
Sport Taster Day for Children from London 2012 Host Boroughs

3rd August 2007

Last week many children from London 2012 host boroughs had their first ever experience of horse riding as a variety of different sports came to Greenwich Park. Greenwich Council hosted a free sporting festival for 11 - 19 year olds to mark 5 years to the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The festival was also held to kick start a summer programme of sport in the area where it is hoped that young people in Greenwich will be able to access a wider range of sporting activities than ever before. The day allowed youngsters to have a go at a number of different sports including football, fencing, cycling, javelin throwing, rowing, tennis, volleyball, horse riding and much more.

The horse riding section was very popular attracting long queues of children, many of whom had never sat on a pony before. Mudchute equestrian centre kindly supplied three very well behaved and beautifully turned out ponies so that as many children as possible had the opportunity to ride. Other equestrian activities included labelling parts of the horse on a life size model and a selection of quizzes. The youngsters were rewarded with equestrian themed goodies to take away, with the aim of encouraging their involvement with horses and ponies to continue. The educational activities were met with nearly as much excitement as the ponies themselves with all the participants showing a keen willingness to learn more about horses and ponies. This kind of event is hopefully the first of a variety of similar activities which will form a part of the sporting legacy the London 2012 Olympic Games will leave for Britain's youth. Each and every sport at the event was filled with children all afternoon and hopefully this will trigger many of these youngsters into long term participation. This event taking place in Greenwich Park is also of particular importance to equestrian sport as it will be the home of the equestrian events at the 2012 Games.

Special thanks go to Greenwich Council for organising the overall event but also to the British Horse Society London Committee, Mudchute Equestrian Centre and Frogpool Manor tack Shop who all contributed to making the equestrian part of the event a success.

BEF says yes to NED

18th August 2007

Over the last three months a working group of BEF Board directors has undertaken a rigorous assessment of the challenges and risks associated with taking the lead to complete and launch NED Online.

On 15th August the Board agreed that BEF should accept the leadership role. DEFRA, both at ministerial and official levels, has been very supportive of the NED development and BEF will now work with DEFRA to finalise the contractual relationships. Once this has been done BEF will establish an independent company, NED Ltd, in BEF's ownership and will recruit and appoint volunteer directors who will oversee the operation of the company.

NED Online will be launched initially to a Limited User Group to fully test its capacity before a public launch date is decided.

Details: janrogersequine@aol.com

Show Jumpers win European Bronze medal and Olympic Qualification

21st August 2007

Great Britain has secured their place at the 2008 Olympic Games, taking the Bronze medal at the European Show Jumping Championships in Mannheim, Germany. After a shaky start to today's second round, performances improved throughout the afternoon, bringing a medal winning position and Olympic qualification closer and closer.

With twenty one year old Ellen Whitaker, one of the youngest riders at this year's Championship's, producing a phenomenal performance by jumping clear with one time fault everyone was on the edge of their seats watching the competition unfold before them. Taking the role of anchorman, as only John Whitaker can, he entered the ring focused calmly on the job ahead.

The tremendous relationship John has built with Rebecca Stones' Peppermill had never been more evident than it was this afternoon with a calm, calculated and precise way that they executed a foot perfect round, securing the Bronze medal for Great Britain and qualification for the 2008 Hong Kong Olympic Games. The remaining two qualification places went to Sweden and Norway.

An emotional Team Manager, Derek Ricketts said: "Its been a very stressful day but our plans have paid off, we are coming away with not only Olympic qualification but also a Bronze medal. This is a fantastic achievement for Great Britain and proves that the strategic approach we have taken to performance this year has paid dividends".

World Class Performance Director, Will Connell said: "Great Britain is an extremely solid team. It has been a fantastic atmosphere in Mannheim all week and this result just proves how successful we are as a nation in this sport".

Lead Body Launches for Performance Sport Horses and Ponies

23rd August 2007

The Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales calls for the introduction of Lead Bodies to "assist in the improvement of our horses and ponies". A Lead Body has been identified for each sector of the industry and the organisation facilitating the Lead Body process for the sport horse and pony sector is the BEF's British Breeding.

The new organisation for this sector will be called the Lead Body for Performance Sport Horses and Ponies (PSHP) and will soon be inviting members to join in support of its aims to work collectively with stud books, competition disciplines and other relevant non studbook organisations to offer inspired direction in the development of the British breeding industry.

Details: janrogersequine@aol.com

Futurity Young Horse Evaluations reach new heights

1st September 2007

Reaching its first century, with over 100 horses enrolled at the final regional evaluation of 2007, the Baileys Horse Feeds/British Breeding Futurity Young Horse Evaluations series has come of age. What's more, with some all-time top scores being achieved this year, British breeding has reached new heights.

With 100 horses enrolled in 2005, 200 horses in 2006 and 320 in total this year, the Futurity's process of evaluating young performance sport horses and ponies from foals to four years to identify whether these equine athletes have the talent to excel and are likely to be able to withstand the rigours of modern competition, is becoming a household name. Says the British Equestrian Federation (BEF's) Head of Equine Development Jan Rogers, "facilitating comparability between evaluations and making their objectives clearer is part of the Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales, so these figures are encouraging and indicate that we are on the right lines in terms of encouraging participation and informing breeders".

