



PJA APPOINTS PJ MCDONALD AS NEW FLAT PRESIDENT

PJ McDonald has been elected by the Board of the Professional Jockeys Association to be the new Flat President of the PJA following the retirement from the saddle of former Flat President Steve Drowne, who transitioned to becoming a Stipendiary Steward for the British Horseracing Authority.

PJ, 36, was first licenced in Britain in 2005 as an Apprentice and Conditional Jockey with Ferdy Murphy. He won the Scottish Grand National aboard Hot Weld in 2007 but the following year decided to concentrate solely on Flat racing. To date PJ has had over 7000 career rides, with 37 jump winners and 734 flat winners and 2017 was his best season to date, with 128 winners from 887 rides. This year PJ has 58 winners from 478 rides, including Group 1 victories in the Prix de Diane and Prize Saint Alary on Laurens, trained by Karl Burke, who also provided PJ with his maiden Group 1 victory last year.

He joined the PJA Board in 2010 and has also been the PJA's Northern Flat Safety Officer since then, working with the BHA Course Inspectorate, Clerks of the Course and other senior jockeys on a variety of racecourse-related matters to improve the safety and well-being of Jockeys.

PJ McDonald said: "I feel privileged to have been asked to stand as PJA Flat President and look forward to assisting them and my colleagues under both codes with current and future issues within the industry."

Paul Struthers, PJA Chief Executive, said: "PJ already takes an active role in the PJA through his position on the Board and in his role as Northern Flat Safety Officer. I've no doubt he'll do a fantastic job for us and our members, just as Steve Drowne did before him."

William Derby, York Racecourse Chief Executive and Clerk of the Course: "York has worked really closely with PJ over the last eight years and he has been instrumental in ensuring a continued excellent relationship with the jockeys. His advice and guidance in designing and delivering the new jockeys facilities at York in 2014 was invaluable and is a lasting legacy of his time as our liaison jockey. We wish him well in his new role and continue to look forward to seeing him ride on the Knavesmire."

Additionally, following some recent retirements from the saddle, the PJA also has a number of Board vacancies for current jockeys. Any PJA members interested in becoming a Board member and getting involved should contact the PJA.

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Notes for Editors:

1. For more information please contact Paul Struthers on 07966 590105 or email ps@thepja.co.uk
2. The PJA constitution requires Presidents to be current jockeys, although Steve Drowne had resigned from the Board as soon as he was appointed a Stipendiary Steward with the British Horseracing Authority.