Chairman’s Introduction

The weather plays such a significant role in the sport of point to pointing and I am happy to say that the weather was kind to us for the 2016-2017 season and allowed pretty much uninterrupted racing from November to June. The racing was in the main of high quality and competitive, producing some worthy champions both equine and human. British point to pointing has a long tradition of producing top class jockeys and trainers for the professional game, and the 2016-17 season may go down as a vintage year producing James Bowen and Bryony Frost amongst others. Our two senior Champion Jockeys, Will Biddick and Gina Andrews both retained their titles and are good ambassadors.

On the equine front the season pleasingly saw a significant uplift in the number of 4yo runners and winners in keeping with the BHA’s wish to see young British point to pointers graduate into the professional ranks. 36 4yo winners v 24 winners in 15/16, so a 50% increase. The seeds for this were sown some 3 years ago and it is a ‘long game’ breeding NH horses so this big step up should be rewarded with further funding from the newly formed Racing Authority who handle the distribution of The Levy. It is vital that point to pointing is properly funded and supported to ensure that it remains the nursery for professional jumps racing and also a place for older and lesser grade horses to have a purpose and job. In addition to this point to point racing is a much-loved amateur sport with over 225,000 people attending 178 fixtures the length and breadth of Britain. It is a crucial piece of the rural economy and social fabric and needs support. We are proud of our heritage and our link with hunting and we are committed to creating a sport that is sustainable in the modern era where so many leisure pursuits compete for people’s time and money.

We still have challenges ahead and horse numbers overall fell by 5% to 2,500 last season. Owning and keeping racehorses is financially demanding and as such we must continue to promote racing clubs and syndicates as owners to encourage new participants into the sport, and meetings should do all they reasonably can to make the day out for part owners a rewarding one.
It is a general rule that if parents enjoy a sport or hobby then they will take or involve their children, and if the children enjoy it they will in all probability wish to do it again, creating positive repeated behaviour. So, I am delighted to see many fixtures and meetings focussing on making it an enjoyable day out for families and providing where possible cover against the weather and activities alongside the racing. After all we are in the entertainments business!

I would like to thank the PPA team and my colleagues on the Board along with the vast army of volunteers who work so hard often in difficult circumstances to put on the sport that we so love. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by so many.

Nick Sutton
Chief Executive’s Review

The hard work of so many interconnected people and organisations once again underpins the success of the sport, and it continues to be a privilege and pleasure for my team to play our part in supporting those efforts to keep the show on the road.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Curtis who stepped down from his role as Chairman at the beginning of 2017. His unwavering support, guidance and commitment to the sport over the past three years has been vital to its progression. Best wishes go to Cara O’Reilly who we were proud to see take up a position at The Jockey Club in London and a warm welcome to Shelley Coles who took over the reins of Liaison Assistant in September 2016.

My thanks also go to interim Chairman, Nick Sutton and his fellow PPA Board members for their generous support and for giving up so much of their time and expertise so freely.

Dr Peter Johnson took up the position of Medical Advisor in September 2016, replacing Dr Linsey Whitley. With welfare being at the heart of all we do at the PPA, the role of the PPA Medical Advisor (PPAMA) was enhanced in order to establish a closer working relationship with the BHA. Dr Johnson wasted no time in commencing an audit of the current medical provision to obtain a baseline across the sport. The results of the audit initiated a number of proposed (and subsequently agreed) changes for the sport, including the registration of Point-to-Point Doctors. One of the benefits of the new registration process is that a group Medical Indemnity Insurance could be put in place covering all Doctors working at Point-to-Points. Peter’s work has raised standards within the sport and I should like to place on record our grateful thanks.
The 2016/17 season was sadly marred by the sad loss of rider, James McNeile at Larkhill in April. James sustained a significant head injury and although he received the best care possible from the medical team he died the day after the fall. The whole sport was deeply saddened to hear the tragic news and came together in mourning over this sad accident. James epitomised the Amateur ethos of the sport and will be greatly missed.

Although we saw another small drop in the number of Hunter Certificates registered during the season, it was good to report some small shoots of recovery in seven of the 14 areas, where there was a rise in the number of horses registered. In addition, national average field sizes were over seven despite the dry spring. However, we cannot ignore the declining horse population which is coupled with a fixture list heavily weighted towards the bank holiday periods. We look forward to the challenge of working towards rebalancing the fixture list during the next few seasons for the long-term sustainability of our sport.
My grateful thanks go to all of our National Sponsors and a warm welcome to Skinners Pet Foods and Timico, both of whom we enjoyed working with for the first time over the season. In addition, we were pleased to welcome the TBA back and to work with them to promote the new 3-2-1 mares bonus initiative. Subaru, Goffs UK, The Jockey Club and Connolly’s Red Mills all continue to be loyal supporters of Pointing.

Finally, my congratulations go again to riders, Will Biddick and Gina Andrews who both retained their crowns. It was wonderful to celebrate their achievements at the 50th anniversary of the PPA’s National Dinner and awards ceremony back at the Belfry in November, hosted once again by Luke Harvey. Both Will and Gina are true ambassadors for the sport and I wish them, so too all of the participants this season, the very best of luck for a safe and successful campaign.

Clare Hazell
Chief Executive
June 2017
The Board

The Board, under the chairmanship of Tim Curtis and Nick Sutton (from May 2017), met regularly during the year.