The Futurity seeks to identify potential elite athletes as well as giving all breeders an objective assessment of their youngstock. Obtaining a first premium (over 80%) is an accolade, but a second premium (75% - 79%) is also very good and may mean that the horses being bred will make very desirable performance sport horses needed where the bulk of the market lies - the growing leisure sector.

Adds Jan, "we have had a good deal of feedback this year, both positive and otherwise and every point made has value and will be used to improve the series over the coming years. The Futurity is part of the Strategy, it's here for the long term and we need to get it right".

The introduction of the veterinary section, assessed by equine vet Jane Nixon, has enabled many potential performance inhibiting and management issues such as epiphysitis and foot imbalance, to be identified early so that they can be rectified. Says Jane "investment in the production of a top class performance sport horse is not inconsiderable and if breeders and producers can learn from these evaluations, then we are making a contribution to the advancement of the British breeding industry".

Overall seasons' winners will be presented with their awards by Jan Buchan from Baileys Horse Feeds at the Breeders' Dinner on 12 January 2008 and the top scorers in each age group are:

Top scoring foal was The Grange show jumping foal Cquins Revenge (AES) with a score of 9.24. A bay filly by Zarlequin (AES) out of Connorcourt's Revenge (AES) by Ramon (AES), she is owned and was bred by Rachael and Lesley Aitken to be their own competition horse. Mother and daughter team are "absolutely thrilled" with their success. "We bred this filly for Rachael to compete. The sire, Zarlequin, is a retired Grade A showjumper, now 18 years old and a family pet, so he has proven himself which is an important thing to look for in a breeding programme".

High scoring yearling was Lucky for Some (AES), a chestnut filly presented at The Grange in Devon. But it wasn't just luck that took owner breeder Sonia Gilmore's chestnut showjumping filly by Corravale (Holst) to the podium with a 9 for her athleticism. Out of Pompidoe (KWPN) by Colino (Holst), a thrilled Sonia Gilmore states "I'm chuffed to bits! I bred her from my proven jumping mare and she was a top foal last year so I'm delighted with her consistency with a completely different set of evaluators."

The first ever '10' was scored for type at this season's first evaluation at Arena UK by the two year old dressage horse Furst Opera by Furst Heinrich (Westf) out of a Weltregent (Hann) mare, owned and bred in Rutland by Georgina Brett for her newly-formed Gemini Stud. Furst Opera scored over 9 in every other section giving an overall average score of 9.3.

Says Georgina Brett "All the team here at Gemini Stud were utterly thrilled to achieve the first Futurity perfect ten for our future dressage stallion Furst Opera. We were absolutely moved to tears". When asked how the Futurity would help underpin her breeding programme, Georgina stated "the Futurity has given all of us the confidence and support to take a long term view of our British and continental breeding programmes. We will continue to use its objective feedback as a firm foundation for the future improvement and success of our lines. Whilst the European countries have a strong foothold on the dressage market, I feel more certain than ever, after today, that we can breed world class dressage horses in the UK and in contrast to this, I believe that Britain already holds the world market for event horse breeding, but, it is ours to lose".

Top scoring three year old with overall season's best score of 9.5 was show jumper Zubin R (KWPN) a bay colt by Lupicor (KWPN) out of Fabionne (KWPN) by Pion (KWPN), bred by Sheri Tozer Robb at River Stud in Callington and owned by Matthew Zaccia. Obtaining a staggering '10' for athleticism, Zubin R captivated evaluators and audience alike with his ability. "He is a great young horse" enthused evaluator Mark Shaw "he has tremendous talent and, with careful production, will make a top class performance horse". Breeder Sheri Tozer Robb said "I didn't hear any clapping or cheering, I was so intent on listening to what the evaluators had to say because that is what I take home with me to improve my breeding programme". Owner Matthew Zaccia was full of praise for his young horse "I have high hopes for him" he said "and this recognition has given us all a boost".

The top score for a four year old of 8.64 was secured in South Wales by handsome bay gelding Puck's Glen by Pro-Set (KWPN) out of Indra (KWPN) by Beaujolais (KWPN). Owned by Sean Daly and bred by Futurity Entries Secretary Edith Rutherford, 'Beau' impressed the evaluators with his honest attitude and rhythmic approach to fences. "I really can't believe it" said Edith "I work very hard to ensure that the horses I breed are the very best they can be, you try to make the right crosses, but you never really expect to do well. When you do it's a real treat!" Says the British Equestrian Federation's Director of Equine Development Graham Suggett "alongside the very good work being carried out by the new Lead Body for Performance Sport Horses and Ponies (PSHP), I am delighted to see that the Futurity goes from strength to strength. It fulfils several Strategic functions from identifying potential elite Equine Pathway horses to giving breeders an assessment of performance potential, provided by up to five different evaluators in some locations. Breeders can then go home and take an objective look at what they are producing to see if it can be improved upon. None of us know it all, after nearly fifty years in the business I am sure I don't!" Adds Graham "through all of the BEF's programmes we aim to continue to improve the quality of our British sport horses and

ponies and help to promote them such that we can reinvigorate the British breeding industry and make it more buoyant and financially viable. We welcome everyone's feedback in our continual improvement of the way this scheme is run".

