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## **UK Centre for Coaching Excellence unveiled at Leeds Met 2 July 2008**

The Minister for Sport, Gerry Sutcliffe, has announced that the UK Centre for Coaching Excellence in sport and disability sport will be based at Leeds Metropolitan University.

The new centre will help coaches to develop the sporting stars of the future and will propel the UK into becoming the leading coaching nation in the world by 2016.

The Centre, the first of its kind in the United Kingdom, will benefit sports coaches in a wide range of sports to help them reach the top and help drive a legacy of sporting success for British athletes in major events. Start-up funding of £600,000 has been provided by UK Sport and Sport England. The Centre is also being backed by sportscotland, Sports Council for Wales and Sport Northern Ireland.

As well as benefiting sports coaches the Centre will also offer training to community coaches to improve the quality of the sport experience for all, and help identify potential British sports stars of the future.

The UK Coaching Centre for Excellence will focus on four areas:

High Performance: for coaches of athletes capable of achieving success at international level

Performer Development: for coaches that will focus on talent identification and development of young athletes

Participation: for coaches working in community sport, helping to increase sport participation

Children's coaches: for coaches that will work specifically with young people at each stage of their early development in sport.

Leeds Met Vice-Chancellor Professor Simon Lee said: "Carnegie has a 75 year history of commitment to coaching, typified by one of our very first students, Walter Winterbottom, who created the FA's pioneering coaching system. In this century, we are increasingly well known for our radical approach to sporting partnerships and our engagement with diverse communities. Coaching and working in partnership are the essence of Leeds Met Carnegie so we relish the opportunity of working with sports coach UK and all interested parties throughout the UK to reach a sustainable world-leading position by 2016 as part of the legacy of London 2012 and Glasgow 2014."

Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe said: "Behind every great athlete is a great coach and we want to ensure that we have the best sports coaches and coaching system in the world both at the elite end and grass roots. The UK Centre for Coaching Excellence will be vital in helping us realise that ambition. We want to develop a more professional approach to coaching in the UK with it becoming a real career option for people like it is in the United States."

sports coach UK Chairman, Leeds Met alumni and coach to London Wasps and the British Lions, Ian McGeechan said: "This announcement is another clear marker that the coaching landscape in the UK is changing to ensure that we will be developing active, skilled and qualified coaches to the highest level right across the spectrum of coaching."

Leeds Met Chancellor Brendan Foster said: "We are delighted that Leeds Met has been selected to host the UK Centre for Coaching Excellence and that, finally, an organisation is being set up that proudly and firmly places coaching in its rightful place at the centre of British sport. We've had great sportsmen and sportswomen in Britain over the years who have achieved success with the guidance of great coaches. It is a demonstration of real foresight to now formalise the organisation whose mission is to produce great coaches and, in turn, increase the chances of Britain's success in the increasingly competitive arena of world sport."

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## **Dangerous Jobs for Girls - Two Showjumpers appear in new TV series**

**17th July 2008**

Is it really still a man's world? Two Show Jumpers took part in a C4 experiment which set out to ask the question.

Dangerous Jobs for the Girls, a documentary which sets out to answer the question, will see two show jumpers taking on Brazilian cowboys at their own game. As one of the last places on earth where men and male values still rule, show jumpers Gemma Paternoster and Nicola Ross-Watt take on the last bastions of masculinity.

Herding hundreds of cattle across the Brazilian Pantanal, the largest flood plain in the planet, both Gemma and Nicola couldn't have imaged how tough it would be.

Slaughtering for their food, crossing fast flowing rivers and riding through land inhabited by alligator - the girls are the first women to ever undertake such a task with the Pantaneiros.

Gemma Paternoster (aged 22 from Newbury Berkshire) who secured Individual Gold for Great Britain at the 2006 Young Rider European Championships commented, "The whole experience is one that I'll never forget. Trying to explain what it was like is almost impossible - it's just worlds apart from anything I've ever experienced or could ever have imagined. I've come away from this experience realising exactly how tough and resilient I can be. If anything, it's assisted me to focus unwaveringly on my chosen sport as I now realise, more than ever before, that anything is possible if you want it enough".

Team mate and fellow show jumper, Nicola Ross-Watt from Kirkfieldbank, Lanarkshire was one of the first people to contact the BSJA when a recruitment drive was placed, "I just didn't believe that there are any jobs that a strong woman couldn't do and it was this that led me to apply". Nicola, a trouble-shooter and business consultant who juggles her career around her horses further commented, "As I found out more I thought ....., If I can juggle a fast paced career and four horses then I can definitely juggle six cowboys and 657 wild buffalo".

Head cowboy Juhlino was cynical about the experiment - even after assessing their riding and realising that it was better than he'd hoped for, "The Pantaneiros are the kind of guys who would give their life for you. They'll never make it because they are doing things we've done all our lives. We're in a jungle here and you kill or you die."

Working as part of a team Nicola and Gemma set out to prove them wrong!

Dangerous Jobs For Girls starts on Wednesday July 30, 9pm Channel 4

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## **Applications now open for 2009 - 2011 World Class Development programme**

**18th July 2008**

Applications are now open for the selection process for inclusion onto the 2009 - 2011 World Class Development Programme, which begins with Viewing Trials in the three Olympic equestrian disciplines of Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping and the one Paralympic discipline of Para-Equestrian Dressage.

Riders who are aged between 14 and 30 (on first application) and who see themselves as having the exceptional talent and dedication to ride and win at Olympic and Paralympic level in 2012, 2016 and beyond have the opportunity to be assessed through a two stage process:

Stage 1: Viewing Trials

Stage 2: Selection Trials

Riders are required to meet the minimum criteria, details of which are included within the Selection Policy Document which can be downloaded along with the Application Forms here. Application forms must be emailed or sent by post to the BEF Office no later than 29th August 2008.

The World Class Development Programme is Lottery funded through UK Sport. The aim of the programme is for potential Olympic and Paralympic riders to be placed onto an established development and training pathway that helps these riders to progress up to podium success.

This year the Programme is celebrating it's success by having at least one member of each Olympic and Paralympic Team who have come through the Programme over the past four years, including Sharon Hunt, Lucy Weigersma, Ben Maher, Laura Bechtolsheimer, Maria Eilberg and Felicity Coulthard. Development riders are also on the reserve lists and part of the Olympic Ambition Programme that supports riders and athletes from all sports to travel to the Games and experience the environment.

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## **Tim Hadaway appointed as Equestrian Competition Manager for London 2012**

**24th July 2008**

Tim Hadaway has been appointed as the London 2012 Organising Committee's Sport Competition Manager for equestrian events at the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. These will take place at Greenwich Park in south east London.

Tim will be responsible for the planning, organisation and management of the Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian events in 2012 - Show Jumping, Dressage, and Cross Country.

Commenting on his appointment Tim said: "I'm thrilled to have this once in a lifetime opportunity to be involved in delivering the Equestrian sports for the London Games. The site at Greenwich is spectacular and I'm confident that 2012 will be a unique and amazing experience for everyone involved. I look forward to working with local residents, the Equestrian world, and all our stakeholders to make the events a huge success. We have so much expertise in this country which I intend to draw on as we build a team to work on the event."

The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) Secretary General Alex McLin commented: "The FEI is very pleased with the appointment of a person with Tim's knowledge of horse sport as the Equestrian Competition Manager for London 2012. The fact that this is a full-time function will allow for the detailed consideration of all the organisational aspects of the sport. The FEI is looking forward to exceptional Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian events to be held in the heart of London. This will undoubtedly provide a strong legacy in increased interest and participation in horse sport across London the UK as a whole."

