

BEF News Archive January - June 2008

Call for Volunteers

10th January 2008

The Farm Manager of Mote End Farm, Adam Prescott, is looking for Volunteers to help run events at the Farm. In particular he needs volunteers on Saturday 17th May 2007 in London NW7.

This is Adam's plea:

"we would be looking for 10-15 people to supplement our current jump judges along with someone good with figures to do the scoring. This is going to be our big launch of the new course here and will also be incorporating a BHS XC qualifier.

On the 1st of June we hope to be running a UK Chasers competition here also and we would be grateful of help at this event too. Of course in return to the volunteers we would provide them with a free hot lunch and drinks throughout the day, along with a free t-shirt!"

For more information take a look at their website - www.moteendfarm.com.

Mote End Farm

Nan Clarks Lane

Mill Hill

London

NW7 4HH

020 8959 1345

If you think you would like to help please contact: gill.barham@bef.co.uk or contact Adam at the Farm directly.

Success breeds success at British Breeders' Awards Dinner

15th January 2008

For the fourteenth time, the success of British breeders was celebrated at the glittering Breeders' Dinner at London's Grange City Hotel.

Twenty seven awards were presented in recognition of the continued development of the British breeding industry. Six racehorses, re-schooled to excel as performance horses, received awards in the South Essex Insurance Brokers (SEIB)/Retraining of Racehorses awards, one of whom, Karen Whittington's Maiden Ray was on the podium for the second time in the affiliated Endurance section.

Baileys Horse Feeds' Futurity section was notable for the three year old prize and the top broodmare prize both going to Sheri Tozer Robb's River Stud in Cornwall for the athletic three year old potential showjumper Zubin-R and his dam Fabionne who is a consistent producer of high scoring foals.

High level success was recorded in the Sports Pony Studbook Society (SPSS) and Ponies (UK)'s sponsored sections with outstanding performance results being shown by established sire Laban, show jumping pony Micklow Madness, dressage pony Maesyfron Rhett and event pony Mayflower.

SPSS's Chairman Celia Clarke paid tribute to NED, the National Equine Database, in facilitating the compilation of the results for the pony sections. "It took me 10% of the time it has taken in previous years, and if NED can do this for us, I can't wait to see everyone else using it!"

British Eventing's Breeding Awards also saw some consistent patterns with the five year old winner Pokey's Bally Milo having also excelled in the SEIB/British Breeding Young Horse Evaluations as well as in several affiliated events in 2006 and 2007. The same pattern emerged for four year old winner Elite Opposition, ridden by Ruth Edge, and six year old winner Redesigned, ridden by Pippa Funnell who collected the award on behalf of the breeder. British Eventing's Patrick Rolfe revealed that an independent study had shown that horses excelling in BE's Breeding Championships were proven to have gone on to attain a higher number of BE points than horses which had not been as successful at these Championships. Said Patrick "it is very reassuring to see that the results we anticipate are actually proving to be the case".

The British Horse Foundation's Outstanding Broodmare Award went to Bairn Free, who competed as Memento, and produced a legacy of roan progeny in the form of Andrew Nicholson's eventers Avebury and Tristar and up-and-coming young event horse Tomaz Godunov.

Two out of the three Dodson and Horrell Young Horse Awards went to British bred horses, namely Halida du Rouet and King's Temptress, the latter out of the ever consistent Kings Mistress owned by Mary King. King's Mistress by Louella Inschallah has produced progeny who have won this same award for three consecutive years.

This year's winner of the Dodson and Horrell Young Horse Award was Rock Model, of whom some spectacular photos were shown on the evening.

The room fell silent in anticipation of the announcement of the winner of the Merial Meritoire for outstanding services to British sport horse breeding. As Mike Tucker announced that winner, Louella Stud, the room erupted. The story of the Louella Stud is a remarkable one and the dynasty continues in the form of Lucy Gillingham, granddaughter of the founder, Louis Massarella, who was there to collect the award.

With thanks extended to delightful guest speaker Jenny Pitman, the Supporters of British Breeding who organised the event and to all of those who attended and made the occasion memorable, Chairman of Supporters of British Breeding Desi Dillingham closed the proceedings.

NED Signed and Sealed!

22 January 2008

Today was a momentous day for the future of British equestrianism as Defra and the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) signed a contract passing the management and development of the National Equine Database (NED) into the hands of a company owned by the BEF.

The new company, NED Ltd, has been formed, with the British Equestrian Federation supporting and guiding the development of this important resource which will contain details of every horse and pony registered in the UK.

Contractual and funding details which will secure the future of NED, have taken some time to negotiate but, thanks to the dedication of BEF, NED and Defra teams, and the support of the Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs) and other Data Providers, the contract is now finalised.

