



SUMMER JUMPS CHAMPIONSHIP

22 MAY - 18 SEPT 2026



Love Summer Jumps



LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP JOCKEYS



James Bowen

D.O.B: 12 March 2001

Best Horses: Call Me Lord, Raz De Maree, Jinkgo Blue, Jango Baie, Holloway Queen

Trainers: Nicky Henderson, Mickey Bowen, Warren Greatrex, Neil Mulholland

Originally from Wales, James Bowen comes from a well-known racing family. His father, Peter Bowen, is a successful trainer who holds a co-licence with his eldest son, Michael, while his younger brother, Sean Bowen, is the current Champion Jockey.

James made an immediate impact in racing, breaking the record for the most wins in a British point-to-point season as a 16-year-old in 2017, riding 30 winners. Later that year, he turned professional and joined Nicky Henderson's yard.

In January 2018, at just 16, James became the youngest jockey to win the Welsh Grand National, guiding Raz De Maree to victory. That same season, he was crowned Champion Conditional Jockey.

James has continued to ride big winners, including victories at Aintree and Cheltenham. He remains one of the leading young jump jockeys in Britain, regularly riding for top trainers such as Nicky Henderson and his brother Mickey Bowen.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP JOCKEYS



Sean Bowen

D.O.B: 5 September 1997

Best Horses: If The Cap Fits, Strong Leader, Not So Sleepy, Haiti Couleurs, Metier

Trainers: Olly Murphy, Martin Keighley, Mickey Bowen, Gordon Elliott, James Owen

Sean Bowen's passion for horse racing was sparked early, growing up in one of Wales's most esteemed racing families. His father, Peter Bowen, is a top jumps trainer, now co-licensing with Sean's older brother, Michael. Sean also shares a spirited sibling rivalry with his younger brother, James, who is making his own mark as a jockey.

Bowen's professional journey began at Paul Nicholls' yard, where he quickly made an impact. In the 2014/15 season, he rode 51 winners and became the youngest ever Champion Conditional Jockey at just 17. His breakthrough continued with a Grade 1 win on If The Cap Fits in the 2019 Liverpool Hurdle, a race he won again in 2024 aboard Strong Leader. More recently, Bowen has developed a strong partnership with leading jump trainer Olly Murphy, teaming up for over 300 winners. These successes helped Bowen become a two time Champion Jockey and contributed to his Champion Jockey title in the inaugural Summer Jumps Championship.

On his win in the competition last year, Bowen said: "The Championship was something we were all excited about when it was announced. Summer jump racing is vitally important. Trainers can't afford to shut down through the summer and it's the same for jockeys, so summer jumps is equally as important as the winter to be honest.

"It means a lot to win this title and it's something I'd love to win again next year."

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP JOCKEYS



Ben Jones

D.O.B: 16 November 1999

Best Horses: The Jukebox Man, De Rasher Counter, Shakem Up'arry, Meetmebythesea, Handstands

Trainers: Ben Pauling, Emma Lavelle, Philip Hobbs & Johnson White

Ben Jones' professional journey began after progressing through the amateur and conditional ranks, originally under the guidance of Philip Hobbs. His breakthrough came spectacularly in November 2019 when, aged just 20, he produced a mature front running ride aboard De Rasher Counter to win the Ladbrokes Trophy at Newbury, one of National Hunt racing's most prestigious handicaps.

Jones' career has continued on a steady upward curve, forging a particularly strong association with trainer Ben Pauling. That partnership reached its pinnacle on Boxing Day 2025, when Jones guided The Jukebox Man to a dramatic victory in the Grade 1 Ladbrokes King George VI Chase at Kempton Park, prevailing by a nose in a three way photo finish. Jones also has two Cheltenham Festival winners to his name with Shakem Up'arry and Meetmebythesea firmly establishing him among Britain's leading jump jockeys.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP JOCKEYS



Richie McLernon

D.O.B: 22 October 1986

Best Horses: Holywell, Johnnywho, Regal Encore, Sunnyhillboy

Trainers: Jonjo & AJ O'Neill, Ben Haslam, Anthony Honeyball, Neil Mulholland

Richie McLernon is a senior National Hunt jockey long associated with the powerful Jonjo O'Neill operation and a regular and trusted rider for owner JP McManus. Based with Jonjo O'Neill at Jackdaws Castle for much of his career.

His greatest success came at the Cheltenham Festival in 2014 when he partnered Holywell to victory in the Pertemps Network Final, producing a perfectly timed ride on testing ground. A decade later, McLernon returned to the Festival winner's enclosure with another JP McManus success, steering Johnnywho to victory in the County Handicap Hurdle, further underlining his reputation as a jockey for the big occasion.

