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## **Jackie Potts wins BEF Groom Award 2006**

**14th January 2007**

The 2006 Kuster BEF Groom Award has been awarded to Jackie Potts, groom for event rider William Fox-Pitt.

The top three grooms were:

**1<sup>st</sup>** - Jackie Potts, groom to event rider William Fox-Pitt

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - Lynne Parkinson - Yard Supervisor for the (International League for the Protection of Horses) ILPH in Norfolk

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - Catherine Owen - groom for world Champion event rider Zara Phillips.

Winner Jackie Potts is head girl to William Fox-Pitt and has been since 1993. In his nomination of Jackie, William says "Jackie and I have enjoyed 14 seasons eventing together - there have been the most amazing highs and lows but through them all she has kept her feet firmly on the ground and her chin up. She is a huge support to me, always loyal and it is a privilege to have worked with someone so dedicated and professional. She is the ultimate team player whether at home, on the yard or at a championship where she flourishes."

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the BEF comments, "Jackie Potts is a deserving winner of this award, it is a well earned recognition of the continuing hard work she puts in and the contribution she has made to William's success. There was little to choose between the top three, congratulations Jackie on your success."

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## **Windsor to host European Championships in 2009**

**13th February 2007**

**The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the governing body of equestrian sport, has announced that Windsor has been selected to host the European Jumping and Dressage Championships in the Royal Windsor Horse Show grounds in 2009.**

This is the first senior combined continental championships ever to be held and will bring together two of the three equestrian Olympic disciplines, three years before London 2012. It is expected that the world's top names will appear in both disciplines and the event will be a major celebration of horsesport.

This means that two major equestrian events will take place in the private grounds of Windsor Castle in 2009. The Royal Windsor Horse Show will occupy its normal dates in May and the European Jumping and Dressage Championships will be scheduled for late summer.

Already major backing has been found for the event, with a commitment by UK Sport to provide the Championships with substantial financial support. It forms part of UK Sport's strategy as the lead partner in co-ordinating the UK's efforts to bid for and stage world class sporting events on home soil.

John Scott, UK Sport's International Director, said: "We are delighted that this country was selected and that we are able to support this event with up to £948,000 from our National Lottery funded World Class Events Programme. We have a fantastic opportunity to once again demonstrate to a large international sporting community that Britain is the place for top equestrian sport and that we are committed to developing horsesport's stars of tomorrow."

The Hpower Group, which organises Royal Windsor and Olympia, The London International Horse Show, will run the Championships. Simon Brooks-Ward, managing director, said:" This is a massive boost for equestrian sport in the UK. For Windsor it also provides an injection of world class horsesport that we intend to be a feature of Royal Windsor Horse Show for many years to come."

The Championships have the full support of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF), who initiated the plan for both Jumping and Dressage to combine together in one venue.

Hugh Thomas, BEF president, said: "We are thrilled that both disciplines will be such a showcase in the unique sporting setting of Windsor Castle. Now starts the long and hard road to make this the best Championships this country has ever seen. I am confident that with UK Sport behind us, HPower organising the event and the BEF, with the British Show Jumping Association (BSJA) and British Dressage (BD), providing huge support, we will provide the platform for medal winning opportunities." The other bid city was Copenhagen.

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## **London 2012 Legacy recommendations revealed**

### **26th March 2007**

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF), the national governing body of Olympic horse sports, revealed key recommendations which will form the basis of the 2012 Equestrian Legacy Plan at the National Equine Forum on 22nd March 2007. The BEF was one of the first national governing bodies to look at how the Olympic and Paralympic Games could be used to develop long term benefit for the UK and London in particular. The Legacy for London Advisory Group, headed by Barbara Cassani, was set up in order to investigate ways of significantly increasing the level of equestrian activity in London as a result of hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The group took as its starting point Lord Coe's promise "to stage an inspirational Games that captures the imagination of young people around the world and leaves a lasting legacy". As a result the equestrian legacy recommendations concentrate on the possibilities for bringing a wide range of equestrian activities within the reach of Londoners, particularly children.

The key recommendations are:

- Set up new riding facilities in London
- Bring together all equestrian related activity via a "London Horse Network"
- Establish a schools programme for children in London
- Establish the "London Festival of the Horse"
- Roll out the London initiatives to the rest of the UK.

The BEF will appoint an equestrian legacy group which will be responsible for drawing up and implementing a 5 year plan based on these recommendations. The

group's members will represent a wide range of equestrian interests. It is expected that the group will launch the implementation plan within the next two months.

In order to turn these recommendations into reality the legacy group will be asking for support from all sectors of the horse world. Any comments and suggestions should be directed to [info@bef.co.uk](mailto:info@bef.co.uk).

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## **William Whitaker Dominates British Young Riders U23 Championship at the NEC**

**17th April 2007**

William Whitaker dominated The BEF World Class Start & Potential U23 Championship at the British Open Show Jumping Championships on Saturday 14th April 2007, held for the first time at The NEC, Birmingham.

William (17), riding Insul Tech Leonardo 590, was one of the seven clears in the first round and won the jump off with another clear round in a time of 45.10 seconds, Amanda Derbyshire took the runner up spot, with Anthony Condon taking third place. Besides training vouchers and prize money on offer, there was also a John Whitaker Bridle, supplied by David Dyer of Frogpool Manor as the prize for the 'Style and Performance' award, also won by William Whitaker.