Says BEF's Chief Executive Andrew Finding, "This is an outstanding opportunity for our industry. This complex project started early in 2002 but as it has developed, we have been able to work in effective partnerships with the providers of data, the PIOs, Weatherbys, the competition sports of the Federation and with Defra. The development process has brought people together with a common purpose."

The public face of NED, NED Online, is now in its final stages of development. The internal NED system containing horse identification details from passports issued, has been up and running for over a year for the use of PIOs. NED Online, being quick and easy to use and populated with verified data, has many enhanced features, and when it is officially launched in 2008, members of the public will be able to find details for all horses on NED and view their pedigree and performance details as well as those of their relations. This combination of information is a first for any web based database anywhere in the world.

This long awaited system was presented to a group of PIOs late last year and they were unanimously agreed that this was a world-beating system of real value to just about everyone who has a horse.

Adds Andrew Finding, "I would like to thank the NED development team and every organisation and individual for their contribution to this exciting project, especially Defra for funding NED and working with us to complete the negotiations so that the industry can benefit from what NED Online can offer."

Watch the press and the NED website www.nedonline.co.uk for updates and details of when NED Online will be launched for you to use.

Looking forward to Futurity 2008

21 January 2008

The 2008 Futurity series will soon be upon us. With more venues and more dates meaning that you will have to travel fewer miles to have your young horses evaluated! Venue and diary dates are available [here](#) and the 2008 simplified rule book with easy to follow hints and tips for presenting your horses will be published on 1 February 2008.

For more information about the evaluations see the British Breeding section of this website [here](#) or contact Jan Rogers on janrogersequine@aol.com.

Preparation for Potential Olympic Grooms

25 January 2008

In January nearly 50 grooms of potential Olympic and Paralympic horses for the 2008 Beijing Games received training and advice from the World Class Programme. It was also an opportunity for the Grooms to give their opinions on a number of challenges that will be faced in Hong Kong.

Two separate conferences were held in Reading and Nottingham in order to share information and give guidance on preparing horses for the coming Games. The Grooms of the horses in contention for selection to the Olympic and Paralympic Games will play a vital role in both preparing that horse in the run up to the Games and also during the competition, if selected. They were given an insight into the test event to which Britain took three horses to last August, including the lessons that were learned from that experience. They were also given advice on specific preparation steps planned for the potential horses, including monitoring, travel plans and climate issues.

There were presentations from experienced grooms, Jenny Ellis and Jackie Potts, who shared their views and experiences gained first hand from grooming at past Olympic events. Team Vets John McEwen and Jenny Hall spoke about veterinary information that grooms need to be aware of. The day also included presentations from Performance Director, Will Connell and Eventing Performance Manager Yogi Briesner.

The events were a great opportunity to share useful information with the grooms and also a chance for them to meet each other and share ideas and experiences. This is the first time World Class has organised an event such as this one, the positive feedback received indicates that they will definitely consider this approach in the future.

Update on TASS & SportsAid Funding

25th January 2008

TASS and SportsAid funding has been active in the equestrian industry over the last year and the BEF and World Class Programme are delighted by the support that has been received by deserving riders. We are hopeful that we can continue to offer support to riders at different levels through these systems in 2008.

The overall aim of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (**TASS**) is to assist Great Britain's most talented young athletes who wish to optimise the effectiveness of their sports and academic programmes. It hopes to provide a stepping stone 'non-funded' riders into World Class Programmes. **SportsAid funding** is aimed at athletes aged 12 - 18 that are not eligible for TASS scholarships.

SportsAid have offered a second tranche of funding for 2008 and we are working with the discipline representatives to bid for up to 20+ additional awards. We are also hopeful that we will be able to consider Non-Olympic sports for the first time, which is good news for our Drivers, Vaulters, Reiners and Endurance Riders.

TASS as a scheme is undergoing some major changes for the forthcoming year in which the allocation of awards will change and be determined by a system of priority sports. We are working hard to ensure we can still maintain a good level of funding for equestrian athletes through these changes to the system. TASS are also offering 10 one-off awards to Non-Olympic sports for the 2007/8 year and we are working with the disciplines involved to utilise this opportunity. Congratulations to Keri Bates (Dressage) and Toby Pawson (Para-Equestrian Dressage) who graduated from TASS to the World Class Development programme during 2007.

Recipients of TASS and SportsAid awards for the 2007/8 year can be viewed [here](#).

Endurance GB & NED on the Move

25 January 2008

Endurance GB (EGB) and the National Equine Database (NED) have moved to a new office building on the Show Ground, the office was the Institute of Animal Health building and is situated opposite the Warwick Complex on Avenue M.

The fax number and address for EGB will remain unchanged but their phone number is now 02476 697929. NED's new phone number is 0845 003 7210, the address also remains the same; please call the office if you wish to send them a fax.