Stakeholder Directors

Alan Hill - MFHA
Stephen Howlett - PPSA
Richard Russell – The Jockey Club
Robert Killen – PPORA

Independent Directors

Jeremy Barber
Nick Sutton – Chairman

The PPA Team

Medical Advisor:  Dr Peter Johnson (From September 2016)
Book Keeper/Accounts:  Julie Ellis
Statistics 2016/17

The equivalent 2015/16 figures are shown in brackets.

Fixtures
The number of fixtures sanctioned by the BHA in 2016/17 was 183 (182). 174 (165) meetings took place.

Four new fixtures were granted permission to hold a meeting, The Barbury International Racing, The Heythrop Hunt Club, The High Easter Hunts Club and The Anglo-Irish Club at Kingston Blount.

The first meetings, on 27th November were the Black Forest Lodge Club at Black Forest Lodge and Cambridge University United Hunts Club at Cottenham.

Courses
Meetings were held on 100 (104) different courses throughout the country in 2016/17. Sedgefield Racecourse was used for a Point-to-Point (South Durham) for the first time; Revesby Park was used as a Point-to-Point course (South Wold) for the first time since 1977.

Abandoned, Postponed & Rearranged Fixtures
- 24 (25) meetings were abandoned, postponed or rearranged in 2016/17
- 3 (3) meetings were abandoned before their entries opened
- 5 (14) meetings which entries opened were totally lost
- 0 (2) meetings were rearranged
- 3 (5) meetings originally postponed went ahead within 15 days.

Hunter Certificates
2595 (2716) Hunter Certificates were lodged with 171 (177) British Hunts in 2016/17.

3 (2) Hunts registered 50 or more horses.
Races and Entries

- The total number of entries at Point-to-Point meetings in 2015/16 was 18,651 (17,915)
- The average number of runners per meeting 52.86 (49.27)
- There were 10 (7) walkovers of which:
  o 3 (3) were Hunt Members
  o 3 (2) were Men’s Opens
  o 2 were Open Maidens for 3,5&6YO’s
  o 1 was a Mixed Open and 1 was a Ladies Open.
- There were 43 (29) two runner races of which:
  o 10 (2) were Club Members
  o 10 (11) were Men’s, Ladies or Mixed Opens
  o 9 (11) were Hunt Members
  o 4 (1) were Restricted
  o 3(1) were Open Maidens
  o 3 were Open Maidens for 4,5 & 6 YO’s
  o 2 were Confined
  o 2 were Mares Maidens.
- 3 (1) Meetings had 100 or more runners:
  o Harkaway Club 27.12.16 - 144
  o Midland Area Club 29.01.17 – 111
  o Tiverton 29.01.17 – 102.
- 27 (10) Meetings had 30 or fewer runners

Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Meeting Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>1,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Attendance 290,000+
Horses

The Leading Horse of the year was **Lough Inch** securing eight wins during the season. The Jockey Club Champion Novice Mare Award went to **Cheltenham Mati** who won four races during the season from 11 runs.

Three examples of horses which have graduated to racing under rules in 2017 include:

**DESERT QUEEN (GB):** Two wins in Point-to-Points 2014/15. Winner of three hurdle races and two chases under rules including the Charnwood Forest Mares’ Chase (Listed Race) 24.01.17.

**CONSTANTINE BAY (GB):** Winner and placed in Point-to-Points in 2016. Winner of three hurdle races under rules including the Albert Bartlett River Don Novices; Hurdle (Grade2) 28.01.17

**TEMPESTATEFLORESCO (GB):** Winner of three Point-to-Points in 2015/16. Winner of one hurdle race and three chases under rules including the Marston’s Pedigree Summer Cup (Handicap Chase) (Listed Race) 02.07.17

**Debutants to Racing in 2016/17:**

- **295** horses made their racing debuts in GB P-t-Ps (having never previously raced under any code)
- **44** horses of these racing debutants ran later in the 2015/16 season under NH Rules (in races other than Hunter Chases)
- **4** of them subsequently won National Hunt Races:

**CAPTAIN SIMON (IRE):** 5YO g by Dubai Destination (USA) ex Gayephar (GB). Winner of a Point-to-Point in February 2017 and a National Hunt Flat Race under rules in April 2017.

**SWORD OF FATE (IRE):** 4YO g by Beneficial (GB) ex Beann Ard (IRE). Placed in two runs in Point-to-Point’s. Winner of a National Hunt Flat race in 2017.
**Bubbles Arcade (GB):** 5YO F by Arkadian Hero (USA) ex Alwariah (GB). Placed twice from two runs in Point-to-Points. Winner and placed third from two runs in National Hunt Flat Races in 2017.

**Pistol Shoot (IRE):** 5YO g by Milan (GB) ex Emessions Lady (IRE). Placed three times in Point-to-Points from five starts. Winner of a National Hunt Flat Race in 2017.

