



Issued: 28th September, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

Racing's Big Jump raises over £9,300 for Racing Welfare in Tandem Skydive

Eleven fearless participants with a head for heights took part in an event dubbed 'Racing's Big Jump' early on Sunday morning at Beccles Airfield in Suffolk.

The fundraising effort made by all of the team members has been impressive with almost £10,000 raised between them. The instigator of the challenge was Newmarket Racecourse Manager **Amy Starkey**. She initially hoped to be able to parachute into the racecourse itself on Racing Welfare's charity raceday in August. Unfortunately, however, this was not possible for safety reasons, but nevertheless a brave team was formed for Racing's Big Jump.

The other participants included racehorse trainer **James Given**; daughter of Newmarket trainer, **Rosie Margaron**; Chief Executive of the National Association of Stable Staff **George McGrath**; point to point rider and Jockey Club employee **Lucy Saunders**; Jockey Club employee **Jaime Wallace**; four representatives from Newmarket Racecourse; **Lucinda McClure**, **Molly Smith**, **Emma Wood** and **Sally Butterworth**; and **Brian Santos** who bravely stood in at the last minute when Thomas Stoddart was unable to do the jump.

After landing from her 10,000ft drop, an exhilarated Amy Starkey said, "It was just brilliant, I absolutely loved it. If they would let me do it again I'd be straight back on the plane! I wanted to raise money for Racing Welfare because it's a really worthwhile cause, it's the Jockey Club's own charity and it felt like the right time to do something crazy for their benefit"

All participants are still accepting donations. To donate, please visit www.racingwelfare.co.uk for links to all individual donation pages.

Hi-res photographs are available from this event.

Press contact: Rachel Cawley (07894 850849; rcawley@racingwelfare.co.uk)

Notes for Editors:

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.