In addition to his long-standing association with the O'Neill stable, McLernon is a key figure within JP McManus' northern operation, riding regularly for Ben Haslam. That partnership is particularly effective at Cartmel, where McLernon was the leading jockey last season and is regularly seen riding winners for Haslam at the popular Cumbria venue. His consistency, professionalism and tactical strength underline his standing as one of National Hunt racing's most dependable and respected jockeys.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP JOCKEYS



Gavin Sheehan

D.O.B: 23 June 1992

Best Horses: Cole Harden, Youwearitwell, Johnny's Jury, Hewick, Futigif, Itchy Feet, Wendigo

Trainers: Jamie Snowden, Katy Price, Lucy Wadham, Oliver Signy

Gavin Sheehan is a highly skilled National Hunt jockey whose sharp race-riding instincts and natural flair in the saddle have made him a standout name in British jump racing. Hailing from Ireland, he has carved out a successful career through sheer determination and a deep understanding of his horses.

He first rose to prominence as the retained rider for Warren Greatrex, forming a fruitful partnership that yielded major victories, including a memorable Grade 1 triumph aboard Cole Harden in the 2015 Stayers Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. Since then, Sheehan has continued to develop his career in racing at the highest level, which included a win in the 2023 King George VI Chase on Hewick.

Sheehan in recent years has developed a strong association with Jamie Snowden which has yielded over 300 winners for the jockey and trainer combination. Sheehan also has close ties to the stables of Lucy Wadham, and Katy Price.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP JOCKEYS



Harry Skelton

D.O.B: 20 September 1989

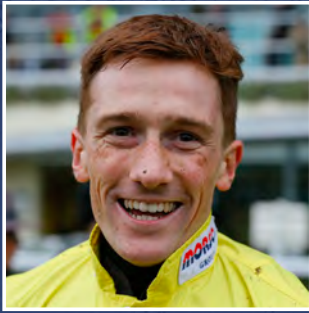
Best Horses: Grey Dawning, Protektorat, The New Lion, Politologue, Roksana, Langer Dan

Trainers: Dan Skelton, Paul Nicholls, Caroline Bailey

Harry Skelton is one of the UK's leading National Hunt jockeys and is a key figure in one of the most successful racing partnerships in the UK. Born into a well-known racing family, he is the son of Olympic showjumper Nick Skelton and the retained rider for his brother, Dan Skelton.

Skelton's career has gone from strength to strength, with his dedication and skill in the saddle earning him the British Champion Jump Jockey title in the 2020-21 season. Known for his sharp race-riding instincts and strong finishing ability, he has played a vital role in the rise of the Skelton stable, forming a formidable team alongside his brother Dan, which has led to them having 12 winners together at the Cheltenham Festival. With a growing list of major winners to his name, including 16 Grade 1 winners, Skelton continues to be one of the most respected and competitive jockeys in the sport, regularly challenging for top honours.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP JOCKEYS



Sam Twiston-Davies

D.O.B: 15 October 1992

Best Horses: Clan Des Obeaux, Potters Charm, The Real Whacker, East India Dock, The New One, Ridersonthestorm, Vicente, Dodging Bullets

Trainers: Nigel Twiston-Davies, James Owen, Anthony Honeyball, Henry Daly, Neil Mulholland, Paul Nicholls

Born into a celebrated racing family, Sam Twiston-Davies is the son of leading trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies, and his career has been driven by a lifelong passion for jump racing. He made an early mark on the sport with a Cheltenham Festival win as a teenager, and his natural talent quickly propelled him through the ranks. This led to a successful stint as stable jockey for Paul Nicholls, during which he notched up numerous high-profile victories including wins on Clan Des Obeaux in the King George VI Chase and Punchestown Gold Cup.

Although he has since stepped away from a retained position, Sam remains in high demand, riding for several top trainers while maintaining close ties to his father's yard. With multiple Grade 1 wins and major race triumphs to his name, Twiston-Davies continues to be one of the most dedicated and competitive riders on the National Hunt scene, consistently performing at the sport's highest level.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINERS



Mickey Bowen

Best Horses: Flying Fortune, Art Of Diplomacy, Olivers Travels, Statuario

Jockeys: Sean Bowen, James Bowen, Shane Fenelon

Based in Pembrokeshire, Wales, Mickey Bowen comes from one of racing's most famous training families. The son of legendary handler Peter Bowen, Mickey grew up immersed in the sport and gained extensive experience within the family yard before taking on greater responsibility as a trainer in his own right.

Since stepping forward as a licence holder, Bowen has continued the family tradition of producing tough, consistent jumpers, particularly well-suited to staying chases and handicaps. The Bowen yard's reputation has been built through consistent success at leading jump meetings, most notably their remarkable family record in the Summer Plate at Market Rasen.