Vikki Underwood, World Class Start & Potential Manager said, "We have again been delighted with the interest that the British Young Riders U23 Championship has generated among the best young show jumping riders in Great Britain. The quality and standard of riding over these two days has been very high, with William proving exceptional. 'Training for Excellence' is the philosophy of the World Class Start & Potential Programme and we hope with training vouchers as prizes it will encourage and support these talented young riders in developing their careers."

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## **Great Britain's Lee Pearson to head new Athletes' Committee**

**17th April 2007**

Lee Pearson, winner of 6 gold Paralympic medals for Great Britain, will be the first chairman of the FEI's newly formed Athletes' Committee. The Athletes' Committee is a consultative body of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) and will give athletes an official voice at the FEI for the first time. The committee has been formed as part of the FEI's determination to modernise and to ensure the voice of its athletes are heard. It will comprise 8 members, to include one from each of the world equestrian disciplines.

The first committee will comprise:

- Para Equestrian Lee Pearson (GBR) Chair
- Dressage Isabel Werth (GER)
- Show Jumping Cayetano Martinez de Irujo (ESP)
- Eventing Andrew Hoy (AUS)
- Driving Barry Capstick (IRL)
- Reining Jeannette Krahenbuhl (SUI)
- Vaulting Megan Benjamin (USA)

- Endurance Mercedes Tapia (ARG)

The formation of an Athletes' Committee was initiated by FEI President, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein in response to requests from athletes at the World Equestrian Games in 2006. Each National Federation was asked to put forward candidates from which the President nominated 8 candidates and proposed its Chair. The Committee, its members and Chair were ratified at the FEI General Assembly on 15<sup>th</sup> April. The Committee will serve until the Alltech FEI world equestrian games in 2010 when the next Committee will be elected.

Hugh Thomas, Chairman of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) said "We are delighted that our candidate has been chosen to head up this new international Committee. Lee is one of the most successful riders in the world and this choice of Chair reflects the importance that the FEI attaches to Paralympic sport"

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## **British Squad Announced for World Para Dressage Championships**

**6th June 2007**

The British Dressage selectors (Jane Goldsmith, Juliet Seal, Michel Assouline) and the World Class Performance Manager (David Hunter) have announced the riders who will bid to retain the World Championship title at the World Para Dressage Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, 20 - 22 July 2007.

They are: -

### **Grade 1a**

Sophie Christiansen (Berkshire)  
Anne Dunham (Wiltshire)

### **Grade 1b**

Ricky Balshaw (Shropshire)  
Lee Pearson (Staffordshire)

### **Grade II**

Felicity Coulthard (Lancashire)  
Nicola Tustain (Denbighshire)

### **Grade III**

Debbie Criddle (Somerset)  
Simon Laurens (Channel Isles)

### **Grade IV**

Michelle Crunkhorn (Nottinghamshire)  
Denise Shawns (West Lothian)

The ten riders listed above will compete as individuals for Great Britain. In addition four of the riders will be named as the British team. The team must comprise at least one grade 1a or 1b rider.

These ten places represent the full allocation for the host nation; however there are additional places available for riders who wish to compete in order to gain a qualification for the Beijing Paralympic Games 2008.

Great Britain has selected five further riders to take part in the World Championships on this basis. These riders will not be eligible for World Championship medals. They are: -

Grade 1a - Rory Williams (Middlesex)  
Grade 1b - Lucy Barclay (Lincolnshire)  
Grade II - Natasha Baker (Middlesex)  
Grade III - Toby Pawson (Surrey)  
Grade IV - Sophie Wells (Nottinghamshire)

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## **World Class Programme Plans for Good Luck Beijing - 10th Anniversary Cup**

### **8th June 2007**

Great Britain will be taking 3 riders and horses to the Good Luck Beijing - 10th Anniversary Cup CCI2\*, taking place in August this year, in preparation for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is part of a series of 42 sporting events taking place between July 2007 and July 2008. The events are all themed 'Good Luck Beijing' and cover the whole range of Olympic sports.

The riders and horses provisionally selected to go are:

- Amanda Ratcliffe - Teveri, age 14, owned by Rider
- Amy Young - Highville, age 12, owned by Anne Marie Young
- Caroline Moore - Don Giovanni II, age 15, owned by Rider

This event provides the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) with the opportunity to test all their procedures ahead of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2008. This is an essential part of the build up for BOCOG but also for the British Equestrian Team.

The event is run as a CCI2\* but is a vital part of preparations for the 3 Olympic disciplines and 1 Paralympic discipline. The British Equestrian Team will be looking to rehearse and finalise a number of training and preparation protocols as well as logistical plans, including preparation before, during and after transportation of the horses.

Accompanying the three horses will be representatives for all of the Olympic and Paralympic Disciplines, including Team Managers, coaches, riders and grooms. The British Equestrian Team's logistical planning, including taking three riders and horses to the event, is being organised and funded by the Equestrian World Class Programme. Performance Director and Chef de Mission for the British Equestrian Team, Will Connell, said, "This event will provide us with vital information that will assist us in optimising our plans for Hong Kong in 2008. The horses will arrive 10 days before the competition, exactly as they will do for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, allowing us to practice, in detail, the processes we hope to adopt in 2008. I'm very grateful to both the riders and the owners of the horses who will travel to Hong Kong as their role is of great importance to this overall process."

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