

2021 Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards

Monday 22nd February 2021 Live on Racing TV

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The Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards are British racing's annual tribute to the remarkable people who provide our horses with exceptional levels of care and attention. I have always been inspired by these awards and it is a real privilege now, in my new role as BHA CEO, to be directly involved.

The event gives the whole industry the chance to recognise the hard work, skill, and dedication of stud and stable staff – and given the situation we have faced over the past year, this recognition has particular significance and is even more important than ever.

2020 was extraordinary, but I have watched in admiration as our stud and stable staff have risen superbly to the numerous challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting quickly to changing circumstances and keeping our studs and yards operating smoothly throughout the suspension and resumption of racing.

The 18 finalists we are celebrating this year are outstanding representatives of the thousands of stud and stable staff up and down the country who go above and beyond to provide us with moments of pure joy and excitement on the racecourse – which have helped lift our spirits during an immensely difficult period.

The pandemic has also presented tricky obstacles for the awards ceremony itself, which could not take place in the usual format this year. However, thanks to some innovative thinking – and the help of technology – we are all able to enjoy the first ever 'virtual' award ceremony, which, thanks to our friends at Racing TV, is being televised live and free to air. This is a very exciting development, as it means the awards can be seen by a new, much wider audience, connecting our finalists with industry colleagues across the country – all from the safety of their own yards and homes.

As ever, none of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment of our partner and sponsor, Godolphin. We have known for a while that the 17th renewal of this event would be very different, but with Godolphin's passion and support, we have ensured that this year's ceremony will be equally prestigious. We would particularly like to thank Diana Cooper and Penny Taylor, who play a pivotal role in making these awards happen, both in Great Britain and in other countries across the world.

We are also enormously grateful for the continued backing of our media partners: The Racing Post has again helped promote and generate nominations for the awards through coverage in the paper and online, while Racing TV have produced this year's awards show for us. We are pleased that, even in these testing times, we have been able to replicate the magic of previous events. Thank you for making this possible.

The task of our judging panel remains as challenging as ever. They have the unenviable job of first choosing a shortlist of finalists – a tough ask, especially with such high-quality nominations – and then the equally difficult job of selecting the winners. It is a huge responsibility and a significant time commitment, so we thank them all for their dedication. Luckily, our judges are high calibre and very experienced people. Nick Luck has done an outstanding job in his first year as Chair, while the panel has welcomed two new members: Eileen Harte, from Keith Harte Bloodstock, who brings extensive knowledge of the stud sector; and the 2020 Employee of the Year, James Frank from Hascombe and Valiant Stud.

We are also delighted to welcome back Ed Chamberlin, who is hosting again this year. Ed is a great advocate and ambassador for the awards, as is his ITV Racing colleague, Oli Bell, who has conducted some of the pre-recorded interviews we will enjoy during the ceremony. Thank you both for generously giving your time – and well done to the team at ITV Racing, who continue to do a first-rate job of highlighting the vital role our stud and stable staff play in keeping the show on the road.

Last, but not least, I want to thank the team at the BHA, particularly Alison Enticknap, Saffy O'Keeffe, Lucy Swiers and Lucy Tully, for all your hard work (and creative thinking) in organising tonight's event.

I hope you all enjoy the awards and the opportunity to celebrate our inspiring finalists – and all the stud and stable staff on whom our industry relies.

Julie Harrington

Chief Executive British Horseracing Authority Godolphin is absolutely delighted once again to sponsor the British Stud and Stable Staff Awards. This is my favourite evening of the year and I am determined that 2021 is no exception!

Racing and breeding have been tested like never before during the past 12 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We should all be incredibly proud of how our industry has risen to the challenge. Everyone who works in the sport can rightly take credit for their part in keeping the show on the road, none more so than tonight's finalists.

The 2020 covering season took place as planned, foals were safely delivered and yearlings were successfully sold. Once given the green light by the government, racing was able to resume safely and successfully with many outstanding memories over the shortened racing season.

