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## PRESS RELEASE

# Racing Welfare to appoint new Chief Executive

Racing Welfare, the charity that looks after racing's staff, has today announced that it will begin a search for a new Chief Executive after Lesley Graham, who has led the charity since January 2013, decided to stand down.

Under Lesley Graham's leadership, initiatives included the launch of a major review of Racing Welfare's future direction, drawing on opinions from all sectors within the racing industry. This culminated in a strategy document, approved last year by the Trustees. It includes a commitment to establishing a volunteer network and increasing accessibility to Racing Welfare's services across all geographical regions.

Since 2013, Racing Welfare has raised its profile and increased its fundraising income substantially. The recent announcement of its appointment as Charity Partner to the Racehorse Owners Association for 2015 will help to secure this trend.

Chairman of Racing Welfare, Joey Newton, said *"The Trustees are extremely grateful to Lesley for the tremendous energy and effort she has put into leading Racing Welfare. In my experience, there are very few Chief Executives willing to cycle 1,400 km in 12 days to raise funds and profile for their organisation".* He continued, *"in particular, Lesley has gone to great lengths to identify the needs and expectations of the racing industry which form the basis of our new strategy."*

The charity will now launch a recruitment process to appoint a new Chief Executive.

Lesley Graham commented *"I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years at Racing Welfare and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support I have had from a fantastic team of staff. I feel that I have done the job required of me when appointed and this charity can now fulfil the potential that its beneficiaries and the racing industry deserve. I first went racing when I was three years old and have been involved in many aspects ever since. I can honestly say that my role at Racing Welfare has given me the greatest rewards".*

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Press contact:

Jan Wade (07976 827999; [janwade@btopenworld.com](mailto:janwade@btopenworld.com))

Editors' notes:

Racing Welfare is a UK-wide charity whose headquarters are in Newmarket. It serves the needs of racing personnel from the beginning of their careers through to retirement. The wide range of help provided includes provision of affordable housing, mentoring schemes for young workers, advice for those coping with illness and disabilities; through to specialist counselling and support at times of need or personal crisis.