**Individual Ex-NH Horses that Debuted in P-t-Ps Per Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of Ex-NH Horses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*To be included in this table a horse must have run in at least one NH race before its first Point-to-Point race*

**In the 2016/17 GB P-t-P Season:**

- **2360** individual horses ran in GB P-t-Ps
- **969** of these horses these were running in GB P-t-Ps for the first time
- **562** of these debutants had previously raced under NH Rules
- **11** originally ex-Irish Pointers who debuted in GB Points subsequently ran under NH Rules for the first time later in the season
PPA Office and Team

Cara O’Reilly (Liaison Executive), left the PPA in July to take up a position at The Jockey Club in London. Shelley Coles replaced Cara as, part-time Liaison Assistant in September 2016. Prior to her appointment, Shelley spent 15 years working within local Council, most recently at Stroud District Council largely focussing on facilitating local, parliamentary and referendum elections; organising electoral count venues and staff; maintaining the Electoral Register and dealing with enquiries and complaints. She has been involved with Point-to-Pointing in some way since 1987 and has a son currently riding.

The PPA Medical Advisor (PPAMA), Dr Linsey Whitley stepped down from her role in September. The vacancy was advertised, with interviews carried out by Dr Jerry Hill (BHACMA) and Clare Hazell in August 2016. The role was enhanced to establish a closer working relationship with the BHA, while allowing the PPAMA more responsibility and the ability to widen the remit of the role.

Successful candidate Dr Peter Johnson commenced his employment with the PPA in September 2016. Peter has 17 years’ experience as a Racecourse Medical Officer at numerous racecourses in the South East and extensive experience in Pre-Hospital care. As part of his role, Peter commenced an audit of the current medical provision in order to gather information and establish a baseline across the sport.

Becci Thompson’s role was reviewed during the period, allowing her to focus primarily on promotion, PR and Communications. During the period, Becci generated editorial in the form of news and features for the National Website, as well as working closely with the Point-to-Point Racing Company in the production of GoPointing. During the period, Becci spent time with the BHA’s and GBR’s communications department and with Cheltenham Racecourses Regional Head of Partnerships, Carey Buckler, gaining greater knowledge of communication, PR and sponsorship strategy, as well as many interesting and new ideas to promote the sport to a wider audience.

In January 2017 the PPA team attended a CPD day in London to enhance customer service skills in various areas. Becci Thompson and Shelley Coles attended the Grand Women’s Summit at Aintree in April 2017 together with 100 other delegates from across the sport.
PR and Marketing
2016-17

135 ‘success boxes’ were published from Boxing Day 2016 until the end of the season, highlighting GB P2P graduates going on to win under rules.

The Hunters’ Chase Season 2017

The Hunters’ Chase season had many similarities to recent previous ones despite a further small fall in Hunt Certificate numbers in that the number of races scheduled was again 97, and by the season’s end the average number of runners per race was 8.31, down from 9.13 in 2016 but still bettering the average of 7.15 in all steeplechases over the same period. One reason in the decline over the period might well have been the very dry second half of our season and the reluctance of owners to run their horses at all or too frequently on watered courses. In many cases it was good to see that prize money was increased. During the period three races were lost, all having been abandoned. Also, this time nine of the new “Grassroots” classified races were staged.

One major change to the programme that did take place was that the grand finale meeting at Stratford became an all Amateur meeting, the old two Professional races having been dropped to be replaced with a Handicap Hunters’ Chase, as there was at Newton Abbot until a few seasons ago, and a third Point-to-Point Bumper in addition to those run annually at Exeter and Aintree. There were three Mares Only races at each of the three Evening Meetings and two Ladies Rider Only races run at Fontwell Park and Stratford.

During the season there was some competitive and exciting racing, the Evening Meeting at Cheltenham continues to flourish, this year with 89 runners in its 7 races, and a spectacular gate of about 14,000. It was nice to see both our Foxhunter Championships, and what many still refer to as The Horse and Hound Cup, all being won by British horses. All in all, this was another good and enjoyable season.
Riders

- 568 (591) riders were issued with a licence to ride (RQC) during 2016-17 (aged between 16 and 69).
- 50% of those licenced, were aged between 16 and 21.
- 115 of the 580 were first time riders
- 124 held a category B permit to ride in addition to an RQC
- 81 held a Category A permit to ride.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-69</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Will Biddick and Gina Andrews won their sixth and fourth senior riders’ titles, respectively. Gina not only equalled her personal best with 29 wins, but reached a milestone of 200 wins. Her tally included a Cheltenham Festival winner and a five-timer at Mollington in Oxfordshire in May.

The Leading Hunter Chase Rider championship was won by Sam Davies-Thomas, with nine wins. The Leading Novice Ladies were Lucy Mager and Izzy Marshall both with seven wins.

The season’s champion trainer Jack Barber and novice rider James Bowen, have both subsequently entered the professional ranks. James, who could not ride until he was 16 on March 12th, finished the season on a record-breaking 30 victories, achieved in just 11 weeks, and is certain to have a big future in the saddle.
Implementing a 5lb novice riders’ allowance in open races, with an aim to encourage owners to use novice riders was a successful innovation this season. Jack Jones made history by becoming the first rider to take advantage of the allowance, winning on Real Milan at Larkhill in December. Many of those riders winning open races with a claim did so on their own or their parents’ horse, but as the claim’s virtue becomes apparent it is hoped that other owners will take advantage. It should also encourage novices to stay within the sport rather than walk away after just one season.

**Riders Insurance**

As part of the Riders Qualification Certificate, Riders are covered for Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, via brokers Howdens.

