

## BEF News Archive (October – December 2010)

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### New Lodge RDA wins £3k Community Fund

22nd December 2010

Scoring the most votes, New Lodge RDA is to receive the highest value Natwest Community Fund of £3000.

Hilary Crawford, manager of New Lodge RDA explained, "After being shortlisted by our local Chislehurst Branch, our bid for funding was left for online voters to decide", adding, "I'd like to thank everyone that voted and particularly to the British Equestrian Federation's HOOF-Ride London Olympic Legacy project for their encouragement."

In informing members of the HOOF-supported London Horse Network, votes were cast and Chair of the LHN, Jodie Maile said, "It was a great way for the newly-reformed LHN to support a member", adding, "Offers were even made from fellow member, Littleton Equestrian Centre to helping New Lodge RDA source hay at a better price than their local rate as this is what their win will be spent on!"

David Gadsby, London representative of the BEF added, "HOOF is all about bringing people in to the equestrian community and encouraging them to continue their association with our sport but this can only be achieved if equestrian establishments are able to survive. The HOOF-supported LHN is helping to develop centres with fund-raising, training and marketing workshops and this award also highlights just what can be achieved by the equestrian community working together."

New Lodge RDA provides a service for children and adults with physical and sensory special needs and learning difficulties with a team of horses, ponies and volunteers helping to provide lessons six days a week to approximately 100 regular riders.

Hilary added, "I really feel as if Christmas has come early for New Lodge RDA and we're really looking forward to the New Year as we have two new horses on the team and are even hoping for a runner in the London Marathon."

If you would like to volunteer or support New Lodge RDA directly contact Hilary at [Hilary.crawford@virgin.net](mailto:Hilary.crawford@virgin.net) or Tel 0208 851 6447.

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### FEI and Reem Acra give early Christmas treat to children from Ebony Horse Club

**20th December 2010**

A group of children from one of London's most disadvantaged borough's got an early Christmas treat on Wednesday 15th December when they were invited by Hollywood fashion designer, Reem Acra and the governing body for horse sport, the FEI, to attend one of the sport's premier events in London.

The London International Horse Show at Olympia, venue for the Reem Acra FEI World Cup Dressage, is one of the most glamorous events on the FEI calendar and is attended by members of the British Royal family and other high profile celebrities.

International fashion designer Reem Acra, new sponsor of the FEI World Cup Dressage, invited the children to experience the magic of world-class Dressage whilst enjoying dinner in the sponsor's hospitality suite.

The group also met one of the UK's leading Dressage riders Laura Bechtolsheimer, who recently won three silver medals at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky.

"Coming here tonight is the best Christmas present ever", said 15-year-old, Ronny Jacome. "I felt like royalty for the night and feel really privileged to have met Laura (Bechtolsheimer) who was so encouraging to us."

Reem Acra added:"We were delighted to be able to give these children a wonderful experience like this, especially in the lead-up to Christmas. The work that Ebony Horse Club does is truly inspirational and we were pleased that we could support them in some small way."

Earlier this month, the Ebony Horse Club won the FEI's prestigious Alltech Development Award at the Federation's General Assembly in Taipei. Ebony Horse Club is a charity that helps improve the lives of disadvantaged young people and children in the London borough of Brixton through the provision of access to horse riding, outdoor activities and mentoring services.

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## **BEF honours Equestrian talents at Olympia**

20th December 2010

The British Equestrian Federation presented medals of honour on Thursday 16th December in front of a packed crowd at the International Horse Show, Olympia, to five individuals who have shown outstanding achievement and contribution to the international equestrian world.

Dressage rider, Laura Bechtolsheimer; vaulter Joanne Eccles; eventer Nicola Wilson and para-equestrian dressage rider Sophie Wells were awarded medals for outstanding achievements in their respective disciplines, all of whom recently returned from the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky with medals.

Farrier for the British senior eventing team, Brendan Murray alongside Corinne Bracken, coach and chef d'equipe to the Children, Junior and Young Rider showjumping teams, received their medals alongside the four British riders.

Chief Executive of the BEF, Andrew Finding commented; "To have such a diverse range of expertise recognised at this level is wonderful for equestrian sport. Many congratulations to all of this year's medal winners".

The medals were presented by the BEF Chairman, Keith Taylor.

Information about those awarded medals:

**Laura Bechtolsheimer (Gloucestershire)**

Laura Bechtolsheimer receives her medal after a thrilling end to this season's competition with a win at Olympia on Tuesday night. Laura has broken British records and personal bests this season as well as winning a team and two individual silver medals from this year's World Equestrian Games.

2009 saw Laura and Mistral Hojris record wins in Holland and Germany and won team silver and individual bronze at the Alltech FEI Windsor European Dressage Championships.

**Corinne Bracken (Hampshire)**

Corinne has taken riders from Pony Club through to Senior Nations Cup level and riding club teams through to National Finals. Coach and Chef d'equipe for the children, junior and young rider showjumping teams Corinne has recently seen success whilst Chef d'equipe for the gold medal winning European showjumping team at this year's Youth Olympic Games.

**Joanne Eccles (Scotland)**

Joanne, aged 21, is the first British vaulter to achieve individual gold medals at both European (Sweden, 2009) and World (Kentucky, 2010) level. Alongside her sister Hannah, the pair have recorded eight British Pas de Deux Championship wins, recently winning silver at this year's Open European Championship in Austria.

**Brendan Murray (Cambridgeshire)**

Brendan, British senior eventing team farrier since 1992 has attended five Olympic and World Equestrian Games and nine European Championships.

World Class Performance Director, Will Connell, commented on Brendan's award; "Brendan is the mainstay of the stable area, carrying out any job that needs doing and ensures all aspects of the groom's welfare is attended to. He is completely committed to the success of Team GBR."

### **Nicola Wilson (Yorkshire)**

Nicola has been on the senior eventing squad since 2009 and has enjoyed numerous successes with wins at Blair Castle CIC3\* for two years running, a top ten placing at Badminton and a win at Barbury Castle and recently returned from the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky where she was part of the gold medal winning eventing team.

### **Sophie Wells (Nottinghamshire)**

Sophie is a Grade IV para-equestrian dressage rider. She made her senior team debut aged 19, winning triple gold with team, individual and freestyle medals at the European para-dressage Championships. Continuing her gold winning ways in 2010, Sophie was crowned world champion in the Grade IV individual and freestyle classes out at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky.

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## **A new way to practice for Pony Club**

**20th December 2010**

The Pony Club has launched a fantastic new E-Learning website called [www.PonyPrep.org](http://www.PonyPrep.org), to enhance the sound vocational training its Members already receive.

The learning content of PonyPrep is taken from The Pony Clubs best selling publication, The Manual of Horsemanship, and reproduced in conjunction with E-Learning specialists HT2 as quizzes, videos and interactions. [www.PonyPrep.org](http://www.PonyPrep.org) essentially comprises of three areas, Stables, Training and Competitions.

The Stables area allows users to create their own pony avatar, which is then used in the games they can play, so they learn with their avatar. "This is especially good for our Centre Members without their own ponies to practice with" comments Lucy Goler, Centre Membership Executive Officer.

In the Training area all the quizzes, videos and gaming interactions have been put together with guidance from The Pony Club Training Committee, and so are completely aligned with the teaching of The Pony Club. Nikki Herbert, Director of Pony Club Training, comments "Each time you go onto the site can learn something new and as the site develops the depth of knowledge will increase, helping our Members to progress up the training ladder". As the user takes quizzes and watches videos they collect points, which allows them to build their dream interactive stable yard and also collect tack.