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) said: "I am delighted for Tim. He has undertaken some outstanding work for the Federation in the last few years. He is knowledgeable, thoughtful, caring and consultative in his approach. He will be a great asset as our sport's Competition Manager. The BEF also fully supports the choice of Greenwich Park as London 2012's venue for equestrian events."

Tim's responsibilities include the overseeing of all aspects of the Equestrian events, ensuring they are organised in accordance with the international equestrian federation (FEI) rules, the International Olympic Charter and the Host City Contract. He will be the focal point for liaison with the FEI and the BEF, and he will be working with all functional areas to ensure the coordinated delivery of a wide range of support services such as the design of the venue, operational aspects, accreditation, transport and organisation of volunteers. Tim will initially start his role in October.

Having ridden for much of his life, Tim worked as a cross country course builder, moving on to course design and in to event management, becoming Director of Blair Castle International Horse Trials in the 1990s. In 1996, he was appointed Technical Advisor for British Eventing, and in 2002 became Sport and Technical Manager responsible for the management and development of the sport.

More recently as consultant to the BEF, Tim has advised on matters relating to increasing levels of participation, facilities development and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, liaising on projects such as the Pre-Games Training Camp identification process. His work for the BEF has included a successful funding application which will result in £1.4m being invested in to grass root equestrian sport over the next three years.

Tim travelled to Hong Kong as part of a team of FEI International Specialists to work on the Cross Country phase of the Olympic test event in 2007 and will return as part of the same team for the Olympic Games in August.

His other international experience includes:

- Eventing Manager at Bramham International Horse Trials working alongside London 2012 Course Designer Sue Benson;

- Establishing the British Eventing Premier League linking up the top International Events including Badminton and Burghley Horse Trials;
  - Equestrian Sport Volunteer at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games;
  - Supporting the Technical Delegate, recruiting and leading a team of Eventing experts from Britain to help deliver the cross country phase of the 2006 Asian Games in Qatar;
  - FEI Technical Delegate including Assistant Technical Director at Blenheim and Bramham Three Day Events, and Technical Director at Houghton Hall.
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## **British Ladies Horseball Team Take Silver at the European Cup**

**5th August 2008**

168 riders from 11 countries (including Argentina, Canada and Brazil) competed for the World and European Horseball Cups last week at Ponte da Lima in Portugal.

Despite being let down on the day of departure by the transport they had booked, the British Women's team did fantastically well against tough opposition to take the Silver medal in the European Cup - the highest placed British Horseball Team so far in International Competition.

World Cup men's results: 1st France, 2nd Spain, 3rd Portugal  
European Cup Women's results: 1st France, 2nd GB, 3rd Spain  
European Under 16's Cup results: 1st Spain, 2nd France, 3rd Italy

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## **Sport England launches consultation on Sports Lottery grant making**

**5th August 2008**

In June, Sport England launched a public consultation to make sure future sports projects can access up to £45 million of sports lottery funding as quickly and simply as possible.

Sport England would like to hear from people who play sport, from clubs, voluntary groups, local authorities, National Governing Bodies of sport and other key stakeholders to get a view on how the process of applying for sports Lottery funding can be improved.

Anybody can access the consultation online at [www.sportengland.org/lotteryconsultation](http://www.sportengland.org/lotteryconsultation), and hard copies are available on request by calling the consultation help line on 0845 850 8508 or e-mailing [consultation@sportengland.org](mailto:consultation@sportengland.org).

This is a unique opportunity for stakeholders to have a say in the way Sport England distributes Lottery funding. The public consultation starts today and runs for 12 weeks, closing on 16 September 2008.

Jennie Price, Sport England Chief Executive, said:

"Sport England is committed to getting our funding processes right. We want to make it simple and quick for people who have projects that meet our criteria to access Lottery money.

"I am keen to hear from as many people as possible to inform our decision-making and influence the way we distribute our National Lottery funding so that it makes a real difference to the future of sport in England."

All interested parties are strongly encouraged to complete the consultation so that their views are fairly represented. Sport England wants as many organisations as possible to take part.

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## **Team GBR Official Retail site launched**

**5th August 2008**

The British Equestrian Federation have launched a brand new official clothing store where Equestrian Team GBR supporters can buy their official supporters clothing online and help support the teams at the same time.

Working in association with Brocklehursts of Bakewell and Finest Brands International, the British Equestrian Federation has launched the site via the Team GBR website - [www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk](http://www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk).

All of this season's Toggi Team GBR items are available online and there will be many unique special offers available. To celebrate the Launch of the site we are currently offering a free baseball hat with all orders over £25.

But that's not all, by purchasing your kit from the official Team GBR store you are also contributing to helping the Team and riders of the future as the British Equestrian Federation will receive a percentage of every item sold which they will use to support all of the British Equestrian Teams.

Visit [www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk](http://www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk) to support your team.

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## **British Dressage Appoints New CEO**

**6th August 2008**

British Dressage, the governing body for the sport of dressage in the UK has appointed Amanda Bond as the new Chief Executive Officer, succeeding David Holmes who takes on the role of Executive Director of Sports at the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).

Currently the Deputy Principal of Hartpury College and their Equestrian Events Director, Amanda Bond has extensive experience in running high profile international equestrian events, including the FEI World Para Dressage Championships hosted by Hartpury College in 2007, the FEI Mitsubishi Motors Hartpury International Horse

Trials (CIC\*\*\*/CCI\*\*/CCI\*) and the Hartpury Festival of Dressage incorporating CDI\*\*\*, CPDI\*\*\* and Premier League.

Amanda will start at BD shortly after completing a prestigious secondment as Chief of Paralympic Services in Hong Kong and the Deputy Venue Manager for Equestrian Events (Hong Kong) for the Beijing Games 2008. Ms Bond takes on the role at an important time in the progress of the sport and comments;

"I am obviously thrilled at my new appointment. There are exciting times ahead for British Dressage. An ambitious strategic plan has been developed by David Holmes and the Board, and I look forward to working with all at BD to implement the initiatives. With the Europeans taking place at Windsor next year and London 2012, dressage has a fantastic opportunity to build on the excellent work done to date. I feel honoured to be part of that bright future."

BD Chairman Jennie Loriston-Clarke adds, "We are delighted to welcome Amanda to the role of CEO. She brings with her a unique track record of successful leadership and technical expertise at the highest levels of equestrian sport. This experience will be invaluable to BD in building on the legacy David Holmes has put in place and I believe Amanda is ideally positioned to guide us into the next phase of our dynamic plans."

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## **FEI European Jumping and Dressage Championships 2009 tickets now on sale**

### **12th September 2009**

The ticket box office for the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) European Jumping and Dressage Championships 2009 has opened. The event will take place in the magnificent private grounds of Windsor Castle, UK on the dates of 25th - 30th August 2009.

32 Nations will be invited to take part in the competition, which is the first senior combined equestrian continental championships ever to be held at the same venue. Competition starts the morning of Tuesday 25 August with individual and team Dressage, with the Dressage final (Grand Prix freestyle to music) being held on the evening of Saturday 29 August. The team Jumping final will be held on Friday 28 August, with the Championships culminating on Sunday 30 August with the individual Jumping final.

With the FEI Championships being held three years before the Olympic Games in 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 horse sport. Already major backing has been found for the event, with a commitment by UK Sport to provide the Championships with substantial financial support. The Championships have the full support of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and their member bodies (BSJA and BD).

