



**News release – for immediate release
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PJA appoints Betfair and IJF funded Medical Advisor

The Professional Jockeys Association (The PJA), the representative body for Jockeys within British horseracing, has appointed a Medical Advisor, supported by a three-year funding commitment from the on-line betting exchange Betfair and The Injured Jockeys Fund (IJF).

Dr. Anna-Louise Mackinnon MRCP DipSEM will take up the role as the PJA's Medical Advisor (the PJAMA) in January 2009.

Dr Mackinnon's primary role will be to provide medical advice and support to the PJA's 400 plus members, as well as managing the recovery period of a Jockey following an accident. The sourcing and liaising with medical specialists, who will provide expert opinion and treatment of injuries, will also be a key responsibility. Her understanding of horseracing, medical background and contacts, plus direct experience within the high risk sports sector of Eventing, will play a fundamental role in providing a proactive medical service for the PJA membership.

PJA members will have the opportunity to consult with Dr Mackinnon at defined venues throughout the country including at the IJF facility, Oaksey House, Lambourn. Also funded by a donation from Betfair, Oaksey House is scheduled to open at the end of 2008 and will have a dedicated consulting room as well as accommodating a full-time physiotherapist and rehabilitation unit.

Dr Mackinnon will represent the PJA on various industry committees including the BHA Medical Advisory Committee and the Professional Riders Insurance Scheme and will liaise closely with the British Horseracing Authority's Chief Medical Adviser and the 200 Racecourse Medical Officers. She will also be responsible for overseeing and developing the PJA's existing support services which include nutrition, psychology and Jockeys' on-course physiotherapy. In addition she will also advise the Trustees of the IJF and its almoners.

Dr Mackinnon said "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with horseracing's elite sportsmen and women and ensure they get the best possible rehabilitation and every assistance in getting back race riding as soon as possible. I can't wait to commence the role in the New Year".

Josh Apiafi, Chief Executive of The PJA commented "I am delighted that with the match-funding from Betfair and the Injured Jockeys Fund we have been able to recruit a full time PJAMA. This appointment fulfils a key strategic objective of the PJA Board and reflects the Jockeys' overwhelming need for their own dedicated, specialist service. Anna-Louise will be a fantastic addition to the PJA team and will first and foremost address the Jockeys medical needs away from the racecourse".

NOTES:

Dr Mackinnon is currently a GP Principal at Thatcham Medical Practice Berkshire where she has worked for the last 6 years, having previously worked in Bath. She will begin her new position as the PJAMA in early January 2009. Dr Mackinnon recently completed a Diploma in Sports and Exercise Medicine and is currently undertaking a Diploma in Occupational Medicine, which she is due to complete in May 2009. As well as keenly following horseracing, Dr Mackinnon is married to Sandown Park Racecourse's Managing Director David Mackinnon. She is a regular work rider for trainer Andrew Balding and competes successfully at Eventing, whilst also providing support as a part time Event Doctor at British Eventing competitions.

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