For further information about the Futurity Young Horse Evaluations see [here](#).

British Dressage Team qualify for 2008 Olympic Games

3rd September 2007

Britain has qualified for next year's Olympic Games in Beijing after finishing fifth at the European Championships in Turin, Italy, 30 August-2 September.

Laura Bechtolsheimer achieved Britain's highest score. The youngest team member at only 22 skilfully rode the exuberant Mistral Hojris into 13th place with 69.583%. Emma Hindle and Lancet II gave a strong performance, but made a costly mistake in the one-time changes, which put them in 17th place on 68.042%. Yesterday, championship team debutantes Anna Ross-Davies and Liebling II scored a solid 67.41% for 19th while Fiona Bigwood and Mr G De Lully had an uncharacteristically low score of 65.167%, which put them 29th.

Chef d'equipe David Trott said: "It's great that we've qualified for Beijing. At times we were actually close to winning the bronze medal - it was all nail-biting. All credit to Silvia Ikle, who was the last Swiss rider to go. She pulled it out of the bag and boosted the Swiss team to fourth [by 0.2%]."

Eventers make History with 7th European Title

16th September 2007

The riders from Great Britain have today made history at Pratoni del Vivaro in Italy by securing their seventh consecutive Team Gold and also helped us to a clean sweep of European team medals this year - Pony, Junior, Young Rider and Senior. An individual silver from Mary King and Call Again Cavalier also brings the 2007 medal haul to ten medals.

The team competition was dominated in the end by Britain - securing gold by over 66 penalties. 27 faults were added to our cross country score of 119.0 when Daisy lowered two rails with Spring Along. She felt she was almost too controlled during her round and would have been better to push along as it suits the horse better but eight faults looked enough to take away any chance of an individual medal but it was a counting score secured.

Next, and lying fourth, were Mary King and Cav and they jumped an immaculate clear - one of very few in the day - to pile the pressure on the top three. The Bettina Hoy cantered in as a German individual with Ringwood Cockatoo. They clouted fence nine to add four - dropping her down a place and promoting Mary to Bronze. It was then Zara's turn. Toytown had been warming up well outside and he started well but then they simply missed their stride at fence nine and the horse had no alternative but to stop, clattering through the poles in the process. The fence was rebuilt and he was obviously un-nerved so had the fence down. They also hit fence 11b so it was a total of 12 jumping plus nine time faults for a total of 19 - lowering

them to sixth place and the European Individual title was no longer theirs. This did further promote her team-mate to Silver though.

So, could Nicolas Touzaint regain his title he handed over to Zara? Of course! The young Frenchman was certainly the class act of the week with Galan de Sauvagere - adding nothing to their dressage of 29.4 - the only combination inside the time on the cross country and so the only rider to complete on their dressage score - finishing nearly 12 penalties clear of Mary - deserving winners of the European Individual title. Earlier Oliver Townend jumped a great round with Flint Curtis for just one down to leave them in 12th place overall but more importantly, a Gold Medal round his neck on his team debut. Rodney Powell was unlucky to have two down with Langarth Darcy as he looked fresh after Saturday's extreme effort for a final 40th place while Georgie Davies and Fachoudette lowered a single fence for 28th position - this must be a combination to watch for the future.

In the team competition, the loss of Germany from the top ranks meant that France took the Silver and Italy the bronze.

Individual

Gold Nicolas Touzaint (FRA) Gala de Sauvagere 29.4

Silver Mary King (GBR) Call Again Cavalier 41.3

Bronze Bettina Hoy (GER) Ringwood Cockatoo 42.3

British

6th Zara Phillips Toytown 51.6

7th Daisy Dick Spring Along 53.1

12th Oliver Townend Flint Curtis 72.2

28th Georgie Davies Fachoudette 101.4

40th Rodney Powell Langarth Darcy 166.3

Team

Gold GBR

Silver FRA

Bronze ITA

4th BEL

5th DEN

6th SUI

7th GER

8th IRL

9th AUT

10th RUS

BEF Progresses Club, Coach and Participation Development

17th September 2007

Following a successful funding application to Sport England (see details in [BEF April Newsletter](#)) we are pleased to welcome on board Maggie Still as Head of Regional Development. One of Maggie's key roles will be to oversee the implementation of the new BEF Club, Coach and Participation Plan, which you can view [here](#). She will also be responsible for managing 5 part-time regional development coordinators who we will introduce you to in the next newsletter. The BEF wishes Maggie the very best in her new role, we will bring you news from the new team over the coming months.

Equestrian Team GBR Website Launches

26th September 2007

To coincide with the official launch of Equestrian Team GBR the British Equestrian Federation has launched a new website - www.equestrianteamgbr.com

Visit the new Equestrian Team GBR website to find out everything you need to know about the British Equestrian Teams who compete in the Olympic sports of Dressage, Eventing, and Show Jumping and the Paralympic sport of Para-Equestrian Dressage. You can also find out about the British teams who compete in the non-Olympic sports of Driving, Endurance, Reining and Vaulting.