Terms were agreed with Howdens Insurance at the beginning of the 2015-16 season on a three-year basis. Howdens work on an all-inclusive fee, considering all anticipated work involved with placing and administering any policy on the sports behalf. Working on this basis ensures broker earnings are entirely transparent and IPT (which rose from 10% to 12% on 1st June 2017) is only payable on net premium. A £1,394 overcollection was carried forward to 2016-17 season which will be taken into consideration when agreeing contributions for 2017-18.

As part of the three-year arrangements, Howden’s contribute £2,500 in sponsorship to the PPORA.

**Pony Racing Graduates**

Pony racing benefits Point-to-Pointing by providing additional contests and interest for the public, generating income from sponsorship and introducing children to hunting and racing. It also makes them safer riders by giving them vital early experience.

Pony racing’s value to Point-to-Point racing and racing under Rules becomes ever more evident as riders' progress from one sport to the next. There are currently 186 jockeys holding a BHA licence to ride or a Rider Certificate who started in pony racing. These jockeys come from a variety of backgrounds, including those with racing backgrounds, those with a wider equestrian background and those with no links to racing or equestrianism. Over 50% of the children who rode in pony races in 2016, and are aged 16 or over, held a licence to ride or a Riders Qualification Certificate in 2017.
The figures shown in brackets on all following data are the corresponding figures for the 15/16 season.

During the 2016/17 season a total of 568 (591) Riders Qualification Certificates (RQCs) were issued. Of the RQCs issued 109 (135) were issued to new applicants who hadn’t held an RQC before - 19.2%

**Demography**

**Age**

53% of all RQCs were issued to the “20-29” age category with second most RQCs issued to “under 20” year olds at 23%. Only 4 RQCs were issued to riders aged “60+”. There was little change to the percentage of RQCs issued in each age category as compared to last season.
Gender

More RQCs were issued to Male Riders over Female Riders, and the percentage issued to each showed a 1% change from 15/16 (59% Male, 41% Female). Interestingly in 2016 only 24% of professional and amateur jockeys under ‘Rules’ were Female, which highlights greater equality in point-to-point racing.

Amateur Licence

Just over a third of riders issued with RQC’s also held an Amateur Licence at the time of application. 13% (21%) held a Category A Licence and 24% (21%) held a Category B Licence.
**Geographic Spread of RQCs**

Most RQCs were issued in the South Midlands area (SM), despite remaining static on 73 they took top spot from the Wessex (W) area who dropped by 16% to 67. The areas that issued the fewest RQCs were Wales and Border Counties (WBC) and Sandhurst (SAND) with 13 each.

![16/17 RQC issued by Area](chart)

**Turnaround of Licence**

The average time taken to issue a RQC (from receipt of the application to the date it was posted out) was 8.5 days (9.3 days). 66% (46%) of applications were issued within 7 days of receipt.
Qualification

The most popular means of qualification for riders were Hunt Subscribers at 218 (272), but there was a near 20% dip in these. 157 (132) riders qualified through the ‘One Day Cap’, which was an increase of 19%. The other forms of qualification accounted for the remaining third – 193 at 34%
Riders Sponsorship Scheme (RSS) Statistics for the 16/17 point to-point Season

Figures shown in brackets denote the corresponding figure for the 15/16 season.

In the 16/17 Point to Point season 159 (147) riders registered with the Riders Sponsorship Scheme (RSS), 111 of them had been registered the previous season and were renewing the sponsorship and 48 were new to the scheme.

A total of £63,747.07 (£59,516.07) in sponsorship was paid into the scheme during the season which equates to an average of £400.92 (£404.85) per rider. 101 of the 159 sponsored riders received £350 in sponsorship, which became the new minimum amount for the 17/18 season.
Jockey Coaching

During the period, eight evening coaching sessions were held, each led by BHA Jockey Coaches. In addition to simulator training and strength and conditioning sessions, each venue held a sports psychology and nutrition lecture. The sessions received an average of seven attendees. Feedback received showed 100% of respondents indicated they would attend another session. In addition to the evening sessions, course walks took place prior to six of the 12 sponsored PPORA Club Members Races for Novice Riders and two self-funding Yogi Breisner masterclass clinics were also arranged and well attended.

There are no set entry criteria in place for potential riders. Hunt Masters sign a declaration to confirm (but without having made enquiries) that they have received no information, nor have witnessed any incident, which causes them to conclude that the applicant has a lack of riding skill such that he/she would present an unacceptable safety risk if permitted to ride. Together with the AJA, ARO and the PRA, the PPA are in the process of submitting an application for grant funding to expand Point-to-Point Jockey Coaching as a part of the RQC application process to provide training, education and support. The proposed strategy will result in improved safety and welfare for both horse and rider, which is a fundamental aim of the Point-to-Point Authority.

Doctors Medical Conference

This year’s Medical Conference was organised by Dr Peter Johnson and held at Epsom Down Racecourse in September and was attended by over 20 Point-to-Point doctors. Amongst others, Magnus Nelson (Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance Service), Ed Stroud (IJF), Dr Sue Smith (Senior Doctor) & Dr Jerry Hill (Chief Medical Advisor BHA) gave presentations.
**New Fixture Secretaries Workshop**

For the first time, the new fixtures secretaries workshop was held at the offices in Shrivenham in September, enabling attendees to meet the whole of the PPA team and come to the PPA offices.