This building also has a meeting room which will hold up to 8 people, bookings can be made via the BEF.

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall attends BEF Event

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall attends Beijing 2008 Owners' Reception and Presentation of British Olympic Association Awards

13th February 2008

On Tuesday 12th February the British Equestrian Federation's (BEF) World Class Programme held a reception to thank owners of potential horses for the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games for their contribution to Equestrian sport. HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Patron of the BEF, attended the evening event held at Saddlers' Hall in London. Her

Royal Highness presented the 2007 British Olympic Association (BOA) awards for the Equestrian Olympic Athlete of the Year and the Olympic Owner of the Year.

Prior to the Awards Presentation, the owners were briefed on the logistical arrangements and preparations for the Games. Will Connell, Performance Director, and other members of the British Equestrian Team staff shared the experiences and lessons learnt during the test event in August 2007, to which Great Britain took 3 horses. They also briefed the owners about ongoing preparations for the Games; provision for owners in Hong Kong during the events and the specific challenges of accreditation and logistics. The UK Sport distributed Lottery Funding allowed the World Class Programme to attend the Test Event.

The Duchess of Cornwall accompanied by BEF Chairman, Hugh Thomas, presented the 2007 BOA trophies for Olympic Equestrian Athlete of the Year to Mary King and the Owner of the Year trophy to Eddie and Sue Davies and Janette Chinn, owners of Mary's Championship horse, Call Again Cavalier.

Mary King's Eventing career has spanned almost 20 years, during that time she has become an iconic figure within the sport and is a regular member of the British Team. In 2007 Mary King was an influential member of the record breaking British Eventing Team who secured their 7th consecutive European Title. She also won an individual Silver medal at the Championships.

The BOA introduced the Owner of the Year award to complement the Athlete of the Year award, recognising the unique role of owners in Equestrian Sport. They are vitally important the success of individual riders and teams.

Following the Awards Presentation, The Duchess of Cornwall attended a short reception where she met some of the owners and British Team Staff.

Will Connell, Performance Director for the British Equestrian Federation commented, "The owners of our horses are vital to the success of the British Team. It is important to us that we not only thank them with events such as this evening but also that we involve them fully in the preparation for the Games. Hong Kong will bring particular challenges for both horses and riders; preparation will be key to achieving success."

Mary King, winner of the BOA Olympic Athlete of the Year commented, "I am delighted to have won the Olympic Athlete of the Year award. 2007 was a fantastic season for me, especially the success at the European Championships. I am very grateful to Sue, Eddie and Janette for their ongoing support and I am pleased that they too have been honoured for the valuable contribution they make."

British Equestrian Federation Seeks New Chair

15th February 2008

Hugh Thomas, Chairman of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) for the last 3 years is standing down in June, at the end of his current term of office. There will be an election for this position.

The BEF Chairman is responsible for the performance and accountability of the Board in all matters relating to the agreed policy of the Federation. The Chairman also acts as President of the Federation in the international field and is closely involved in its role within the FEI. It is a voluntary role.

Hugh has been the Chairman of the BEF during what has been a very busy time. The Equestrian industry has seen much progress and had much excitement during that time, not least London's success in its bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Hugh led the Federation with a focus on the concept that the Federation and its Member Bodies are one unit, independent legally while united in purpose; this has been an approach which has seen great progress in communication within and throughout the Federation as a whole.

Hugh's term of office comes to an end at the BEF Council meeting on the 17th June 2008 and he has decided not to stand for re-election. He comments, "I have very much enjoyed my time as Chairman of the BEF and feel that I have seen some major developments in the Equestrian World. The Federation in its widest sense has made great progress, not least in the atmosphere of trust that now exists; I hope we have laid the foundations for the important tasks that lie ahead."

Three other directors of the BEF also complete their terms of office at the same as Hugh, the Director of Marketing (Clive Hetherington), the Director of International Affairs (Toby Vintcent) and the Commercial Director (Lotte Olsen). They are all eligible for re-election for a second term and will be standing. However, there will be an election for these posts if others are also interested in putting their names forwards. The BEF Council, consisting of representatives from each of the Member Bodies, elects the directors.

Linda Whetstone, Chair of the BEF Council comments, "Hugh Thomas has done a wonderful job as Chairman of the BEF at a demanding time following its reorganisation and we will all be very sorry to see him go. The next six years will be every bit as interesting with joint European Show Jumping and Dressage Championships and the Olympic Games during that period"

Full Terms of Reference for the BEF Chair, the Directors' roles and the BEF Board can be found [here](#) together with full details of how to apply. Please note nominations close on **31st March 2008** and the election will be held in June.

