



PJA STATEMENT FOLLOWING RESULTS OF RAB HAVLIN'S BHA HEARING

Following today's Judicial Panel hearing at the British Horseracing Authority to consider an application made by Rab Havlin, Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the Professional Jockeys Association, said:

"It is bitterly disappointing that Rab's application has been unsuccessful and his nightmare must continue for almost two more months, the result being that he has effectively been suspended for over 8 months for an offence he was given 6 months for and did not commit in any event. Rab voluntarily stood himself down in Britain whilst he attempted to clear his name in France and is now paying the price for that in circumstances where it was highly likely, if not certain, that the BHA would have acted to stand him down had he not volunteered to do so. No other rider in future will volunteer to stand himself down in similar circumstances."

"The PJA completely supports robust testing for riders to the point that it is entirely behind and working constructively with the BHA to enhance testing for riders in Britain. However, Rab's case highlights serious concerns for all other riders heading to France. France Galop does not operate testing thresholds designed to safeguard from false positives and therefore the risk of false positives is ever present. This situation was exacerbated by the fact that France Galop refused to disclose the levels present in Rab's sample and ignored the clear medical evidence from independent hair follicle sampling that he could not have taken cocaine. Their testing procedures on track also leave much to be desired and the PJA will be urging the IFHA to consider these issues as part of their ongoing international harmonisation project to ensure other riders do not have to go through this ordeal."

15th August 2017