The box office telephone numbers are 0871 230 1087 (UK) and + 44 115 993 4409 (International) and will open for sales on 8th September. For online ticket bookings

and further information of the confirmed programme of events please visit [www.windsoreuropeans09.com](http://www.windsoreuropeans09.com)

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## **BEF to Conduct Review of the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games**

**12th September 2008**

The British Equestrian Federation will undertake a full review of the plans and performances in the lead up to and during the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in Hong Kong. The review will include the full engagement of UK Sport, British Dressage, British Eventing and the British Show Jumping Association.

At the Olympic Games, the Eventing riders won the Team Bronze and Tina Cook won the individual Bronze. The overall target for equestrian events was to win 3 Olympic medals. At the Paralympic Games, the target was to win 8 medals. The team (Lee Pearson, Anne Dunham, Sophie Christiansen and Simon Laurens) and individuals won an outstanding 5 Gold and 5 Silver medals, more than any other equestrian nation. Individual Gold medals were won by Lee Pearson (who won 2), Sophie Christiansen and Anne Dunham while individual Silver medals were won by Anne Dunham, Ricky Balshaw, Simon Laurens, Sophie Christiansen and Felicity Coulthard.

BEF's Chief Executive comments on the British performances:

"At the Olympic Games we were disappointed to miss the overall medal target. Nonetheless there were some highlights that we should celebrate notably Tina Cook's individual bronze medal and the Eventing team Bronze.

In the Paralympic Games we congratulate Lee Pearson in winning his 9th gold medal in 3 successive Paralympic Games and the fabulous performance of the whole Paralympic team to lead the medal table with 10 ahead of Germany with 6. This is simply outstanding."

On the BEF review Andrew Finding comments:

"The Olympic and Paralympic effort which involved sending 21 riders, 21 horses and 57 support team members out to Hong Kong was a huge operation. There are always many factors influencing performance in a project of this size. To name just two, on the negative side the British team suffered an unusual number of horse injuries both in the run up to the Olympic Games and whilst in Hong Kong. On the positive side the logistical operations and conduct of the support teams were excellent.

Our job is now to analyse in detail all aspects of our team performance in order to be clear about the things that affected performance both positively and negatively. This is an essential part of the process in the pursuit for excellence. We now have our eyes firmly on 2012 and we will put in place systems and procedures to capitalise on the good and improve on weaknesses.

On funding:

I have been asked whether our funding is secure up to 2012. UK Sport which provides the world class performance and development funding will be assessing our

performance on a quarterly basis as usual through their Mission 2012 concept. Decisions are made not just on the basis of the medals won from these Games but on athletes' performance and development, the performance system that sits behind them and the leadership and climate that exists within the sport. Essentially, it is now all about our potential to succeed in 2012.

We have an outstanding track record of international success and the continuing success of our young rider, junior and pony teams is an indication of great potential. In all age groups our athletes won 37 medals in 2007 and have already won 25 medals at international level this year. The operational support we give our horses and riders through the world class team is I believe second to none. The levels of professionalism have increased substantially and this could only have happened with the investment made by UK Sport. There will be valuable lessons to learn from the imminent review and we will make the necessary changes to ensure success in 2012."

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## **Your Invitation to attend Cheltenham Racehorse Seminar**

**23rd September 2008**

Cheltenham racehorse seminar - the most informative event in the Thoroughbred calendar. The biggest names in the world of Thoroughbred industry will gather at the famous Cheltenham course in November. The event - at the home of British jump racing - will showcase the latest advances in equine welfare and veterinary developments.

For all trainers and breeders - indeed anyone involved in the world of racing - the 2008 Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding Seminar is an absolute must-attend event. Since its was first held eight years ago, the annual Seminar has gone from strength to strength, become a landmark in the horseracing diary, and has consistently drawn the most authoritative speakers and the most knowledgeable audience.

This year's event promises to be the biggest and best so far showcasing not just the latest research and cutting edge technology, but also the ultimate in practical, up-to-the-minute information, all presented in an entertaining format. The Seminar will be held on Thursday, 13th November in the impressive Centaur conference and exhibition space, at the heart of the Cheltenham course. Kicking the programme off will be a fast-paced News Bulletin, in which Dr. Peter Webbon, Seminar Chairman and Chief Executive Animal Health Trust, and highly regarded equine specialist Mr. Geoff Lane, will present an overview of 'stop-press' news from the equine veterinary profession. Immediately after lunch, the audience can quiz a panel of experts on all aspects of equine veterinary science (questions can be submitted via the website ahead of the event but can also be accepted on the day). The themes this year include immunology, with Professor Derek Knottenbelt, specialist in Equine Oncology, providing an overview of how the equine immune system works and how it can be enhanced, and Nick Wingfield Digby of Beaufort Cottage Stables, speaking on immunity in young foals. Professor Knottenbelt will also discuss best practice in the treatment of wounds. Professor Tim Morris from the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) will give details of a major study into the genetic basis of certain equine conditions. While Professor Alan Wilson of the Royal Veterinary College, London, and Dr. Sam Franklin of Bristol University, leaders in their field, will give an extraordinary insight into the highly advanced technology now being used to monitor

horses while they are working, highlighting the latest sophisticated video analysis and sound recording procedures.

For a complete programme of events, see [here](#)

For a registration form or for more details contact:

Louise Holder, R&W Communications  
Suites 3 & 4  
8 Kings Court  
Willie Snaith Road  
Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7SG

Tel: 01638 667600; e-mail [louise.holder@rw-communications.co.uk](mailto:louise.holder@rw-communications.co.uk) or visit [www.thoroughbred-seminar.com](http://www.thoroughbred-seminar.com).

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## **Thirty-two talented equestrians to receive TASS grants**

**3rd October 2008**

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) has secured 32 talented athlete scholarship awards (TASS) for competing riders in education for the current academic year. These awards aim to assist Great Britain's most talented young athletes who wish to optimise the effectiveness of their sports and academic programmes.

"This year the standard of applications was extremely high," said World Class Performance director Will Connell, "there are actually less grants this year as the UK Sport allocation of funding has changed but we have been successful in securing an impressive number and I am particularly pleased that we have managed to secure more funding for the non-Olympic equestrian sports. These awards really do make a difference to these young athletes and allows them to pursue their equestrian ambitions alongside their education."

The BEF has worked with TASS to secure more awards for the non-Olympic disciplines, increasing the number of grants for drivers from three to five, and adding two places for equestrian vaulting. The allocation has also been good across the Olympic sports with six dressage riders, five jumping riders, five eventers and nine para-equestrian dressage riders also set to receive awards.

The TASS programme aims to provide a seamless transition for riders filling the gaps in current provision between the World Class Programmes as well as providing a stepping stone for 'non-funded' riders into the World Class Start, Potential and Performance Programmes, while encouraging riders to pursue an academic career. The system is driven through partnership working between Higher Education Institutions, Further Education Colleges National Governing Bodies of Sport and other sports organisations.

The scheme also provides effective links with regional and national development programmes such as the Pony, Junior and Young Rider squads.

Last year's equestrian TASS recipients had considerable success on the national and international stage. Three of the eventers won European medals while several of the dressage riders also represented Britain this summer. The first drivers added to

the scheme were all well placed at the junior national championships and the para-equestrian dressage riders continue to show improvement to their results.