Call for Volunteers to help at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games

21 February 2008

Registrations are now being requested for volunteers at the 2010 World Equestrian Games, set to take place in Kentucky Horse Park, USA from September 25 until October 10, 2010. It is envisaged that at least 6,000 volunteers will be needed to work before and during the Games and people with a range of skills are sought for a variety of roles.

The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games promises to be an exciting event and plays host to the World Championships of the eight equestrian disciplines recognised by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI): Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping, Para-Equestrian Dressage, Driving, Endurance, Reining and Vaulting. The Games have never been held outside of Europe before; nor have all eight disciplines previously been held together at a single site. It is anticipated that more than 600,000 spectators will attend the 16-day competition and **Team GBR** would be proud to have British volunteers out at the Games.

There is a web-based volunteer registry system in place. For more information and to register your interest see:

<http://www.feigames2010.org>

World Class Development Programme supports Junior and Young Rider Show Jumping European Viewing Trials

27th February 2008

The World Class Development Programme is supporting the Junior and Young Rider European Viewing Trials that take place at Wales & West Show, May 1st - 5th 2008.

The support is in the form of training vouchers, presented to the first six prizewinners in both the Junior and Young Rider European Trial Grand Prix classes to the total value of £3,100.00.

By funding the training vouchers at Viewing Trials for the Junior and Young Rider European Championships, the World Class Development Programme is showing its commitment to Britain's young show jumping riders.

Tina Goosen, World Class Development Show Jumping Coordinator said, "We are delighted to be supporting the Junior and Young Rider European Viewing Trials and this shows our commitment to the philosophy that training achieves excellence. By presenting training vouchers, we are encouraging and supporting these young riders to recognise the importance of correct training".

The World Class Development Programme is Lottery funded through UK Sport.

For more information on the Junior and Young Rider European Viewing Trials, please visit

www.bsja.co.uk or telephone 02476 698800

For more information on The World Class Development Programme, please see [here](#).

Scottish Equestrian Association Ltd (SEA) is seeking new Directors

6th March 2008

The following Directors of the Scottish Equestrian Association Ltd (SEA) will step down at the SEA AGM on the 6th May. SEA would welcome nominations for the posts of:-

Director for Performance: Proven experience of training/coaching at International level, performance planning and sports sciences.

Director of External Policies and Partnerships: is responsible for setting the direction of policies and partnerships that should be developed into the Agenda for Equestrian Interests in Scotland.

Director of Finance: Skills within this area and with a professional qualification. This post carries the responsibility of budget forecast and audit control, financial systems and review.

If you have the skills required to deliver the above policy areas of SEA we would like to hear from you! The positions are voluntary and unpaid and the present Directors do not claim travel expenses for attending meetings. It is envisaged that there will be between four and eight meetings each year. Induction training in the role of a director will be made available through Sportscotland.

Further details from Dr. Tim Watson tim.watson@ukonline.co.uk

HEROS to run Horse Health Masterclass with leading vet experts in May

7th March 2008

A Horse Health Masterclass, in aid of HEROS (Homing Ex-Racehorses Organisation Scheme) with presentations by leading veterinary experts will be held on Wednesday 21st May 2008 in Oxfordshire. See [here](#) for full details and to download a flyer for your yard

BEF and British Dressage Working Together for British Breeding

25th March 2008

In line with the aims of the Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales, which call for all sectors of the industry

to build closer relationships, the in hand sections of the British Dressage Young Horse and Breeding Championships will become part of the BEF's Futurity from this year onwards.

The Futurity, sponsored by Baileys Horse Feeds, is now in its fourth year and becoming established as the recognised evaluation system for young sport horses and ponies with potential to excel in dressage, eventing, show jumping or as sports ponies.

British Dressage is now working closely with the BEF's Equine Development portfolio, which runs the Futurity, on a number of projects to continually improve the standard of British bred dressage horses and ponies and BD feels that the time is right for their in hand section to be rolled into the Futurity where it has a natural home.

Said BD's Chief Executive David Holmes, "The Strategy asks the BEF to take the lead on improving the quality and breeding of our horses and ponies and we are pleased to work with them to further this action so that there is a consistent and evolving process for the evaluation of young horses and the identification of talent".

The BEF Futurity evaluates young horses from foals to three years for performance potential in their chosen discipline. Rather than being a 'show' where horses are placed in rank order, at the Futurity all horses are evaluated against a set of criteria developed to identify performance potential, plus a vet check which looks for any potential performance inhibiting features. Futurity evaluations are held around the country in July and August.

Says BEF's Head of Equine Development Jan Rogers, "The Futurity is constantly being adapted to find the best way of identifying our top horses and also to meet the needs of breeders and owners who participate by providing valuable feedback as to the type, conformation and athleticism of the horses they present. The Futurity also seeks to identify potential elite horses to be considered for the World Class Equine Pathway so that our top British bred horses are nurtured and developed to maximise their competitive potential".