Racing also pulled together to help in the wider community: from delivering meals to those most vulnerable to raising vital funds for charity.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, when he first conceived of these awards, recognised the phenomenal hard work required in all racing yards and stud farms

Countless early starts, constant attention to detail and concern for the welfare of our horses. riding work in often tough conditions, going that extra vard and then getting home late, often exhausted. He wanted to find a way to reward that devotion to the horse.

All stud and stable staff deserve recognition for what they do, but everyone who has been nominated has excelled and we are thrilled this year that all those who made it to the top ten will receive a cash prize.

Each and every one of this evening's finalists are already winners. They are here because of their outstanding contributions to their teams within racing yards, studs, and the wider industry. The testimonials from the colleagues who nominated them clearly demonstrate their dedication, expertise and overall excellence. Thank you to everyone who nominated this year.

We are also hugely grateful to the judging panel, who carry out the incredibly difficult task of reviewing numerous (this year in excess of 200) entries and selecting the finalists. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a group of judges with such a wealth of knowledge of our industry and the people who work in it. Special mention must go to the tireless Nick Luck, who has taken over the reins from Brough Scott as Chair of Judges. Thank you all.

Thank you also to our partners, the BHA, the Racing Post, and Racing TV, for their assistance with promoting and administrating the awards, especially with the production and broadcasting of tonight's virtual ceremony.

Huge congratulations to all finalists. We hope you, your families and your friends have a wonderful evening, even though we cannot all celebrate together.

Hugh Anderson Managing Director Godolphin UK and Dubai



David Nicholson Newcomer Award

£2,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £2,000 awarded to the winner's yard/stud £1,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well £1,000 to their yard/stud. The winner of this category will also receive an five-day educational trip to Dubai provided by Godolphin.*

*Dependent on travel restrictions due to COVID-19. If necessary, an educational trip of some kind will be offered at Godolphin's discretion.

Leadership Award

£5,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 awarded to the winner's yard/stud. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 to their yard/stud.

Rider/Groom Award

£5.000 to the winner, and £5.000 is match funded to the winner's yard. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2.000 to their yard.

Stud Staff Award

£5.000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 to the winner's stud. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 to their stud.

Dedication Award

£5,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 to the winner's yard/stud. £2,000 is also awarded to both runners-up, as well as £2,000 to their yard/stud.

£128,500 will be awarded

tonight across six categories.

Up to £15.000 available to a single vard or stud

For the first time in 2021, all those who make the shortlist of ten for each category but don't make the final 3 will receive £250 in recognition of their achievement.

Community Award

(in recognition of Rory MacDonald)

£5,000 to the winner, which is match funded with £5,000 to the charity of their choice. £2.000 is also awarded to both runners-up. as well as £2,000 awarded to the charities of their choice.

The Employee of the Year Award

£10,000 to the winner, with the same amount going to their yard/stud.

The winners of the Leadership, Rider/Groom, Stud, Dedication categories are eligible to win this category.



Nick is a broadcaster and writer who has

in its fourth season. He has been voted HWPA

Racing Broadcaster of the Year eight times.

Nick Luck Chair)

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George

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..... been an integral part of network television presentation of the sport's biggest events around the world for 15 years. Formerly the frontman for Channel 4 Racing, he is currently a host/reporter for NBC Sports, encompassing the Triple Crown, Breeders' Cup and Royal Ascot, as well as Racing TV, for whom his widely acclaimed talk show, Luck on Sunday, is now and ITV.

Mick **Fitzgerald**

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Mick's glittering riding career spanned twenty years and featured a long spell as stable jockey to Nicky Henderson as well as big-race success on Rough Quest in The Grand National and See More Business in the Cheltenham Gold Cup & King George. Following retirement in 2008 Mick has been a successful broadcaster for Attheraces, Channel 4, Sky Sports Racing

..... James was crowned Employee of the Year in 2020. James came to Britain from Zimbabwe in his mid-twenties and has worked in the racing and breeding industry for seventeen years. Most recently at Hascombe and Valiant Stud, his unswerving commitment to the mares and their foals and his skill with highly strung animals has seen him involved in the early stages of some of the modern greats of Flat racing, including Golden Horn and Cracksman.