The Competitions area allows the user to test their knowledge. By performing well in the competition quizzes and by gathering certain items of tack and equipment, the user is awarded rosettes and is placed on the leader boards.

PonyPrep is currently built around The Pony Club's C Efficiency Test level, but it is hoped that the site will be developed further to incorporate the other Efficiency Test levels and knowledge. "PonyPrep is a terrific initiative and the site is delivered in a creative, fun and lively way" comments Lady Lloyd-Webber, President of The Pony Club. "This will undoubtedly appeal not only to Pony Club Members of all ages, but will be an invaluable tool for struggling non horsey parents. PonyPrep will become the last word in equestrian education, as it benefits from The Pony Club's unparalleled knowledge base".

A testing day was held with help from the South Oxfordshire Hunt (Central) Pony Club Branch on November 27th, and eight Members, aged between 10 and 13, were let loose on the system to have a go and give their honest feedback.

"I thought that the [www.PonyPrep.org](http://www.PonyPrep.org) was a great way to learn for Tests and I would definitely use it again" said Darci Hill, age 12. "All in all I found it good fun to use", commented Chelsie Horne, age 13 "and there was lots of new areas to discover".

The system was also given the thumbs up by District Commissioner, of South Oxfordshire Hunt (Central) Branch, Mags Hope who commented that "our Members really enjoyed using PonyPrep and I can see it will be a constructive way to spend their free time, as well as a very useful tool for our instructors to make teaching and training for Tests even more fun!"

[www.PonyPrep.org](http://www.PonyPrep.org) was officially launched during Olympia Horse Show, going live from December 16th 2010. The site is available for anyone to use, free of charge, not just Pony Club Members and it is hoped that as well as the obvious learning benefit to existing Members the site will also act as a tool for recruiting potential new Members.

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## **Equine community welcomes shelving of 'Horse Tax' and new Government-industry partnership to protect horses from disease**

England's equine sector has today welcomed the publication of forward-thinking proposals that throw out previous plans to create a costly 'animal health' quango and charge horse owners a yearly disease control tax on every one of the million-plus horses in the country.

Instead the equine industry will be at the heart of a new partnership approach with Government, set to transform how decisions on animal disease and welfare are taken.

The British Horse Industry Confederation (BHIC), chaired by British Horseracing Authority (BHA) (and comprising the BHA, British Equestrian Federation, Thoroughbred Breeders Association, British Horse Society, British Equine Veterinary Association and British Equestrian Trade Association), has been at the forefront of the development of the proposals.

Set out in a report published today by the Advisory Group on Responsibility and Cost Sharing, the proposals include plans to establish a unique new 'England Partnership Board' within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). If implemented by Ministers, the new Board would see responsibility for decisions on animal health and welfare fully shared between Government, industry and animal owners.

Whilst giving its firm backing to the recommendations, the BHIC has called on Defra Ministers to ensure that the equine sector, which has a combined economic impact of £7bn (50% of which derives from racing), is well represented on the new Board.

The horse equine sector strongly opposed the original proposals for a 'Horse Tax' on the grounds that it would have raised costs, produced no benefits, and failed to recognise what was already being done. Today's report makes it clear that the Advisory Group has rejected this option, proposing instead a solution that will see industry and Government working together in genuine partnership to develop a system of fair and efficient cost sharing.

Professor Tim Morris, Chair of the BHIC, said:

"We all know that disease is a constant risk to horses. But a hugely expensive and bureaucratic 'animal health' quango and a tax on every horse owner was not the way to reduce those risks.

"Through the BHIC the whole equine sector came together and worked as one voice to both oppose the original untenable proposals and come up with constructive alternatives. Indeed, the ideas for a small Board within Government, better use of insurance and a review of compensation were all championed by the sector.

"We're confident that the proposals set out today represent the best way forward on Responsibility and Cost Sharing and the sector looks forward to continuing to engage with Ministers on vitally important issues such as the spread of equine disease."

Rosemary Radcliffe, the chair of the RCS Advisory Group said:

"The very diverse equine sector, with good leadership and a willingness to work together, engaged very constructively in these important discussions. Such a cooperative approach bodes well for the partnership which we are proposing as the way forward."

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# Horse Industry: Think Impact, Think Local

13th December 2010

The horse industry is missing a trick and needs to do more to help itself at the local level, claim the findings of a 2010 PhD carried out by Dr Georgina Crossman, when contrasting the English equine policy network with those in Sweden and The Netherlands.

Policy networks (relationships between interest groups and the government) of the three countries were compared and Dr Crossman found that models within the other two countries show that alignment with government objectives and better awareness of the socio-economic contribution of the horse lead to a more rapid progression of industry priorities.

The Coalition's programme for government asserts its intention to promote a "radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups" which links in with evidence of locally driven achievements on the continent which could, with this steer from UK government, be used as a template for the UK.

Not only is the contribution horses make to the economy, employment and biodiversity crucial at a local level (permanent pasture being vital to the carbon sink, biodiversity and water quality), priority issues for horse owners such as greater off-road access are more likely to be developed through local links. Several studies carried out in Sweden in 2005 and 2006 reinforced the importance to the Swedish Horse Council of the horse in education and rural development at a regional level. In Sweden, riding schools and clubs have direct links to local councils, known as municipalities, which help to maintain open access for all riders. The majority of Sweden's leisure horses are kept in farm diversification premises, which could be useful information for UK farm enterprises, as the UK Government recently revealed that it seeks to "radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live".

In the Netherlands, the role the horse plays in diversified farm enterprises achieves substantial recognition and the Central Federation of Horse Traders, split into 11 areas, works at the regional level to raise the profile of the horse industry. The growth in the number of horses in the Netherlands was all the more significant because of the corresponding decline in the number of cattle and sheep. The contribution of this increase in horses to the economy at a regional level led in part to the formation of the Federation of Dutch Horse Entrepreneurs (FNHO) and recognition by government that the horse was becoming more significant socially and economically. The Dutch horse industry has received minimal assistance from Dutch central government, the majority of funding coming from within the sector. A Dutch industry representative stated "the government should not be involved too much, they have to regulate some things but it is important that the horse industry can manage itself".

Said British Horse Industry Confederation (BHIC) Chairman Tim Morris "I am reassured by the findings of this study which lean strongly towards 'going local'. The BHIC, the BEF and its members, are already focusing their efforts in

this direction".

Adopting a structured approach across the horse industry, alongside the aligning of its strategy with the Coalition's programme and priorities, are fundamental recommendations emerging from Dr Crossman's PhD.

The full PhD was made available to the public on Monday 6th December 2010. For more details see [here](#)

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## UK Sport announces investments for the London 2012 Olympiad

**9th December 2010**

UK Sport have today announced changes to their investments for summer Olympic and Paralympic sports, and have confirmed that there will be no change to the current level of funding for equestrian sport (Grant funding award 2009-2013).

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation commented on today's announcement; "We are delighted that the successes of our riders, so wonderfully supported by the owners of their horses, are recognised by UK Sport in the confirmation of our continued funding for the 2012 Olympiad.

"The number of medals won at the World Equestrian Games illustrates the excellent progress made but there is no room for complacency; there's more to do in the 596 days before the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in London."

Chief Operating Officer for UK Sport, Tim Hollingsworth commented; "The team at UK Sport is very impressed with both the equestrian and para-equestrian programmes and the performances throughout the year".

The investment announcement comes as part of UK Sport's annual review of all its investments at the mid-cycle point before the Games and represents an overall increase of £2.6million in spending for summer Olympic and Paralympic sport, with the additional funding found through reprioritization of resources and greater than expected Lottery sales.

