



RICHARD JOHNSON

FOUR-TIME STOBART CHAMPION JUMP JOCKEY

2018/19



THE **Stobart** JOCKEYS
CHAMPIONSHIP

STOBART
CHAMPION
JUMP JOCKEY
RICHARD JOHNSON

Congratulations on winning a fourth consecutive Stobart Jump Jockeys' Championship title. How will you look back on the 2018/19 season?

Getting to 200 winners before the end of the season was always my aim at the start of the campaign and it's agonising to be so close, fingers crossed that I get there on or before Saturday. Equally, it was my aim to win the title again, and to have now done that for the fourth successive time is an amazing feeling.

It's been great that Phillip Hobbs has been back in form and the two things go hand in hand really - he is my biggest supporter and has been for a number of years and when he has a good season, I tend to have a good one too.

What have been the highlights of the campaign for you?

It's been enjoyable for a number of reasons. Being able to ride good winners for a number of different trainers, who are kind enough to support me has been great. One particular win that stands out is La Bague Au Roi winning the Kauto Star Novices Chase at Kempton, that was fantastic. She's a special mare and that was a great moment, which she fully deserved.

You also received an OBE from The Queen in the New Year's Honours List. How did you feel when you found out?

It was a fantastic surprise - you get a letter in the post and you can't tell anybody about it until it is formally announced, so that in itself was very odd, not being able to talk about it. But after I got over the shock, it was brilliant. The whole family went down to London and we had an amazing day at Buckingham Palace. For the children to be there made it extra special and something that I hope none of us will forget.

Harry Skelton made a tremendous start to the season. Did that spur you on at all?

Of course - I don't take anything for granted. Harry has had a really good season and pushed me all the way, plus Brian

Hughes has also had another strong season. There are lots of talented jockeys right now, so I feel very privileged to be winning the title for the fourth year in a row.

Are you now looking forward to a well-earned holiday?

Not at all - I'm looking forward to starting all over again in May! To win the championship, you need to be in action all year round, and although there are a couple of short breaks for jumps racing during the summer, if you are fit and healthy you want to be cracking on.

I'm also in a very lucky position, in that I have a big variety of trainers who I ride for and one of those is Gordon Elliott, who often brings some nice horses over in the summer. It's a big bonus when you have someone like that on your side.

Where do you keep your championship trophy?

Well, it's nowhere at the moment because you have to give it back each year, so it got picked up at the end of March. I hope they're looking after it! It will be good to get it back in my hands. They let AP [McCoy] keep the previous trophy on the final time he won the championship, but I've now been lucky enough to collect the new one for the last three years and you can take it from me that it's a feeling you don't get tired of (being presented with it).

Do you ever stop and look back upon how you reached this point in your racing career?

I certainly consider myself a very lucky man. I couldn't have done it without an awful lot of people. My agent Dave Roberts, he organises me, tells me where I need to be, and helps me get from A to B. My wife, Fiona, is amazing in the support she gives me and I will always be so grateful to her and all of my family. No matter who you are you can't do it without the people around you.

RICHARD JOHNSON STAT FILE



197 WINS
966 RIDES

BORN
21 JULY 1977

2018/19
STRIKE RATE

20%



AGE 41

LIVES IN
HEREFORDSHIRE



2018/19

HEIGHT
5FT 7"



PRIZE MONEY
£2,205,470

MOST SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS (2018/19):

TRAINER: Phillip Hobbs - 53 wins

RACECOURSE: Perth - 18 wins

HORSE: Leapaway/Cubomania/Innocent Touch/Yensir (4 wins)

BIGGEST WIN: La Bague Au Roi - 32Red Kauto Star Novices' Chase (Grade 1) - Kempton Racecourse - 26th December 2018

BIGGEST WINNING DISTANCE: 28 lengths on Springtown Lake at Leicester on 31st January 2019

BIGGEST PRICED WINNER: 22/1 Boethius at Worcester on 4th July 2018

TREBLES: TEN: Stratford - 9th June 2018 / Southwell - 15th July 2018 / Newton Abbot - 1st September 2018 / Sedgefield - 6th September 2018 / Warwick - 4th October 2018 / Exeter - 23rd October 2018 / Fontwell - 24th October 2018 / Ludlow - 25th October 2018 / Ludlow - 17th January 2019 / Catterick - 22nd February 2019

FIVE-TIMER: TWO: Perth - 18th August 2018 / 27th September 2018

TOP FIVE TABLE 2018/19

JOCKEY	WINS
Richard Johnson	197
Harry Skelton	177
Brian Hughes	146
Harry Cobden	107
Sam Twiston-Davies	104



*Statistics correct as of 25th April

QUOTES ON RICHARD JOHNSON

FROM KEY PEOPLE WITHIN THE INDUSTRY

AP MCCOY

21 time Champion
Jump Jockey

"Not only is he everything you would want in a professional jockey but he is everything you would want in human being... class in every way."



