

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 9th December 2025

For immediate release

PJA RESPONSE TO BHA FACILITIES UPDATE

Further to the [update issued yesterday](#) by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), the PJA is pleased to note that by the end of 2025, the number of racecourses that have completed their upgrades will have increased to 29. By the start of the 2026 Flat season, 60% will have completed their upgrades and 80% will have done so by the end of the 2026. This marks decent progress since the start of this year, when just 12 racecourses had completed their upgrades despite a deadline of October 2024.

Unfortunately, the difference between the modernised changing areas and the sub-standard facilities at some tracks brings into focus how low down the list of priorities female riders' interests and jockeys' wellbeing are for some in the sport.

Amongst the slowest to act are Cheltenham, Exeter, Huntingdon and Nottingham, all Jockey Club courses, whose modernisation won't happen until the end of 2027. This is in stark contrast with Arena Racing Company, who have accelerated upgrades across their estate, now boast some of the best facilities for jockeys, and by summer 2026 14 of their 16 venues are due to be completed.

A recent PJA survey regarding facilities, completed by nearly two thirds of jockeys, illustrates the appalling nature of some changing rooms. The most common criticisms revolved around cold showers, drainage issues, unhygienic facilities, cramped changing areas, damp and cold rooms in winter, basic or inadequate rest and arm-up areas and tiny female changing rooms.

Redcar was the Flat course which came in for most criticism but will at least be modernised by the start of the 2026 season. Amongst Jump courses, Ludlow and Kelso trailed the field by a distance.

Dale Gibson, PJA Executive Director (Racing), said:

"We are pleased to see that many more jockey changing facilities have now been modernised and thank the racecourses who have made this investment. However, that jockeys must now go from using modern, clean and comfortable facilities one day to riding at inadequate, unprofessional and discriminatory ones the next only exacerbates the frustration of our membership, as evidenced by the response level to our survey.

"It remains fundamentally wrong that that our members are going to have to wait until the end of 2027 some racecourses to finalise their works, which regrettably includes numerous tracks owned by the Jockey Club. This will be more than three years after the original deadline set by the BHA and racecourses, and whilst we understand some of the issues that led to this delay, we remain disappointed that the BHA Board agreed to extend the deadline for as long as it did."

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1. For more information, please contact Dale Gibson on 07970 149415.
2. The three pictures attached are the new facilities at Wolverhampton and the female facilities at Ludlow.