The review retains the highly successful 'no compromise' investment approach that helped produce the incredible performances by Team GB and Paralympics GB in Beijing. Six summer Olympic sports have seen their funding increased for the final two years of the London funding cycle.

Minister for Sport, Hugh Robertson MP, said; "This demonstrates our commitment to support our top athletes across a range of sports to make sure they can reach their potential. With a little over 18 months before London 2012, the

Government's reform of the National Lottery has delivered for sport, providing additional funding for athletes in six summer Olympic sports as well as increasing investment to winter sports to help athletes follow in Amy Williams footsteps in Sochi 2014."

The announcement follows another positive year for all Olympic and Paralympic sports, with 40 medals won at World and European level amongst the Olympic disciplines and 84 medals from the Paralympic disciplines. Equestrian sport has contributed 5 world medals from the equestrian Olympic disciplines and 13 world medals from para-equestrian dressage.

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## World Class Equine Pathway Day

**1st November 2010**

Despite the cold weather approx 100 owners, riders and coaches of Equine Pathway horses from dressage, eventing and showjumping gathered at Addington Manor on the 29th November for the second Equine Pathway information day.

Presentations during the morning session were made by the Equine Pathway Managers, Caroline Griffith, Corinne Bracken and Yogi Breisner. Will Connell also gave an overview of the venue to be used for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, which will be a target for some of the horses currently on the Pathway, whilst John McEwen looked from a vets perspective at how best to preserve the longevity of the performance horse.

Also presenting was Dr. Lars Roepstorff of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, who is currently working on a co-federation and FEI funded project looking into the effects of surfaces on the performance horse.

The group then moved to the indoor arena for the practical sessions, hosted by Yogi Breisner.

Richard Davison was first to work with Carl Hester on a young pathway horse who is likely to make his debut at the Grand Prix in 2011; followed by John Ledingham, who worked with Laura Collett and Simon Crippen with two young horses on a variety of jumping exercises before they jumped a small course which the riders and John then analysed for the audience with input from Richard and Yogi.

Simon and Laura then changed onto more experienced horses and worked with John again on a more complex set of exercises. The three coaches John, Richard and Yogi then took questions and encouraged discussion within the group.

The World Class programme which hosted this event is very grateful to Simon Crippen , Laura Collet and John Ledingham who stepped in at the 11th hour.

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## **Equestrian Challenge winners honoured on Hennessy Gold Cup day**

**1st December 2010**

Equine students from the Royal Agriculture College, Cirencester, Oxford Brookes in partnership with Abingdon & Witney, Hartpury and Sparsholt Colleges were in attendance at Newbury Races on Saturday 27 November, Hennessy Gold Cup Day for the announcement of the winner of the "Equestrian Challenge", a new initiative to develop a "Celebration of the Horse" themed raceday, jointly organised by Newbury Racecourse and the British Equestrian Federation (BEF).

On October 8th, groups of aspiring equine business minds, who are currently undertaking either a BSc (Hons) in Equine Business Management, Sports Business Management or Equine Science, received a brief from Newbury Racecourse's management team to develop a themed raceday for its fixture on Saturday 26 March 2011.

The groups of students then presented their ideas on 22nd November to a panel consisting of Stephen Higgins, Managing Director of Racing & Events at Newbury Racecourse, Anna Greenway, Head of Communications and Marketing at the BEF and racing journalist Alice Plunkett.

The winning students were announced on Saturday, receiving their awards for the inaugural 'Equestrian Challenge' from William Fox-Pitt, fresh from the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky where he was part of the Gold winning British Eventing Team, and racing journalist Alice Plunkett.

All the finalists demonstrated innovative themes including a targeted marketing and communications strategy and an interactive and unique schedule of entertainment and demonstrations for the raceday that will be focused around various equestrian disciplines.

The winning group received their awards, which included 2011 Club Newbury membership, the racecourse's members club for 18-25 year olds. Ongoing mentoring and support from Newbury's management team, across all aspects of the business from racing to marketing and sales, will be provided in order to assist the winning students with the successful delivery of the inaugural Equestrian Challenge Raceday on Saturday 26 March.

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## **RDA to introduce Showjumping**

**16th November 2010**

Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) is to introduce Showjumping as one of its core disciplines. The decision has been taken in response to growing enthusiasm among RDA Groups and participants to get involved in the sport, and the charity is delighted to be able to offer this exciting new challenge to its riders.

RDA has been in talks with British Showjumping and its own Instructors to ensure that the introduction of the sport will be as safe and effective for its riders as possible. RDA centres will be allowed to add Showjumping to their core activities once their instructors have completed the relevant training and assessment - ensuring that the sport is taught to the same high standard as the current disciplines of Dressage, Vaulting and Carriage Driving. Training will be made available to all Volunteers and Instructors who wish to include the sport in their riding sessions.

RDA Senior Instructor, Michael Butcher, has been appointed as Showjumping Head Coach to deliver the training and qualification process, with the aim of encouraging all groups to participate in Showjumping activities. "I am looking forward to working with experienced RDA Instructors who - with valuable input from RDA Physios - will ensure the highest standard of delivery is made available to all riders, from novice to potential paralympians," says Michael.

"With many of our riders looking for the competitive challenge that Showjumping offers, we are delighted to be able to introduce it as one of our core disciplines," says RDA Chief Executive, Ed Bracher, "The support of British Showjumping has been central in helping us get this project off the ground, and I look forward to further strengthening this partnership. This is undoubtedly an exciting development for us, and I hope our Groups and Participants will enjoy the challenge of Showjumping with RDA for the first time."

RDA is actively seeking a sponsor to help fund the training of Showjumping at its Member Groups and to promote the sport at the charity's National Championships in July 2011.

For more information about Riding for the Disabled Association, please visit [www.rda.org.uk](http://www.rda.org.uk).

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## **Places People Play: London 2012 mass participation legacy plans unveiled**

15th November 2010

The Olympic and Paralympic stakeholders today came together to announce plans for the mass participation legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Unveiled by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, and Sport England, Places People Play

will bring the sporting legacy to life in communities across the country, answering London 2012's Singapore promise to inspire a new generation to play sport.

The £135 million initiative has been made possible by the Government's National Lottery reforms, which are bringing additional funding into grassroots sport.

Places People Play will be delivered by Sport England, in partnership with the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the British Paralympic Association (BPA) with the backing of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the London 2012 Inspire mark.

It will bring the inspiration and magic of a home Olympic and Paralympic Games into the heart of local communities, encouraging more people to get involved in sport.

### **Places**

We will transform the places where people play sport, making the benefits of London 2012 visible in cities, towns and villages across the country by:

- Upgrading up to a thousand local sports clubs and facilities
- Investing in a number of iconic multi-sport facilities that set the standards for future facilities development
- Protecting and improving hundreds of playing fields across the country, preserving high-quality spaces for local people to play and enjoy sport.

These facilities will be the only ones to carry the London 2012 Inspire mark, a permanent celebration of their role in the legacy of the Games.

### **People**

We will inspire people to make sport happen at the local level, embedding the Olympic and Paralympic values in grassroots sport, by:

- Recruiting, training and deploying 40,000 sports leaders as the next generation of sports volunteers to organise and lead grassroots sporting activities.

### **Play**

We will create the sporting opportunities and challenges that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy, through:

- Gold Challenge - an independent initiative that will motivate over 100,000 adults to test themselves in multiple Olympic and Paralympic sports, and in doing so raise millions of pounds for charity
- Sportivate - a nationwide campaign that will capture the excitement of sport, providing opportunities for teenagers and young adults to receive six weeks of coaching in the sport of their choice and guiding them into regular participation within their community.