With a host of excellent speakers namely Dr L Whitley (Point-to-Point Doctor), Lucy Price (The BHA), Viv Buckby (Point-to-Point Racing Company), Lucy Cowen (Point-to-Point Secretary), Harriet Rochester (PR Consultant), Sarah Walters (Health and Safety), Clare Hazell & Becci Thompson, topics presented and discussed included ‘The role of the P2P Doctor’, ‘A fixture secretaries guide’, ‘Marketing your fixture’ & ‘Event Safety’, along with the usual ‘who we are’ and ‘what we do’ themes.

**H&S Workshops**

The first of two H&S Workshops took place at Leicester Racecourse in July. Sarah Walters, an independent H&S Consultant conducted the workshop with Dr Chris Rollason covering medical matters in the afternoon. This course was extremely well attended, and delegates were given much to consider in their H&S/Risk assessment functions.

Following positive feedback and further demand, a second H&S workshop was then organised in the West Country at Taunton Racecourse in September with a further 25 delegates attending, the same format was used and again proved very successful and beneficial for those in attendance.

**Stewards Seminars**

The annual autumn seminars took place for eligible stewards. All were well attended with a bumper number of delegates attending the Cheltenham day. Other seminars were held in Newcastle, Huntingdon & London and all were attended by a member of the PPA team. Presentations were made on topics including sponsorship, integrity and disciplinary matters.
BETA update

In Autumn 2016, the PPA was approached by BETA to be included in their helmet bounty scheme. Currently, professional racecourses and British Eventing participate.

The BHA/BETA Helmet Bounty Scheme aims to ensure that jockeys and riders diagnosed with concussion are able to replace hats damaged after a serious fall whilst riding at an event under BHA rules.

In exchange for the hat being sent back to BETA and anonymized access to jockey’s medical data, jockeys will be provided with a voucher valued at £80 to be redeemed at participating retailers for the purchase of a replacement jockey skull helmet. It is essential that any new helmet is fitted correctly by an accredited retailer in store.

The scheme is open to riders competing at a point to point who suffer a fall resulting in a diagnosis of concussion by the Racecourse Medical Officer (RMO).

Helmets collected through the bounty scheme will be used for purposes of research to improve the long-term safety of helmets and to provide invaluable data on the damage caused to the helmets through the variety of falls that occur in competition.

Fixture secretaries were sent out forms and pre-paid envelopes for this purpose.

Following an update meeting after the first year, which was attended by representatives from hat manufacturers, racing & point-to-point, eventing and health & safety executives, the following points were considered:

1. Number of helmets returned:
   Since November 2016, 7 hats have been received from Racing. During the current Eventing season - 29 have been returned. Of those hats returned, 69% of riders sustained head injuries and of those 31% of the helmets showed ‘no damage’.

2. Whilst there has been a huge amount of information gathered, research is limited by the lack of further information, for example: speed approaching fences, actual fall, medical information.

3. Discussion took place between the researchers and hat manufacturers as to the insertion of chips into helmets to record speed/gps/impact and this is certainly an option although there would be a cost involved.
4. Researchers requested more video evidence so that they can simulate the falls using test dummies. They also requested further access to medical records – particularly in relation to hospital notes and specifics regarding the concussion episodes.

The way forward for Point to Pointing:

- PPA will continue to support this study and work with the fixture secretaries/Senior Doctors to ensure that all helmets involved in concussive falls are noted and sent off.
- Help to supply the University with information required by using current sources – videographers and talking to jockeys/and or family members personally.
- PPA will promote this scheme using social media/notices and stands at point to points.

Regulatory

Outline of Regulatory & Instructional Changes

The following changes were approved by the PPA Board and further ratified by the BHA Board and were effective from the start of the 2016/17 season.

Club Races

To enable greater flexibility for race programmers to frame races on a card with conditions of their choosing, the regulatory amendment increased the number of club races permitted per race programme from 3 to 4.

The “60-day period”

Although referred to as ‘the 60 day period’ the actual time period before a horse actually runs in a Point-to-Point can be anything up to 71 days. For this reason, it was agreed to reduce the period to 50 days to practically reflect a waiting period of around 60 days.
Definition: “Intermediate Point-to-Point Steeple Chase”

A proposal was agreed and implemented for the 2015/16 season which allowed winners on the flat to run in Restricted Point-to-Points. For the 2016-17 season the definition of an Intermediate race was amended to ensure that previous winners from the flat that subsequently won a Restricted race were not prevented from progressing to Intermediate races.

Re-Opening of Entries

During the 2015/16 season, a small number of fixture organisers requested that their fixture’s entries deadline could be re-opened due to a very low number of entries. To give fixture organisers opportunity to increase possible runners where entries fall below a threshold number at close of entries, a minimum fixture entry threshold of 40 or fewer entries was put in place, allowing for additional entries to be received in these circumstances.

Definition: Weighing Room

The PPA requested clarity regarding access to the weighing room and changing room area. The BHA provided the following clarity to Regulation 110:

No person shall, without special leave from the Stewards be admitted to the weighing room tent or rider changing areas except the owner and rider, or other person having care of a horse engaged in the race. Any person refusing to leave shall be reported to the Stewards.

Definitions: Hunter Certificate

The MFHA removed the necessity to qualify a horse with the Hunt, several regulatory changes were made to fall in line with the change were approved by the BHA Board.
Regulation 46

Keepers are not cited in the Regulations and so are not bound by the Regulations. Regulation 46 was created to enable BHA access to all Point-to-Point yards.