On the website you can:

- Get the latest on the progress of all our teams
- Meet the riders and the horses
- Meet the team behind Team GBR
- Find out how the World Class Programme supports Team GBR.
- Find out when and where Team GBR will be competing

www.equestrianteamgbr.com

Equestrian Team GBR launches

26th September 2007

The countdown to the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games gained momentum yesterday, with the official launch of Equestrian Team GBR at Lee Valley Riding School.

Team GBR showcases the highest level of equestrian competition and is made up of the three Olympic equestrian disciplines, Eventing, Show Jumping and Dressage. Equestrian Team GBR is also the platform for the extremely successful Para-Equestrian Dressage riders, who have established Britain as a leading Paralympic nation.

Winning the seventh consecutive European Eventing title on 16th September 2007 was the crowning glory of what has been a phenomenal 2007 season. Equestrian Team GBR has won 31 medals in total, including a senior team bronze medal in Show Jumping. Equestrian Team GBR has also qualified full teams for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games in all four sports.

Will Connell, Performance Director, said: "The creation of Equestrian Team GBR demonstrates a collective commitment to maintaining British equestrianism at the heights of recent Olympics and major championships. We have the opportunity to deliver a consistently high level of performance across all three disciplines and we are always striving to make improvements."

British riders have a tradition of success, having won team silver plus individual gold and bronze medals at the Athens Olympics in 2004. Eight medals followed at the 2004 Paralympics.

Equestrian Team GBR is underpinned by the World Class Programme, funded by the National Lottery via UK Sport. This programme allows rigorous and scientific support of the development of athletes and their horses. With 2012 in mind, special emphasis is placed on the nurturing of young talent, both human and equine. Zara Phillips, current Eventing World Champion, lent her support to Equestrian Team GBR by attending its official launch. She said: "This is a real boost for the sport in Britain and will help to ensure that our brightest talents receive the best possible support in the lead up to Beijing in 2008 and, of course, to London in 2012" Another key objective of Equestrian Team GBR is to assist members from its constituent disciplines in establishing the commercial partnerships necessary to ensure that Britain remains at the forefront of international equestrianism. The launch of Equestrian Team GBR has been supported by long-term Show Jumping sponsor Accenture. The team is available as a sponsorship opportunity to an organisation wanting to associate itself with ambition, determination and success.

Hong Kong Tourism Board and BEF make plans together

10th October 2007

The Hong Kong Tourism Board and the BEF are making plans to work together in the run up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2008. The main Games will take place in Beijing but all of the Equestrian Events will be held in Hong Kong.

As the Games approach, the Hong Kong Tourism board are running a number of initiatives to increase both spectator numbers for the equestrian events and also long-term tourism. The BEF are pleased to be supporting their efforts.

You can find out more about the Hong Kong Tourism board on their [website](#).

England and Wales dominate Mounted Games Season

7th November 2007

Teams and Individuals from England and Wales dominated the 2007 Mounted Games championships at both European and World level this year.

The Mounted Games Association of Great Britain (MGAGB), a member of the British Equestrian Federation, is made up of the 4 countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These countries compete as individuals on the international circuit.

There were 4 main international championships for Mounted Games this year, 3 of which were held in the UK. These were: The European Team Mounted Games Championships, The World Team Mounted Games Championships, The World Individual Mounted Games Championships and the World Pairs Mounted Games Championships.

England won a total of 12 medals, of which 7 were Gold and Wales came home with

a total of 6 medals, including 1 Gold. Further medals for both countries were gained at the Pairs Championships, where several teams were mixed across countries.

Scottish Equestrian Vaulting Championships 2007 Report.

12th November 2007

Kingsbarn Equestrian Centre at Falkirk proved an excellent new venue for the last vaulting competition of the year, the Scottish Championships, on 20th/21st October.

A record number of Clubs participated ensuring great competition in all classes. The excellent arena layout gave all competitors plenty opportunity to find a space to warm up and led to a very friendly and informal competition. The music system gave a few hiccoughs at the start but proved to be mainly due to operator error! All the affiliated classes were ably judged by Andrew Williamson and Daniel Mackay.

SEVT decided to have a break and it gave two Clubs the opportunity to put forward an Advanced team. A close contest resulted in a win for Lauderdale on Mister Softee lunged by Rebecca Morgan over the young Eagles team on ILPGH Islay, lunged by Liz Mackay. The tables were turned in the Novice team class with Eagles on Gleannmhor Grenadier, lunged by Ricky Davies, just coming out ahead of the new Scottish Borders Group on Ziggourney, lunged by Helen Rogerson, with Lauderdale in third place.

A great turnout in the Pre-Novice class of 6 teams, gave Eagles their next win of the day with Eagles 2 on Gleannmhor Jupiter, lunged by Connie Hamlyn, taking first place, Scottish Borders on Ziggourney lunged by Helen Rogerson second and Wee County third.

