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# **Tony McCoy awarded OBE**

Tony McCoy's services to racing have been recognised with an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The accolade is more than just reward for the ultimate sportsman, who has been crowned champion jockey 15 times.

The 36-year-old also fulfilled a lifelong ambition in April when he finally won the John Smith's Grand National aboard Don't Push It. That success, achieved at the 15th attempt, surely elevated jump racing's finest ambassador to universal status.

His gleaming features in relief - and for once with unreserved passion - were beamed across the world. The single-minded and totally focussed rider was seen to be human after all.

McCoy has long been achieving what would have been thought impossible 40 years ago.

Getting to 1,000 winners in a career in Britain seemed out of reach for jump jockeys until Stan Mellor broke the mould when reaching four figures in 1971. That total has now been trebled by McCoy.

With an unparalleled determination to succeed in every race, whether it be a selling hurdle at Newton Abbot or the Cheltenham Gold Cup, McCoy has rewritten virtually every record in the book, some more than once.

From his 1994-5 debut season in Britain, McCoy has dominated the winter game and has been champion for the last 15 seasons.

In April of 2002, McCoy overtook Sir Gordon Richards' record seasonal tally of 269 on Valfontic at Warwick, an achievement that helped him gain third place in the BBC Sports Personality Of The Year voting.

In 2010 with a Grand National and an OBE to his name, the racing fraternity are convinced he can improve on that.

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