



## IJF PROGRESS AWARD - CONTENDERS

### 1. Dan Fortt

**Age:** 41

**From:** Cirencester, Gloucestershire



**New Career:** Tree Surgeon & Wood Merchant

**Career Development:** After a long career as a jockey and then a valet, Dan wanted to find a job nearer to home and with an interest in wood he researched career and business opportunities in his area. With no qualifications, JETS has helped Dan gain relevant qualifications and training in order to be in a position to set up his own business in 2013. He has done this alongside having various hip and shoulder operations, supported by IJF and JETS. He now hopes he can develop further skills enabling him to grow the business and clientbase.

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS consultation, training advice and career guidance. Tree surgery courses, IT skills, Key Literacy and Numeracy skills.

**Race Riding Career:** Conditional jockey (1990-1996) and professional Jump jockey (1997-2000) with around 62 winners from 800 rides.

### 2. Richard Hawkins

**Age:** 24

**From:** Watchet, Somerset



**New Career:** Accountancy

**Career Development:** Richard suffered a life threatening fall which eventually forced him to change career path. During a considerable period of rehabilitation, Richard had the support of IJF and JETS to build up his confidence and skills to enable him to look for an alternative career. With their advice, he chose to look at business which he'd studied at A-level. He has begun an Apprenticeship with a local accountancy firm and is working towards a Level 2 certificate in accountancy. The nature of needing to analyse and improve business performances in accountancy has given Richard the satisfaction of being competitive again. His overall aim is to become a chartered accountant.

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS consultation, career guidance and training advice. Accountancy Course.

**Race Riding Career:** Rode as an amateur Jump jockey before suffering a life threatening fall in 2011.

### 3. Keith Mercer

**Age:** 32

**From:** Richmond, Yorkshire



**New Career:** Business

**Career Development:** Whilst still riding, Keith carried out various courses to earn more money and develop skills outside racing to help him once his racing career finished. With JETS funding Keith is now studying for an Accountancy and Finance degree which he hopes will help him to set up his own business. He is finding the course very stimulating and has achieved first grade marks in his end of year exam results.

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS consultation, training advice and career guidance. Media Training, LGV and Racecourse Care & Management courses. Accountancy & Finance Degree 2013

**Race Riding Career:** Professional Jump jockey from 2004-2012 riding 195 winners including the Scottish Grand National before suffering a career ending injury

#### 4. **Carrie Needham (nee Jessop)**

**Age:** 33

**From:** Westbury, Wiltshire



**New Career:** Accountancy

**Career Development:** Always interested in the business side of racing, Carrie undertook bookkeeping and invoicing for trainers whom she rode out for. When she had to retire for medical reasons, JETS has provided ongoing support and guidance as well as funding towards her ACCA exams which she has completed over a period of time and in the face of medical difficulties. She now has two accountancy jobs to gain practice experience and her long term aim is to join an accountancy practice and extend her qualifications by completing a CTA (Chartered Tax Adviser) qualification.

**JETS Support/Training Courses:** JETS consultation, career guidance, training advice and job search assistance. ACCA (Association of Chartered Accountants) course.

**Race Riding Career:** Apprentice Flat jockey (2000-2003)