Adds David Holmes, "The BEF Futurity Elite Championship Show will be held at Addington Manor the day after BD's Young Horse Championships. We look forward to being there on both show days to celebrate British dressage horse and pony breeders' successes".

Top Young Riders Compete at the British Open Championships for World Class Development Title

25th March 2008

Twenty one of the brightest young names in show jumping will compete in the BEF World Class Development Programme Championship class, at the British Open Show Jumping Championships held at Birmingham's NEC in April 3rd-6th 2008.

After six qualifying competitions, the top eighteen riders based on points accumulated throughout the qualifying series, and one wild card show where three riders qualified, all now have the chance to compete in this prestigious class and one rider will be crowned World Class Development 'U23 Champion' 2008. A number of World Class Development riders have qualified, including last year's winner William Whitaker, who this year will be riding Loxley 57, and with a mixture of some old and new faces in the final line up, it will be a highly sought after title.

To determine the starting order of the Championship class, the riders will jump in the WCD Programme Pathfinder class the day before, with all clear rounds going through to a jump-off against the clock. The winner is the rider with the least faults in the fastest time that will then have the advantage of going last in the WCD Programme Championship class.

With an increase in the prize fund for the Championship class to £3,000 and training vouchers awarded to the top eight placed competitors ranging from £800 to the first placed winner to £100 to the eighth placed rider, it signifies the importance these young riders place on winning this class.

Caroline Griffith, World Class Development Manager says, "This is the fourth year that we have supported the U23 Championship, and again we have been delighted with the interest that it has generated amongst the best young show jumping riders. With the calibre of the top twenty one riders who have qualified for the final, this will be a very exciting competition".

The **World Class Development Programme**, is Lottery funded through UK Sport and is designed to assist in the development of talented riders, with the best opportunities to maximise their competitive potential through an established training pathway that will see them progress onto the Olympic Performance Programme for 2012 and beyond.

To find out more about the British Open Show Jumping Championships and buy tickets see [here](#).

Please see below for the list of qualified riders:

British Open Show Jumping Championships 2008
NEC Arena Birmingham 3rd-6th April
World Class Development Programme Championship

Louise Pavitt	Unbelievable Darco or Hamilton Tropics
Nicole Pavitt	Maestro De Rend Peine
Timothy Page	Quentin Tarantino or Heathcliffe
Lance Whitehouse	My Boy
Claire Bailey	F.A.N Piz Palu
Louise Saywell	Cyprianus Z
Laura Hutt	Song Bird
Scott Brash	Sebastian
William Whitaker	Loxley 57
James Taylor	Horia Du Neretz
Tim Gredley	Timo
David Harland	Le Marquind
Heledd Thomas	Feeling Fine Too
Daniel Moseley	Lucy May

Maria Lovett	Arkas
Ryan Prater	Whisker
Louis Godber	Seander
Ellen Whitaker	C S Online
Zoe Adams (Wild Card)	Murkas Idle Dice III
Anthony Condon (Wild Card)	Whinny Jackson
Gemma Paternoster (Wild Card)	Osiris

Talented Young Driving Brothers Awarded TASS Scholarship

2 April 2008

Two brothers from Devon, Frank and Roger Campbell have been awarded Talented Athlete Scholarship Schemes, the first brothers to receive this funding, and also the first in the non-Olympic equestrian discipline of Driving.

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. Frank and Roger compete in the sport of competitive Horse Driving Trials, which consists of three very different phases or stages. Modelled on the ridden three-day event, a Horse Driving Trials is a triathlon for horses/ponies, which tests the overall versatility of an animal in harness. The brothers began driving at the ages of 11 and 12 years of age respectively, after being introduced to the sport by their Grandmother.

Roger (18) drives a single horse with a Bennington carriage and presently is based at Hartpury College, Glos where he is studying for a diploma in farm mechanisation, which means a one-way 3hr train journey most weekends to receive regular training for this season's forthcoming national qualifiers, hopefully leading onto the National Championships that take place in Windsor Great Park. Last year, Roger won a number of novice horse classes, and was the highest novice placed horse at the National Championships.

Frank (16) drives a single pony and two horses and is still at school and therefore based at home. His aims for 2008 are to represent GB at the Junior World Pony Driving Event that takes place in Austria in July, driving a 13.2hh Dartmoor x Morgan, owned by Trisha Luxton, to compete at the National Junior Championships and also to groom for Boyd Exell at the World Four-in-Hand Championships taking place in The Netherlands later this year.