Overall, TASS has proved the impact that it has across all sports with over a third of the 42 gold medals won at the Olympic Games and a quarter of all medals won by ParalympicsGB having an involvement from a SportsAid or TASS recipient.

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## **National Equine Forum provides unrivalled access to equestrian industry**

**13th October 2008**

The National Equine Forum (NEF), to be held on 31 March 2009 at the Royal Society in London, is the only event of its kind in the UK to bring all sectors of the equine industry together under one roof to discuss topical and controversial issues in a non-partisan and non-commercial fashion. The event, which has previously been by invitation only, is now offering a small number of tickets for purchase by industry professionals.

Recognised in the horse world as an outstanding opportunity for networking with the leaders of the industry, the NEF represents exceptional value for money for those wishing to engage in Continuing Professional Development. It includes an audience of invited members of the key disciplines and interests in equestrianism, and is normally attended by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal and the Minister for the Horse Industry. For 2009, limited tickets are available on a first come first served basis for paying guests, at a cost of £100 for the day's event, which includes a buffet lunch.

The NEF is a not-for-profit event that investigates topics of current interest and concern, with plenty of time for questions and discussion from the floor. Topics selected are always relevant and frequently controversial. Expressions of support in debate at the Forum can often lead to initiatives going forward, as, for example, with the formation of the British Grooms Association in 2003.

The 2009 Forum will include the following topics:

Feed, including papers on the impact of biofuels and world food demand, the advantages and disadvantages of additives, and the risks of accidental doping from cross-contamination.

Whether the equestrian world is hobby, sport, recreation or industry.

Progress in setting up the British Grooms Association.

The implications of recent Government policies on developments in work-based learning.

A co-ordinated presentation by the Worshipful Companies of Saddlers, Loriners and Farriers.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, looking back to performances in 2008, and forward to the selection of locations in 2012.

Undergraduate thesis of the year.

Topical spot, this year looking at vaccines and the BEVA laminitis study.

The National Equine Forum is chaired by Professor Sir Colin Spedding and is convened by Air Cdre (Retd) Miles Williamson-Noble. The Forum is supported by the ABRS, BETA, BEF, BHS, BHA, The Blue Cross, Dodson & Horrell, The Donkey Sanctuary, Jeffress Scholarship Trust, The Horse Trust and World Horse Welfare.

To apply for tickets, please contact the Hon Secretary, Mrs Tracy Lepkowska, at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, CV35 9BL email TLEPKOWSKA@WARKSCOL.AC.UK

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## **Mounted Games Association GB 2008 Teams Report - Success so far**

### **16th October 2008**

In August , the 3rd Annual European Team Mounted Games Championships were held in Verden, Germany.

England have held the title of Open Champions for the 3 years that the competition has been run, winning in Switzerland in 2006 and again at Romsey, Hampshire, England in 2007.

The 2008 England team was Janey Surman riding Annie, Kirsty Ferguson riding Jack, Peter Walters riding Red, Helen Green riding Toggi and Elli Garnett riding Dolly. The trainer was Sheila Peck.

After a hard fought contest, England again retained their Open title taking the gold medal. Wales were silver medallists and Northern Ireland bronze medallists making it a clean sweep for teams from GB!

Results were as follows:

Championship Final ;  
England 102, Wales 98, Northern Ireland 82, France 79, Scotland 71,  
Belgium 69, Germany 64

Consolation Final: Sweden 86, Switzerland 78, Italy 71, Norway 69, Ireland 62, Denmark 54

Our teams are shortly heading off to the World Team Championships in Sydney Australia (24 - 26 October) . They will not be taking their own ponies but will be riding ponies borrowed from the Australian MGA.

We wish all our teams from GB the very best of luck. England will be attempting to retain the World title that they have held since 2004.

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## **British Eventing Volunteer Awards 2008**

### **3rd November 2008**

The BE AGM was the venue for the BE Volunteer of the Year Awards, announced by Mike Etherington-Smith, BE Sport Director and kindly presented by Hugh Thomas, Director of The Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials

#### **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Awarded to an outstanding volunteer who goes out of their way to make a difference at an event.

Winner: Pat Hughes

Pat from Oxfordshire has been helping at events for over 20 years. Her volunteering days go back to the start of Cornbury Park in Oxfordshire, but Pat also helps out regularly at Great Tew, Blenheim and many other events.

#### YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

For an event volunteer under the age of 25, who makes an extraordinary or innovative contribution to the sport.

Winner: Francis Bere

Fourteen year old Francis Bere from Somerset is a well known young face on the eventing circuit and is renowned for always having a smile on his face whatever the weather or job!

Francis' moment came at Smiths Lawn Horse Trials this year when he jumped into the lake after a horse missed the step at the water jump and headed for the middle of the lake. The water was extremely cold, but Francis swam the entire length of the lake and managed, with help, to guide the horse out.

#### FENCE JUDGES OF THE YEAR in Association with The Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials

The Fence Judges of the year win the chance to fence judge at Badminton in 2009.

Winners: Bob & Mary Chippendale

Bob and Mary Chippendale have been fence judging for the last 12 years and regard it as their day job after both having retired. Bob used to work as a buyer for Bird's Eye and Fisons, whilst Mary was a physiotherapist. They both now live in Bath.

They decided to become fence judges having been inspired after regular visits to Badminton and Burghley.

They first started as fence judges at Kilmington with the Lissacks and they now judge at numerous events, including West Wilts.

At the events, Bob usually looks after radio communication and Mary takes charge of the paperwork and stopwatch.

#### BE Awards

The BE Awards for outstanding contributions to the sport were also announced.

Roland Clarke - Roland ran Borde Hill with Jenny Nolan for many years and after a short break, he teamed up with Bill Allen to run it for the last 3 years, where he is also President. Roland also runs the South East Eventer's league and organizes their Ball. Roland has also been a reporter for Eventing magazine for the last 20 years.

Bunny Maitland-Carew - Bunny has been the long-standing host of Thirlestane Castle International Horse Trials. Thirlestane has hosted BE events for 25 years and in this their anniversary year, they hosted the European Championships for Junior

riders with great success. BE would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to Bunny and everybody at Thirlestane for the great support they have given to the sport of eventing.

David Merrett - David has been the Chairman of Selectors for the Young Riders for 11 years. He was also a senior selector from 1992 - 1996 and was a JRN coordinator. He still remains involved in British Eventing as a Technical Advisor.

Ginnie Keen - Ginnie has been the Chair of the Pony Selectors for over 10 years and the success that these teams has achieved shows the skills, determination and dedication of Ginnie. Many of Ginnie's pony team riders have gone on to become senior team riders, including Oliver Townend and Kitty Boggis.

Viv McConechy - Viv is one of British Eventing's most committed members and has been involved in the sport for a number of years. Viv is responsible for arranging all the jump judges for the 3 Ayrshire events; Eglinton, Auchinleck and Turnberry.

Viv has her own database of volunteers and contributes a vast amount of knowledge and enthusiasm to the sport. Viv's family firm also provides local event sponsorship.

Helen Manns - Helen has been a Fence Judge Steward for over 20 years at many events held in the South West, including Gatcombe. Helen has made many friends in the sport and shows great willing to help others.

Derick and Helen Brown - Fence Judges for many years at events in the South West, especially Gatcombe. Their support of eventing through their help is truly appreciated.

Mike Etherington-Smith announced a special commendation for Dr John Inman, for his outstanding service to equestrianism and for his efforts at the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials where he has been Chief Medical Officer since 1987.

