11 weeks of trading.

**John said:** "It was great that I used contacts from racing to help get started in my second career. I have worked really hard building up business experience and industry knowledge and now that I have set up on my own, I am determined to make a success of my business. I also feel lucky to still be involved in working in racing and with careful planning, I can continue my Racing to School work alongside my new business which is really important to me."

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS Consultation, Training Advice, CV Preparation. Shutter Training, PTLLS (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector Course), LGV Driver Training.

**Race Riding Career:** Rode first as an Amateur before turning Conditional. Had c. 270 rides and 11 winners, including 2 point-to-point wins.

### 3. SOPHIA UPTON (nee Mitchell)

**Age:** 46

**From:** Sherborne, Gloucestershire



**New Career:** BHA Starter

**Career Development:** After retiring from riding in 2004, Sophia set up a pre-training yard with her husband. She then stopped working to concentrate on family but always knew she wanted to return to a job in racing. Apprehensive about the whole recruitment process, Sophia worked with JETS on her CV and interview technique and now, three years after being offered the role as a Sessional Starter, she is fully qualified in both jumping and flat racing codes. She has more than doubled her number of days following positive feedback from other Starters and has quickly gained enough experience and skill to be able to start a Listed race and the Uttoxeter Summer National. As only the second female to have been recruited in the Starter role she has used her experience as a jockey to integrate herself in the team of Starters and stall handlers and confidently work with both jockeys and trainers.

**Sophia said:** "I feel getting my new job as a Starter was a real lifetime achievement for me. Just completing an application form and doing my CV was terrifying after having been in the family 'bubble' for so long. Convincing myself that I was of use and employable again was a huge step. It really was the first interview of my life. When we were jockeys we just had to proof ourselves on the racecourse, not by answering questions in a boardroom so I feel very proud to have come so far in my second career already."

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS Consultation, Training Advice, Career Guidance & CV Preparation, Interview Technique Training. JETS Media Training.

**Race Riding Career:** Rode until 2004 first as an Amateur before turning Conditional with 1500 rides and 59 winners. Career highlight winning on family homebred Rooster Booster.