Instruction 5.10 - Inspection Protocol

The 2015/16 season presented difficulties with regard to the PPSA negotiating fixture dates. A clearer protocol was agreed for the 2016-17 season as follows:

(d) Where there are one or more objections, the Area Secretary will liaise with the PPSA Chairman, who will select two additional Committee members to adjudicate the objection. Such additional Committee members to be as far as possible geographically neutral to the protagonists. Their majority decision of this group will be final.

Dual Weigh out

A Scales team raised concerns about dual weight out and requested a directive or ban. The PPSA Committee acknowledge occasional similar requests and it was agreed to highlight within the Instructions that dual weigh out should be at the Stewards discretion.

Instruction 8.3: Judge’s Box siting

To ensure Judges are sited to carry out their duties more accurately the following wording was agreed:

The Organising Committee must ensure that the Judge has an assistant judge and the judge has at least a wagon to stand on, with weather protection if possible. The wagon is to be for the sole use of the Judge and must be sited at least 12 yards (if possible 20 yards) back from the winning line.

Medical Instructional amendments

Amendments were made to outline instructions in plain English.
### Race Programming Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Minton (Chairman)</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Russell</td>
<td>BHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Hill</td>
<td>MFHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Exelby</td>
<td>PRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Bostock</td>
<td>PPSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tik Saunders</td>
<td>PPORA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Hall</td>
<td>The Jockey Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Needham</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The role of the Race Programming Committee is to make recommendations to the PPA Board in respect of race programming and framing at Point-to-Points and to provide a forum for debate on all aspects of the fixture list. The Committee collects feedback, and monitors all relevant statistics, to be able to recommend policy.

The Committee, chaired by David Minton met twice during the period, making a recommendation for Confined races to be replaced by Conditions races for the 2017-18 season.

### Regulations Re-write

During the period the PPA continued to work on a project to re-write the Point to Point Regulations, this was despite the BHA’s own re-write being delayed. Laura Clayton, a partner at solicitors Burges Salmon, Richard Wilson and Clare Hazell worked to identify Regulations which appear out of date; not current practice; incorrect or not BHA-related.
The Point to Point Racing Company (P2PRC)

During the period the P2PRC team consisted of Viv Buckby (Supervisor), Jen Graham and Sarah Pollard. Sarah Pollard left in March 2017 and was replaced by Tom Chilman.

PTPRC Board

Nick Wright (Chairman). Jo Abraham (replaced by Andrew Carter, September 2016) and Nick Craven (replaced by Nick Wilson December 2016), represent Weatherbys. Clare Hazell and Tim Curtis (replaced by Nick Sutton in May 2017) represent the Point-to-Point Authority.

Products and Services

During the 2016-17 season the PTPRC provided an entries service for 91 (originally 92 – North Ledbury abandoned before entries closed) meetings, effectively operating as Entries Secretaries for meetings, providing owners and trainers with the option of entering with via the telephone or online. All other meetings are available to enter online via pointtopointentries.co.uk, although additional entries for these must be made via the nominated Entries Secretary for the meeting. During 2016-17 64% of all entries were made online.

The PTPRC team is responsible for collating and qualifying all Point-to-Point Entries in their administrative role, supporting both the BHA and the PPSA in the day-to-day running of the sport. The PTPRC also calculate penalties where applicable (although it remains the owners’ responsibility to ensure the horse carries the correct weight). Horse information, once checked, is sent to all meetings that produce their own racecards at no cost to the meetings.

The PTPRC product range includes two books produced during the close season: Point-to-Point & Hunter Chase Results & Stats 2016-17, containing full results from the previous season along with a statistical summary; and The Point-to-Point & Hunter Chase Race Planner containing full race conditions for every Point-to-Point and Hunter Chase throughout the season.
Throughout the season the PTPRC publish the Loose Leaf Form Guide which, posted out weekly, forms the only definitive resource for Point-to-Point form, building into an unrivalled formbook covering every Point-to-Point and Hunter Chase, including comments in-running and proven ratings which make it an invaluable tool for regular racegoers, form students and those involved with producing and training horses for the sport. PTPRC also provide a weekly ratings service, using Loose Leaf ratings, sent out by email.

The National Website is also run from the Point-to-Point Racing Company Ltd. office, keeping the Point-to-Point world up to date with all the latest news and events, meeting previews and reports. They also run and maintain the online entries site for Owners/Keepers. The e-magazine, Go Pointing, is sent out free of charge weekly during the season to around 24,000 subscribers, and is an invaluable promotional tool for Point-to-Points.

In addition to these products, the PTPRC produce racecards for well over 100 Point-to-Points every year in association with Weatherbys Printing Services.