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## **Kuster BEF Groom for 2007 goes on to take international title**

**25th November 2008**

LAST year's winner of the Kuster British Equestrian Federation (BEF) Groom Award, Jenny Ellis, has been awarded the prestigious title of 'International Groom' for 2008 by the FEI (Federation Equestrian International).

Jenny, from Ashbourne, Derbyshire, was selected by the Athletes Committee, which is chaired by Paralympian Lee Pearson, to be the Award's first ever winner. She was put forward for the title by international riders; John Whitaker, Richard Davison and Simon Laurens via their nominations for the 2007 Kuster BEF Groom Award, which she won.

"This is an amazing achievement for Jenny, and rightly deserved," said Communication and Marketing Manager Anna Greenway, BEF.

"It's great to see that the Kuster BEF Groom Award has helped showcase the talent and dedication of grooms working across the UK equestrian industry and we hope that Jenny's success, nationally and internationally, will inspire other employers to

nominate their grooms in future years to help give them the recognition they so rightly deserve."

Ten finalists will be selected to attend the final judging day for the 2008 Kuster BEF Groom Awards where they will each be interviewed by top judges including double-Olympic medallist Tina Cook and the Chairman of the British Horse Society, Patrick Print. The fantastic first prize is £1,000 of holiday vouchers, plus the Smash Hit Bronze Trophy, which the winner will get to keep for a year. The Runners-up will not go away empty handed either, with a second prize of £300 and third prize of £200.

In addition to their prize, the winner and their guest will enjoy an evening of hospitality at the London International Horse Show at Olympia in December where the award will be presented in the main arena during the performance.

Entries for the 2008 competition have recently closed and the finalists will be announced shortly.

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## **NED - National Equine Database**

**26th November 2008**

From 26 November 2008 NED, the National Equine Database, goes live for the public to use.

For three months you will be able to:

- Get completely FREE access to the identity records of over 1,000,000 horses with UK passports for three months
- Get FREE access to all pedigree\*, progeny and performance reports, plus the option to link with your own horse and add photos and other information
- Help us improve NED by letting us know if you find any incorrect or incomplete information on your horses
- Donate to horse charities - during this offer period your £1 - less bank charges - will go to a number of equine charities

Visit NED now to use the only central, trusted and verified source of identity, pedigree and performance information for over a million horses with UK passports.

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## **UK Sport confirm funding for Equestrian sport**

**3rd December 2008**

UK Sport today confirmed funding of £292 million for the London Olympiad from April next year until to March 2013. Equestrian sport will receive £13.6 million for Olympic sport and £3.7 million for Paralympic sport which will be managed by the British Equestrian Federation's (BEF) World Class Programme.

"I am delighted that UK Sport has expressed confidence in us by their award, which amounts to £17.3 million for the next 4 years," said Andrew Finding Chief Executive of the BEF. "In doing so I want to pay tribute to our management team, led by Will

Connell, and the riders and owners; collectively they have raised the game in equestrian sport and provided the evidence that we have great potential for success in 2102.

"None of this would be possible without the leadership and commitment of the Boards and Chief Executives of British Dressage, British Eventing and the British Show Jumping Association as well as that of our own Board. Success is dependent upon a stable governance structure where our elite management team and our athletes, human and equine, have the freedom to excel. Now, we have to step up to the plate and deliver the medals in 2012."

Not all sports have had their funding allocation confirmed as there remains a shortfall despite the successful efforts of Andy Burnham and his team at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to secure an extra £29 million in what is a very challenging economic environment. The BEF has pledged support for Burnham's drive to find the extra £50 million that will be necessary to support all sports ahead of 2012.

The past-success, future potential and valued governance structure of equestrian sport has resulted in a satisfactory result, which will allow the equestrian World Class Programme to continue its excellent work.

It is testament to the huge efforts made by UK Sport's Chair, Sue Campbell and Chief Executive John Steele and their team that equestrian sport is in this fortunate position ahead of the London 2012 Games. There is no doubt that the support received to date is working. At the recent, annual General Assembly Britain was honoured as the top nation of 134 in 2007, winning 17 Championship titles that season.

"It is great news that we can continue to operate a World Class Programme supporting development, the equine pathway and performance," commented Will Connell, BEF Performance Director. "We are extremely grateful to UK Sport and the DCMS, the message is clear that we need to deliver results."

"We will review every line of the budget to ensure that every pound supports our quest for success."

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## **Finalists announced for 2008 Kuster BEF Groom Award**

**4th December 2008**

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) has announced the finalists for the 2008 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 nine finalists, it is their turn to be recognised for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm, as they reach the finals of the prestigious Kuster BEF Groom Awards 2008.

The finalists are:

<b>Finalist</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>Award</b>
Dayley Fisher	Ben Maher / Emma Phillips, Quainton Stud	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Joanne Fulham	Tony Fleming, Penny Farm World Horse Welfare	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Jo Hill	Henry Boswell	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Caroline Churchley	The Hon Mrs Mark Vesty, Cotswold Hunt Kennels	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Laura Hale	Carol Jones, Hole Farm Trekking Centre	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Alice Walthew	Celia Plunkett	Kuster BEF Groom Award
Darnelle Hubbard	Michael Kallenbach	Newcomer Award
Faye Corte	Clare Whitaker	Newcomer Award
Naomi Binns	Linda Whetherly	Newcomer Award

The finalists and their guests will be invited to attend the final judging day on 8 December, including a champagne lunch, where they will be interviewed by three judges, double-Olympic medallist Tina Cook, Paralympic medallist Simon Laurens and the Chairman of the British Horse Society, Patrick Print.

This year the winner of the Kuster BEF Groom Award will receive £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 their prize at Olympia, the London International Horse Show during the evening performance on 21 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 very difficult. 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 2009."

The award, once again sponsored by Frank Kuster, has gone from strength to strength over the last six years, attracting a wide range of grooms from all spheres of the equestrian industry, including top flight competition, riding schools and welfare yards.

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## **World Class Development Riders Selected for 2009-2011 Programme**

**8th December 2008**

The Equestrian World Class Programme has announced the riders selected for the 2009 - 2011 World Class Development Programme.

"The selection trials were once again a great success and the standard of riding continues to improve year on year," commented World Class Performance Director, Will Connell. "This is essential if Great Britain is to win more medals on the international stage at European, World, Olympic and Paralympic level.

"A number of riders who were part of the 2007/08 Programme have been re-selected, highlighting that the structure and training offered by World Class is successful and effective, but excitingly, some new faces have appeared indicating that the selection process continues to be consistent and fair".

The World Class Development Programme is Lottery funded via UK Sport and seeks to identify and develop riders who have shown the potential to reach the world stage. The programme underpins World Class Performance and, together with the Equine Pathway, they comprise the Equestrian World Class Programme. It incorporates the three Olympic sports of Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping and the Paralympic sport of Para-Equestrian Dressage.

The selection process, which takes place bi-annually, invites riders who meet set minimum criteria to viewing trials. Following this initial ridden assessment by British and international trainers successful riders are invited back to selection trials. At this final stage, the riders are assessed on their ridden skills and are interviewed.

The Development Programme is divided into start and potential within each sport and then further into gold, silver and bronze funding levels. All riders on the scheme will have access to the same World Class benefits including, equine and human health, fitness and nutritional support plus training and regular squad sessions.

Six riders across different disciplines have also been selected to join the programme as pre-start riders. These riders do not receive any direct funding but will be invited forwards to attend selected squad sessions to introduce them to the World Class system and the services it can offer.

