

# Annual Review 2021





# Chairman's Introduction

This is the first report that I am making having been in the position for a complete year. When I took on this role it is fair to say that I had no idea of the challenges to follow.

2021 was a very difficult year for racing, and in particular for Jockeys and your association. I do not need to list the serious issues that we faced, all with the background of the pandemic. However, as we move on with a new Board and Chief Executive, I am happy that we have a structure in place more in tune with the times, and capable of improving the working environment and rewards for you as professional athletes in a challenging industry.

Thanks to the efforts of Dale Gibson, we have made strides regarding the improvement of facilities, and I am hopeful that you will see these improvements in tangible form over the next twelve to eighteen months. I would like to thank new RCA chair, Wilf Walsh, and CEO David Armstrong for their co-operation in this matter, and for ensuring that our code of conduct is displayed prominently in every weighing room around the country. However, it is important that where lapses do occur in terms of facilities, and standards fall below the required levels, you keep us informed through the Jockey Advisory Groups or Board members.

We now have acknowledgment from the BHA that it is no longer acceptable for the disciplinary panels responsible for standing in judgement of Jockeys not to include at least one former professional rider. I am grateful to those former jockeys who have put themselves forward for training for the role, and if you have suggestions as to others who might be able to contribute to that area, then please let us know.

We are grateful to the ROA for their cooperation in taking responsibility for the funding of the career ending insurance from January 2022. As an owner myself, I am happy that it is the owners who take this responsibility rather



Jon Holmes

than it be left to outside sponsors, who for a variety of reasons may be unable to commit on a long-term basis. At the same time, we should acknowledge the debt of all members to Andrew Tinkler, former CEO of Stobart for their past support over several years. The excellent relationship with the ROA also helped recently in securing a deal on the new scale of riding fees, and we have established a working party to continue this discussion on an ongoing basis.

There remain problems with the employment status of Apprentice and Conditional Jockeys, and we look to the help of the BHA and the NTF to ensure that all Apprentices and Conditionals are employed, as required, on full time contracts. Again, should you encounter cases where this is not happening, please bring it to the attention of the Jockeys Advisory Groups or directly to us, where it can be dealt with anonymously if necessary, and appropriate action taken. For the Association to prosper and be able to implement our focus on improving your rewards, working conditions and wellbeing, your input and active co-operation is essential.

I will comment no further on the Bryony Frost/Robbie Dunne matter, other than to say that, as with abuse on social media, to quote an MP about events elsewhere "Words matter". What we say and how we say it echoes far beyond..." What some might see as banter or words exchanged in the "cut and thrust" of competition and rivalry can be misconstrued and that bullying in any shape or form both verbal and physical is unacceptable. We have a duty to report it where necessary or step in if we feel able. I should also point out that some of the language used by counsel in the case was unacceptable and I felt impelled to make this point on your behalf to the BHA and in the media. I would like to thank Julie Harrington for her prompt assurance that the "sour and rancid" remarks did not reflect the opinion of the BHA.

I would also like to pay tribute to the sterling efforts made by Paul Struthers, who as you know retired from his position as CEO in December after ten years of remarkable service. Paul worked tirelessly on your behalf, and I know you would like me to place this on record. In addition, I would like to thank all the Board for their support especially during my periods of ill health last year. Following Paul's departure, Dale Gibson stepped up to the Interim CEO position whilst also maintaining his role as Racing Director.

We are happy to have recruited Ian McMahon as our new CEO from April 2022, who comes to us not only as an ex-professional sportsman, but also someone with wide experience in the administration of sport. I know you will join me in wishing him well.



Paul Struthers



Ian McMahon





# 2021 in Review

Covid 19 continued to present a massive challenge to everyone in 2021 and the PJA was no exception. Staff worked regular overtime to cope with the extra demands that covid presented, whilst continuing to pursue ongoing initiatives.

However, it's the Jockeys, from both codes, who have been the stars of the show throughout 2021, displaying professionalism and resilience on a daily basis by continually adhering to social distancing rules. Jockeys showcased how racing could lead the way in keeping the show on the road despite the restrictions of temporary changing facilities and other covid related enforcements being in place.

Keeping racing going was a real team effort with multiple individuals and stakeholders all playing their part. Beyond covid, several senior Jockeys assisted the PJA on a variety of working groups and other initiatives, some of which have concluded, and others that will soon be finalised. Examples include the whip review consultation, stalls safety working party, jump race risk model, and the weighing room facilities group, in conjunction with many other topics.





