



## NEWS RELEASE

### **PJA AND ROA AGREE RIDING FEE INCREASE**

The Racehorse Owners Association and Professional Jockeys Association have reached agreement on an annualised riding fee increase of 2% for 2011. This increase has been amortized over the 12-month period so the fee goes up by 2.4% from early March.

As a result, Jockeys will receive an increase of £2.55 (£109.10) for Flat rides and £3.50 (£148.95) for Jump rides.

The increase is subject to ratification by the BHA Board.

"In accepting this below-inflation increase, the PJA is mindful of the current climate in racing," said PJA Chief Executive Kevin Darley.

"Jockeys are shouldering increasing expenses, especially those relating to fuel, but we recognise that other constituents in racing are facing similar problems.

"We remain disappointed that we could not get sufficient industry support for the proposal that a half fee was paid for declared non runners. This initiative would have greatly helped the 'journeyman' Jockey."

A surcharge will continue on the riding fee to cover payments for the Professional Riders Insurance Scheme.

ROA Chief Executive Michael Harris said: "This decision is never taken lightly by the ROA but this year has been particularly difficult. With wage inflation running considerably behind the general rate of inflation we are in an environment where many people are accepting very small wage increases or no increases at all.

"We cannot ignore what is happening in the outside world but we also have to recognise that middle-of-the-road Jockeys are not big earners and they play a vital role within the industry."

ENDS 355 words

**For further information, please contact:**

Kevin Darley, Chief Executive, at the Professional Jockeys Association, on 01635 44102 or 07974 172675

24 February 2011