George was apprentice to Ian Balding and rode several winners before becoming travelling groom for Willie Musson for 12 years. Having served as President of the National Association of Racing Staff, George was elected Chief Executive in August 2012.



Hazel Peplinksi

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Born into breeding, hunting and point-to-point racing, Hazel rode a handful of winners as an amateur jockey. Since then she has been Clerk of the Course at Hamilton Park, Ayr and Kelso. Before being appointed Chief Executive of Perth Racecourse she was Chief Executive and a Director of Hamilton Park.



Dinah Nicholson

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James

Frank

Wife of the late David Nicholson, after whom the Newcomer award is named, Dinah has been a key figurehead within the industry for many years, playing a vital role in the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards since inception whilst continuing her involvement in the industry.

Eileen Harte

Eileen started her career in the thoroughbred

Bloodstock Agents, going on to various other

of Weatherby's Ireland and Stud Secretary at

moved to the UK 15 years ago, they set up the

successful boarding and consigning business

acting as a mentor with Women in Racing.

Keith Harte Bloodstock Ltd. Eileen is passionate

about the industry and those who work within it,

roles in the industry including PA to the MD

Moyglare Stud. When she and her husband

breeding industry working for Kerr & Co.

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Sally has spent a lifetime involved within the thoroughbred industry, from riding as a jockey to overseeing preparation of youngsters from her own Goldford Stud, and managing numerous high profile broodmares and followers for long standing clients. Her dedication to the thoroughbred is matched by her pride in judging these awards.



Starting as part of the stable staff team with legendry trainer David Nicholson 22 years ago, Ollie progressed through the amateur jockey ranks before riding as a professional for 10 years. A past winner of the JETS Richard Davis award, Ollie now works for the charity Racing to School as Lead Education Officer.

Dawn

Dawn joined Racing Welfare as Chief Executive in August 2015 from the Northern Racing College, where she had been since the beginning of 2008. In both her roles, Dawn has had the privilege of working closely with stable staff and their development and welfare are her driving passion.

Sallv Aston

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Captain Guv Disnev MBE

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Guy is a former soldier and a jump jockey and in March 2017 became the first jockey to ride a winner under rules in Britain with a prosthetic leg. He then successfully rode Gallery Exhibition over the Grand National fences at Aintree in April 2018 in the Foxhunters Chase. In 2011 Guy trekked to the North Pole, together with a team of wounded servicemen, for the charity Walking for the Wounded. Guy is also involved with charitable work and is a member of the Diversity in Racing Steering Group.

Goodfellow

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Mark **Bradburne**

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Mark rode as a jump jockey for 10 years from 2001-2011, having previously been an amateur. He broke his back in a fall in 2009 and now runs his own business as an electrician in Lambourn. Mark is also one of a team of former jockeys who now act as BHA Jockey Coaches for conditional and apprentice jockeys.



Ed Chamberlin

Ed Chamberlin is the BAFTA award winning main presenter on ITV Racing. ITV took over from Channel 4, after an absence of more than 30 years, as the home of British racing television coverage on January 1st 2017. Since then Ed has fronted all the big races and Festivals in the UK, including the Cheltenham Festival, 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas, The Oaks and Derby, Glorious Goodwood, St Leger, Champions Day, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and in April he became just the 8th broadcaster to present the Grand National on terrestrial television.

Ed started his working life on the 1996 BHB Graduate Scheme, which led to a job as an odds compiler at Ladbrokes. From there he moved to become editor of Sports Adviser Magazine. After weekly appearances on Bloomberg Television, Sky Sports came calling and after stints appearing on '90 Minutes' and 'The Full SP' in 2003 Ed took a full-time position as a presenter on Sky Sports News.

In 2010 Ed became the face of the Premier League on Sky Sports, presenting their flagship shows Super Sunday and Monday Night Football, alongside Gary Neville and Jamie Carragher. Then in 2016 came the call from ITV and a dream switch back to horseracing.

Oli Bell

Oli's passion for broadcasting began with a stint on his local school's radio station, and reporting on horses didn't come far behind as a live radio reporter at the Burghley Horse Trials. Soon reporting from events such as Land Rover G4 Challenge and the British Touring Car Championships, having left school Oli guickly became a presenter on Racing TV.

