



## PRESS RELEASE

### PAUL STRUTHERS TO STEP DOWN AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE PJA

- DALE GIBSON APPOINTED ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Paul Struthers has informed the PJA Board that he wishes to step down from his role as Chief Executive. The PJA Board has reluctantly agreed to his request.

Dale Gibson, who retired from race riding in 2009 prior to joining the Professional Jockeys Association, initially as Industry Liaison Officer before becoming Executive Director (Racing) in 2015 has been appointed PJA Interim CEO. Dale brings a wealth of experience to the association having been involved in various capacities for over 30 years.

Paul will help effect a handover to Dale Gibson to ensure the PJA has continuity of support for our jockeys over the coming weeks and months.

Paul Struthers said:

“Throughout my time at the PJA, I have been extremely fortunate to represent jockeys who I have nothing but complete admiration for. In my dealings with hundreds of jockeys over the years, I have learned a huge amount from them and have tried to treat everyone with sincerity, respect and decency.

“Due to the relentless nature of their lives, jockeys rightly need the PJA to be available at all times and this role is a way of life, not a job. As many in racing will empathise, this has taken a significant toll on my family and personal life, and it is the right time to step aside.

“Representing the courageous, dedicated and resilient men and women who make up our diverse membership has been the greatest privilege of my career. I would like to thank everyone that has supported me in my role and I am incredibly proud of what the PJA has achieved over the last 10 years. This is only possible thanks to a talented, hardworking team who share a passion for the job and an incredibly supportive membership.

“Finally, I am very confident that any recommendations and improved procedures that the PJA and the sport puts in place will serve all our members well and improve their lives. They deserve nothing less.”

On behalf of the PJA, Chairman Jon Holmes said:

“It is with regret that we have accepted Paul's resignation, but we understand and accept Paul's decision. Paul has given a decade of his life to tirelessly striving to improve the lives of our jockeys. I and the whole team here want to pay tribute to Paul and thank him for everything he has done across a decade of selfless service.



“I am delighted that we are able to appoint Dale to the role of interim CEO. Many of you will know Dale and recognise that he shares Paul's passion for supporting all of our jockeys, so we remain in good hands, particularly with the recently enhanced board structure and personnel we have put in place.”

David Bass, PJA Jumps President, said:

“On behalf of the jumps weighing room, I would like to express how grateful we all are for Paul’s commitment and hard work during the past decade. He has worked tirelessly on so many issues to improve the lives of jockeys. He will be sorely missed by the PJA. We all wish him well for the future.”

PJ McDonald, PJA Flat President, said:

“I would like to personally thank Paul for all he has done over the years at the PJA. It has been a pleasure to work with someone who I feel has been so dedicated to the job. I know Paul will be sorely missed.”

Dale Gibson, PJA Acting CEO, said:

“I am pleased to accept the offer from the PJA Board. With support from the small, hardworking PJA team, the restructured Board and advisory groups, I look forward to continuing representing professional jockeys both on and off the course, building on previous initiatives whilst also progressing important ongoing work within the industry. Under Paul’s leadership a number of improvements have been achieved, benefitting all our members. I have enjoyed working with Paul during his tenure at the PJA and on behalf of our members we send Paul and his family our very best wishes for the future.”

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Notes for Editors:**

For more information please contact Dale Gibson, PJA Acting CEO, on 07970 149415.