

CAREER TRANSITION

CASE STUDY: JOCKEY to ESTATE AGENT

Name: Rupert Wakley **Age:** 46
From: Cotswolds

Playing Career Summary:

Rupert started working in racing as an assistant trainer to Michael Bell. He was combining this role with riding in Point-to-Points and riding on the Flat as an amateur jockey. His riding career started to take over and he moved to Kim Bailey where he turned Conditional. Rupert rode 250 winners but retired in 2002 following 5 shoulder operations.

New Career: Estate Agent

Support from Player Association:

During the times that Rupert was injured and on the sidelines, he used the support from JETS (Jockeys Education Training Scheme) to complete communication and media training courses that, at the time, was aiming towards a future career in the media.

Career Transition Highlights:

- Using skills he learned as a jockey every day in his second career. Making a good impression on owners and trainers and creating long lasting relationships is vital both as a jockey and as an estate agent.
- Whilst nothing can really replace race riding, being in an industry where having a competitive nature is definitely a positive quality.

Career Transition Challenges:

- To begin with, having absolutely no idea what he wanted to do after race riding.
- Being realistic about wage expectations and adapting to work in what is considered to be 'the real world'.



“ I had to accept that no job will ever really replace race riding. I was able to get to a point where I was really open minded about life and I feel that this was the best thing that could have happened. I recognised I had a lot of transferable skills from riding and would advise anyone that whilst they are riding, they are an ambassador for their future lives and careers. ”