A defining strength of Mickey Bowen's operation is the close-knit team around him, most notably his strong association with his brothers Sean and James Bowen, both of whom have played key roles as jockeys to the yard.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINERS



James Moffatt

Best Horses: Chief Dan George, Highland Lodge, Bingoo, Rapid Flight

Jockeys: Charlotte Jones, Leah Noreci

James Moffatt is a highly respected British racehorse trainer based in Cumbria, where he has built a strong reputation for getting the very best out of his horses. Training in the north of England, he is known for his practical, hands-on approach and his deep understanding of the individual needs of each horse in his yard.

One of the defining highlights of Moffatt's career came when he trained Chief Dan George to win at Grade 1 level, a landmark success that showcased his ability to operate at the top end of National Hunt racing. He has also enjoyed major success at Aintree, most notably with Highland Lodge, whose victory in the Becher Chase underlined Moffatt's skill in preparing horses for the unique and demanding challenges of the Grand National fences.

A key figure in the yard's success is jockey Charlotte Jones, who plays an integral role in the team and has partnered many of the stable's winners. Her close working relationship with Moffatt has been central to the consistency of the operation. Further recognition came in 2025 when James Moffatt won the RCA Summer Jumps Championship Small Trainer category.

After his win, Moffatt said "The Championship has been an amazing incentive for us, the publicity around it puts us in a really strong place. I'm going to divide the prize money equally amongst the team, they've worked so hard and I'm incredibly proud of all seven of them."

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINERS



Olly Murphy

Best Horses: Strong Leader, Itchy Feet, Thomas Darby, Brewin'upastorm, Go Dante, Thunder Rock

Jockeys: Sean Bowen, Lewis Saunders, Beau Morgan, Lewis Stones, Kevin Brogan

Olly Murphy is a Jumps trainer on the rise who is based at Warren Chase Stables near Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. After gaining experience with Alan King, Murphy spent four years as assistant trainer to Gordon Elliott in Ireland, contributing to multiple Grade 1 victories and Cheltenham Festival successes, including Don Cossack's 2016 Gold Cup win.

In 2017, at the age of 25, he established his own training operation. Murphy has since trained over 600 winners across both National Hunt and Flat racing, including multiple Graded and Listed victories. Notable horses from his yard include Strong Leader, who won the Grade 1 Liverpool Hurdle, and Itchy Feet, his first Grade 1 winner in the Scilly Isles Novices' Chase. His stable continues to grow, attracting both established and new owners.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINERS



James Owen

Best Horses: Burdett Road, East India Dock, One Big Bang, Cavern Club, Secret Des Dieux

Jockeys: Sam Twiston-Davies, Sean Bowen, Alex Chadwick, Nathan Howie

Based in Newmarket, James Owen has rapidly emerged as one of the most progressive dual-purpose trainers in Britain, with his most notable achievements to date coming on the Jumps side. A former accomplished rider, Owen brings a hands on, practical approach to training, with an emphasis on fitness, versatility and careful race placement.

Although well known for handling Flat performers, Owen has made a significant mark over obstacles, developing high-quality hurdlers and chasers capable of competing at the top level. His flagship success to date came when Burdett Road landed the prestigious Greatwood Handicap Hurdle, a landmark victory that firmly established Owen as a trainer capable of thriving in elite Jumps company.

Big-race success has been complemented by sustained consistency throughout the summer jumping scene, culminating in Owen being crowned Champion Trainer in the 2025 RCA Summer Jumps Championship.

Taking the title, Owen said: "The Championship is definitely a good thing. There's a need for summer jumping and the tracks have done a brilliant job all season. My owners have enjoyed the last few months, as have I, and it gives horses a good opportunity to race and progress. I think the summer jumps has been competitive and well supported so the Championship is a step in the right direction."

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINERS



Ben Pauling

Best Horses: Handstands, The Jukebox Man, Willoughby Court, Shakem Up'Arry, Barthers Hill, Global Citizen, Le Breuil

Jockeys: Ben Jones, Kielan Woods, Callum Pritchard

Based in the heart of the Cotswolds, Ben Pauling has risen amongst the training ranks in recent years. After spending time as a assistant to Nicky Henderson, he set up on his own in 2013 with just eight horses, many of them owned by friends and family.

Since then, he's firmly established himself as one of the country's leading young trainers, racking up over 500 winners, enjoying four Cheltenham Festival successes and winning the 2025 King George VI Chase at Kempton Park with The Jukebox Man.