Oli has broadcasted from events including Royal Ascot, the Grand National and the Cheltenham Festival as well as a spell on Sky in Australia. He joined the BAFTA winning ITV Racing Team in 2017, also going on to present football, boxing and darts on ITV. Away from broadcasting, Oli has played on the professional poker circuit and played both cricket and football to a high standard in South Africa and Australia. Oli also became a patron of the Ebony Horse Club charity in Brixton, South London in 2018.



Alice Price Ben Pauling

Chrissie Sykes Ruth Carr

Since joining Ben Pauling Racing two and a half years ago, Alice has continued to thrive and progress. She is both a great team player and an effective, determined competitor who has had to overcome a challenging injury in her short career thus far.

Alice returned to the yard having suffered a broken leg on the gallops both mentally and physically stronger. Her attention to detail and love for her horses coupled with a desire to always improve and a great sense of humour mean she is a hugely popular and valued member of the team at Bourton Hill Farm.

Finalists

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Having arrived at Mowbray House as a racing secretary in 2019 with no previous experience in the racing industry, Chrissie has guickly become an invaluable part of the team.

From sourcing a new sponsor for the yard to organising open days and liaising with owners, vets and accountants, Chrissie's resourcefulness and initiative are a huge asset in keeping the business running smoothly.

Chrissie's caring and sensitive manner have also meant she has been a mentor and friend to her colleagues, encouraging them and helping them through challenging situations. The yard simply would not work without her!

Jaydon Lee Nicky Henderson

Jaydon began his dream job at Seven Barrows late in 2018 from the British Racing School. He has grown in maturity, confidence and in ability as a rider during his time in Lambourn and that is credit to his work ethic and dedication to his horses.

He is as dependable and enthusiastic as anyone in the team and his love of the horses in his care including the very exciting Shishkin has been rewarded with significant success on the track. He has a bright future ahead of him and is a credit to himself and to the yard.

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"It's the love of the horse,

the love of racing and the

industry as a whole."

Mat Nicholls 2020 Leadership Award winner

Alex Cairns James Fanshawe

Lauren Webb Daniel & Claire Kubler

Since returning to Pegasus Stables three years ago having first started there in 1993 as an apprentice jockey, Alex has become the go to man in running the yard day-to-day.

With a wealth of experience and knowledge and always happy to assist, Alex's kind, caring and thoughtful outlook has seen him help countless members of staff who may be struggling.

He is always happy to guide those who are new to the yard and his skill as a horseman together with the care he shows for his colleagues make him an inspiring and much-loved role model within the team.

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their professional skills as well as supporting those who have faced challenges. Her quiet and consistent style of leadership together with her empathy and desire to see others improve are testament to her qualities both as an employee and as a horse woman.

Rebecca Edmunds Brvan Smart

In her role as Yard Manager Lauren sets the standard for the team and motivating those around her with a huge work ethic and most critically a keen focus on the development of her colleagues, both professionally and personally.

She has matured into an exceptional leader in her four years at Kubler Racing and has helped team members develop "Beck" joined Bryan Smart in 2005 and since then her love for her horses, the staff and the yard has never been in doubt.

Her commitment to the team of horses and those that look after them who she oversees as Head Girl knows no bounds, always going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure everyone in the yard, whether equine or human, is cared for.

Her veterinary knowledge and assistance in implementing COVID-safe working practices have been of particular importance in 2020, but she can turn her hand to anything and is the glue which has kept the team together in this challenging year.

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"It's the best career you

can go for as its your

hobby, you make so many

friends and open so many

opportunities for yourself

by just being yourself."

Hayley Ashcroft 2020 Rider / Groom Award winner

Faisal **Richard Phillips**

Joanna Łacisz Sir Michael Stoute

an individual.

Since arriving in the Cotswolds from Pakistan in 2007 Faisal has always been an exemplary member of staff and has developed into an integral part of the team.

A talented rider who is an excellent judge of pace when riding work, he always has suggestions to improve individual horses and is dedicated to getting the best out of them for the benefit of the horse and the yard.

