



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate Release**

### **Ann Saunders of The PJA receives recognition for her outstanding contribution to jumps racing**

Company Secretary of The Professional Jockeys Association (The PJA), Ann Saunders has been announced a winner of this years Cheltenham Racecourse Award of outstanding contribution made by a woman to jumps racing, together with Lady Chicky Oaksey.

Ann Saunders who joined the then Jockeys Association in 1976 and has been company secretary since 1988, has been a key lynch pin within the organisation during this time and is involved first hand with supporting PJA members, jockeys from both the flat and jumps.

Edward Gillespie, Cheltenham Racecourse Managing Director, said: "I am delighted that both of these ladies, who have given so much to our sport, will be recognised in the first dead heat at the festival since the 1950s!

"It is fitting, given it is the horses and their riders who will be thrilling us during The Festival, that Lady Oaksey and Ann Saunders are winning this award for their work with current and former jockeys."

Saunders commented: "I'm honoured to receive this award. All of the nominees are very worthy and I am particularly pleased that Chicky will also be recognised, as I know at first hand the great work that she does with her involvement with the Injured Jockeys Fund."

Josh Apiafi Chief Executive of the PJA added "Ann's professional and passionate approach in her work for our members is outstanding. She has been with the organisation for over 30 years and is also Chief Organiser of our premier event of the year The Lesters. I'd also like to thank Cheltenham Racecourse for organising this well deserved award for Chicky and Ann"

The awards will be presented in a ceremony in the winner's enclosure before racing on Ladies Day on Thursday at The Cheltenham Festival.

Further details about the award can be found at [www.thepja.co.uk](http://www.thepja.co.uk) or [www.cheltenham.co.uk](http://www.cheltenham.co.uk)

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**Notes to Editors**

The Jockeys awards ceremony, The Lesters, are being held on Thursday 20 March 2008 at the Hilton Metropole Birmingham, a few tickets are still available and are available at [www.thepja.co.uk](http://www.thepja.co.uk) or telephone The PJA on 01635 44102