



## **PJA STATEMENT FOLLOWING BHA REVIEW ON NON-RUNNERS**

Dale Gibson, Executive Director (Racing) of the Professional Jockeys Association said:

“The PJA is broadly supportive of the new measures, as outlined today by the BHA, to reduce the significant number of declared non-runners in the UK. The combination of improvements should hopefully bring about a cultural and meaningful change when declaring a runner; in light of recent examples, highlighting the need for a tighter rule, therefore concentrating the minds of connections at declaration time.

Over a lengthy period of time we have lobbied extensively on behalf of not only Professional Jockeys but also for the benefit of the wider industry as a whole, to help bring about much needed reforms. This package of measures should also assist owners with entries, the betting public both domestically and overseas, betting markets and indeed racecourses who are contracted either directly or indirectly to media rights payments through field size. However, we firmly believe that in future stronger measures should be mandated with respect to the excessive rate of non-runners due to ground, especially when there is either no advertised going change or a marginal one. These numerous instances are frustrating for participants and the betting public when the horse subsequently runs next time under the exact same going description.

The PJA looks forward to fewer declared non-runners in the future and we plan to consider all the BHA recommendations in consultation with our Board in due course.”

16<sup>th</sup> August 2017

### **Notes for Editors:**

1. For further information please contact Dale Gibson, PJA Executive Director (Racing) on 01635 778108