HARRY SKELTON

Second in Stobart Jump
Jockeys' Championship

"It is an unbelievable achievement. The positive attitude and mental strength he has shown after coming runner-up for so many year is quite remarkable. It has been a great battle this year, but he fully deserves it. He is a true gentleman and someone I look up to."

GORDON ELLIOT

Three-time Grand
National winning trainer

"If it wasn't for AP McCoy he'd probably be the best jockey of all time. What he's doing is legendary, he's riding better now than he was twenty years ago. He's a great man to have on your side to go to war with."



PHILIP HOBBS

Multiple Grade 1
winning trainer

"It is particularly pleasing to see Richard be crowned Stobart Champion Jump Jockey for the fourth time because he came second for so many years. He is a great ambassador for the sport, reliable, honest and an all-round good person. He is a great jockey to have on your side."



IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED TRY AND TRY AGAIN

Richard Johnson finished runner-up to AP McCoy in the Stobart Jump Jockeys' Championship 16 times, before winning his first title in the 2015-16 season. Take a look below at fellow sport stars who have shown remarkable determination and resilience to win the ultimate prizes in their respective sports.

RICHARD JOHNSON

From 1995-2015, Johnson finished second to AP McCoy in the Stobart Jump Jockeys' Championship for 16 seasons.

Following McCoy's retirement from the sport, Richard Johnson won his first Stobart Jump Jockeys' Championship in the 2015-16 season, and this year marks his fourth consecutive triumph.



ANDY MURRAY

Murray suffered defeat in each of the first four Grand Slam finals including a defeat to Roger Federer in the 2008 US Open Final – his first Grand Slam Final appearance.

The 2012 US Open saw Murray claim his first Grand Slam win, beating Novak Djokovic in a five-set thriller - ending Britain's 76-year wait for a male Grand Slam singles champion.



KELLY HOLMES

The 1500m & 800m runner suffered defeat in her first attempts at an Olympic Gold Medal. She finished 4th and 11th in Atlanta in the 1996 Olympic Games and then 3rd and 11th in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

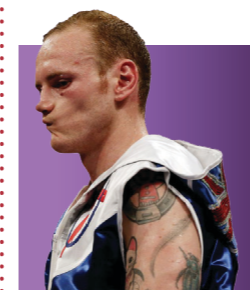
At the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens all of Holmes dreams came true when tremendously winning Gold in both the 800m and 1500m.



GEORGE GROVES

Groves experienced defeat in his first three world title fights. A controversial stoppage against Carl Froch in 2013, a devastating knockout by Froch in a rematch the following year and finally, a points loss to American Badou Jack in 2015.

However, his fortunes changed in 2017 as he became World champion on his fourth attempt, stopping Fedor Chudinov in six rounds.



STOBART CONDITIONAL JUMP JOCKEY

BRYONY FROST



This year, Bryony Frost has seen her career propel to heights many jockeys can only dream of. At the start of the season her main aim was to win the Stobart Conditional Jump Jockeys title, a goal that she has met - and surpassed - with flying colours.

The 24-year-old has totalled 49 victories during the season, beating second-placed James Bowen who reached 38 wins before taking out his professional licence and third placed Ross Chapman (36 wins).

One of those 49 wins was with Marienstar at Kempton Racecourse on Monday 12 November, which saw Frost ride out her claim and move up into the professional ranks.

However, with her license not up for renewal until October 2019, she will qualify as a Conditional Jockey up until then, meaning her aspiration of becoming Stobart conditional Jump Jockey (a title held by the likes of Richard Johnson, AP McCoy and stable-mate, Harry Cobden) even more achievable.

With 17 of her wins this season being for Paul Nicholls, Frost is undoubtedly a key player in the soon to be 11-time Champion Trainer's winning operation. Elsewhere, 16 of her wins have been for Neil King, and six victories for her dad, Jimmy Frost.