We will be consulting disabled people and those who support them on how we can focus some additional investment - at least £8 million - on tackling the barriers they face when they want to play sport, as well as making sure that every element of this programme works for disabled sportsmen and women too.

Hugh Robertson said; "This is the cornerstone of a grassroots legacy from hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games, because it delivers on the bid pledge of enabling more people of all ages and abilities to play sport. With more Lottery money being invested in facilities, volunteering and protecting and improving playing fields, there will be opportunities for everyone to get involved. When people talk about the legacy of the Games, we want them to talk about Places People Play - and then we want them to get out there and join in."

Sport England's Chief Executive, Jennie Price, commented; "We can't all be Olympians or Paralympians, but with great local facilities, inspirational sports leaders on the ground and sporting challenges to suit everyone, we can all be part of the mass participation legacy of the Games.

"In developing Places People Play, we wanted to bring both the Games and grassroots sport to life in communities across the country ensuring that, in challenging times, sport receives the investment and attention it needs at a local level."

British Olympic Association Chairman, Colin Moynihan, said; "When London was awarded the honour of hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it was with the promise that legacy would be more than a word - it would be a tangible, sustainable commitment to transform lives through participation in sport and an understanding of the Olympic ideals.

"The innovative programmes being introduced today will do exactly that, and the beneficiaries will be the generations of young athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers throughout our country who will see their lives enriched by the positive lessons, values and choices they make through sport. That is why it is so important that we, as partners, come together and work collaboratively in making these programmes successful."

ParalympicsGB CEO, Phil Lane, said: "We know that the performance of the ParalympicsGB team on home soil has the potential to inspire many more disabled people to get active and involved in sport. Places People Play will help them do just that in their local community. We welcome the additional £8m investment in disability sport to make sure this happens."

"When we bid for the Games in Singapore in 2005, we said that we would use the power of the Games to inspire young people to take up sport. Places People Play will harness the inspirational power of the Olympic and Paralympic

Games to promote sport across the country to leave a lasting legacy of sporting facilities, trained volunteers and more people participating in sport. This is what we set out to achieve from bringing the Games to London and the UK", commented LOCOG Chair, Seb Coe.

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## **Dressage groom wins prestigious FEI award**

12th November 2010

British groom, Michelle Tipper, has won the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) Best Groom Award at a ceremony in Taipei.

A former young international dressage rider and national netball player, Michelle worked for British dressage Champion, Nicky Barrett for three years as a travelling groom. Since then she has freelanced for international and national riders, including Paralympian, Simon Laurens at the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008 and 2010 World Champions, Sophie Wells and Emma Sheardown at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky.

Michelle commented on her award; "It was a great honour to collect the grooms award and it is fantastic that grooms are being recognised worldwide. To receive the award from Princess Haya was a privilege. We are very lucky in Britain to have such a great support system for grooms, British Grooms Association is a fantastic association who provide support and the British Equestrian Federation always make sure we are looked after.

"I would not be where I am now without my Old Berkeley Hunt North pony club, Nicky and Richard Barrett from who I learnt and grew so much with, and the support of my parents. Sadly dad passed away eighteen months ago, but I know he would be proud.

"I have been very lucky to work with all the riders I have and I would like to thank you all."

Michelle was one of five rewarded for outstanding dedication to horse sport; Edward Gal and Moorlands Totilas received Reem Acra best athlete award; Caroline Roffman was HSBC's Rising Star; Ebony Horse Club, who are based in Brixton, received the Alltech Development award and Angelika Trabert won the Against All Odds award.

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## **UK Anti-Doping warning about methylhexanamine**

10th November 2010

**Methylhexaneamine is prohibited in sport.** It is increasingly being found in nutritional supplements, typically those that are designed to increase energy or aid weight loss. Methylhexaneamine is commonly referred to by a number of alternative names including 1,3-dimethylamylamine, dimethylamylamine, dimethylpentylamine, DMAA, forthan, forthane, floradrene, geranamine and geranium oil.

There is no guarantee that supplements are drug-free, even when all the ingredients listed are permitted substances. UK Anti-Doping counsels against the use of supplements; however, for those athletes who are considering using a supplement, UK Anti-Doping recommends caution, and advises a thorough assessment of the risks before taking them.

In order to assist athletes to assess the risk HFL, an independent organisation, has established a supplement risk minimisation scheme called Informed-Sport. This programme evaluates supplement manufacturers for their process integrity, and screens supplements and ingredients for the presence of prohibited substances. Athletes should be advised to go to [www.informed-sport.com](http://www.informed-sport.com) for more information.

The following key points should be stressed to athletes to help minimise the risk of ingesting a prohibited substance through a supplement.

1. Keep in mind that [www.globaldro.com](http://www.globaldro.com) is for checking medications NOT supplements, nor ingredients in supplements.
2. If you do use a supplement, assess the risks and refer to [www.informed-sport.com](http://www.informed-sport.com)
3. Keep records of all the checks you carry out before taking any medications or supplements.

We would like to remind athletes that they are solely responsible for any substance found in their body under the World Anti-Doping Code's policy of strict liability. Contaminated supplements or misleading packaging are not valid defences should an athlete test positive for methylhexaneamine or any other prohibited substance

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## **HOOFF-Ride London supported charity wins FEI Award**

**9th November 2010**

HOOFF-Ride London supported charity, the Ebony Horse Club, a pioneering horse riding charity in South London which brings horse riding to some of London's most disadvantaged young people, has been awarded the Federation Equestre Internationale(FEI), 2010 Alltech Award for Development.

A year on from the British Equestrian Federation's Olympic Legacy project, HOOFF-Ride London promising £200,000 of funds from its Sport England funding to help the Ebony Horse Club start building a bespoke riding centre in the centre of Brixton the charity's work has become more recognised by the equestrian community.

Richard Johnson, FEI Director of Corporate Communications said, "With so many nominations from around the world, we were thrilled the Ebony Horse Club was this year's special winners. It is a real testament to the dedication, determination and drive of this remarkable club winning this global award. The Alltech Development Award has quite rightly put a spotlight on the remarkable children and young people from this inner city project proving that sport has no boundaries."

Speaking at the ceremony in Taipei, Taiwan, where she received the award from FEI President, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya of Jordan, Ebony's Director Ros Spearing said, "Over the last 14 years we have worked hard to bring the benefits of horse riding to young and troubled people in South London. Our charitable aims are to improve the life skills, education and aspirations of disadvantaged youngsters growing up in deprived communities in Brixton, South London. This award acknowledges and celebrates the power of sport to improve the lives of young people."

Ros added, "Ebony is building a riding centre in Brixton which will allow many more local children to benefit from the Club's activities. We are appealing for donors to come forward with the last £100,000 so that work can start on the £1.7m project in February 2011."

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## **BHDTA maximising the opportunity with the John Lewis Partnership**

**17th November 2010**

The British Horse Driving Trials Association (BHDTA) have recently maximised an opportunity with the BEF's BOA FTSE 100 Partner, John Lewis (JLP). The partnership is an initiative set up by the BOA to partner successful businesses with top sports to learn from each other and provide support.

After listening to a talk given by The John Lewis Partnership at the BEF offices, Chris Hillman, from the BHDTA, saw a link between the sport of horse driving trials and the need to develop executives within the Partnership and invited the speakers to attend the BHDTA National Championships at Windsor Great Park.

After their experience at the event Noel Saunders, Managing Director of John Lewis, reflected on the incredible parallels between the sport and his own retail environment. "You are dealing with a live animal, with attitude, personality and its own will, just like my staff. We talk about communication channels in our stores, your communication channels are the reins, we want everyone to pull in the same direction".

