



## **BETFAIR AND IJF TEAM UP AGAIN TO FUND NEW PJA DOCTOR**

BETFAIR and the Injured Jockeys Fund have signed a three-year £300,000 deal to fund a full-time doctor for the Professional Jockeys Association (PJA), following on from a financial commitment between the two parties that also benefits the same group.

Betfair recently similarly signed a three-year commitment to provide funding for the Injured Jockeys Fund's Oaksey House project.

Development of the much-needed facility for injured jockeys, incorporating 12 residential units and a resource centre, has already got underway. Betfair's support will go directly to the provision of physiotherapy in Lambourn, something which is desperately needed and will be of benefit to the entire racing community (\*see notes).

The three-year contract that has been agreed for a full-time salaried doctor, worth a total of over £300,000, is complimentary to that initiative. And this will also be the first significant recruitment to the PJA at a managerial level since the re-brand from the Jockeys Association of Great Britain to The PJA that took place recently.

Working alongside chief executive Josh Apiafi and company secretary Ann Saunders of The PJA, the recruited doctor will be responsible for medically advising jockeys, as well as sourcing medical specialists and managing the recovery of jockeys from injuries sustained through race-riding.

The recruitment process of the doctor will be overseen by the British Horseracing Authority's Dr Michael Turner, licensed trainer Dr Philip Pritchard, Dr Bob Sharp, an advisor to The PJA, as well as Saunders.

AP McCoy - champion National Hunt jockey since 1995-1996, President of The PJA, and himself still currently out of action after a fall from Arnold Layne at Warwick last month – commented: "Both flat and jump jockeys have been in desperate need of a medical adviser, especially recently where there has been several cases of misdiagnosis of injuries sustained from falls once jockeys have left the racecourse.

"The provision of a medical advisor will hopefully ensure that we are in the best medical hands from when an injury occurs, as well as during the recovery process, aiding correct healing and prognosis for returning to race riding".

And Betfair's managing director Mark Davies and the IJF chief executive Jeremy Richardson said their respective organizations were delighted to team up again for the benefit of jockeys past and present.

Davies observed: "Supporting a wide cross-section of the horseracing industry is an integral part of our sponsorship strategy, and this funding sits well alongside other recent Betfair initiatives such as the Betfair Club ROA and the resounding success of our Betfair Apprentice Training Series. And clearly this will help ensure that the jockeys get the best possible treatment in future."

Richardson concurred: "We are pleased to be able to help the jockeys in this way. Prompt medical care is vital if the effect of further falls is to be minimized and it is only right that the sportsmen in this country most prone to injury have their own dedicated doctor."

And Apiafi concluded: "During the past 30 years plenty of papers have been produced on the provision of a professional medical advisor for the jockeys, but lack of financing has meant this has never come to fruition.

"I am delighted that with the match-funding from Betfair and the Injured Jockeys Fund we will be able to recruit a full-time medical advisor, which the jockeys have been crying out for, and who will provide ongoing medical advice when jockeys leave the racecourse".

### **Notes to Editors**

**The Professional Jockeys Association (The PJA)** represents jockeys interests within British horseracing. [www.thepja.co.uk](http://www.thepja.co.uk)

**Betfair** is the world's leading betting exchange, a concept it pioneered. [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com). For further information please contact Tony Calvin, Senior Press Officer, on 07881 508 999 and 0208 834 8223.

**Injured Jockeys Fund (IJF)** provides assistance, financial and pastoral, to over a thousand jockeys (their spouses, or dependants) who have suffered through injury and are unable to ride. [www.ijf.org.uk](http://www.ijf.org.uk).

**\*The IJF is now building a home for injured jockeys in Lambourn (on the site of the old Bourne House stables), which will have a resource centre to provide medical and other facilities for jockeys and the racing workforce of Lambourn.**