The Pairs class was won by the outstanding Eccles sisters, Joanne and Hannah. They also showed their supremacy in the Female Individual class with Joanne taking the Championship and Hannah Reserve. In both classes they vaulted on WH Bentley lunged by their father, John Eccles. It was great to see Ann Rogerson making a comeback on Ziggourney lunged by Helen Rogerson, to take a well deserved third place, another family affair

Ross Foreman put on a great performance to retain his title in the Male Championship class with James Millar as reserve. Both were vaulting on Mr Softee lunged by Rebecca Morgan .

The Fun classes were well supported with at least 50 vaulters in the walk classes and 6 Fun Walk teams.

The highlights of the day were the number of new faces having a first try at a competition, the number of new horses capable of taking teams, the number of new lungers taking over the reins and the number of volunteers helping to run the competition.

Scottish Vaulting is looking very healthy Indeed.

Congratulations to Glasgow!

13th November 2007

The British Equestrian Federation congratulates Glasgow on their successful bid for the Commonwealth Games. Although equestrian sport is not listed by the Commonwealth Games Federation as a recognised sport, we fully appreciate the benefits the Games will bring to Glasgow as a city and also the overall sporting legacy that can be achieved from events such as this coming to Britain.

The Scottish Equestrian Association and Scottish Equestrian Vaulting are particularly keen to offer their congratulations and will be embarking on a programme of promotion of Equestrian Vaulting to the Glasgow Committee as a demonstration discipline.

Ann Hunt, Chairman of the British Equestrian Vaulting association comments, "Vaulting could offer a spectacular demonstration, combining gymnastics, dance and equestrianism into the one sport. Sports acrobatics on the back of a cantering horse is an amazing sight and would bring the horse into the Commonwealth arena in a discipline which can be performed in a small arena and appreciated by a wide audience."

For more information on the sport of Vaulting please visit www.vaulting.org.uk

Nominations sought for prestigious Breeders Award

15th November 2007

If you know of a breeder who has made an outstanding lifetime contribution to the British performance sport horse and pony breeding industry we need to hear about them!

The British Breeding Breeders' Dinner will be held at The Grange City Hotel, a five star setting, in the heart of the City of London on Saturday 12 January 2008. At the Dinner, the pinnacle of the evening is the presentation of the prestigious Merial Meritoire to the individual who, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, has made a great contribution to the British breeding industry.

The recipient of this award is a closely-guarded secret until the night and, for the last two years, the winners have had absolutely no idea that it would be themselves. Last year's winner, John Rawding said, "I have no idea how you have all pulled this off and kept it so quiet!" A thrilled John stated, "I am absolutely delighted to be presented this award, it is very unexpected and a great privilege to receive it". Claire Parry-Baggott of Merial Animal Health says, "We believe that the outstanding contribution made by British breeders to the equine industry should not be underestimated and as a company we are delighted to be able to support them by presenting this award".

Nominations are now open. If there is someone who you believe has made, or is making, a great contribution towards breeding great performance sport horses or ponies, we would like to hear from you.

Nominations are confidential and the closing date is Friday 7 December 2007.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the [British Breeding](#) section of this website or by calling Jan Rogers.

Contact: Jan Rogers T: 07725 332595 E: janrogersequine@aol.com

Laura Collett recipient of Prestigious Equestrian Awards and Nominated for Two More

19th November 2007

World Class Development rider, Laura Collett was awarded the Hubert Allfrey Trophy, which is given to the highest-placed British competitor at the 2007 Junior European Championships, at the recent British Eventing Ball.

In addition to this award and in recognition of her fantastic performance at the Junior European Three-Day Eventing Championships, where Laura regained the Junior Individual title and contributed to the team winning the gold medal, Laura has been voted by the British Equestrian Writers Association as, 'The Most Outstanding Rider of the Year', aged 18 and under. She will receive her award at the London International Horse Show at Olympia in December.

Laura has also been nominated for two prestigious sporting awards; the Young Sportswoman of the Year Category at the 2007 Sunday Times Sportswomen of the Year Awards and the BBC Midlands TV Sports Awards 2007.

Laura has been chosen as a finalist for the Young Sportswoman of the Year Category in the Sunday Times Sportswomen of the Year Awards by a panel of distinguished judges to honour and recognise her fantastic achievements in 2007. The winner will be announced at the awards lunch to be held on 20th November at Lords cricket ground. The Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation, UK Sport, Sport England and the CCPR also support the Awards.

Laura is one of the 3 finalists selected for the Junior Sportswoman Award at the BBC Midlands TV Sports Awards 2007. This is in recognition of her winning back-to-back European Junior Titles and being the first rider to achieve this. The winner will be announced at the Awards Evening to be held on Sunday 2 December at the National Motorcycle Museum and will be shown on BBC Midlands later that week.

Laura said, "To be the recipient of the Hubert Allfrey Trophy and to be recognized by the British Equestrian Writers Association as, 'The Most Outstanding Rider of the Year', aged 18 and under is truly an honour, and I feel very privileged to be nominated for these two prestigious sporting awards".