The biggest moment of her career however, came on Thursday 14 March on day three of the Cheltenham Festival. Frost stormed to a momentous victory aboard Frodon in the prestigious Ryanair Chase, making her the first female jockey to win a Grade 1 race at the Festival and becoming front page news in the process. The impressive win also saw her voted Stobart Jockey of the Month for March.

Four days later, Frost suffered a broken collarbone after a fall at Southwell which meant she couldn't ride in the Randox Health Grand National. Relegated to the sidelines, Frost showed her multitude of talents when joining ITV Racing's presenters for the three day event.

This Saturday 27 April at Sandown Park, on the same day she will be crowned Stobart Conditional Jump Jockey at the Bet365 Jump Finale, Frost is hoping to return to action.. It would be a fitting return for the young jockey who is well on course to achieving her dreams.

CONDITIONAL JUMP JOCKEY 2018/19

JOCKEY	WINS
Bryony Frost	49
James Bowen**	38
Ross Chapman	36
Rex Dingle	31
Jonjo O'Neill JR	29



BORN
13/04/1995



AGE
24



LIVES IN
HEREFORDSHIRE



HEIGHT
5FT 5



2018/19 WINS
49



2018/19 RIDES
305



2018/19 STRIKE RATE
15%



2018/19 PRIZE MONEY
£957,516.97

MOST SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS



RACECOURSE
FONTWELL/
WINCANTON
(6 WINS)



TRAINER
PAUL NICHOLLS
(17 WINS)



HORSE
FRODON (4 WINS)



BIGGEST WIN OF THE YEAR
FRODON - RYANAIR CHASE (GRADE 1)
CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE
14 MARCH 2019

NORTHERN JUMP JOCKEY OF THE YEAR

BRIAN HUGHES



Brian Hughes began the 2018/19 campaign confirming that he would be teaming up with Donald McCain in a partnership that he hoped would help him challenge for the Stobart Jump Jockeys' Championship title, having been runner-up to Richard Johnson in the previous two seasons.

However, it is a measure of the competitiveness at the top of the table, that despite another record-breaking season registering more winners (146) and a greater prize money haul (£1.45million) than ever before, that Hughes will finish in third place behind Johnson and Harry Skelton.

Hughes secured 120 victories at Northern-based racecourses, a huge 65 more wins than second-placed Sean Quinlan, and therefore claims the crown as Stobart Northern Jump Jockey of the Year, the fourth time he has taken the award and the £10,000 prize.

A notable highlight for the 33-year-old came when guiding home his 1,000th career winner in Great Britain and Ireland, striking aboard the Nicky Richards-trained My Old Gold at Wetherby Racecourse in the first week of 2019. A milestone that has only ever been achieved by 25 others, with Hughes now sitting seventh among the current winning-most jumps jockeys in the weighing room.

Hughes celebrated that landmark by booting home a treble the following afternoon at Newcastle and added another treble at Sedgefield the following week. Those wins were part of 20 victories recorded by Hughes in the opening month of the year and he deservedly scooped the Stobart Jockey of the Month award for January.

Unfortunately, Hughes' season was cut short after a fall at Newcastle at the beginning of April meaning he would have to sit out the remainder of the season - a disappointing footnote to what has been another memorable season for him.

As we know, jump jockeys are incredibly resilient athletes, so it would be no surprise to see Hughes return to the track ahead of schedule and making stealthy headway towards yet another successful season in 2019/20.

NORTHERN JUMP JOCKEY 2018/19

JOCKEY	WINS
Brian Hughes	120
Sean Quinlan	55
Richard Johnson	52
Harry Skelton	44
Sean Bowen	37



BORN
27/06/1985



AGE
33



LIVES IN
MIDDLESBROUGH



HEIGHT
5FT 7



2018/19 WINS
146



2018/19 RIDES
889



2018/19 STRIKE RATE
16%



2018/19 PRIZE MONEY
£1,459,713.88

MOST SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS



RACECOURSE
SEDFIELD
(22 WINS)



TRAINER
DONALD MCCAIN
(41 WINS)



HORSE
GLITTERING LOVE
(4 WINS)



BIGGEST WIN OF THE YEAR
CHICA BUENA - BETWAY FILLIES'
JUVENILE HURDLE - AINTREE
RACECOURSE - 8 DECEMBER 2019



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Naomi Lawson | Head of PR, Great British Racing

T: 020 7152 0196

E: nlawson@greatbritishracing.com

Billy Nickson | PR Executive, Great British Racing

T: 020 7152 0038

E: bnickson@greatbritishracing.com