His skills as a horseman have benefited countless tricky horses both in the yard and at the races, and his happy outlook and work ethic make him hugely popular with owners and colleagues alike.

She excels both in and out of the saddle and is admired by all who work with her.

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Sarah Peacock Tom Georae

Joanna's skill, judgement and patience as a rider have been evident ever since she joined Freemason Lodge four years ago.

Her skills have helped countless horses in her time in Newmarket thus far, including the likes of Expert Eye, and she always has the time to treat each horse as

Joanna is not only passionate about improving her skills and career prospects but she is always on hand to help others in the yard, giving guidance and reassurance to others in the team.

Sarah's passion for her role as Travelling Head Person and for the horses in the vard is second to none. Since joining Tom George six years ago she has always prioritised the care and wellbeing of the horses over everything else.

From ensuring the string are always turned out impeccably to voluntary checking out of hours and riding them out during the summer break she always has the best interests and wellbeing of the horses in her care as her number one priority.

Sarah's kindness and commitment never take a day off and both the horses and the team at Down Farm are lucky to have her.

"Horses have played a big part in my life. The lives of my family and children, have been changed through me working in the racing and bloodstock industry."

James Frank 2020 Stud Staff Award winner

Elody Swann Newsells Park Stud

Martin Languillet Fittocks Stud

Elody has been a dedicated, kind and diligent member of the team at Newsells Park Stud for nearly 17 years. Her attention to detail, passion and level of care she shows to all the mares and "Babies" (as she refers to them all) in her care are second to none. Outside of running a barn of 28 mares and foals during the season, Elody runs one of the two barns for yearling prep and takes overall responsibility for foal prep.

She can always be trusted to guide new members of staff and ensure they are happy and enjoy their work, whilst maintaining the very highest of standards at all times.

With her efficient style of yard management coupled with her happy and positive attitude at the sales, Elody continues to be a role model for all of her colleagues and plays a vital part in the stud's continuing success.

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Martin's huge thirst for knowledge and desire to improve was evident as soon as he joined Fittocks Stud in 2017.

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He has progressed quickly in his time thus far, and his competence and dedication mean he covers every aspect of life on the stud to an exceptional standard.

Martin's conscientious outlook. always the first to arrive and the last to leave, has had a meaningful positive impact on all who work with him. He goes out of his way to make sure everything is done to the highest standard. His patience, good humour and above all devotion to his horses and his colleagues mean he is respected and admired by everyone he comes into contact with.

Tom Hughes Hazelwood Bloodstock Ltd

Tom has been instrumental in the success of Hazelwood Bloodstock since shortly after its inception five years ago.

He operates to the highest of standards in the varied roles he is required to carry out and takes great pride in preparing and presenting horses at the sales. His dedication has allowed him to ensure these standards are maintained as the business has grown and taken on an additional location.

Tom's experience and horsemanship coupled with a shared vision to produce the best young horses possible through hard work and attention to detail make him a huge asset to his colleagues and the bloodstock industry.

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"It's recognition for the

hard work that stud

and stable staff do and

everybody is a winner."

Andy Stringer 2020 Dedication Award winner

HORSE OF THE YEAR 2015

GOLDEN F

Debbie Howie John Gosden

Guianand (Suraj) Bissessur William Haddas

Debbie's career in racing has spanned over 35 years, most recently at Clarehaven Stables where she has worked since 2015 as a Head Groom. In that time she has overseen some of Flat racing's most famous names and her quiet, confident and levelheaded manner has always been a significant asset to the yard.

She has been a trusted confidante and advisor to many and the degree of commitment and passion that she shows to all the horses that she works with has made her a role model for those that have been lucky enough to work with her.

He has helped to navigate the challenges of international travel in the midst of the COVID pandemic and has always ensured the horses in his care are well looked after and turned out when representing the yard.

Suraj's calming and helpful influence has benefited not only the horses in his care, but also many of his colleagues, who he has assisted in adjusting to life away from home.



Joline Saunders **Richard Phillips**

In his role as Travelling Head Lad at Somerville Lodge, Suraj has exemplified the dedication and stoicism shown by many in the racing industry when facing the challenges of the past 12 months.

