



PJA PAYS TRIBUTE TO ANDREW THORNTON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SADDLE

Wednesday 6th June 2018 marks the last day of Andrew Thornton's riding career and on the day of his retirement from the saddle Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the PJA, paid tribute to him:

"It has been a genuine privilege to work closely with Andrew over the last 6 and half years that I have been working for the PJA. As many have already said, he is the ultimate professional both on and off the track and this professionalism and dedication has seen him enjoy a career stretching over 28 years. If only he'd obtained his first licence 10 months earlier and carried on for 19 more months he'd have ridden across five decades!

"As well as being dedicated in the saddle, Andrew has also dedicated an enormous amount of time away from the track to improve things for his colleagues. As well as being a Safety Officer, working closely with the racecourses and the BHA Course Inspectorate, he has been a PJA Board Member for over 20 years, and is also a trustee of the Jockeys Pension Scheme and the Injured Jockeys Fund. Out of all our jockey Board members, he's probably the one I speak most to and it won't quite be the same to not receive his regular calls that invariably start with 'Now then, Paul...'

"He'll be missed enormously within the Weighing Room but we'll see and hear plenty from him through his work in the media, and I'm delighted that 'Lens' has confirmed he'll stay on the Board as a retired jockey and continue to give his time and share his knowledge for the betterment of other riders, which says it all about him really.

"On behalf of the PJA team and members both past and present, we say a massive thank you and wish him the happiest of retirements from the saddle"

6th June 2018

Notes for Editors:

1. Andrew Thornton was first licensed as an Amateur Rider in September 1990. He took out his Conditional Jockeys licence in July 1993, when he first joined the PJA, and turned fully professional in November 1994. In a career spanning 28 years, he has had 9380 and 1007 winners.