A pilot course followed from the National Championships with seven members of the JLP Executive Steering Group attending the one day event at the BHDTA's flagship venue Ashfields, in Essex. Although the Steering Group had

attended numerous development courses in the past none of the attendees had been near horses, presenting a challenge for the group.

The programme was highly interactive, culminating in a highly competitive cones competition. The feedback from this initial group was that the experience was one of the most powerful development programmes they had experienced.

Chris Hillman of the BHDTA commented; "We were invited to spend the day at the John Lewis store in Oxford Street, to understand their working environment and help us design programmes that mirrored the development issues within the store. A very ambitious three phase rollout is due to start with the top 300 manages.

"Although this kind of programme won't help us win medals at WEG, it does give the sport a huge shop window as JLP have 60,000 partners. It means our UKCC coaches will be constantly in demand and has created a unique revenue generating channel the sport so desperately needs."

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## Showjumping legend appointed as Patron of UKPA

**5th November 2010**

Showjumping legend and sports commentator Emma-Jane Brown has been appointed as Patron of the UK Polocrosse Association in advance of next year's Polocrosse World Cup.

In addition to helping the UKPA to raise awareness of next year's tournament and polocrosse more generally, she will also specifically look to encourage more young people to take up the sport.

Emma-Jane hadn't ridden for 14 years until this year, due to the diagnosis of a horse allergy which forced her to give up her hopes of Olympic glory in 1996. She has since worked as a commentator and journalist for broadcasters like Sky Sports and Eurosport and currently writes a column and bi monthly feature for a glossy Warwickshire magazine.

According to Emma-Jane, "I am still very passionate about equestrian sports and saw becoming Patron of the UKPA as an opportunity to help promote a non Olympic equestrian sport at grassroots level, as well as encouraging young people in to an up and coming horse sport like polocrosse. The World Cup should really put the sport on the map."

A cross between Polo and Lacrosse, Polocrosse is played outside, on horseback. The UK will host the World Cup for the first time at Bishop Burton College in Yorkshire next year.

Iain Heaton from UKPA commented, "I am absolutely delighted to welcome Emma-Jane Brown as our Patron. I think it is wonderful that someone with her reputation is getting involved with polocrosse. It shows how much the sport is

growing and developing. The UKPA looks forward to working with her to continue the development of polocrosse; I know she will bring a great deal to the sport."

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## **A National Schools Competition Framework for Equestrians**

**5th November 2010**

Launched in September 2005, the National Competition Framework for Young People was established to increase the amount of inter-schools competition available and to improve the quality of existing competitive opportunities.

Developed jointly by the Youth Sport Trust, Sport England and the National Council for School Sport collaboratively with a wide range of National Governing Bodies (NGB) and School Sport Associations, the framework is in principle a 'good practice' model for the delivery of competitive sport for young people.

There are currently 16 NGB Frameworks that have been approved by the Youth Sport Trust, with school staff - supported by a large team of Schools Competition Managers - delivering successful competitions across the country.

The Equestrian National Schools Competition Framework has had initial approval from the Youth Sport Trust and will go before the National Competition Review Panel in October 2010 for final approval. The Equestrian Framework has been developed through consultation with current National, Regional and County competition providers and Member Bodies of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF).

Delivery of the framework will be tasked to the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) which was formed in 1991 in order to co-ordinate inter-school equestrian competitions and promote riding at all levels, across both State and Independent sectors.

Over the last nineteen years, the NSEA has supported and increased the number of inter-schools riding competitions throughout the UK including county level Showjumping and Dressage competitions; the National Schools Showjumping, Eventing and Dressage Championships; Regional Equestrian Leagues and Regional qualifiers for the NSEA 'Jumping with Style', Dressage and Winter Showjumping Championships.

The vision for the single competitive framework is to provide a pathway from top to bottom including competitions in schools and clubs. The framework seeks to increase participation in high quality competition for all young people. Supported by a dedicated band of regional NSEA volunteer staff, the network of competitions will continue to be gradually increased over time so that even more children will have the opportunity to represent their school in equestrian sport.

The Framework will also be used as the basis of the review process to transform talent identification and development for future international competitors.

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## **British Dressage Team Vet John McEwen confirmed as First Vice President of FEI**

**5th November 2010**

HRH Princess Haya Al Hussein, who returns as FEI President for a second and final four-year term, has announced her First and Second Vice Presidents.

World Class Director of Equine Sports Science and Performance and British Team Dressage Vet, John McEwen, who was earlier re-elected as Chair of the Veterinary Committee, replaces Sven Holmberg as First President, who served under Princess Haya since 2006, as First Vice President of the FEI.

Pablo Mayorga (ARG) was elected as Second Vice President, replacing the outgoing Second Vice President, Chris Hodson (NZL).

In other appointments, two Group Chairs were elected. Hanfried Haring (GER) was re-elected as Chair of FEI Geographical Group II and Mauricio Manfredi (BRA) was elected as Chair of Group VI, replacing outgoing Chair, Pablo Mayorga (ARG).

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## **Landslide victory as HRH Princess Haya re-elected to FEI Presidency**

**5th November 2010**

HRH Princess Haya Al Hussein (JOR) has been re-elected as President of the FEI at the Federation's General Assembly in Taipei in a landslide victory in the first round of voting. Princess Haya, who was seeking a second and final four-year term as President, won with 90 votes of a total 124 valid ballots.

The other contenders for the position were Sven Holmberg (SWE), the first Vice President of the FEI, who received 23 votes, and former Vice President of the Netherlands Equestrian Federation, Henk Rottinghuis (NED), who received 11 votes.

HRH Princess Haya was accorded a standing ovation as she returned to the stage after the election to address the electorate. "Thank you so much for your confidence and trust. I promise that I won't let you down", an emotional HRH Princess Haya commented.

"I promise to unify this Federation. I promise to work for you, the National Federations, and constantly appreciate your needs and do everything I can to serve this sport we all love. I never really realised how many wonderful friends and supporters I have. This has been a really extraordinary year for me and I am truly humbled by what you have done for me. Thank you very much."

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## **Para-equestrian dressage coach chosen for Elite Coaching Apprenticeship Programme**

**3rd November 2010**

Clive Milkins, a leading para-equestrian dressage coach based with the South Bucks Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Group, has been accepted onto the UK Sport Elite Coaching Apprenticeship Programme 2010/12.

During the two year programme, each coach will build on their current knowledge and experience to create a bespoke development pathway towards coaching excellence, based on the needs of the coach and their sport.

Clive commented on his acceptance onto the Programme; "I'm so excited about the programme on both a personal and professional level. I've had an amazing career through my work with para-equestrian dressage and it's an honour and privilege to represent equestrian sport at such a high level and to be able to work with such high-profile coaches.

"It's a great step forward for equestrian coaching - both at an elite and grassroots level. To be able to get more people involved with coaching now bodes well for a future medal legacy".

Clive began his work with the RDA in the late 1980s after volunteering at Moreton Hall Group while at Warwickshire College; he joined South Bucks RDA Group as Stable Manager and Chief Instructor in 1993.

In 1990, Clive was the trainer for the British team at the World Championship and Games for disabled riders. He has since coached riders competing at Paralympic Games (Athens and Beijing), European Championships and World Championships. Clive also supported gold medal winning rider, Sophie Christiansen at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky.

World Class Performance Manager for eventing, Yogi Breisner, who supported Clive's nomination commented; "It is great for equestrian sport that Clive has been accepted onto the Elite Coaching Apprenticeship Programme. Having had some involvement with the Programme run by UK Sport, I have always been very impressed by the quality of their programmes, and it will therefore be of real benefit, not only to Clive but to equestrian sport in general".

