



East Midlands 'Hoof' Network

MOULTON COLLEGE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Speakers Profiles

Gill Barham, Regional Development Coordinator, BEF. Gill took up the role in the East Midlands and East regions nearly 4 years ago with added responsibility as the BEF National Volunteer Co-ordinator. Gill has also taken on the lead for CYP (Children and Young People) in terms of promoting school links, working with the FE/HE sector, driving the development of a Federation wide Young Equestrian Volunteering Award Scheme and coordinating the development of a National Schools Competition Framework. Gill's involvement in equestrianism started as a volunteer for British Equestrian Vaulting and Gill continues with her roles for BEV as Vice Chair and Director. Gill spends much of her time supporting her daughter, who competes in the GBR Vaulting Team.

Anna Bruce: It wasn't love at first sight that brought Anna to horses - but convenience – her non-horsey parents realising that leaving Anna and her sister at a stable yard was easier than childcare. As Anna's terror subsided, her commitment progressed and now feels fortunate to have had many roles in equestrianism and particularly in the sport of Eventing - from scoring to fence judging; event organising to grooming for the British teams. Anna became business and sponsorship manager for various international riders, including Team Fredericks - and their 10 year partnership afforded Anna the opportunity to compete at Advanced level in Eventing with a very special horse. After gaining a Postgraduate qualification in journalism, Anna became a freelance writer for all the major equestrian publications and today can add being public relations officer for the Regional HOOF Networks; producing horses for owners and, as a registered instructor with the BHS, training other riders to enjoy our sport to their max, to that remit.

Gary Sheppard, Senior Sport Manager at Northamptonshire Sport has worked in sport for nearly 20 years, in roles at a local through to national level. He is the lead officer for National Governing Body relationships for Northamptonshire and also represented the East Midlands within the County Sports Partnership network structure. Gary has played many sports but is mainly interested in football, golf and martial arts and those sports now pursued by his children.

Maggie Still, Head of the Regional Team BEF is the executive lead for the Participation work within the Federation; Maggie leads the BEF Regional Development and Regional Foundation Squad Coordinator teams.

She is a former International athlete, previously employed as Head of Coaching at UK Athletics and is also an Executive Coach. Maggie understands the nature of Sport England and other funding bodies and has worked with the BEF team to guide the Federation through funding application processes to secure £4.2 million of funding for equestrian sport for the period 2009 - 2013.

Since starting at the BEF she has taken up riding again and purchased Jeffrey, a 17.2hh Hanoverian cross. Maggie's wealth of knowledge in the sports sector, combined with learning to own and ride a horse, helps the BEF get a great insight into our sport; in particular how we can encourage more people to get involved, stay involved, and excel.