

7 August, 2023

## **DUAL completes acquisition of David Ashby Underwriting, enhancing capabilities in the equestrian sector**

DUAL today announced the acquisition of David Ashby Underwriting Limited (“DAU”), a leading MGA specialising in bloodstock and High Value Sports Horse insurance. This acquisition cements DUAL as a leader in the bloodstock underwriting arena, providing insurance solutions across multiple territories.

DAU was formed in 2020 following David Ashby’s acquisition of Amlin’s bloodstock and livestock book, supported by Blunt Palmer Brown Ventures (“BPB”). It provides cover in Thoroughbred bloodstock, commercial breeding, rearing and racing, and High Value Sports Horses. DAU’s team of ten, including eight underwriters, will join DUAL with immediate effect.

David Howden, CEO, Howden, said: “Joining with David and his expert team deepens our connection to the equestrian world, and makes us a true differentiator in this exciting market. DUAL now provides world-class expertise in all the major equine markets, and we will continue to leverage our expertise to provide more choice and a fresh alternative for clients.”

Richard Clapham, CEO, DUAL Group, said: “David Ashby has a long-standing reputation for excellence and they bring a real passion for the equestrian sector. We are delighted to welcome them to DUAL. This positions DUAL as one of the London Market’s leading bloodstock underwriters, and we look forward to seeing David build on Ashby’s existing business, as well as identifying new opportunities to grow.”

David Ashby added: “We are excited to join DUAL. Not only are they one of the largest and most diverse MGAs in the world, they also share our focus on excellence in underwriting. We did not choose our future home lightly and I am looking forward to working with Richard and the DUAL team.”

Jonathan Palmer Brown of BPB said: “The Board is very grateful for David and his team’s hard work and we wish them all the best in their future at DUAL. We have enjoyed working together and are happy they are joining a firm with such strong commitment to Bloodstock “

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### Notes to editors

## About DUAL

DUAL, the specialist underwriting arm of Howden Group Holdings, is driven by a mission to be the MGA of choice for brokers, clients and carriers, through provision of deep underwriting expertise and global distribution. DUAL Group is one of the world’s largest international underwriting agencies with US\$3.2bn of GWP.

DUAL’s investment in data and technology enables it to deliver over 70 products and services with speed and efficiency to 11,000 broker partners working with over 70 carrier partners worldwide.

Established in 1998, today DUAL has over 1,300 people in 20 countries across the Americas, Europe and Asia Pacific, and is one of Lloyd’s’ largest international coverholders. DUAL Europe operates from 15 locations in 11 countries.

## About Howden

Howden is a leading global insurance group with employee ownership at its heart. Founded in 1994, it operates in 50 countries across Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, the USA, Australia and New Zealand, employing 14,500 people and handling \$30bn of premium on behalf of clients.

David Howden is president of the Cornbury House Horse Trials, and has invested in British Eventing through the Howden Way, which encompasses a training programme for young riders of all levels along with a young horse talent pathway programme. Howden's partnership with Ascot has presented an opportunity to invest in the equestrian industry, and the Group's specialist equine division across broking and underwriting is well-established in the racing world, delivering insurance products to equestrian associations, racecourses, racehorse trainers, stud farms, riding schools and horse owners.

### Press contact

#### PRESS CONTACTS

FTI Consulting:

Izzy Ashe

+44 (0)798 924 1053

[howdengroup@fticonsulting.com](mailto:howdengroup@fticonsulting.com)

Howden Group:

Helen Smith

07857 671317

[helen.smith@howdengrp.com](mailto:helen.smith@howdengrp.com)