**The PPA National Awards Dinner and Dance**

The National Dinner was held in November 2016 at the Four Pillars Hotel, Cotswold Water Park to celebrate the champions of the 2015-16 season. Over 200 guests were treated to a champagne reception sponsored by Fullers Brewery, a three-course dinner, awards ceremony hosted by Luke Harvey and music supplied by the ever popular ‘Chip Shop Boys.'
Top Performers 2016-17

Lady Riders
Gina Andrews  29
Bryony Frost   16
Tabitha Worsley  14

Fullers Brewery Gentleman Riders Championship
Will Biddick  44
Alex Edwards  33
James Bowen   30

Leading Owners
Tim Underwood  18
David Brace    12
CJ Bennett     11

Connolly’s Red Mills Champion Horse of the Year
Lough Inch  8
Chosen Lucky  7
Wither or Not  6
The Foran Equine Leading Trainers’ Championship for yards with seven or fewer horses
Dean Summersby 18
Kieran Price 13
Sally Alner 12

The Foran Equine Leading Trainers’ Championship for yards with eight or more horses
Jack Barber 39
Alan Hill 29
Phil Rowley 29

Fullers Brewery Leading Male Novice Rider
James Bowen 30
Lorcan Williams 19

Fullers Brewery Leading Female Novice Rider
Lucy Mager 7
Izzie Marshall 7
Lilly Pinchin 6

The Point to Point Racing Company Leading Hunter Chase Rider Championship
Sam Davies-Thomas 9
Joe Hill 6
Alex Edwards 5
David Maxwell 5

Leading Hunter Chase Trainers
Paul Nicholls 7
Alan Hill 6
Phil Rowley 5

The Jockey Club Mares Maiden Championship
Cheltenham Mati 38pts
Flights 19pts
2016/2017 Levy Board Grant

The PPA and all involved in Point-to-Pointing are very grateful for the support received from the Levy Board. Examination of the fixture profitability levels shows how critical this support is.

A development fund was allocated towards the continuation of exposure within the Racing Post in order to continue to raise the profile of the sport on the national stage in the form of a weekly column and success boxes enabling British P2P graduates to be highlighted within results.

The following contributions for the 2016/17 period were agreed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Number of Meetings</th>
<th>Proposed Contribution per Meeting</th>
<th>HBLB contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec - Feb</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>£1,920</td>
<td>£80,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>£1,480</td>
<td>£54,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April – May - June</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>£1,150</td>
<td>£95,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Saturday</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>182</td>
<td></td>
<td>£235,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The replacement mechanism to the Levy came into force on 25 April 2017 and will capture a statutory return from all betting on British racing, irrespective of location of bookmakers.

The grant application process for 2017-18 season will remain unchanged.
General PR and Communications

During the period, the PPA increased its use of social media keeping the sport up to date with breaking news and interacting with race-goers and participants. As at June 2017 the PPA Facebook page had 4,017 (3,537) likes and 4,304 (3,806) followers on Twitter. The GoPointing Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to be a useful and popular PR tool with 3,183 (2,522) followers on Twitter and 5,203 (4,180) Facebook likes.

Customer Relationship Management Database

A new PPA cloud based database was implemented in January 2017. The database has a few aspects, the first is based around fixtures with all relevant contacts. The new database will remove a lot of manual intervention, resulting in further efficiency. A riders’ module allows for the licence application process to be brought into the database.

The database can be merged with the PPA E-Newsletter list to ensure that all contacts receive the communication.

The E-Route Newsletter is now distributed monthly; this is a digital production sent by email to a database of over 3,000. It is also posted on the National Website, Twitter and Facebook.

The Pointer Magazine

A digital edition of the Pointer Magazine was again produced in time for a PPA Media Day held in October. 750 hard copies were printed, including some for the PPORA for their members at cost price with the digital version distributed via email to approx. 25,000 racing and Point-to-Point enthusiasts including every registered Flat and National Hunt Owner. At the end of the season we also had a trial-run of a new ‘Special’ Go Pointing with 500 printed editions as well as other special news and features.
PPA Press and Media Day

This year’s press event was moved to Cheltenham, largely due to Timico coming on board as a national sponsor. It was a much larger event than in the past, likely due to the change in venue. In 2015 there were around 50 attendees, in 2016 there were 80, plus around 10 members of press from Cheltenham. Announcements from the day were picked up in The Racing Post, Horse & Hound, industry publications for Timico (e.g. The Business Desk) and Skinners (e.g. Pet Business World), Cheltenham Racecourse’s website.

Carl Evans hosted as last year’s host Luke Harvey was unavailable due to ITV commitments and presentations from all sponsors and the Barbury International committee lasted around an hour.

GoPointing on Tour

Lambourn Open-Day was an even more successful day than last year with well over 150 people picking up a fixture card as well as freebies – pens and car stickers. The Prize Draw created 54 new sign-ups to Go Pointing. Go Pointing ‘On-Tour’ expanded during the period and also visited Wincanton and Fontwell during race meetings.
**Data Sharing Seminars**

Following two seminars held by the PPA to promote the benefits of e-ticketing and the collection of customers’ and participants’ information, a letter was sent to all fixture and area secretaries highlighting that the PPA would like to use the combined data from all fixtures for the benefit of the entire sport - in order to attract and retain valuable national sponsorship. Secretaries were asked to complete and return a data sharing agreement enabling the PPA to work on increasing revenue for the sport on a National level while ensuring they are not lost elsewhere.

**Racing to School Education Days**

The education and community engagement charity Racing to School (formerly known as BHEST) has been running unique activity learning days nationwide for the past 16 years. The charity uses the assets and backdrop of racing to provide over 10,000 young people with a valuable educational experience, providing 70% of these young people with their first introduction to the sport. The Programmes have attracted very positive feedback from the pupils, teachers and carers, and there is always a waiting list of schools that wish to participate.

The charity works with UK racecourses, trainers’ yards and studs to create these structured days and has for many years worked with The Pony Club. Through the new Riders’ Programme, the charity also engages with equine college students and offers an insight into the career opportunities within the sport.