The National Hunt Jockeys title race witnessed a terrific battle between Brian Hughes and Harry Skelton, with Harry coming out victorious after multiple winners in the later stages of the season. The Flat Jockeys championship also saw a close finish between William Buick and Oisin Murphy, with the result coming down to the last two races of the championship at Ascot and Oisin taking the title once again. Danny McMenamin was champion Conditional Jockey and Marco Ghiani ran away with the Apprentice title.

During the summer the inaugural Racing League was launched, involving teams of Jockeys, owners, and trainers. With £1.8 million of prize money on offer the series was well received, and a few subtle changes are planned for the 2022 renewal. Jack Mitchell was leading Jockey of the series, earning a handsome bonus for his efforts. The Sky Bet Sunday Series also commenced, again proving successful, and they too look to expand their sponsorship in 2022, with a Jockey and leading Apprentice bonus attached.



## Career Ending Insurance



During the year, with Jon Holmes leading the discussion, the PJA consulted with several different parties to find a way to continue the vital and long term CEI (Career Ending Insurance) policy for PJA members, which had been in existence since April 2011. Our grateful thanks go to the Levy Board, the Racing Foundation and Ascot Racecourse who kindly stepped in and agreed to provide some funding throughout 2021 alongside the PJA whilst discussions were ongoing to find a funding solution to save the scheme.

In September, an agreement was reached with the Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) who kindly agreed to pay for the premium by way of a small surcharge added to each ride from January 2022. We thank the ROA for their assistance and look forward to working together on other initiatives in future.

## Weighing Room Facilities & Catering Provision



Following lengthy and hard-fought lobbying, with assistance from senior Jockeys and the BHA, we agreed that all weighing rooms would update and modernise their current facilities to include increased female capacity, separate canteen, and rest room area to seat a minimum of 14 Jockeys, additional showers where appropriate and warm up areas. There is a completion target date of October 2024 and whilst we understand that some venues will have more to do than others, much of the work is long overdue.

Following the retirement of long-standing PJA Nutrition Team Leader Julia Scott Douglas in August, we were delighted that established team member Dan Martin agreed to take on the Team Leader position and continue to push forward the team's valuable work.

One of Dan's key strategic aims is to work closely with racecourses and continue the work in improving Jockeys' catering provision at racecourses. Following collaborative work with ARC and Jockey Club Racecourses, "improved menu" trials took place in November at Doncaster and Huntingdon. Both trials were very well received by Jockeys and have been expanded to other venues as they commence their 2022 season. We plan to progress improving food provision at independent venues to maintain advances across the country. We thank both ARC, JCR, Dan Martin, and racecourse chefs for their assistance.

## Jockeys Fees



In late December, a little later than normal, we started the annual riding fee negotiation, which concluded in the new year. An agreement was reached that there would be a £15 per ride increase for flat Jockeys and a £20 increase for NH Jockeys, taking effect on 1st April 2022. The new fees would therefore be £142.90 on flat and £194.63 NH. The non-runner fee would also therefore rise accordingly to £97.31 NH and £71.45 flat. We thank the ROA for their help during this process and look forward to working together in future.

## One Day Meeting Rules



One meeting a day remains in place this year following a survey asking members to vote on the topic, with 71% of flat Jockeys wanting the rule to continue.

## Update On Non-Runners In Figures



In 2021 there were over 7500 declared non-runners, which produced a total payment in excess of £500,000 to Jockeys. NH Jockeys on average received £1,096 in fees and flat Jockeys on average £1,493 in additional income. The popular text service from Weatherbys' will continue, alerting Jockeys immediately once a ride has been declared a non-runner.

## Appeals Data



Over the course of 2021 we lodged 16 riding appeals, four of which were referrals, winning six and losing six. Each request to view a clip of the film and audio enquiry is taken on its merits in close association with our expert legal representative Rory MacNeice.

