

# The British (and Irish) are coming..... to the 2009 Queen's Cup Steeplechase!



The Board of Directors of the Charlotte Steeplechase Association approved last September to negotiate with the Professional Jockeys Association (PJA) to bring over five professional jump jockeys from the United Kingdom and Ireland to assuage the anticipated rider shortage with the unprecedented running of four sanctioned race meets to be held Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

All of these riders were hand picked by the PJA for their professionalism, riding expertise and availability. The Queen's Cup will pay all of their expenses including travel, ground transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, medical and injury insurance. They will be arriving Wednesday, April 22 and returning Sunday, April 26.

As an incentive for trainers and their owners to use our guest riders, the Queen's Cup will pay the \$150 minimum steeplechase jockey's fee for any rider that does not earn a portion of the purse.

Toby Edwards will be the Queen's Cup Jockey Liaison while the riders are visiting the Carolinas. The jockeys will be available to ride out and school at Springdale in Camden both Thursday and Friday (April 23-24) for any trainers wanting to help and participate. Toby will also be working with the jocks on the riding nuances between British and American race riding techniques. Dwight Hall, Chairman of the Steward's Advisory Committee, has given permission for Gary Handfield, NSA Steward, to address the riders while in Camden and provide them with a review the NSA Rules of Racing.



We hope you will support our efforts and take advantage of this first ever effort by utilizing our guest riders and take advantage of the opportunity to race at the Queen's Cup Steeplechase, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the Queen's Cup Co-Race Chairman, **Bill Price at: 704-621-3001** or **Toby Edwards at: 803-427-2216**. Details of this and other exciting announcements including Dave Johnson as the Official Queen's Cup Race Announcer and the utilization of Fornells Plastic Birch, installed in a timber fence, and being raced over for the first time in the United States, can be found by clicking this link: [www.queenscup.org/horsemensinfo](http://www.queenscup.org/horsemensinfo).

## Jockey Profiles & Career Highlights



**David Crosse**  
age 26



Originally from County Tipperary, Ireland, the 26 year old former Champion Amateur Jockey has held a Professional British Jump Jockeys license since 2002. Over the past five years the majority of his rides have been provided by trainers Milton Harris, Charlie Mann, Jim Best, Colin Tizzard and Ben Case.

Career highlights include winning the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup Handicap Chase at the Cheltenham Festival on the Nicky Henderson trained 'The Bushkeeper', registering his long priced treble in 2006 at Plumpton and winning the £30,000 3m5f Sussex National in 2008 on Ironside at odds of 25/1. David has been riding professionally since 1999.

During the summer to relax, David likes to play golf and soccer. During the winter he tries to find time to support and follow the fortunes of Arsenal Football Team. He enjoys a hectic social life and is usually the last man standing at the end of an evening!

**Career Starts: 1,965      Wins: 124      Prize Earnings: £967,191      Riding Weight: 147 lbs**



**Brian Harding**  
age 36



Born in Cork Ireland and riding professionally since 1992, Brian started his career under the wing of Trainer Gordon Richards at his famous Greystoke Stables. Brian's career reached an incredible height when he guided Richards's brilliant grey, One Man, to an emotionally charged victory in the 1998 £94,410.00 Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. It earned the Ride of the Year award. Brian has held a Professional Jump Jockey's Licence in Great Britain since 1999 and continues to drive his career forward and a steady stream of winners keep flowing. He currently rides for many top Trainers including Gordon's son, Nicky Richards, Martin Todhunter, Jedd O'Keeffe, Alistair Whillans and Len Lungo. He has had nine rides in the English Grand National at Aintree finishing in the frame on two occasions. Brian rode in this year's most infamous steeplechase April 4<sup>th</sup>, finishing 12<sup>th</sup> out of 17 finishers on 66-1 IDLE TALK.

He has also enjoyed many successes at premier tracks in particular Aintree, Ayr, Cheltenham, Doncaster and Wetherby. He is a popular member of the changing room, and has recently been awarded with the Jump Jockey Special Recognition Award at the Professional Jockeys Association annual awards ceremony (The Lesters).