Boyd Exell is one of the world's top carriage driving competitors and instructors, who lives in Leicestershire and who both Frank and Roger regularly receive training from, with Frank also working for Boyd in the summer time to broaden his experience and improve his driving abilities.

Sarah Armstrong, BEF TASS Manager says, " For two brothers who compete in the non-Olympic discipline of Driving to be recognised with a TASS scholarship indicates the sporting talent these brothers are demonstrating, and hopefully with this funding it will assist them towards success on the world stage".

Both Frank and Roger are thrilled to be recipients of the TASS Award and say, "Being awarded the TASS funding is fantastic as it will mean being able to receive further training with Boyd, as well as financing travel costs to competitions, both necessary in our quest to compete at the top level".

British Stallion Parade Success

3 April 2008

The newly formed Lead Body for British Performance Sport Horses and Ponies (PSHP) inaugural stallion parade was held on 24 March with 60 stallions showing and over 300 viewers in the gallery. All stallions shown were graded or had exceptional performance records - all in the interests of continuing to drive up the standards of British breeding. For a catalogue of entries with full pedigrees and contact details for the stallions, and photographs, see [here](#)

Great Britain plans home championships in the run up to 2012

3rd April 2008

Great Britain are planning to host a number of Major Equestrian Championships in the run up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The BEF hopes that this will raise the profile of equestrian sport in Britain and showcase the outstanding event circuit that Britain has to offer. The Olympic Member Bodies of Dressage, Eventing and Show Jumping are working together on an integrated approach to achieve a balance of events across different age groups, venues and sports.

Britain has already been successful in securing Championships for 2008 and 2009. In 2008 the Junior European Eventing Championships will be coming to Thirlestane Park in Scotland and in 2009 the European Championships for Dressage and Jumping will be held at Windsor. This will be the first time that the two sports have held their European Championships at the same time and promises to be a very exciting event.

The tendering and planning process is underway for post-2009 events. In 2010 we are considering a bid for the Junior and Young Rider Dressage Championships and a bid is already underway for the Pony European Championships, a joint event traditionally held across the three Olympic sports at the same time.

A bid is underway for the senior Eventing European Championships to return to Blenheim in 2011, following a successful championship being held at the same venue in 2005. A bid is also being considered for the Junior and Young rider European Show Jumping Championships in the same year.

Britain will hopefully continue to host events regularly post-2012 and the BEF is confident that hosting a spread of events at this level might pave the way for Britain to be in a position to bid for a World Equestrian Games in the future.

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the BEF comments, "To see a regular stream of Major Equestrian Championships allocated to Great Britain recognises the outstanding competition circuit we have in this country. We have some fantastic venues, which have been very supportive in both past and current tendering processes. We are working hard with the individual sports on an integrated approach to deciding and bidding on championships, I am hopeful Britain will be hosting many exciting events in the years to come."

Louise Pavitt Claims World Class Development Under 23 Championship

7th April 2008

Louise Pavitt won the World Class Development Programme Championship Class at The British Open Show Jumping Championships on Friday 4th April 2008, which were once again held at The NEC, Birmingham.

Louise, riding Unbelievable Darco, owned by The Brendon Stud, picked up eight faults in the World Class Development Programme Pathfinder class the day before - this class decides the order of jumping for the Championship class the following day, so in fact, Louise did not start from a winning position.

The Pathfinder class produced nine clears rounds, and the winner after the jump off was Lance Whitehouse riding My Boy with another clear round in a time of 38.28 seconds. Louise Godber took the runner up spot, with Anthony Condon taking third place.

After the first round in the Championship class, there were eight clears, including Lance Whitehouse, but in the jump off, Lance faulted with two fences down. Louise set off at a galloping pace and kept up the momentum on Unbelievable Darco to produce a clear round in 39.31 seconds. Hot on her heels though was Scott Brash riding Sebastian III, another horse owned by The Brendon Stud, who jumped clear in a time of 40.97 seconds. World Class Development rider, Gemma Paternoster took third spot with a clear round in 42.49 seconds.

Besides training vouchers and prize money on offer, there was also a John Whitaker Bridle, supplied by David Dyer of Frogpool Manor as the prize for the "Style and Performance" award.

German International show jumper, Heinrich Engemann judged this award and his comments were well received by the appreciative audience. Scott Brash was the recipient of this award and was thrilled to receive his prize from David Dyer. On receiving her trophy from top international show jumper, Michael Whitaker, a delighted Louise said, "I knew the track would suit him".

Vikki Underwood, World Class Development Programme said, "Year on year the interest that the WCD Programme Championship class has generated among the best young show jumping riders in Great Britain signifies our belief about the importance these young riders place on winning this prestigious title, and with the high level of riding required in order to do so, demonstrates the commitment these riders place on correct training".