The riders selected, by programme, are:

Dressage

Potential

Kate Atlee (Worcestershire)

Nikki Crisp (London)  
Michael Eilberg (Worcestershire)  
Gemma Green (Berkshire)  
Mary Sharman (Gloucestershire)  
Amy Stovold (West Sussex)  
Sarah-Jane Elmslie (Hampshire)

#### Start

Keri Bates (Warwickshire)  
Henry Boswell (Warwickshire)  
Lara Griffith (Oxon)  
Charlie Hutton (Glos)  
Anne-Marie Perry (Hartlepool)

Chief Selectors: Christoph Hess and Imke Schellekens-Bartels  
Dressage discipline coordinator: Caroline Griffith

#### Eventing

##### Potential

Ruth Edge (Cumbria)  
Lucy Wiegersma (Devon)  
Nicola Wilson (North Yorkshire)  
Emily Baldwin (Kent)  
Hannah Bate (Cheshire)  
Piggy French (Leicestershire)  
Harry Meade (Wiltshire)  
Chris King (Wiltshire)  
Gemma Tattersall (East Sussex)

#### Start

Charlotte Agnew (Roxburghshire)  
Laura Collet (Gloucestershire)  
Ben Hobday (Lancashire)  
Emily Llewellyn (East Sussex)  
Sienna Myson-Davies (Surrey)  
Angus Smales (Leicestershire)  
Georgie Spence (Wiltshire)

#### Pre-start

Tim Rogers

Chief Selectors: Flatwork: Tracie Robinson and Carl Hester; Jumping: Di Lampard and Leslie Law  
Eventing discipline coordinator: Sarah Verney

#### Show Jumping

##### Potential

William Whitaker (Huddersfield)  
Charlotte Platt (West Sussex)  
Chris Frazer (from Herefordshire, currently based in Germany)  
Gemma Paternoster (Berks)  
Hannah Paul (Herts)  
Richard Robinson (based in Germany)

#### Start

Danielle Farnsworth (Nottinghamshire)  
Samuel Hutton (Hampshire)  
Henry Lacey (Warwickshire)  
Daniel Neilson (from Cleveland, currently based Essex)  
Matthew Sampson (from Sheffield, currently based in West Sussex)  
Louise Saywell (Nottinghamshire)  
Jason Smith (from Kilmarnock, currently based in Germany)  
Tim Page (Suffolk)

#### Pre-start

Jessie Drea  
Daniel Moseley  
Joseph Clayton

Chief Selectors: Franke Sloothaak and Peter Wylde  
Show Jumping discipline coordinator: Tina Goosen

#### Para-Equestrian Dressage

##### Potential

Sophie Wells (Nottinghamshire)  
Natasha Baker (Middlesex)  
Edward Chanin (Devon)  
Erin Orford (Bucks)  
Emma Kent (Kent)  
Alex McNamara (Lincs)  
Denise Shawns (West Lothian)  
Emma Sheardown (Lincs)

##### Start

Rosie Andrews (Surrey)  
Natalie Povey (Wrexham)  
Anna Gill (Buckinghamshire)  
Stephen Wagland (Surrey)

##### Pre-Start

Mari Durward-Ackhurst  
Kathryn Gallagher

Chief Selectors: Kathy Amos-Jacob and Alison Mastin-Moore  
Para-dressage discipline coordinator: David Hamer

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## **Great Britain awarded trophy for top nation in 2007**

**8th December 2008**

Great Britain was awarded the trophy, presented to British Equestrian Federation (BEF) Chairman Keith Taylor, for the most successful nation in 2007 International Championships at the recent FEI General Assembly in Buenos Aires. The award was presented at a gala dinner, concluding the 2008 event which also saw British success in elections, individual awards and championship bids.

"I am delighted that the British Equestrian Federation was recognised on numerous occasions throughout the General Assembly, not least with this final award," said Chief Executive of the BEF Andrew Finding. "We continue to prove that we are at the forefront of our sport, making an impact on vital issues, we are recognised as an influential nation within the equestrian world. We continue to be extremely grateful for the generous funding British Equestrian sport receives from UK Sport via the Lottery and hope that we can continue to reap the rewards."

At the General Assembly the FEI looks back to the previous completed season which in this case is 2007. Britain headed the championship table with 17 gold medals, more than any other nation from the 134 in membership of the FEI. Germany took second with 15 medals, the USA third with 10, The Netherlands fourth with eight and Greece fifth with seven championship titles.

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## **Britain on top form at the FEI General Assembly**

**8th December 2008**

Harvey Smith and Jenny Ellis win individual awards

British individuals Harvey Smith and Jenny Ellis were also honoured for their contribution to international equestrian sport. Ellis received the FEI best groom award and Smith was the recipient of the FEI special recognition for outstanding services award.

Ellis was selected by the Athletes Committee, which is chaired by Paralympian Lee Pearson, to be the Award's first ever winner. She was put forward for the title by international riders; John Whitaker, Richard Davison and Simon Laurens via their nominations for the 2007 Kuster BEF Groom Award, which she won in December last year.

Smith's award, which was collected by BEF chairman Keith Taylor and will be formally presented at Olympia by David Broome, was to recognise the outstanding contribution that he has made to show jumping both at home and abroad.

Philip Billington elected as chairman of audit and compliance committee

During the Assembly Britain was also successful in its bid to retain a strong presence on the highly influential FEI Bureau. Former BEF Chairman Philip Billington won a contested election to take on the role of Chairman of the audit and compliance committee. He joins Lee Pearson, who as chairman of the athletes committee is now

a voting member, and John McEwen who is currently chairman of the FEI veterinary committee. Britain has now achieved the maximum number of voting members on the Bureau, two, with Pearson and McEwen entitled to vote. Jane Goldsmith was also elected as a member of the para-equestrian committee.

"I am extremely pleased to have been elected," said Billington, "and I am now looking forward to working with all the national federations and will do everything I can to justify the trust they have put in me by electing me to this role."

#### Bishop Burton win bid for 2010 Pony Championships

Britain is committed to maintaining a reputation as an excellent host of major championships and has established a programme of bidding for international events across the disciplines and age groups. The BEF was delighted to receive the news that the bid for the FEI European Pony Championships for jumping, dressage and eventing in 2010 had been successful. These championships will take place at Bishop Burton College from 27 July to 1 August.

The bid for the 2011 European eventing championships to return to Blenheim Palace was unsuccessful despite an excellent bid, being awarded instead to Luhmuhlen in Germany. However, there is still an exciting level of British Championships moving towards London 2012 and the BEF will continue to work on the programme of events beyond the current Olympiad.

#### Britain influence anti-doping strategy

Away from awards, elections and championship bids the BEF also made a strong contribution to many other items on the agenda and continues to be one of the leading and most respected nations at the FEI.

In particular the BEF presented two papers on developing a drug free sport, both of which were well received and added value to those provided by the Italian and German federations. On the recommendations of these papers, groups one and two have agreed to establish a working party to consider the issues. This will complement the work of the FEI Anti-doping and medication commission and the world anti-doping agency with the overall aim of achieving immediate results to assure the welfare of the horse in equestrian sport.

In addition the groups also decided to test all horses placed in the first three places in all FEI Rolex ranking point classes. The working party will complete a report by the 31st March 2009.