**Career Starts: 4,488      Wins: 364      Prize Earnings: £5,533,861      Riding Weight: 143.5 lbs**



**Chris Honour**  
age 30



Born in Oxfordshire, England, Chris started riding at the age of eleven and has been riding professionally since 1997. During his childhood he enjoyed riding to hounds and competing in the show ring and show jumping. At the age of 18 he joined Oliver Sherwood's yard in Lambourn, but recorded his first winner for Geoff Hubbard in 1999. Chris is best known for his association with the Alan Blackmore trained Fakenham specialist front running 'Cool Roxy' who has recorded 11 wins and 27 placed efforts from 60 runs. All of Cool Roxy's victories have been at the Suffolk track and he holds the record for the most amount of wins at the track.

Honour, whose five-hour trips to Fakenham from his home in Devon has ridden Cool Roxy to all of his 11 victories from 40 runs at the track. Chris has also recorded successes for Chris Down, Jimmy Frost, Matthew Gingell and Kim Bailey in the last couple of seasons.

**Career Starts: 1,219      Wins: 62      Prize Earnings: £268,845      Riding Weight: 127.6 lbs**



**Jimmy McCarthy**  
age 39



Jimmy started riding at the age of seven and hails from Skibbereen in County Cork, Ireland. He participated in Pony Club events before graduating to the Pony Racing and the trotting circuit at the age of eleven. He had a handful of rides on the flat in Ireland before moving to Britain. Jimmy linked up with Oliver Sherwood in 1991, but had to wait a long time before stepping properly into the limelight. When stable jockey to Sherwood, Jamie Osborne was sidelined through injury in 1998, he got his chance and did not let Sherwood down. A steady stream of winners has ensued since this time.

His biggest success came on a spare ride, when he replaced the injured Norman Williamson on Decoupage in the 1999 Class A Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury. Other notable successes include riding a 100/1 winner in 2006, and in 2007 by riding a winner at Musselburgh in Scotland, he notched up a winner at every jump track in Great Britain. Jimmy is a regular at all of the high profile meetings and has taken nine rides in the Aintree Grand National finishing 9th on one occasion. Most recently the majority of Jimmy's rides are provided by Charlie Morlock, Charlie Egerton, Alan King, Don Cantillon and Lucy Wadham. Jimmy won a race at the April 2009 Aintree meet on 25-1 OGEE landing the first Grade 1 success of his career in the Sefton Novices' Hurdle as a host of more fancied rivals failed to fire.

**Career Starts: 4,458      Wins: 441      Prize Earnings: £3,363,656      Riding Weight: 143.5 lbs**



**Jodie Mogford**  
age 32



Jodie Mogford started in the racing business at David Wintle's dual-purpose yard as a teenager. He was victorious in his very first race on Decided for Richard Lee in a seller and must have thought the jumping game to be easy when three rides later he was successful in his first steeplechase. Encouraged by Wintle to gain more experience, he moved to Tim Forster's yard when the Captain moved to Shropshire although the switch provided experience realistic riding chances were limited. It was only after rejoining the Wintle yard that his career was re-ignited finishing second in the Conditional Jockeys' title in 1999. He currently rides for G.J. Smith, John Tuck, David Evans, Heather Dalton and Miss M E Rowland. Jodie has been riding professionally since 1989.

Jodie lives with his partner, Emma and their children Abigail aged six and Theo aged two. When not enjoying family life Jodie enjoys a game of golf and playing squash.

**Career Starts: 2,570      Wins: 158      Prize Earnings: £887,004      Riding Weight: 143.5 lbs**



**Clare Hazell**  
Membership Manager, PJA



After leaving school, Clare took up the position of secretary to Lambourn Trainer Nick Gaselee and she was lucky enough to be part of the team when Gaselee's Party Politics won the Aintree Grand National. After a nine year stint booking rides for Jockeys at The National Jockeys Booking Agency, she secured a position at The Professional Jockeys Association in 2002. As Membership Manager she is involved in managing and promoting the comprehensive package of support and welfare schemes available to jockeys and mentoring youngsters embarking on their chosen careers.

Her motto is "Anything you can do, I can try and have a go at it as well" and to prove this she enjoys regularly riding out on the gallops and has competed in four charity races in aid of the Spinal Injuries Association on the Flat.

Clare will be in charge of escorting the riders while they are over in Charlotte.