It was agreed to work with Racing to School to stage a first Point-to-Point event as a good opportunity to connect the sport more with the local community and leverage PR opportunities.

Larkhill’s fixture on April 22nd 2017 was identified as a good venue, and it was a shame the fixture was abandoned close to the day. It is hoped the project can get underway during the 2017/18 season.

The Point-to-Point fixture list was once again published within the IJF desk and pocket diary.

The Racing Post Friday Column was again published weekly and was placed very prominently within the paper. Guest column features included Victoria Pendleton, Philip Hobbs and Kat Fidler (Racing Post)
National Sponsors 2016/17

We welcomed two new sponsors on board – **Timico** and **Skinner’s Pet Foods**.

**Timico** Cheltenham Gold Cup-sponsor **Timico** supported a valuable nationwide series of 14 mixed open races, which were all run for the maximum total prize fund of £1,000, the series culminated in a £25,000 final at Cheltenham’s evening hunters’ chase meeting on Friday 5th May.

**Skinners Pet Foods** stepped up to fill the gap left by AGA, sponsoring the ladies open race series. They supported 20 races across the season, concluding with a hunters’ chase final at Stratford Racecourse on 9th June.

Celebrating their 10th year of involvement, **Connolly’s RED MILLS** once again sponsored the 14 race intermediate series, in the lead up to the prestigious hunters’ chase final at Cheltenham on 5th May. Connolly’s RED Mills continued to support the national championships for the leading horse, and, under their supplement brand **Foran Equine**, the leading trainer titles.

**Subaru** sponsored 30 national qualifiers for its final at Stratford Racecourse on 9th June and once again backed the points-based ‘Subaru Restricted Championship’, which ran up to the final - the owner of the winning horse received the loan of a Subaru Forester for a year.

In the 2016/17 season, **The Thoroughbred Breeders Association** (TBA) supported a bonus scheme for mares running in the point-to-point bumpers under rules and we welcomed back **Goffs UK** who sponsored those races at Aintree and Exeter.

**The Jockey Club** were welcomed back as a sponsor of the Mares Maiden Series, including the Champion Novice Mare award. Mares accumulated points once they had been placed in one of 18 sponsored qualifiers. The owner of the winning mare was awarded £500 at the National Awards Dinner.

**Dodson & Horrell**’s patronage is synonymous with pointing and the company continued their partnership with the PPORA through their Novice Riders’ Series. The 2016’17 season saw their 30th consecutive year of involvement with the sport.
The Anglo-Irish Challenge

The fifth running of the Anglo-Irish Challenge was held at Kingston Blount, in Oxfordshire on Friday May 26th 2017. Four races saw the cream of the British jockeys take on their Irish counterparts.

**Great Britain** (men): Will Biddick, Evan David, John Dawson, Alex Edwards

**Great Britain** (ladies): Gina Andrews, Bryony Frost, Claire Hardwick, Tabitha Worsley

**Ireland** (men): Jamie Codd, Noel McParlan, Derek O’Connor, Barry O’Neill


The four events comprised of a Conditions Race and a Maiden for the men and an Intermediate and a Ladies Open for the female riders.

Ireland were celebrating after finally breaking their duck with an emphatic victory over Great Britain. Such was the dominance of the visiting riders that they sealed a first win in the annual jockeys’ competition after just three of the four races - reeling off a quickfire treble. For good measure they went on to land the fourth race to complete a clean sweep and a resounding 81-43 triumph on points to end Britain’s four-year winning streak.

Congratulations to all team members for making the event a great success and a huge thank you to the Organising Committee who worked so hard prior to the event and on the day.

**PPA Accountancy**

Tim Brown of Grosvenor House Grosvenor House Practice Ltd continued as the PPA’s accountant/auditor.

The PPA is grateful that it can rely upon such professional advice.

**Statutory Report & Accounts**

The Statutory Report and Accounts for the year ended June 2017 and Balance Sheet at that date are set out on the remaining pages of this Report.
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 2017
for
THE POINT-TO-POINT AUTHORITY LIMITED

Grosvenor House Practice Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Avening
Priory Park
London Road
TETBURY
Gloucestershire
GL8 8HZ
THE POINT-TO-POINT AUTHORITY LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Sheet</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE POINT-TO-POINT AUTHORITY LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

Company Information
for the Year Ended 30 June 2017

DIRECTORS: R G Russell
N Sutton
S Howlett
J Barber
A Hill
R H Killen

SECRETARY: Mrs C Hazell

REGISTERED OFFICE: 30A Shrivenham Hundred Business Park
Majors Road
Watchfield
Swindon
SN6 8TZ

REGISTERED NUMBER: 06734470 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS: Grosvenor House Practice Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Avening
Priory Park
London Road
TETBURY
Gloucestershire
GL8 8HZ
### Balance Sheet
30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>30.6.17</th>
<th>30.6.16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>£56,519</td>
<td>£55,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>337,562</td>
<td>294,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CREDITORS</strong></td>
<td>(138,766)</td>
<td>(113,405)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>198,796</td>
<td>180,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>255,315</td>
<td>235,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESERVES</strong></td>
<td>255,315</td>
<td>235,799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2017.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:
(a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 3 November 2017 and were signed on its behalf by:

\[Signature\]

N Sutton - Director