Vikki Underwood, World Class Development Manager says, "I am thrilled that Laura has been recognized for her sporting achievements through her two awards and nominations and she is a credit to the World Class Development Programme". The World Class Development Programme is Lottery funded through UK Sport.

New scheme allows riding school clients to join British Riding Clubs

13 November 2007

Riders are now benefiting from the successful roll-out of a scheme allowing those who ride at riding schools to join British Riding Clubs (BRC).

The 'Riding Club Centre Membership' scheme was launched in January 2007, to make British Riding Clubs available to the wider riding community in the UK. There are now more than 30 Centres being set up or established across the UK.

These new Riding Club Centres give non-horse owning riders all the opportunities of valuable training, examinations, competitions and social benefits offered by being part of the BRC movement.

Laurie Punnett, BRC Chairman, said: "We are delighted with the uptake so far. It is always a challenge launching something new from scratch and we have had to learn quickly, but the scheme has been really positively received by riding schools and their clients. We plan to significantly increase the number of Centres across the UK as we head into 2008."

The very first establishment to join the scheme was Lavant House Stables, in Chichester, West Sussex. Their Riding Club Centre has been a great success and they now have 16 active adult members.

Lucy Thomson, Proprietor of the BHS Approved Lavant House Stables, said: "The Riding Club has been a huge business success for us. We now run a very popular programme of regular instruction and competitions in dressage and show jumping for our club members. They have been thrilled with this new opportunity and really enjoy being part of the Riding Club spirit."

Currently the Riding Club Centre Membership scheme is only available to BHS Approved riding schools. The individual riding school becomes a British Riding Club affiliated to The British Horse Society. The individual club members then join the Riding Club Centre, paying £25 for a full 12 months' individual membership.

All those who sign up can benefit from improving their riding and horse care knowledge through BRC examinations and competitions in all the riding disciplines. They can also enjoy a fun and supportive club atmosphere with a wide range of social activities. Members receive special discounts and BRC's quarterly magazine, Rider®.

The development of the scheme has been supported by funding from The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and Sport England alongside advice from The Pony Club, which operates a similar and very successful scheme offering Pony Club Centre Membership through riding schools in the UK.

World Class Development Event focuses on Motivation and Planning

4th December 2007

A World Class Development Programme end of year 2 day X-Discipline event was held on 30th November and 1st December that took place at Heythrop Park, which was attended by the majority of riders on the Programme.

The first morning, the riders were split into teams and were set a number of team building exercises by Icendris Ltd, a training and development organisation, led by

Mike Ketcher. The team building exercises used were designed to 'break the ice' and get the riders from the different Olympic and Paralympic disciplines to get to know each other and appreciate each others strengths and weaknesses. The challenges were as much mental as physical and highlighted different aspects of team working such as problem solving, decision-making, and differences in perception, values and beliefs.

After lunch the riders were split into two groups, one group of riders attended the British Olympic Association (BOA) 'Planning for Success' course, presented by Ian Wynne, an Olympic medalist in the sport of Canoeing and Bryan Steel an Olympic Cyclist.

The course focused on various aspects of lifestyle management and goal setting with an emphasis on the athlete's responsibility for his/her performance. A BOA diary was presented to the riders to encourage them to use the diary to record their training and as a planning tool to set future goals and to manage their time effectively.

The other group of riders attended a session with Paula Reid, who was a core crewmember of the Global Challenge 2004-5: the 'World's Toughest Yacht Race'. After a short presentation on the Global Challenge RTW Yacht Race, Paula spoke to the riders on how to achieve high performance through leadership, values, motivation and goal setting.

In the evening, Clare Balding, the well known TV Presenter and Sports Journalist addressed the riders on the art of communicating with the media, of 'what to say', and 'what not to say' and how important it is to remember that - 'You never get a second chance to make a first impression' - Clare practiced her interviewing techniques on a few of the riders, and also stressed the importance of maintaining their composure on and off a horse when in the public domain.

Clare also spoke of her own sporting and journalistic career, with a few antidotes that were very amusing.

The second day concentrated on 'The Power of Your Own Image', 'Can You Talk the Talk' 'Deal or No Deal' and 'Maintaining the Deal'.

Ashley Rossiter, a stylist who has been involved with bands such as Take That, Robbie Williams and Rod Stewart as well as hosting her own show on Sky TV and running a successful PR company, and Sam Forrest a PR expert addressed the topic 'The Power of Your Own Image' and how image is a powerful tool and how the riders can project the right kind of image.

Steven Wild, supported by Ashley Rossiter, presented 'Can You Talk the Talk'.

Steven spoke about the value of self-promotion through television and how to use media opportunities to raise your profile and bring out your personality.

Ashley Rossiter, Richard Davison and Janice Shardlow presented Deal or No Deal. This subject looked at 'What do Owners and Sponsors Expect' and Maximising the Impact on the First Meeting with a Potential Sponsor/Owner.

Mary King presented 'Maintaining the Deal' which looked at how to attract both sponsors and owners and once looking after them once they are on board. They focused on communication; involvement and making them feel like they are the No.1 clients.

Clive was able to draw on his own experience, in which he has recently been able to attract owners to invest in horses for an event rider that he is assisting and pass on various suggestions.