"Overall it was a very successful General Assembly both for the sport and for Britain," commented Andrew Finding. "We feel we have been able to protect the interests of our riders and also promote the best interests of our sport and to be recognised where we have excelled is very satisfying. We now look forward to working with the FEI as move forward into a new Olympiad."

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#### **Club and Coach programme reaps rewards in Birmingham**

**12th December 2008**

Positive work with young people is thriving in Birmingham thanks to the dedication of an officer based at Bournville Lane police station and the support of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF).

A keen horse rider and advocate of charity work, PC Hayley Sherry has organised an amazing opportunity for special needs children and children from relatively deprived areas.

By working in partnership with the BEF, the children from Wychall Primary School, Birmingham, have had the opportunity to acquire some skills and qualifications with horses at Hole Farm Trekking Centre. Funding has come from the BEF's Club and Coach Programme which aims to increase participation in riding, with a particular emphasis on encouraging new participants from urban areas to take part.

The group of children, aged from seven to nine, will be at the centre, which is managed by Carol Jones and owned by Birmingham City Council, for hourly sessions over the coming weeks.

The centre has been extremely pro-active over the last few years in opening up opportunities to new participants of all ages and backgrounds from across Birmingham. Working with School Sport Partnerships, Carol offers children the chance to learn to ride and get a basic understanding of stable management and horse welfare - an approach which has had a positive effect on the social skills and behaviour of all those involved.

Following the Whychall School's first visit PC Sherry said: "These children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience which has ultimately raised their confidence. I am tremendously proud of the commitment these children have shown, which is of great reward to me personally."

Sonia Birch, Regional Development Co-ordinator, BEF, echoes PC Sherry's comments: "It was fantastic to see the children benefiting from the experience of being with horses - some had never seen or touched a horse before. The commitment to the children displayed by Carol and the team from West Midlands Police just shows how instrumental they are in the success of this initiative and this is partnership working at its best. The BEF is very happy to have assisted in the funding of this project which we hope will inspire all those involved."

Wychall Primary School is just one of the many groups that Hole Farm Trekking Centre is working with on this initiative. Over the year Carol is hoping to attract 140 new people into riding.

For more details about Hole Farm Trekking centre you can read a case study about the centre [here](#).

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## **Equestrian sport on the school agenda**

**12th December 2008**

The British Equestrian Federation is keen to establish equestrian sport on the physical education national curriculum throughout mainstream, special schools and colleges in the UK. The sports development team at the BEF has been working closely with the Youth Sport Trust to establish a partnership that will make it happen.

The Youth Sport Trust (YST), a registered charity, is focused on building a brighter future for young people by enhancing the quality of their physical education and sporting opportunities. They achieve this through producing educational sporting programmes that are delivered through schools and supported by a range of corporate partners, trusts and foundations and government departments. Over the last 10 years, the YST has developed a nationwide network of Specialist Sports Colleges, School Sport Partnerships, and Partnership Development Managers. These networks help external partners such as National Governing Bodies to link with schools and colleges in a more coordinated way.

The YST are also a major player in the area of grant funding and work with other organizations such as Sport England and UK Sport to distribute, monitor and evaluate the spending of Government funds.

Schools and Colleges are demonstrating an increased awareness and interest in equestrian sports and are developing links with riding schools and groups throughout the UK. The YST has only recently recognised equestrian sport and now the BEF is keen to work with them to get equestrian sport firmly on the sporting agenda in a more coordinated way.

To that end, on 14th October, with the kind support of the National Riding Festival, the BEF attended the YST conference at Telford. Trigger the mechanical horse took pride of place in the International Centre Main Hall and received visits from many teachers, head teachers, partnership development managers and YST directors.

The conference demonstrated that equestrian sport is available as something new and something that can help teachers to deliver new curriculum outcomes and variety. For girls, young people with disabilities and pupils who are find it difficult to engage with traditional sports, equestrianism offers a unique and rewarding option.

Over 4,000 teachers and over 500 people responsible for developing school sport networks attended the conference. On the Tuesday evening there was a Gala Dinner for 4,000 people where a partnership project between Hole Farm Equestrian Centre and Lordwood Boys School in Birmingham, both projects the BEF have worked with, was nominated for a YST Innovation Award.

To find out more about equestrianism in schools contact the BEF Head of Regional Development, [Maggie.Still@bef.co.uk](mailto:Maggie.Still@bef.co.uk).

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## **Top equestrian employees named**

### **15th December 2008**

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 - Laura Hale, head girl at Hole Farm Trekking Centre, Birmingham

2nd - Alice Walthew, yard manager for Celia Plunkett in Banbury

3rd - Joanne Fulham, groom at World Horse Welfare's Penny Farm, Peel

The Awards also recognised the best newcomer in the industry - a prize which was awarded to Fay Cort for her work with Olympic Show Jumper John Whitaker and his wife Clare.

The winners and runners-up will attend the evening performance of Olympia, the London International Horse Show on 21 December, where Laura and Fay will be officially presented with their awards.

Laura and Fay scooped the top spots after a shortlist selection via nominations, followed by a judging day where the nine finalists were interviewed by three judges; double-Olympic medallist Tina Cook, double-Paralympic medallist Simon Laurens and the Chairman of the British Horse Society, Patrick Print.

"It was a very difficult decision as all of the finalists were of an exceptional standard," said Patrick Print. "They are all a great credit to British equestrianism and I'd like to commend them as well as their employers / trainers for producing such high calibre grooms."

In the end it was Laura (22) from Stourbridge who won the judges over by demonstrating her clear passion for her work at Hole Farm Trekking Centre in Bartley Green, Birmingham - which is both a Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) and Pony Club centre. The school has been very proactive over the last few years in creating opportunities for new participants of all ages, abilities and backgrounds from across the city, and Laura has played an integral part in helping to transform the lives of many able bodied and disabled children.

As Tina Cook commented, "Laura's passion for the children and her dedication to the welfare of the horses is incredible - her commitment and drive to make a difference is what clinched it for us."

The Newcomer Award was won by the youngest finalist, 19 year old Fay from Hertfordshire whose dedication and enthusiasm shone through to clinch the title. Fay has been working for the Olympic Show Jumper for a year, which has included intense preparation in the lead up to the Beijing Olympic Games.

"In a relatively short space of time Fay has clearly demonstrated her ability as an excellent groom, taking on a range of responsibilities and showing great initiative, she's obviously a real asset to their team." Said Simon Laurens.

Second placed BEF Groom, Alice (26) has worked in her current role for seven years at a private yard in Banbury, where she helps to produce winning eventers, point-to-point horses and hunter chasers. She was nominated by her employer Celia Plunkett, who was keen to recognise Alice's spirit, tact, hard work and organisation.

Third placed Joanne (20) impressed the judges with her mature approach and attitude to animal welfare. She works for World Horse Welfare's Penny Farm, in Peel looking after and helping to rehabilitate, and ultimately re-home, ill and neglected horses.

Laura wins £1,000 of holiday vouchers, plus the Smash Hit Bronze Trophy which she will get to keep for a year, while Alice and Joanne receive cheques for £300 and £200 respectively. Fay will be presented with a unique print by artist Tim Nathan.

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## **New Chairman for NED**

**15th December 2008**

The National Equine Database's (NED) Board will now be headed up by newly-appointed Chairman Graham Suggett.

Formerly Consultant Director of Breeding and then Director of Equine Development for the BEF, Graham has been appointed Chairman of NED and has already taken up the challenge of his new NED role.

