

2017 Leger Legends Race Jockeys

Gary Bardwell

Born 1968 – retired from race riding 2002. Total winners: over 500

Gary got into racing through staying with an uncle, who lived in Newmarket, for the school holidays when he was 15. He went to trainer Mick Ryan's yard and ended up apprenticed to him. He rode his first winner at Hamilton on Beechwood Cottage for Alan Bailey and was Champion Apprentice in 1987 and 1988. Other career highlights include winning the Ayr Gold Cup, the Chester Cup twice, the Winter Derby, the Royal Hunt Cup and the Bunbury Cup. He also managed to ride a winner at every British racecourse whilst he was still an apprentice. Gary now works at Darley's pre-training yard in Newmarket.

Tony Clark

Born 1962 – retired from race riding 2004. Total winners: over 800

From the age of 10 Tony rode ponies and it was a natural progression from the Pony Club into racing as he was small. On leaving school he went for a trial with Guy Harwood's Pulborough yard and 26 years later was still there! His first winner was in 1979 at Lingfield on a horse called Dowerry and in 1981 he was voted the William Hill Most Promising Apprentice. Whilst with Guy Harwood he rode some very good horses including champion 2 and 3 year old Warning, champion 2 year old Lear Fan and he won the Juddmonte International and Tattersalls Rogers Gold Cup (GR2) at the Curragh on Ile de Chypre. Tony now rides out for Shadwells in Lambourne.

Tony Culhane

Born - retired from race riding 2013. Total winners: over 1500

Started as apprentice with Reg Hollinshead, he then headed north to establish himself as a top northern jockey having ridden as stable jockey to Richard Whittaker, David Chapman and Mary Ravley. He was also closely associated to southern trainers Mick Channon, Barry Hills and William Haggas. Having ridden many good horses including Quito, Youmzain, Misu Bond, Mellotie, Som Tala and Tominator. Winning races such as Ayr Gold Cup, Northumberland Plate, 2yr old Gold Trophy.

Ridden all over the world in Hong Kong, India, Dubai, and Europe riding for all the top owners namely Sheikh Mohammed, Sir Alex Ferguson, Robert Sangster and renowned gambler Harry Findlay.

George Duffield MBE

Born 1946 – retired from race riding 2007. Total winners: 2,547

As a young apprentice jockey, it took George five years to ride a winner (Yarmouth 1967). Forming one of the greatest trainer/jockey partnerships in horseracing history, George rode for Sir Mark Prescott for 38 years, becoming one of the most consistent jockeys in the UK. Career highlights include The Oaks, Irish Oaks and Yorkshire Oaks on User Friendly; back to back Champion Stakes on Alborada; and the amazing Eclipse when the brave Giants Causeway battled and triumphed over Kalanisi. George now assists wife Ann with training at their yard near Leyburn.

Dale Gibson

Born 1968 – retired from race riding 2009. Total winners: 529

Champion Dale ridden in race since inception in 2010. He served his apprenticeship with Lord Huntingdon and finished 3rd to Frankie Dettori in the 1989 apprentice title. He also won the Stewards Cup that season on Geoff Lewis's Very Adjacent. He moved up north in 1994 and between 2000-2009 rode primarily for Mick Easterby. Other career highlights include winning the Great St Wilfrid Handicap, the William Hill Trophy at York, multiple listed race success and riding five winners for Her Majesty the Queen. Dale also won the 2014 Leger Legends Race with the Les Eyre trained Bob. Industry respect for Dale's racing intelligence and professionalism was widespread and soon after retiring from the saddle in 2009 he joined the Professional Jockeys Association. He is now Executive Director (Racing) at the PJA alongside being an active Legends committee member.

Brian Harding

Born 1972 – retired from race riding 2017. Total Winners: 630

Brian grew up in Castletownroche, near Fermoy Ireland, which is of course synonymous with Jump racing, as well as being then home to Jonjo O'Neil – Brian's childhood hero. His father and the late Liam Cashman of Rathberry Stud set him on his career path by making arrangements for the 15 year old Brian to ride as an apprentice for trainer Kevin Predergrast at the Curragh, where he went on to ride five winners on the flat over three years and it was Kevin that sent him to Gordan Richards to fulfil his dream of being a jump jockey. Career highlights include riding One Man to glory at the Cheltenham Festival in the Queen Mother Champion Chase in 1998 and riding outsider Granit D'Estruval to victory in the Irish Grand National in 2004. Brian is now a jockey coach and is concentrating on pre-training and breaking alongside his girlfriend Kelly.

Luke Harvey

Born 1966 – retired from race riding 1999. Total winners: over 250

Luke didn't come from a racing background but he rode ponies as a youngster and his only ambition was to be a jockey (he says it still is)! At 16 he left school with only an English O Level and went to work for Captain Tim Forster. Initially, as an amateur, he rode point-to-point and hunter chase winners. He turned professional in 1984, aged 18, and shortly after rode his first winner under rules on 33/1 shot Bickleigh Bridge at Taunton. He lost his conditional claim in 1987, not long after partnering Taberna Lord to win the Coral Golden Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. Other career highlights include Cool Ground's successes in the Welsh National and Peter Cazalet Memorial, Katabatic King winning the Silver Trophy Chase at Cheltenham and a big race double at Ascot aboard Solidasarock and Blueberry King. Luke is now a freelance journalist and presenter on At The Races.

Rodney Lappin

Born 1966 – retired from race riding 2006. Total winners: over 300

Apprenticed to late legendary trainer Reg Hollinshead. Rodney's favourite horse to ride was Far Ahead for Les Eyre which he went on to ride 16 times, winning 4. Rodney is now an assistant trainer to Sally Haynes who is based in Richmond.