Jo's support and commitment to the racing industry, its staff and horses has never wavered in the 19 years she has been working at Adlestrop Stables.

From handling all of the administration to looking after the staff, helping owners and organising much of the charitable work the yard has become known for, she is central to keeping Richard Phillips Racing and all who work there going day-to-day.

Always on hand to offer practical advice, updates on horses in the yard or a friendly and supportive ear, she has had a positive impact on the hundreds of staff, owners and others she has come into contact with in her years of selfless service.

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"I'm very proud, it's been fantastic spending time with the other finalists and hearing their stories." Simone Sear 2020 Rory MacDonald Award Winner

RACINGWELFARE

Richard Phillips Trainer and community volunteer

Samantha Trainor National Horseracing College

Richard has given so much of his own time and effort to make a huge contribution to the racing community over the years.

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Whether as an auctioneer raising huge sums of money for racing charities, helping to nurture and train young people who come to work on the yard or by working to publicise causes close to his heart such as a National Racehorse Day, he has always put the needs of others ahead of his own.

Finalists

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Richard has continued this selfless attitude through lockdown, ensuring his staff and owners are coping and he continues to be a great ambassador for the racing industry and those who work in it.

A keen fundraiser in her time outside of work, Sam's commitment to improving the careers and lives of those looking working in racing has made her an inspiration to those she works with.

Simon Jones Charity Fundraiser

Sam has been the backbone of much of the racing industry's stable staff training and development work in the north for over a decade.

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More recently she has been instrumental in the rolling out of wider programmes of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) across the racing industry, and her dedication and passion for helping others has seen these programmes continue to be delivered despite the restrictions created by the pandemic.

Simon's work fundraising for Racing Welfare to provide mental health first aiders has had a huge positive impact on the racing industry and those who work in it

Having experienced the tragic consequences that mental health issues can create, he has been a man on a mission to help improve the provision of mental health support for those working in racing.

Simon's efforts have allowed volunteers from across the racing industry to provide support for those struggling, and as a result of his tireless drive the racing community is safer and far more comfortable place for those in need of help

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"I'm very happy, and all the people

that have helped me to get to this

stage, they must be very happy too.

Without them, there wouldn't be

this trophy."

James Frank 2020 Employee of the Year

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0 & STABLE AWARDS One of tonight's winners from the Leadership, Rider/Groom, Stud Staff and Dedication category will also win the Employee of the Year.

They will receive an additional prize of £10,000, with the same amount awarded to their yard or stud. As the winner, they will also join the judging panel in 2021.

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Finalists





Careers in Racing

Retraining of Racehorses

Managed by the British Horseracing Authority, careersinracing.com is a portal of information on careers across the whole of the racing industry. The team implements recruitment initiatives and marketing campaigns to promote racing careers and pathways to a range of audiences from school age to those looking to change careers. The popular job board on careersinracing processes over 1000 jobs a year and is free to use for all racing's employers.

RoR is British Horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses who have retired from racing. The charity promotes the versatility and adaptability of racehorses for other equestrian activities following their retirement from racing. It also protects their welfare through a nationwide 'safety net' that is available to assist any former racehorse in need of charitable support. In such cases, the charity provides funding for the provision of expert care, prior to suitable rehoming.

careersinracing.com



www.careersinracing.com

www.ror.org.uk



Racing Together

Racing Together is an open partnership, led by the charity Racing to School, which supports and showcases all the sport's community engagement and education activity. British racing is a growing force for good in local communities, never more evident than through initiatives born during the pandemic, such as local food distribution and racecourses becoming NHS vaccination centres. Follow Racing Together on social media to find out more.



www.racingtogether.co.uk

Racing Welfare

Racing Welfare supports everyone who forms part of racing's workforce, from the beginning of their careers through into and beyond retirement. The wide range of services offered include: a 24-hour telephone and online helpline; mental health services, the Careers Advice and Training Service (CATS), provision of affordable housing; support with physical health, injures and disabilities, and specialist counselling and support at times of personal crisis.



www.racingwelfare.co.uk





