



For immediate release

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## **Shadwell Supports the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lesters**

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Shadwell Estate Company is to sponsor the 2010 Lesters.

The Professional Jockeys Association's Annual Awards Ceremony, widely regarded as racing's most glamorous night of the year, will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London on Sunday, 28 February, when more than 600 jockeys and racing personalities are expected to attend.

Inaugurated in 1991 in celebration of Lester Piggott's 11 championship titles and nine Derby victories, The Lesters celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and looks set for a glittering renewal.

Mirza Al Sayegh, Chairman of the Shadwell Estate Company said, "We are delighted to have this opportunity to support the PJA in formally recognising the achievements of jockeys. Their dedication and professionalism transcends racing and can be regarded as an example to sportsmen and women in the wider sporting arena."

PJA Chief Executive Kevin Darley said, "The Lesters are horseracing's night of the year, and the 'Shadwell 20th Lesters' promises to be the best ever. We are delighted and grateful to have received the valued support of our new sponsor.

"We have come a long way since the inaugural Lesters at London's Café Royal in 1991, and it is now an event attended by 600 people from the racing industry."

In addition to title sponsorship of the event, Shadwell's backing extends to the coveted Flat Jockey of the Year Award which has been presented to many of racing's elite including Pat Eddery, Michael Roberts, Kevin Darley and, more recently, Frankie Dettori who said, "The Lesters are the Oscars of our industry, and quite rightly they are named after the greatest jockey. I love being awarded a Lester, it's great - I'm only sorry that I haven't won as many over the years as Tony McCoy has!"

Champion Jockey Ryan Moore added, "I am always very proud when I win a Lester. It's important when your achievements on the track are recognised by your fellow jockeys. It's a very good evening and I am pleased to be a part of it, so thank you to Shadwell."

Multi-award winner Tony McCoy, in whose name last year's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented said, "The Lesters has the name of the greatest jockey of all associated with it and it is the biggest and best night out of the year for jockeys. To win a Lester is to receive recognition from your peers which is the best recognition of all.

"We are very lucky and very grateful that Shadwell have agreed to support The Lesters, and for them to do so makes us feel even more appreciated."

Tickets for the Shadwell 20<sup>th</sup> Lesters will be available from the beginning of November via the PJA website at [www.thepja.co.uk](http://www.thepja.co.uk) or by calling the PJA on +44 (0)1635 44102.

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