As part of its sponsorship of the WCD Championships, The World Class Development Programme has funded the first place prize money at the six qualifying competitions, as well as training vouchers to the first six prize winners. It also increased the prize fund at the British Open to £3,750.00 with training vouchers to the value of £4,475.00

The World Class Development Programme, is Lottery funded through UK Sport and is designed to assist in the development of talented riders, with the best opportunities to maximise their competitive potential through an established training pathway that will see them progress onto the Olympic Performance Programme for 2012 and beyond.

Great Results for Team GBR at the CVI in Holland**

1 May 2008

The British National anthem was played more often than any other nation's at the CVI** held at the new Dutch Equestrian Federation Centre at Ermelo.

Joanne Eccles was an outstanding senior Individual winner, placed above the WEG silver medallist from Austria. Her younger sister Hannah came through to take the Junior Individual gold medal, both on W.H.Bentley lunged by John Eccles and Lucy Phillips the silver on Nikita lunged by Rebecca Morgan. The young team from Eagles Vaulting Group gained first place in the Junior team class on a new vaulting horse, Fortuitous, lunged by a first time International lunger, Kathryn Jeffress (Hunt). The Junior team was sponsored by Ross Offshore.

There were some excellent results for the rest of the Group, Ricky Davies placed 4th in the Male Individual and Louise Sinclair 4th in the Junior Individual, both on ILPH Islay lunged by Liz Mackay.

The horse scores were published separately for each class and the six British horses were all right up at the top of each class. John Eccle's W.H.Bentley was chosen as the best Individual horse. We thank the BEF for the help and advice given to provide the best conditions for travelling the horses abroad. They all looked in great form and were a credit to [Equestrian Team GBR](#).

Calling all Virgin Media Customers

6th May 2008

Are you a Virgin cable customer who would like to receive Horse & Country TV as part of your package? If so, Horse & Country TV need your help. Horse and Country TV is about to start discussions with Virgin about going on to the Virgin Media platform. In order to show the huge interest in the Channel from Virgin subscribers HCTV is compiling e-mails and details of Virgin customers who have e-mailed in with enquiries on how they can get the Channel.

To help compile more of a list, there is now a link on the Horse & Country TV website with a simple questionnaire for any Virgin user who would like to receive the channel as part of their standard package. All you have to do is log on to www.horseandcountry.tv and click on the Virgin Questionnaire link; the questionnaire is very brief and will take no time at all to complete.

World Class Line up for Sports Science Seminar

8th May 2008

On 26th May, the Scottish Equestrian Association (SEA) is bringing together a World Class team to deliver a full day of seminars covering the latest techniques and equipment for the performance horse and rider. Due to be held at Ingliston Equestrian, Bishopton, this cutting edge programme is set fair to be a landmark event and not to be missed. This will be a fabulous opportunity for riders and coaches involved at all levels of equestrian sport.

To be at the top of any sport these days, simple talent is not enough. All athletes need to apply the best techniques to maximise their performance. Horses and riders are no exception. The SEA Sports Science day is aimed at showcasing the best available knowledge and technology.

At the high-tech end, there are now several devices for measuring the forces, angles and positions during movement. Analysis of this data helps highlight areas for improvement not only in equipment, but in training. The frontiers of knowledge are continually being pushed back in physiology and psychology too. Physiology brings a better understanding of the limits which horse and rider can reach. Psychology brings a better understanding of the mind-set needed to train and compete successfully. These areas will all be explored on 26th May.

John McEwan MRCVS is Chairman of the FEI Veterinary Committee and the BEF Director of Equine Sports Science and Medicine. He is bringing with him his World Class support team including a top sports psychologist and the British Team Riders Physiotherapist

Russell Guire BSc Hons represents Centaur Biomechanics who provide gait, rider and saddle analyses, product testing, undergraduate research and high-speed analysis on a commercial basis. Yogi Breisner, World Class Performance Manager of British Eventing says, "We have used performance analysis to good effect with our developing and World Class performance riders. Centaur Biomechanics is very good, very uncomplicated and professional".

<http://www.centaubiomechanics.co.uk/>

Mark Fisher operates the Pliance Saddle System on behalf of the BEF World Class Programme. Pliance marks the beginning of a new era in the assessment of the dynamic interaction between horse, saddle and rider. Mark served for 22 years with the Kings Troop RHA and left the Troop in 2004. He is a fully qualified Master Saddler and a Society of Master Saddlers Registered Qualified saddle fitter. He lectures and assesses for the SMS on the Qualified saddle fitting course and has been involved with the BEF World Class Programme since the purchase of the Pliance system which he operates for the programme.

<http://www.novel.de/productinfo/medical-horseback.htm>

To bring all this information and technology together was one challenge but a World Class Coach was also required with a huge depth of knowledge, to give a view of all the technological advances and advantages. We are extremely fortunate to have William Micklem for the day.