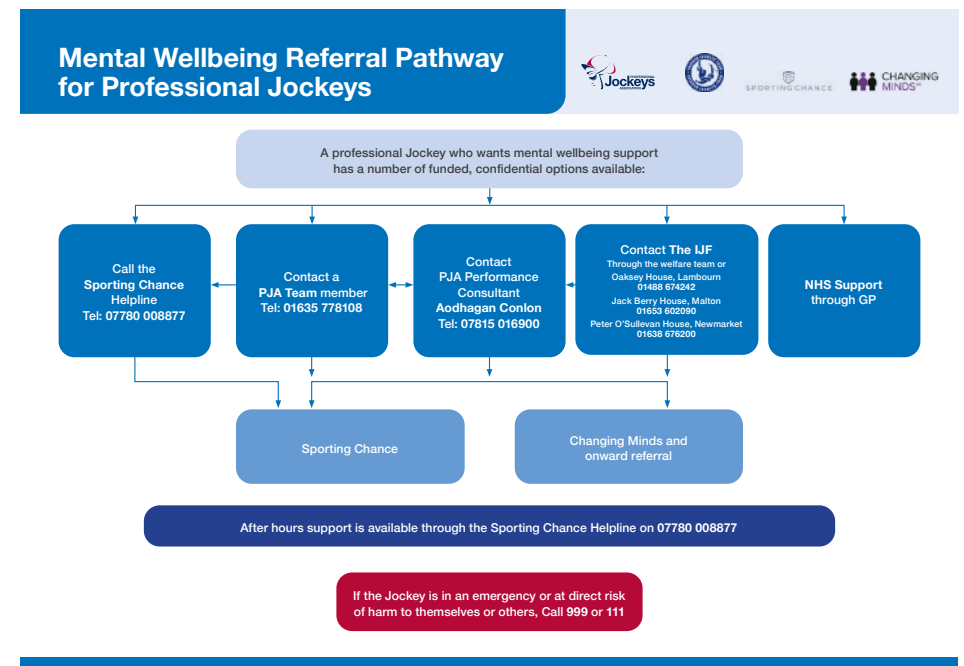


## Mental Health And Wellbeing



Our successful partnership with Sporting Chance continues to offer our members 24-hour access to mental health and wellbeing support throughout the country as well as the confidential phone helpline. In addition, we retain the services of Aodhagán Conlon as our Performance Consultant.

In total, throughout 2021 we supported a total of 68 current and retired members with one-to-one support, paying for over 320 sessions.





## Safeguarding



As mentioned in the Chairman's report, we produced a PJA code of conduct in May, which was sent to members and is displayed in all weighing rooms. This outlines key areas of respect for one another, standards of behaviour and potential reporting mechanisms. There will be a BHA code of conduct produced in due course.

All Jockeys completed the online Safeguarding module during 2021. Changes in weighing room areas were made to accommodate under 18s and vulnerable adults in the form of separate changing and shower facilities, in line with agreed guidelines.

For further information, please contact [safeguarding@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:safeguarding@britishhorseracing.com)

## Jockey Holidays



Jockey breaks by code continued in 2021. They featured a five-day flat break in March, twelve days in August for NH, and six more days off in November on the flat. Latest advertised race time in winter on the All-Weather remained at 8.30pm. During 2021 we negotiated improvements to the 2022 fixture list, which includes for the first time:

- An inaugural weekday off in August on the flat during a busy period,
- Restricted race days under both codes in addition to the agreed minimum break, set by the number of winners ridden in the previous year, which will be reviewed in due course.
- Fixture moves were also agreed, thus saving unnecessary travelling time and expense.

Work continues with other stakeholders to maintain and modernise a work life balance.

## Member Communications



Communication with our members is key to the services that we provide. Building on the WhatsApp broadcasting groups we have continued to use this method to keep in touch with Jockeys, Valets, and Agents throughout 2021. Ever mindful that we do not create information overload, we try to ensure that WhatsApp is for key messages. Increasingly we are aware that often videos provide the clearest and easiest means of conveying important messages to the membership. This aside, we are looking to a greater presence on the racecourse in 2022, nothing beats seeing our members face to face to discuss their issues and concerns.

The newsletter continues to be another great way for us to get information out monthly, so remember to check through it to keep up to date with issues that might affect you.

If any member still isn't receiving WhatsApp messages, all you need to do is save the PJA's WhatsApp number **07585 633400** into your contacts and you will start receiving them. Call Vicky in the office for any advice and support. Please also ensure you update the PJA if you change your contact details.

In 2021 we produced a social media guide designed to offer advice and support to our members and their families on how to deal with social media. The document will be distributed to all new members and distributed at the 2022 jockeys' seminars.

[www.thepja.co.uk/service/social-media-abuse-2](http://www.thepja.co.uk/service/social-media-abuse-2)



## PJA Events



Sadly, both the Pro Am and the Lesters events could not take place in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. However, thanks to Sky Sports Racing, we were able to present the winners of the Lesters Awards on Friday 25th February 2022 during a live broadcast, celebrating the achievements of Jockeys over the past twelve months.