Clive has been nominated for numerous awards since his career began; Groom of the Year, 2005; The Queen's Award for Equestrianism, awarded for 'Outstanding Services to Equestrianism' and the Kuster BEF Groom of the Year in 2006.

Following a typical apprenticeship model, the 12 selected coaches will benefit from 'on the job' training by working alongside a 'Master Coach' from within their sport while also having access to a Mentor. Michel Assouline will act as Clive's Master Coach, with Jane Goldsmith his mentor.

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## World University Equestrian Championships

**1st November 2010**

The bi-annual World University Equestrian Championships (WUEC) is currently taking place in Sangju, South Korea and sees 19 nations competing from around the world.

Representing Great Britain, and their respective Universities, are Georgina Strang (Nottingham Trent) Rebecca Woolven (Royal Agricultural College) and Danielle Jackson (South Bank). Joanna Honey (Warwick) is the reserve rider.

The riders compete at the Championships on borrowed horses, supplied from Germany and Holland. In the competition each rider completes an elementary dressage test and a 1m showjumping course; usual dressage scoring and style marks for showjumping apply.

### **Results - dressage**

Georgie was knocked out of the competition in the second round by Ireland's Sarah Glynn, after producing a good test in the first round to beat France and Thailand.

After beating the Netherlands and Kyrgyzstan in the second round, Danni lost in the third round to a Dutch rider, after a challenging ride.

Becky, who had beaten Russia and Austria in the second round, went on to beat stiff competition from German and Belgium riders in the third to progress to the semi-final, where she performed an outstanding test to beat the Dutch rider who had knocked Danni out in the previous round.

Becky performed outstandingly in the Individual dressage final (2nd November) to take the Individual Gold medal, with the team taking the silver behind Ireland.

### **Results - showjumping**

All three riders competed in the showjumping competition on Monday (1st November).

Although Becky and Georgie both rode exceptionally well they were both knocked out in the first round by Estonian riders. Danni, beating her first round opponent, progressed through to the second round. In the second round both Danni and her Swiss opponent produced clear rounds; unfortunately, the Swiss rider had the better mark and progressed to the third round ahead of Danni.

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## **TASS unlocks more support for sport**

1st November 2010

It is a very exciting time in British sport at the moment. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity the London Games provides is something the whole sector is trying to maximise in shaping the landscape for sport beyond those amazing few months in the summer of 2012. What's also interesting is the challenge coming from the Comprehensive Spending Review to make sure every available pound is spent as effectively as possible - when resources are limited, collaboration and partnership can be very effective.

The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) Award provides a range of support to the athlete. This support is delivered through a unique hub-network of Universities and Further Education Institutes spread across England, created and supported as part of TASS, actually as one of the core objectives of the Scheme. Over the past few years of TASS, it was evident that these hub institutes were providing significant additional services to TASS athletes, adding value to the core TASS Award and bringing even more support to sport that was not there before - genuine additionality. The initial findings from research aiming to assess the value of this additional support suggest that each TASS £1 is unlocking at least the same value again from the TASS hub-network.

There are variations in this extra support, depending on the TASS hub institution the athlete is based at, but broadly speaking it could take the form of direct grants, gym memberships, access to training facilities free of charge, sports kit, contributions towards tuition fees, extra strength and conditioning (S&C) coaching and physiotherapy support as

well as additional sport science services. All key areas that help to support the athlete in their 'dual career', ie the progression of both their sporting and educational development. So, the hubs are committing their own resources to back these athletes, as opposed to simply allocating the TASS Award.

The two case studies below illustrate this additionality in practise, showing two TASS athletes that receive additional benefit on top of their TASS Awards:

### **Emily Parker - Equestrian at Nottingham Trent University**

Emily won two gold medals at this year's Young Rider European Championships in the Czech Republic on her horse Treefers, claiming individual gold and helping Great Britain to team gold for the sixth year running. The three day event is a mix of dressage, showjumping and cross country riding. Emily is currently studying for a BA in Real Estate Management at Nottingham Trent University.

As well as receiving the support of up to £3,500 from her TASS Award, Emily benefits from the support and understanding of her University which provides flexible study options to allow Emily to manage her academic work around her sporting commitments, as well as from the following additional benefits:

#### Amount Benefits

£1,000 Direct Funding (as a contribution towards Living Costs)

£3,000 Additional support including Physiotherapy and S&C, academic expenses (eg textbooks), sporting expenses (eg travel to training/competition, equipment)

£500 Access to Performance Sport Workshops such as Injury Prevention, Nutrition and Psychology

£120 Sport and Fitness Membership

£100 Sports Kit

£4,720 Total (this is in addition to her TASS Award)

### **Geri Buckley - Shooting at Northumbria University**

2010 has seen Geri competing in her first year on the Senior GB Team in the 10m Air Pistol and 25m Sport Pistol. After enjoying a successful junior career, with international representation and making finals on the European circuit, Geri is now focusing on making the team for major international competitions in 2011. Geri is also working towards a PhD at Northumbria University, which the University are contributing 50% towards.

She receives support from the University to help her balance her studies and sport and also receives the following additional benefits:

#### Amount Benefits

£1,500 Direct Funding (as a contribution towards Living Costs)  
£3,000 Additional support including Physiotherapy and S&C, access to training facilities  
£500 Access to Performance Sport Workshops such as Lifestyle, Nutrition and Psychology  
£100 Sports Kit  
£5,100 Total (this is in addition to her TASS Award)

So, just from these two case studies, £7,000 of TASS Award funding is unlocking a further £9,820 of support for sport. When this is extrapolated up for the 700 or so athletes receiving TASS Awards it is easy to recognise the extra value the Scheme is generating - resources that were not available to sport only a few years ago. It is also worth noting that this extra commitment from TASS hubs isn't limited to TASS athletes only. The hubs also offer further support to other athletes from the wider performance network who are studying at the institution.

As big and exciting as the London Games will be in 2012, they will come and go, whilst talented athletes will remain on their journey in sport, seeking to develop their skills and reach their potential perhaps in time for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 or the next Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. The network created and nurtured through TASS is ready to continue beyond 2012 too, leveraging extra support for sport at a time when resources are being challenged.

TASS is an athlete-centred programme, a team effort to help our talented individuals. This team approach is making a big difference.

For more information about the TASS scheme visit [www.tass.gov.uk](http://www.tass.gov.uk)

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## **Londoner's called up for last chance to volunteer for Olympics 2012**

**22nd October 2010**

As the closing date for volunteering for the London 2012 Olympic Games looms, Londoner's, in particular, are being encouraged to sign up before it is too late.

By signing up before 27th October 2010, 'Games Makers' or volunteers can still opt out or apply for paid roles but if they fail to complete the online application process now - they could miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime, altogether.

Jodie Maile, chairperson of the London Horse Network, supported by the British Equestrian Federation HOOF Ride London Olympic Legacy project, has made contact with the Network members to encourage them to sign up saying,

"By volunteering, people from London will have a real opportunity to be a part of the Olympic Games and it will inspire them to continue to develop the legacy the Olympics will bring for equestrian sport in our capital city and beyond."

While the application process includes sections for people to both input their experience level and the kind of roles they would like to undertake, the London Horse Network has also been asked to inform the process to ensure that the city's equestrian community is fully represented.

Tim Hadaway, Director of Equestrian Sport for the Olympics, explains, "Equestrianism is a specialist sport and by allocating roles appropriately, we will be able to provide the riders, the horses and the volunteers with an unforgettable experience, and it'll be great to have as many local people from the London equestrian community sharing in that too."