In 2022, Pauling relocated his operation to a state-of-the-art yard at Naunton Downs – a 200-acre estate complete with 95 boxes, top-class gallops, and a dedicated owners' area, all set within a scenic golf course run by his wife, Sophie.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINERS



Dan Skelton

Best Horses: Protektorat, L'Eau Du Sud, The New Lion, Grey Dawning, Roksana, My Drogo, Panic Attack, Allmankind

Jockeys: Harry Skelton, Tristan Durrell, Kielan Woods

Dan Skelton has firmly established himself as one of Britain's foremost National Hunt trainers, admired for his strategic approach, attention to detail, and consistent success at the highest levels of jump racing. Born into a distinguished sporting family, Skelton gained invaluable experience during a nine-year apprenticeship with multiple Champion Trainer Paul Nicholls, before launching his own training operation at Lodge Hill Stables in Warwickshire in 2013.

Since then, he has developed a formidable reputation, producing a host of top-class horses including Roksana, Protektorat, L'Eau Du Sud, and The New Lion while securing numerous Grade 1 victories at Cheltenham, Aintree, and beyond. Central to his success is a longstanding partnership with his brother, Harry Skelton, a Champion Jockey, with whom he shares a deep understanding of racehorse development and race planning.

In the 25/26 Jumps Season Skelton was crowned Champion Trainer for the first time and became the first to surpass £5m in prize-money in a single jumps season.

LEADING SUMMER JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINERS



Jamie Snowden

Best Horses: Johnny's Jury, Julius Des Pictons, You Wear It Well, Datsalrightgino, Ga Law

Jockeys: Gavin Sheehan, Isabelle Ryder, Joe Anderson

Based in Lambourn, Jamie Snowden has firmly established himself as one of Britain's leading National Hunt trainers, widely respected for producing progressive horses capable of performing at the highest level. A former assistant to Nicky Henderson, Snowden blends elite level experience with a modern, detail driven training philosophy, placing a strong emphasis on patience, soundness and long term development.

Snowden is particularly noted for his skill in campaigning horses through major handicaps and championship races. His Cheltenham Festival breakthrough came in 2022, when You Wear It Well delivered a hugely popular success in the Mares' Novices' Hurdle, highlighting the yard's ability to develop and peak top class talent on the sport's biggest stage.

His reputation has been further strengthened by two Grade 1 victories, with Julius Des Pictons landing the Sefton Novices' Hurdle at Aintree and Johnny's Jury capturing the Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham. Supported by a long standing and highly effective partnership with stable jockey Gavin Sheehan, Snowden continues to build a profile defined by consistency, ambition and the ability to deliver peak performances in marquee races.

RACECOURSE FIXTURES

The Sun Racing Summer Jump Championship will cover 84 jump fixtures between May-September 2026 and will take place at 16 individual racecourses. Here is the list of racecourses who will be involved along with the full set of dates:

Bangor-on-Dee: 23 May, 26 June, 04 September, 08 September

Cartmel: 23 May, 25 May, 27 May, 26 June, 28 June, 18 July, 20 July, 29 August, 31 August

Fakenham: 31 May

Fontwell Park: 24 May, 10 June, 28 August, 06 September

Hexham: 06 June, 13 June, 21 June

Huntingdon: 25 May

Kelso: 24 May, 16 September

Market Rasen: 26 May, 12 June, 19 June, 05 July, 18 July, 15 August

Newton Abbot: 27 May, 03 June, 12 June, 23 June, 03 July, 12 July, 19 July, 22 August, 27 August, 07 September, 18 September

Perth: 07 June, 02 July, 12 July, 15 August, 07 August

Sedgefield: 18 August, 14 September

Southwell: 02 June, 09 June

Stratford: 30 May, 16 June, 29 June, 30 June, 12 July, 19 July, 20 August, 25 August, 05 September

Uttoxeter: 24 May, 04 June, 13 June, 28 June, 07 July, 15 July, 24 July, 26 July, 09 September, 15 September

Warwick: 03 June

Worcester: 22 May, 28 May, 06 June, 11 June, 17 June, 24 June, 01 July, 10 July, 16 July, 22 July, 19 August, 23 August, 04 September, 10 September

RACECOURSE CONTACT INFORMATION

Bangor-On-Dee

Address: Overton Road, Bangor-On-Dee, Wrexham, LL13 ODA

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Email: mail@bangorondeeraces.co.uk

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Racecourse Officials:

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Clerk Of The Course: Lilly Harris

Cartmel

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Telephone: 01539 536340

Email: info@cartmel-racecourse.co.uk

Website: cartmel-racecourse.co.uk

Racecourse Officials:

Managing Director: Geraldine McKay

Clerk Of The Course: James Armstrong

Fakenham

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Racecourse Officials:

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Kelso

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Clerk Of The Course: Matthew Taylor

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Clerk Of The Course: Sophie Green

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Racecourse Officials:

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Clerk Of The Course: John Holliday

Stratford-on-Avon

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Website: stratfordracecourse.net

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Uttoxeter

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Racecourse Officials:

General Manager: Michael Thomas

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