



## John Reid, MBE

Everyone knows & loves JR for his straight talking and charming character. He is also a very entertaining dinner guest. In August 1997, he had an audience in Spain captivated as he described "The Race of the Century" where riding Swain, they beat Pilsudski, Helissio & Singspiel in Ascot's King George.

John also has a very good racing brain. So well can he describe the undulations & particularities of any racecourse that you would think he had cut the grass there every week ! At Goodwood, he rode his first winner on Ery and the course ended up being his favourite to ride at.

In the saddle, he was the ultimate professional & tactician. Many remember his Swain victory, the ride on Minstrella in the 1987 Cheveley Park Stakes or the way he hemmed in Machiavellian in the 1990 Irish 2,000 Guineas. Much of his success could also be put down to the excellent teamwork of his agent, Peter Shoemark.



Originally from Ulster, Ireland, John served his apprenticeship there for a year with Leslie Crawford before spending 5 years with Verley Bewicke in England in the early 1970's. Then for Fulke Johnson-Houghton, he won the **1978 King George VI & QEII Diamond Stakes** with Ile de Bourbon.

John's first of four classic of victories aboard On the House in the **1982 1,000 Guineas** for Harry Wragg. John freelanced for a year in the mid 1980's before joining Charlie Nelson. In 1987, he gained two more big wins on Sir Harry Lewis in the **Irish Derby** for Barry Hills and the **Italian Oaks** on Lady Bentley for Lester Piggott.

By now, John had established some very good contacts riding abroad where he always had a very loyal following. So it was no surprise that he won the **1988 Arc de Triomphe** on **Tony Bin** for an Italian owner. In the same year he started the first of three seasons at Ballydoyle, Ireland, as stable jockey for the Robert Sangster/Vincent O'Brien combination.

Then, for an American owner this time, he won the **1992 Derby on Dr.Devious**, his biggest win. John maintained the link with Sangster until the end of 1998 and rode regularly for his trainer, Peter Chapple-Hyam, in England. Notable Sangster-owned horses he won with included Royal Academy, Las Meninas (**1,000 Guineas**), Turtle Island & Victory Note.

From, 1997, John rode to great effect for Godolphin, winning on Swain, Halling, Medaaly and a fourth UK Classic on Nedawi in the **1998 St.Leger**. In April 1999, John broke a leg in a strange fall whereby his stirrup iron broke. He returned to action in late July of that year. For 2000, John was appointed stable jockey for Sheikh Maktoum al Maktoum. However, he decided not to renew the commitment for 2001 as it was limiting the number of rides and winning opportunities he was getting. John rode as a freelance in 2001 and won the **German Derby** on Boreal.

In all, John rode over 2,000 career winners of which 1,937 were in the UK when he retired in late September 2001 in addition to a stack of winners in Ireland and France. In Spain, where he was immensely popular, he rode 42 winners from 205 rides between 1979-1999.

On retirement from the saddle, John has kept himself busy within racing, managing the string of racehorses such as Mine for English owner, Matt Dawson. In 2002, John also took up a pundit role with the newly formed racing channel, AtTheRaces. In addition to putting together a few racing owners syndicates, John is president of Goodwood's GG Club, the first ever racing club in the UK set up exclusively for children aged between 6 & 15.

**Available for speaking, presenting, hosting, compering, corporate hospitality, events, voice-overs, etc**  
Contact Nick Higgins on +44 (0) 7796 99 68 99 or e-mail: [jockeys007@hotmail.com](mailto:jockeys007@hotmail.com)