To volunteer or for more information please visit [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

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## **BEF response to Comprehensive Spending Review**

21st October 2010

The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, which was announced yesterday, has seen cuts to the Department of Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, with reductions in funding to Sport England and UK Sport, the main funding organisations of the British Equestrian Federation, at both an elite and grassroots level.

Whilst the cuts signify a reduction in revenue funding to Sport England of 33% and to UK Sport of 28%, the BEF feels confident that the whole Federation can continue to deliver success in equestrian sport at a grassroots and elite level within these new parameters.

The Federation appreciates that the Government has had to make difficult decisions in difficult times but welcomes the news that the funding and support given to both the Olympic and Paralympic sports has been recognised as a crucial element of the nation's London 2012 ambition.

The acknowledgement that there will be the resource to fund and support athletes through to 2012 through UK Sport funding and the proposed changes in National Lottery distribution means that, as a Federation we are able to continue to kick on with preparations for 2012 and beyond to Rio in 2016.

Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation, Andrew Finding commented on yesterday's Comprehensive Spending Review; "The Minister for Sport, Hugh Robertson, told us that we should put our trust in him to see sport through this period of financial challenge. The leaders of UK Sport and Sport England have pressed for budgetary reductions to be felt less by national governing bodies of sport than in any other elements of their organisations. The

commitment has been made to continue to support the front line and we must continue to deliver and honour the confidence shown in our sport.

"The progress we have made in recent years has been substantial. With wonderfully committed athletes, owners, coaches and support staff, the funding has been a key factor. This is best illustrated by the recent performances of our Eventing, Dressage, Vaulting and Para-Equestrian athletes at the World Equestrian Games and the excellent collaboration across the Federation earlier this week to deliver an outstanding BEF Coaching Convention.

"There is though no room for complacency, there's much more to do in securing more medal success and driving up participation in equestrian sport. We now know that we will have the resource to continue our work and thank those who have negotiated positively on our behalf in these acutely challenging times. We will strive for more and greater success."

For more information visit either the [UK Sport](#) or [Sport England](#) websites.

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## **BEF Coaching Convention hailed a cross-discipline success**

**21st October 2010**

The British Equestrian Federation's Coaching Convention, for coaches and coach developers across the Federation, which took place on Tuesday 19th October in Warwickshire, has been hailed a great success by attendees.

The day saw insights into the coaching journey delivered from great sporting ambassadors, Geoff Thompson MBE and Dame Kelly Holmes, both of whom shared their own personal experiences of coaching and competition in a packed Stareton Hall.

Dame Kelly commented on her experience; "Speaking with coaches at the BEF convention was thoroughly enjoyable and I am pleased to be involved with a NGB who recognises the true value of working in partnership for the benefit of their participants. I am looking forward to my charity continuing to work closer in the future."

The day, supported by Sportscoach UK, highlighted many different coaching styles and coaching pathways an athlete and their coach can take, brought to life by case studies from World and European vaulting Champion Joanne Eccles alongside her coach and father John; Corinne Bracken and showjumper Charlotte Platt and para-equestrian dressage rider Emma Kent with her coach Tanya Larrigan.

Suzanne Genery, Head of Sport Development at the BEF said, "Coaching requires great relationships and the Federation-wide coaching team exemplifies that. Coaches, whether they work with the most talented of horses and

riders, or whether they work in the most challenging of environments are our greatest ambassadors. They touch people's lives. We hope the day recognised their worth and value and we were honoured to host an event supported by leading role models such as Dame Kelly Holmes who now gives so much back to the sporting community."

The convention opened with an inspirational keynote speech from five-times world Karate Champion, Geoff Thompson who said that sport must reflect a 'can do, must do, will do' attitude. The following workshop session allowed delegates to focus on how to develop themselves and others as coaches, through the discussion of personal development and the support structures needed to deliver this development.

BEF Chief Executive, Andrew Finding commented; "I am thrilled so many talented people have joined together to make this conference a great success. Without the support of the federal Coaching Action Development Team this would not have been possible. I want to thank those who support us at Sport England, UK Sport and Sportscoach UK."

Emma Atkins, Sport Director DKH Legacy Trust commented; "The BEF Coaching Convention was a superb event, full of really positive interactions between coaches from all 16 member bodies from the equestrian world. Listening to the discussions it shows what a good state coaching in equestrianism is and the attitudes in place can only lead to even greater coaching for all riders in the future. The BEF should be very proud."

World Class Performance Manager for Eventing and conference delegate, Yogi Breisner commented; "It has been a great day, with lots of inspiring ideas coming out of it. As far as a Coaching Convention is concerned it has been fantastic and thanks must go to Suzanne and her team and to UK Sport."

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## Get off the sofa and into the saddle with new HOOF campaign

**21st October 2010**

Enter a competition to win 5 riding lessons at <http://www.hoof-in-town.com/index-competition.php>

Hoof, the British Equestrian Federation's legacy to the London 2012 Olympic Games today launches a new campaign - Hoof it to Health - to get people off the sofa and onto horse back as one of London's healthiest outdoors sports for any age or fitness level.

The new online video for the campaign explains the benefits: <http://www.hoof-in-town.com/health/video.php>

"Horse riding can burn as many calories as jogging, tones and strengthens your core muscle groups, is a great way to get fit and at the same time, enjoy the psychological benefits of being outdoors in partnership with a horse," says Lynne Munro, Chair of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Therapeutic Riding.

"Riding is proven to help everyone but also benefits people with physical and mental challenges. Every step a horse takes, the rider must rebalance their body resulting in continual muscle, posture and balance adjustments even in walk. Once a rider is able to move up a pace, they not only continue to tone muscles in this way, the whole cardiovascular system gets working. We have many examples of people whose fitness, strength and mental abilities have been vastly improved through horse riding," concludes Lynne Munro.

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation says; "We are building a lasting legacy to the London 2012 Olympic Games for the equestrian industry by investing in expanding riding facilities in selected London riding centres and through this campaign, to get more people off the sofa and into horse riding as a great way to get and keep fit."

Hoof has teamed up with the Riding for the Disabled Association [www.rda.org.uk/](http://www.rda.org.uk/) and Vauxhall City Farm [www.vauxhallcityfarm.org](http://www.vauxhallcityfarm.org) to launch this campaign in the heart of London. Vauxhall City Farm runs a Riding Therapy Centre working with RDA to enable people with disabilities to ride and also offering riding to disadvantaged children in the local community. It is also a British Horse Society approved centre and a Pony Club centre. Hoof is also a partner of Go London - the Change 4 Life campaign.

In addition to this campaign, Hoof is working to make riding in London more accessible through financial investments to help riding schools develop their facilities and offer more riding opportunities to Londoners.

For more information on Hoof, visit [www.hoof-in-town.co.uk](http://www.hoof-in-town.co.uk)

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## Equestrian charity wins award

**20th October 2010**

Ride High, which started operations only 18 months ago has won Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce "Best business supporting the Community" Award.

Ride high is a registered charity which aims to help some of Milton Keynes' most disadvantaged children by teaching them to ride and care for horses. It uses the children's interest in horses to help them develop a wide range of social, personal and academic skills. In addition to teaching them to ride, it works with the children on a range of equine related clubroom projects such as photography, discussions, trips out and volunteering. By giving these children a special experience and the opportunity to learn new skills over a long period, it aims to generate long term positive changes in attitude and behaviour which will help improve their prospects in life.

Ride High runs eight groups of children a week from Loughton Manor Equestrian Centre, Central Milton Keynes and provides all the transport to and from home for each one.

Since starting operations Ride High has integrated itself into the Milton Keynes Community and has accessed free services from a wide range of companies in order to provide support to this needy part of our community.