Said Graham, "Having been involved with NED since it was conceived and worked with Defra and NED passport issuing organisations and data providers for many years, I am delighted to be on board to see this project come to fruition". Andrew Finding, BEF Chief Executive, says, "Graham will bring his particular, and well recognised, brand of leadership to the NED Board, providing support to the Directors already in place. In partnership with his colleagues on the NED Board, he will create a high level interface with the equine industry, ensuring that NED thrives, that the data held in NED is as good as it can be and that NED provides what the industry wants. In doing so NED will be the worldbeating system that it is expected to be; one that will help the British breeding industry move to a new plateau in the years to come".

NED Chief Executive Nick Wallbridge adds, "There is no one with a better understanding of the challenges faced by NED and we are tremendously pleased to have Graham with us to see NED through to its next stages".

Further information:

NED: T: 0845 003 7210

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## **Talented Equestrian Athletes to Benefit from TASS Scholarships**

**16th December 2008**

The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) is a Government funded multi-million pound scheme that is in its fifth year of operation for Equestrian Sport in England. The overall aim of TASS is to assist Great Britain's most talented young athletes, who wish to optimise the effectiveness of their sport and their academic programmes.

TASS provides an opportunity for equestrian athletes to take advantage of support that will propel them towards success on the world stage, whilst ensuring that they can fulfil their academic potential alongside their sporting ambitions. This system is driven through partnerships working between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Further Education Colleges (FECs), National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's), in this case the British Equestrian Federation, and other sports organisations.

A total number of twenty-two able-bodied and nine para-dressage equestrian athletes were recently awarded TASS Scholarships, that will provide them not only with financial assistance, but also the confidence and status of being formally recognized by their NGB and UK Sport as a talented individual with a bright future in their chosen

equestrian discipline, and forms an important stepping stone between the SportsAid Scheme and the World Class Development Programme.

Sarah Armstrong, World Class Project Manager said, "These equestrian athletes who have been awarded TASS Scholarships must feel a real sense of achievement, as due to a re-allocation of funding there was a restriction on TASS Scholarships being made available for equestrian athletes in 2008/09, and I hope this funding will assist them, not only in their sporting success, but also in their academic ambitions".

Please see below for a list of the successful TASS equestrian athletes.

#### Eventing (Region)

Dani Cuomo - South West  
Eliza Stoddart - East Midlands  
Gina Ruck - East Midlands  
Althea Bleekman - South West

#### Show Jumping (Region)

Thomas Davison - North West  
Jodie Ward - Yorkshire  
Miriam Goodard - South East  
Roberta Roe - East Midlands  
Simon Buckley - North West

#### Dressage (Region)

Emily Cousins - South West  
Emily Harris - South East  
Katherine Abberley - London  
Rebecca Drane - South East  
Zoe Sleigh - London  
Melissa Beer - South East

#### Driving (Region)

Rosanna Walters-Symons South West  
Roger Campbell - South West  
Frank Campbell - South West  
Katie Bell - East  
Mark Bell - East

#### Vaulting (Region)

Lucy Phillips - West Midlands  
Sarah Reid - West Midlands

#### Para-Equestrian Dressage (Region)

Phillipa Bishop - West Midlands  
Amy Franks - Yorkshire  
Kathryn Gallagher - East Midlands  
Kristina Keefe - South West  
Ruth MacCarthy - West Midlands

Fiona Maynard - Yorkshire  
Holly Neill - South West  
Benjamin Rodin - South East

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## **Sport England Funding to aid Equestrian Participation, Retention and Excellence**

**18th December 2008**

Sport England this week announced an investment of £480 million to deliver grassroots sporting opportunities and a lasting Olympic legacy of one million people playing more sport, this included an award of over £5 million for equestrian sport.

"The BEF team has worked hard to secure Sport England's support and confidence," said British Equestrian Federation (BEF) chief executive, Andrew Finding. "Now we must work hard with our member bodies to ensure we are able to increase participation, sustain people in equestrian sport and help them excel."

This level of funding reflects both the excellent work that has been done across the whole federation with previous funding and also the detailed planning and clear concept of future grass roots sports development that the BEF has been able to produce.

The federation aims to continue to work through its member bodies to achieve an increase of approximately 10,000 new participants per year taking part once a week.

The new funding is about more than just increasing numbers, there is a greater emphasis on sustaining participation and developing talent. The federation will be focusing on improving the experience within equestrianism by channeling more funding into coaching, volunteering, equine development and club or riding school systems. It will also work to identify and support talented participants moving towards world class development standards of performance to ensure future generations of excellence.

The BEF will be assisted in this by Sport England's newly devised survey to measure sports performance in this area. For the first time ever all sports will be able to fully understand what makes a quality experience for participants in sport and gain specific feedback on how to make improvements.

The funding will also assist with the development of a National Equestrian Institute for the Equestrian world and provide a firm link between national and local delivery of the key aims of the federation in its widest sense.

Last week the second active people survey was published and it showed a significant rise in equestrian 'once a week' participation. The number rose from 314,700 in the 2005/06 survey by 27,000 to 341,700 in the 2007/08 survey, an increase of nearly 9%.

There is little doubt that previous Sport England funding has contributed to this rise. The BEF has been able to develop a small team of part time regional development coordinators. In the new year they will be joined by a small team of part time regional coaches and both of these roles will coordinate with and support the member bodies in the delivery of Sport England funded participant programmes and link them to available funding opportunities.

The BEF has worked with the UK Coaching Certificate framework to increase the number and quality of coaches in equestrian sport, while at the same time developing volunteers. This programme has been rolled out across many of the federation member bodies.

The BEF has been awarded the license to accredit Clubmark clubs in the equestrian industry, the Sport England mark of high quality clubs, reassuring both parents and participants that the club is a high quality, welcoming environment for young people. The British Horse Society has been instrumental in leading on a pilot of this scheme, supporting a number of their approved centres to progress towards gaining the accreditation. The BEF will now continue to roll out this scheme across all relevant member bodies to allow a variety of clubs to gain the mark.

Early investment has also been made for the Pony Club and the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA). This contributed to the costs of development coordinators for the Pony Club to increase participation and develop new centres. The RDA received funding to deliver a programme of volunteer development, to support both increase in numbers and retention. More recent investment has been used to implement a regional programme under the UKCC coach development initiative, to support Pony Club centre proprietors, and to develop talent at regional level.

The BEF has also directed Sport England funding to increase participation through the non-Olympic sports, including supporting clubs offering the sports of vaulting, reining, endurance, driving, horseball and polocrosse. With the Olympic disciplines, Sport England money has been utilized to develop a 'pool of talent' across disciplines to sit below the World Class Programmes and ensure a cohesive participant pathway.

With the new funding secured these successful programmes will be able to continue and the BEF will be able to look at new ideas to contribute to the Sport England plan to increase participation, retain participants and help those participants to excel.

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## **World Class Database Launched**

**18th December 2008**

The World Class Equestrian Database has been developed with generous sponsorship from Northgate plc. The database has been designed to capture (in a secure environment) core data relating to World Class Team Staff, athletes from both the Performance and Development programmes, their squad horses and home teams.

The development and testing phases are now complete and the system went "live" in early November. Data collection is now taking place and the system is coming to life after a 18 month long project. The database will continue to evolve over the next 12 months as more data is collected. A user guide will be published in the New Year and user training will start to take place in Q1 2009. As the database beds down, it is envisaged that it will develop into a widely used tool for team staff and athletes on the World Class programme. In particular, it will be invaluable as an aid to logistics planning ahead of major championships.