

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 29th October 2026

For immediate release

PJA welcomes BHA exonerating Jack Garritty; concerned about BHA Stewards' use of Sectional Timing data

Following an appeal lodged by the PJA on behalf of Jack Garritty, we have today been informed by the BHA that they have exercised their powers under Rule (L)7 to quash the finding of the Stewards at Leicester, who originally deemed Jack in breach of Rule (F)37 having concluded that he failed to take all reasonable and permissible measures to achieve the best possible position.

The PJA welcomes this decision to quash the finding. It saves time, money and relieves unnecessary stress and worry for the jockey. Whilst these occasions are rare the BHA's increasing willingness to do so when an appeal against a Stewards' decision is virtually certain to succeed is a positive development. However, it is a matter of real concern as to how the local stewards sought to use sectional timing data at the racecourse enquiry.

Firstly, they failed to disclose the data to Jack before the enquiry and did not allow him any time to review it or to seek advice on its meaning. That is clearly unfair and the failure to disclose the data to him is very concerning.

Secondly, the local stewards then palpably failed to contextualise the data meaning that they comprehensively misunderstood and misrepresented it when they concluded in their finding that "sectional timings indicated that Red Derek had clearly produced the fastest furlong splits for each of the final 3 furlongs on the back of being poorly positioned to mount his challenge after turning in."

On proper analysis, the sectional timing data showed that the race had been run at too fast a pace for the conditions, and that – in part as a result of missing the break, in part because Jack had to restrain his mount, who was keen, off heels, and in part because of his own judgement – Red Derek was given the closest to optimal ride in the race.

This was not just the PJA's opinion either. Before yesterday's decision, the PJA had already commissioned and funded an independent report from a world-renowned sectional timing expert in preparation for an appeal hearing. This report concluded, "The message is clear from all of these analyses: in sectional terms, Red Derek was the most efficiently paced horse in the race in question and was arguably flattered by the end result rather than the opposite."

In other words, the sectional timing data entirely supported the evidence given by Jack at the local enquiry and, when combined with the timing and substantive nature of his effort, he should never have been found in breach.

Will we be writing to the BHA requesting that they cease the use of sectional timing data by Stewards until they agree to make that data disclosable to jockeys in advance of it being used and train their Stewards to use and be able to interpret the data correctly in the full context of the race and not in isolation.

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

For further information please contact Paul Struthers at ps@thepja.co.uk or on 07966 590105.