



## **PJA STATEMENT FOLLOWING GRAND NATIONAL START ENQUIRY**

Following the result of today's Disciplinary Panel hearing into a breach of Rule (D) 44.4 of the British Horseracing Authority's Rules of Racing by 26 jockeys who rode in the 2017 Randox Health Grand National, Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the PJA, said:

"Whilst we were disappointed that the 26 jockeys were charged, we are pleased that we were subsequently able to have constructive discussions with the BHA ahead of the hearing and we credit the BHA for this approach.

"The 26 riders on both sides of the Irish Sea also deserve credit for rising above their feelings of disappointment and allowing the PJA to enter into those conversations on their behalf. The outcome is one that reflects some of the mitigating circumstances but equally importantly was an outcome that, having been charged and following such a successful and positive Randox Health Grand National meeting, we agreed best served racing.

"Jump starts inevitably require a great deal of co-operation and trust between jockeys and Starters and the new starting procedures have been an understated success since their introduction. The focus inevitably falls on those relatively few high-profile occasions when there are false or unsatisfactory starts. This focus is perhaps unfair but there remains a common theme on many of those occasions and I am sure that jockeys and the BHA can continue to work constructively together to address it."

5<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### **Notes for Editors:**

1. For further information please contact Paul Struthers, PJA Chief Executive, on 07966 590105.