Chair of Trustees, Rachel Medill said; "The support we have had from Milton Keynes businesses since we started in April last year has been incredible. We have been the beneficiaries of over £60,000 of services in the last year. This is resource that flows directly into one of the most deprived sections of our community.

"Local companies have donated not only services but volunteers without which we simply cannot operate. They work with the children and provide a vital link with the community.

"We are thrilled to receive this award, in difficult economic times it shows grant funders that we are an integral part of our community, building partnerships which channel resource from the commercial sector to some of those on our doorstep who need help the most.

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## Help the horse world plan for the future

**18th October 2010**

National Occupational Standards are set by industry and describe how everyday jobs should be carried out. They set out the skills required to do a job (not just the practical skills but also skills such as communication, working with others, customer service, working safely and so on), plus the knowledge and understanding which the person doing the job needs to have to carry it out properly. By having standards it ensures that everyone doing the same job works to the same standard wherever they work and sets the benchmark for training and qualifications. The important thing is to get them right in the first place, they must reflect industry best practice. This is where we need your help.

Please take time to look at the standards relating to your job and tell us if we need to make any changes. Click [here](#) to help the horse industry plan for its future.

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## Horse Owners Urged to Register with Animal Health's Disease Alert Service

**14th October 2010**

Animal Health, the government agency tasked with minimising the risk and impact of notifiable animal diseases in

Great Britain, is reminding horse owners to keep track of outbreaks of exotic equine diseases by registering with its Disease Alert Subscription Service.

By signing up, subscribers to the free service can receive information about diseases such as Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) and West Nile Virus via their choice of text, fax, voicemail or email.

The Disease Alert Subscription Service was first established by Animal Health in 2006 to provide farmers and livestock owners with information about outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, bluetongue, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, and classical swine fever.

The facility to provide horse owners with information about exotic equine diseases was added to the system in late 2009.

Rob Paul, Chief Operating Officer for Animal Health, said the system was an important part of Animal Health's efforts to keep horse owners informed, and to minimise the impact of equine disease outbreaks.

"Outbreaks of exotic equine disease in Great Britain are, thankfully, rare," he said.

"When disease outbreaks occur, as with the recent cases of EIA in Northumberland and Devon, it is important that horse owners are kept abreast of developments and receive the right information to protect their animals."

The disease alert service provides registered users with the latest news specific to exotic notifiable animal disease outbreaks in Great Britain. Horse owners can subscribe to Animal Health's disease alert service by visiting

[www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/alerts/subscribe.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/alerts/subscribe.htm)

The service complements a number of other official channels for keeping animal owners and keepers, and the farming community, informed about developments relating to exotic notifiable diseases of animals.

These include the Defra and Animal Health websites, Defra's Helpline (08459 335577), Animal Health's recorded information line (0844 88 44 600), and Animal Health's instant messaging system.

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**Junior Regional Novice Championship report from Weston Park International**

12th October 2010

This year it was the South-Eastern region who took the KBIS Junior Regional Novice Team (JRN) title at the KBIS JRN Championships at Weston Park International in Shropshire (7-10th October 2010). The winning South-East Team members were: seventeen year old Tom Jackson from Ulcombe in Kent on his own ride Waltham Fiddlers Find, fifteen year old Genevieve Clarke from Westcott in Surrey on Welton Jazz, fifteen year old Will Furlong from Battle in East Sussex with Fancy That II, and also eighteen year old Polly Marino who is based in Finchampstead in Berks with her ride, Surely Dino.

Not only did the JRN South-East Region get to celebrate taking the Team JRN title, but their team member Tom Jackson also claimed the KBIS JRN Individual Championships title, in what was an incredibly tight margin between him and the overnight leader Tom Grant from the South-West JRN Region.

Jane Peters, Chairman of Regional Coordinators said of the 2010 KBIS JRN Championship: "Weston Park provided the back-drop to one of the most competitive KBIS JRN Championships for some time. There were some really quality horses and excellent, mature, riding performances from outstanding JRN competitors. After showjumping, only 0.3 of a mark separated Tom Jackson 1st, representing the South East, from Tom Grant 2nd, South West and less than 1 showjumping penalty behind the boys was Fran Reeve for the Northern Region 3rd with nothing to add to her dressage mark of 41.4, with Lottie Kennedy in 4th. There was a clean sweep for coordinator Sheila Barker and trainer Mark Corbett of the South East for both the team and individual victory as well, from the ever consistent Central team in 2nd and Eastern in 3rd. A top quality competition with some outstanding performances from what I am sure will prove to be future successful GB riders."

The JRN title is sponsored by KBIS Horse Insurance who support the class aimed at riders between 14 and 18. The series was designed to provide riders with competitive experience to compete against other riders of the same age. This encourages a greater level of competence and understanding of a sport in which Great Britain is always in contention for Medals at World and Olympic level

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## **RDA celebrates para-dressage gold medals**

**8th October 2010**

Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) is celebrating the success of the British Para-Equestrian Dressage Squad at the World Equestrian Games. The team, which once again won a well-deserved Gold Medal for Britain, features 6 riders who started their careers with RDA. As well as the Team Gold, Lee Pearson and Sophie Christiansen (who trains at South Bucks RDA Group) claimed individual Gold in their respective grades.

Gold Medal winner, Sophie Christiansen gives credit for her success to RDA, which helped her begin riding as a part of her physiotherapy at the age of six. "I wanted a challenge and I love being on a horse because the horse moves for me and I feel free. Trying to sit up straight on a horse is a challenge for me and I have to do special exercises for my core stability," she says.

"Without the RDA I certainly wouldn't be where I am today," echoes Ricky Balshaw, who scooped individual Silver at the Games and started riding with RDA aged four. "I had someone holding me on either side and someone leading the horse," he explains. "Eventually the leaders went away and the helpers went away and I was free on a horse."

"On behalf of everyone at RDA I would like to say a huge congratulations to the whole team," says RDA Chief Executive, Ed Bracher. "I know many of our riders will feel inspired by the team's success at WEG. Celebrating achievement is fundamental to everyone in RDA - whatever their ability - and a Gold for Britain will be a boost for all our riders who want to reach their full potential."

For more information about Riding for the Disabled Association, please visit [www.rda.org.uk](http://www.rda.org.uk).

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## UK Coaching Awards Nomination Deadline Approaching

**8th October 2010**

The deadline for making a nomination for the UK Coaching Awards is Friday 15 October 2010. Don't miss the opportunity to thank your coach, or a coaching organisation, for their dedication and support.

Anyone can make a nomination by completing an official UK Coaching Awards Nomination form that can be downloaded from the sports coach UK website. There is also a Nomination Information document that provides detailed information on each of the awards categories.

Completed nomination forms can be posted to:

UK Coaching Awards 2010 Nominations  
sports coach UK  
114 Cardigan Road  
Headingley  
Leeds LS6 3BJ

Alternatively you can e-mail the form to [events@sportscoachuk.org](mailto:events@sportscoachuk.org) (If you would like a word document version of the nomination form please contact the Events team on the above e-mail address).

The UK Coaching Awards take place on 30 November 2010 at the Brewery, London. To buy a table or ticket for this glittering event, that will be hosted by Rob Bonnet, please contact the sports coach UK Events team at [events@sportscoachuk.org](mailto:events@sportscoachuk.org)

Tables for 10 guests are available at a cost of £2000 (exclusive of VAT) entitling each guest to a drinks reception, a three-course dinner with wine, the awards ceremony and entertainment. Individual tickets are available at a cost of £200 (exclusive of VAT).

If you have any questions concerning the Awards please call Karen Mockett on 0113 2043518.