Mary King spoke about how her own experiences as a sponsored rider from the early days as being a sponsored rider with one company, to sponsorship she receives today from a number of companies and how to keep the sponsors satisfied.

The 2 days left the riders feeling motivated and organised to tackle the challenges of 2008 and beyond.

Finalists announced for 2007 Kuster BEF Groom Award

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) has announced the finalists for the 2007 Kuster BEF Groom Award.

Riders from all disciplines, riding schools and welfare organisations throughout the country rely on the support of others to reach the top, but for the ten finalists, it is their turn to be recognised for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm, as they have reached the finals of the prestigious Kuster BEF Groom Awards 2007.

The finalists are:

Finalist	Employer	Award
Lucy Jackson	Georgie Brett, Gemini Stud	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Kelly Bell	Charlotte Ridley, Park End	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Kate Lawrance	Diane Lampard, Spring Farm	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Jenny Ellis	Richard Davison/Simon Laurens	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Andrea Parrish	Penny Rogers, Shillington Manor	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Sophie Kendrick	Karen Stirk, The Phyllis Harvey Horse & Donkey Trust	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Paulina Ciechacka	Lee Pearson	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Rachel Henning	Sue Hodgkins, ILPH	Newcomer Award
April Hart	Matt Ryan	Newcomer Award
Hanna Wyatt	Amanda Howard, Crossgates Equestrian Performance	Newcomer Award

The finalists and their guests have been invited to attend the final judging day on 10 December, including a champagne lunch, where they will be interviewed by two

judges, racing commentator Richard Pitman and International dressage rider Sandy Phillips.

This year the winner of the Kuster BEF Groom Award will win £1,000 of holiday vouchers, plus the Smash Hit Bronze Trophy which the winner will get to keep for a year. The two runners-up will not go away empty handed either with a second prize of £300 and third prize of £200. The winner of the Newcomer Award will win a unique print by artist Tim Nathan, as well as the prestigious title of Best Newcomer.

The winner of the Kuster BEF Groom Award will be presented with her prize at Olympia, the London International Horse Show during the evening performance on 19 December.

Lucy Katan, Kuster BEF Groom Award Coordinator, said: 'This year has seen some exceptionally strong nominations and to narrow it down to a small number of finalists for each award has been near impossible. Both awards are a great way to recognise and reward the grooms for their hard work. All of the grooms nominated this year deserve to be in the final and we really hope that nominators will re-enter their grooms for the awards in 2008.'

British Dressage Chief Executive gains Prestigious Place

David Holmes, Chief Executive of British Dressage, has been offered a place on UK Sport's International Leadership Programme following a competitive process. He will commence the programme in January in 2008.

The International Leadership Programme is designed for National Governing Body members and staff with the potential to reach positions of influence within International Federations. The twelve month programme is both exciting and challenging, seeking to equip its participants with the leadership skills necessary to further their progression up the International Federation ladder and to effectively represent the interests of their sport and the UK. This is an annual programme selecting up to 15 high potential people from a variety of sports each year.

UK Sport selected David in collaboration with the British Equestrian Federation and British Dressage who had no hesitation in endorsing him as a strong candidate for this programme. It is hoped that in the long-term the skills David will learn will assist with securing international goals for equestrianism as a whole.

David Holmes comments, "I am delighted to be offered this opportunity. The programme will help me draw upon the best practice across sports in the UK and internationally. I'm looking forward to bringing new ideas back to British Dressage. I have to thank the board of directors at BD, who supported my application and of course UK Sport".

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation comments, "This is testament to the commitment and expertise David has already brought to Equestrian sport through his role as Chief Executive at British Dressage. The UK Sport programme is both high profile and rewarding; I am sure it will bring benefits to both David and the wider equestrian industry. I wish him every success."

BEF unveils London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games legacy plan

Hoof to encourage many more people to take up riding and get involved with horses in the Capital

20th December 2007

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) is one of the first sporting bodies to present its plans for a lasting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with the launch of Hoof in London this week.

The BEF is one of the first Olympic Sports to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the 2012 Games.

Earlier this year the Federation's Legacy for London Advisory Group, led by Barbara Cassani, former Chair of London's bid to host the 2012 Games, and BEF consultant Tim Hadaway, set out key recommendations for how the 2012 Games might be used to increase facilities and opportunities for equestrian sports across London.

"This weeks launch of Hoof at Olympia brought together two important strands of the equestrian legacy: celebrating the best riders of the world in the middle of London and encouraging more Londoners to climb on board and ride," commented Barbara Cassani, leader of the BEF's Legacy for London Advisory Group.

Tim Hadaway, who is heading up the initiative added: "Hoof will enable us to create a lasting legacy from the 2012 Games, and is aimed at anyone interested in horses and riding in London. Although many people already ride in London, Hoof will encourage others to try riding, making it more accessible and affordable to a wide range of people and raising awareness of horse sports in general."

Hoof will support and promote existing and new riding schools, aid the local riding community and disabled riding groups, and establish a schools programme for children in the capital.

Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone has offered his full support to the project and said: "Initiatives like Hoof are exactly why we wanted to bring the Olympic Games to London."

He added: "Many Londoners are enthusiastic about riding - but getting in the saddle is a real challenge. Hoof is all about making it easier for Londoners to climb on board."

The BEF plans to create a nationwide legacy by promoting and rolling out the ideas and initiatives set out for London to other parts of the UK.

Top grooms announced

20th December 2007

The British Equestrian Federation has announced the winners in this year's prestigious Kuster BEF Groom Award - recognising their outstanding contribution to the equestrian world.

1st - Jenny Ellis - travelling groom for International Dressage rider Richard Davison and several International Show Jumpers
2nd - Kelly Bell - groom for Park End livery & Eventing yard
3rd - Kate Lawrance - groom for International Show Jumper Di Lampard

And, for the first time, the Awards also recognised the best newcomer in the industry - a prize which was awarded to Rachel Henning for her work at the ILPH (International League for the Protection of Horses).

Jenny and Rachel both received their awards at Olympia, the London International Horse Show during the evening performance on 19 December. They scooped the top spots following a shortlist selection via nominations, followed by a judging day where they were interviewed by racing commentator Richard Pitman and International dressage rider Sandy Phillips.

Jenny, 47, from Ashbourne in Derbyshire has worked with horses for more than 30 years, both as veterinary nurse and groom, and has also been instrumental in supporting and developing other younger, less experienced grooms. She made it through to the shortlist thanks to nominations from International Dressage rider Richard Davison, International Show Jumper John Whitaker and Para - Equestrian Dressage rider Simon Laurens - all of whom were full of praise for the work Jenny did for them and the support she showed her colleagues.

As Richard commented; 'Jenny is wonderful with horses and so experienced in all aspects of horsemanship. She remains very encouraging to younger, less experienced grooms and has worked very hard to raise the status of grooms within the industry - she is fully deserving of this accolade.'

Jenny's expert skills have also been recognised by the World Class programme where she has supported the development of more inexperienced grooms. She was also the official stable manager for the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany.

Rachel, 24, has worked at the ILPH Hall Farm in Norfolk for two years and joined with no equestrian experience whatsoever - but she made the switch from Tesco to horses very easily. Today, along with her usual yard duties, and despite having no previous computer experience, Rachel also ensures the databases are updated, including the horses' veterinary, dental and farriery records.

Her nominator Sue Hodgkins, centre manager of the ILPH Hall Farm, commented; 'Rachel is one of our greatest assets. We have never employed a groom with no experience before and now we invite almost everyone for a trial - we wouldn't want another Rachel to slip through the net. She's one in a million!'

'We were particularly impressed by Rachel and her swift transformation from a Tesco check out girl to an accomplished groom and member of ILPH staff,' said Richard Pitman.

Second placed Kelly Bell, 27, has worked at Park End, a livery/event yard, for ten years where as Head Girl she is responsible for the day to day running of the yard - from schooling the horses to travelling to various events. Her nominator Charlotte Ridley, who owns Park End, commented; 'Kelly is my reliable Head Girl who always ensures the horses are turned out immaculately - so much so that my fellow competitors are trying to pinch her!'

Third placed Kate Lawrance, 28, has worked at Spring Farm in Oakham, a show jumping yard, for less than a year. Running the Spring Farm team, Kate's duties range from driving the lorries to carrying out prescribed physiotherapy on horses that require it. She was nominated by horse owner David Hill and Di Lampard who said: 'I had no hesitation to nominate Kate, because she is 100 percent dedicated to her horses - they and their welfare come before everything else. She is thoroughly reliable and always cheerful, no matter what happens.'

Jenny won £1,000 of holiday vouchers, plus the Smash Hit Bronze Trophy which she will get to keep for a year, while Kelly and Kate received cheques for £300 and £200 respectively. Rachel was presented with a unique print by artist Tim Nathan.

Desi Dillingham's contribution to Equestrian Sport recognised at annual awards

20 December 2007

Desi Dillingham has received a Torch Trophy Trust Award for her contribution to Equestrian sport and recreation. She received her award in London recently, following a successful nomination from the British Equestrian Federation.

The Torch Trophy Trust awards are designed to recognise volunteers who have made a significant difference within the sporting arena and each year a range of sports are included in the honours list.

Desi's input to Equestrian Sport has, so far, been phenomenal. In June 2007 she retired as the Chairman of British Dressage, a role she served in for 10 years, taking the newly formed organisation from its birth and transforming it into the organisation it is today. This included doubling the individual membership to 12,000.

Desi also has a particular talent for organising fundraising events, to assist those not able to make their own way in equestrian sport. Not being a lady to stand still for long, Desi is now President of the British Horse Society, a role which he approaches with the same enthusiasm and dedication as her many previous roles.

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation comments, "I am delighted that the Torch Trophy Trust have recognised Desi in this way. She is someone who makes things happen and never forgets those less able than others. She has bought dynamism, faith and commitment to her sporting discipline and to the wider equestrian world. She is entirely deserving of this recognition and I would like to congratulate her on behalf of the Federation and all its members."