### Congratulations to 2021 award winners:

Female Jockey of the Year  
**Hollie Doyle**

Apprentice Jockey of the Year  
**Marco Ghiani**

Flat Ride of the Year  
**Ray Dawson,  
Marshall Dan, Sandown, 10. 09.21**

Flat Jockey Special Recognition  
**Joe Fanning**

Conditional Jockey of the Year  
**Danny McMenamin**

Jump Ride of the Year  
**Sean Quinlan,  
For Jim, Hexham 9.10.21**

Jump Jockey Special Recognition  
**Richard Johnson**

Flat Jockey of the Year  
**William Buick**

Jump Jockey of the Year  
**Harry Skelton**



## Staff Updates



During 2021 Izzy took six months maternity leave from her role as Head of Membership and Welfare. On 14 August, Izzy and her partner Rob welcomed a daughter, Lowena, into the world. Izzy re-joined the PJA team in February 2022 much to the delight of her colleagues!

At the same time, we were delighted to welcome Marie King to the PJA, who some of you will know from her time working as an almoner for the Injured Jockeys Fund. Marie initially joined us as temporary maternity cover for Izzy's role but thankfully has permanently remained as a key member of the PJA team, now working closely with Ian as his Executive Assistant.

## Board Review



Following the retirement of NH President Richard Johnson in April, we appointed David Bass as his successor. David has already made an impact with his feedback on potential initiatives and availability for meetings, both in person and remotely. We thank Richard for his help as NH President and wish him well in the future after an extraordinarily successful career in the saddle.

October 2021 saw the completion of the streamlining of the Board under the direction of Chairman Jon Holmes. Early into his Chairmanship, Jon questioned the functionality of such a large number of Board members.



## Members of the Board



**Jon Holmes**  
(Chairman)

**David Bass**  
(Joint President)

**P J McDonald**  
(Joint President)

**Simon Cox**

**Mick Fitzgerald**

**Page Fuller**

**Dale Gibson**

**Lizzie Kelly**

**Robin Leach**

**Paul Parker**

In addition to the Board members, we have set up the Jockey Advisory Groups (JAG) who are consulted in all areas of decision making.

## Jockeys Advisory Groups'



### Flat

Neil Callan  
Hector Crouch  
Ted Durcan  
Martin Dwyer  
Tom Marquand  
P J McDonald

Adam McNamara  
Ryan Moore  
Andrew Mullen  
Paul Mulrennan  
Hayley Turner

### Jump

David Bass  
Aidan Coleman  
Page Fuller  
Brian Hughes

Tom Scudamore  
Harry Skelton  
Andrew Thornton

The PJA continues to represent Professional Jockeys both on and off the track whilst maintaining strong representation on numerous Industry groups and committees. The year ahead remains a challenge, however, we are conscious of continuing to both champion and promote all Professional Jockeys whilst working with other stakeholders to benefit British Racing.

## Key Contacts



### The PJA Team



**Ian McMahon**  
Chief Executive  
07990 281198  
[im@thepja.co.uk](mailto:im@thepja.co.uk)



**Dale Gibson**  
Executive Director (Racing)  
07970 149415  
[dg@thepja.co.uk](mailto:dg@thepja.co.uk)



**Marie King**  
Executive Assistant  
to Ian McMahon  
07815 793736  
[mk@thepja.co.uk](mailto:mk@thepja.co.uk)



**Izzy Desailly**  
Head of Membership  
& Welfare  
07771 656396  
[id@thepja.co.uk](mailto:id@thepja.co.uk)



**Vicky Lee**  
Membership Executive  
07585 633400  
[vl@thepja.co.uk](mailto:vl@thepja.co.uk)



**The PJA**  
[www.thepja.co.uk](http://www.thepja.co.uk)

01635 778108  
[info@thepja.co.uk](mailto:info@thepja.co.uk)



**JETS**  
[www.jets-uk.org](http://www.jets-uk.org)

01635 230410  
[info@jets-uk.org](mailto:info@jets-uk.org)



**The IJF**  
[www.injuredjockeys.co.uk](http://www.injuredjockeys.co.uk)

Jack Berry House, Malton  
01653 602090  
[jo.russell@ijf.org.uk](mailto:jo.russell@ijf.org.uk)

Oaksey House, Lambourn  
01488 674242  
[admin-OH@ijf.org.uk](mailto:admin-OH@ijf.org.uk)

Peter O'Sullivan House,  
Newmarket  
01638 676200  
[admin-POH@ijf.org.uk](mailto:admin-POH@ijf.org.uk)

39B Kingfisher Court,  
Hambridge Road,  
Newbury RG14 5SJ

01635 778108  
[info@thepja.co.uk](mailto:info@thepja.co.uk)  
[www.thepja.co.uk](http://www.thepja.co.uk)