Tom McLaughlin

Born 1970 - retired from race riding 2013. Total winners: 400

Tom's first ride was at Limerick for P J Flynn. In 1988 McLaughlin moved to Guy Harwood's as a lad, but it was a couple of seasons later with Charles Cyzer that he started to ride on a regular basis over there. He spent a season with Paul Cole and in 1995 joined Nick Littmoden, who was setting up as a trainer with 12 horses. Ever since, he has been at the yard which it is now up to 100. The highlight of his career was riding Red Cadeaux to victory in the Yorkshire Cup. Since his retirement, he rides out for Ed Dunlop and he is an arsenal fan.

Jamie Mackay

Born 1983 Retired 2014 Total winners – over 350

Jamie started riding in 1999, and went to work for Michael Bell as an apprentice. He had his first ride at Doncaster when he was 16 years old going on to win The Doncaster Cup in 2001. He went on to be second jockey for Sir Mark Prescott, where he had great success partnering Atacus, winning several Group One races and Handicaps. In 2005 riding another Sir Mark Prescott trained horse, Fallen in Line, the pair won a brilliant six races in only twelve days! Since retiring from race riding he has gone on to work for Charlie Appleby as part of his exceptional work rider team. In March Jamie's father Allan, was hospitalised after a dreadful fall, which came only days after his brother Nicky, broke his Femur at Chelmsford. It is for this reason that Jamie has chosen to take up a place in the Leger Legends race, as his father has done before him, to help raise funds for the Injured Jockey Fund.

Ian Mongan

Born 1979 Retired from race riding 2013 Total winners – over 860

Ian began his career as an amateur rider, both on the flat and over jumps. He rode his first winner, Harik, for Gary Moore at Lingfield in 1998, before turning professional in 2000, after deciding to focus solely on Flat racing. His career highlight came in 2011, when he rode Twice Over to victory in the Group one Juddmonte International for Sir Henry Cecil. Whilst he was stable jockey for Sir Henry, he also played his part in Frankel's glittering career, by partnering the famous Bullet Train, in five of the six races in which he acted pacemaker for Frankel. Since retiring from race riding he is now Assistant Trainer, to his wife Laura and together they made history by training Harbour Law to win the St Leger and making Laura the first lady since 1776 to win the race.

Adrian Nicholls

Born 1981 – retired from race riding 2016. Total winners: over 600

Adrian started riding in 1996, in Norway and started his apprentice with Barry Hills. He then went on to Ian Baldings riding out his claim in 3 years. The last winner of his claim coming in the Ayr Gold Cup, which he won twice and even had a treble win at glorious Goodwood as a 7 pound apprentice. He then moved up North, riding as stable jockey for his father. This included riding multiple group and listed winners as well as most of the big handicaps; on the way riding two Group 1 winners on Regal Parade ranking high. He also rode abroad with great success, including the Hyderbad Derby in India. Although, he had over 600 winners in the UK, he rode internationally over 700 winners.

Daragh O'Donohoe

Born 1977 - retired from race riding 2014.

Total winners: over 200

Daragh attended the race academy in Ireland and then went on to serve his apprenticeship with legendary Dermot Weld. He was joint champion apprentice in Ireland with Seamus Heffernan which then took him to have a very successful year with Ed Dunlop. He then went onto having a very successful career with Godolphin which took him all over the world to ride many group horses including the top class Cape Cross, Central Park, Fly to the Stars and many more. Daragh has spent the majority of his career in Dubai.

Ollie Pears

Born 1975 – retired from race riding 2002. Total winners: 168

Ollie started out riding at 12 for trainer Steve Norton in High Hoyland near Barnsley, just 5 miles from his home. Steve Norton took out Ollie's apprentice license on his 16th birthday and just two days later he had his first ride at Doncaster. Ollie's first winner came in May 1991 on Thimbalina for his boss. Career highlights include winning the John Smith's (Magnet) Cup at Doncaster on Mr Confusion for Steve Norton and also riding a hat-trick at Carlise when he was 18. Ollie has held his trainer's licence since November 2007, based in Norton near Malton.

RESERVES

Gay Kelleway

Born 1963 – retired from race riding 1992. Total winners: 86

Daughter of successful Newmarket trainer Paul Kelleway, Gay rode her first winner for Clive Brittain at 17 and took the Lady Amateur title at 18. Not long after that, and following a winter in America, Gay turned professional and became Champion Professional Lady Jockey for three consecutive seasons. She remains the only lady jockey to have ridden a winner at Royal Ascot – Sprowston Boy in the 1987 Queen Alexandra Stakes. Gay achieved many more firsts in the world of horseracing – the first lady jockey to ride in the Oaks at Epsom and the Ascot Gold Cup. The first jockey to have a major commercial sponsor – Heinz Weightwatchers - and wear a hat cam in a race. Gay was also a leading jockey in Arab races and rode in the Arlington Million for her father. She is now in her 26th year of training in Newmarket.

Amy Ryan

Born – 1989 retired from race riding – 2015 Total Winners: 145

Amy has racing in her blood with her father being trainer Kevin Ryan. In 2008 she was champion Amateur Jockey and 2012 she was Champion Apprentice Jockey, riding 40 winners in the one season. Her first win both as an amateur and a professional were both at Wolverhampton riding Harry Up, with her biggest win being aboard Advanced at Ascot in 2009. Unfortunately a couple of bad falls, resulted in her calling time on her riding career, which Amy misses hugely. She now works as a pundit for Racing UK, along with doing some Show Jumping and producing horses to sell on.