William Micklem is an international coach and author based in Ireland. His massive book, the DK Complete Horse Riding Manual, has now been translated into eleven languages and is the best selling manual in the world. He specialises in the training of coaches, young riders, event horses and young horses, and is the inventor of the Micklem Multi-bridle, recent winner in the BETA International 2008 innovation awards.

www.WilliamMicklem.com

Tickets bought in advance - SEA members £25 (on production of valid SEA membership card) Non SEA Members £40
Tickets at the door will be an additional £10 and subject to availability

Contact: Fiona Rawson, Executive Administrator, Scottish Equestrian Association, Titwood Farm, Kilmaurs, Ayrshire, KA3 2PN. mobile: 07815962964 01563 549802 email: fionarawson@aol.com or fiona@s-e-a.org.uk,

Lucy Wiegersma so close to a Badminton Victory

World Class Development rider, Lucy Wiegersma came so close to lifting the famous Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Trophy, just missing out to Nicolas Touzaint (FRA) by 1.4 penalties.

Lucy, riding Shaabrak was in third place after dressage with a score of 37.4, and although jumping a fantastic cross-country round, over Hugh Thomas' tricky course, Lucy took a couple of long routes, which resulted in 8.4 time penalties that left her lying second overnight to the Frenchman.

The show jumping proved to be very influential throughout the final round, Lucy and Shaabrak just had one fence down, leaving Nicholas with one fence in hand, which he used up early on, and now it was down to whether he would hold his nerve to jump the rest of the course clear, one more fence down would hand the trophy to Lucy. However, Nicholas riding Hildago De L'Ille managed to keep the rest of the fences up and he became the first Frenchman to win this coveted trophy.

Afterwards, Lucy said, "I was thrilled with Shaabrak's performance in the dressage, and I know there is so much more improvement to come, and he also showed a considerable improvement in the show jumping phase, to which Peter Murphy, who is the World Class Development show jumping trainer, has been instrumental. The cross-country is our strongest phase, and if I hadn't taken the split second decision to go the long route at the Colt Pond the final result may have been different, but having made a slight mistake two fences earlier I felt at the time it was the right decision". Lucy continues, "Shaabrak is feeling extremely pleased with himself and practically dragged me across the yard when we returned home on Sunday evening".

Although Lucy didn't take home the Badminton trophy, she did take home the Butler Bowl, which is awarded to the highest placed British Rider.

Three other World Class Development riders were competing at Badminton this year, Ruth Edge riding Muschamp Impala, who lay second after the dressage phase, but unfortunately had to retire on the cross-country course after a fall at the water complex.

Georgie Spence, at eighteen, was the youngest rider competing, rode a fantastic cross-country round to finish with only ten time penalties and lie seventeenth overnight. Unfortunately in the show jumping phase the combination clocked up a few penalties and they finished in thirtieth position. Georgie received a Saddle from the Master of the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, which is awarded to the highest placed rider who is not entitled to wear the adult Union Jack Badge.

Emily Baldwin, riding Drivetime lay seventh after dressage, and with twenty penalties cross-country were in thirty first position, but with only one fence down in the show jumping rose to a final placing of twenty fifth.

Vikki Underwood, World Class Development Programme Manager said, "Many congratulations to Lucy, who has shown that she is capable of producing a performance of the highest level that so nearly won her the Badminton trophy."

Vikki continues, "Both Georgie and Emily gained invaluable experience, and together with the combined support of World Class Development and their own support system, this gives them every chance to build for the future".

The World Class Development Programme, is Lottery funded through UK Sport and is designed to assist in the development of talented riders, with the best opportunities to maximise their competitive potential through an established training pathway that will see them progress onto the Olympic Performance Programme for 2012 and beyond.

For more information please contact: Victoria Underwood, World Class Development Manager Tel: 02476 698876.

Email: Victoria.underwood@bef.co.uk, or Debbie Lee, World Class Development Assistant.

Tel: 02476 698876. Email: Debbie.lee@bef.co.uk

Eventing Team announced for Beijing Olympic Games 2008

9th May 2007

The British Olympic Association (BOA) today selected the Eventing riders to be part of Team GB for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

The Team will be:

William Fox-Pitt

riding Mrs Judy Skinner and Mr Michael Payne's **Ballincoola**

or Mr Philip Adkins' **Parkmore Ed**

or The Hon Finn & Mary Guinness' **Tamarillo**

Sharon Hunt

riding Mr & Mrs Terry Hunt's **Tankers Town**

Mary King

riding Mr & Mrs Eddie Davies and Miss Janette Chinn's **Call Again Cavalier**

or Mr & Mrs Eddie Davies and Miss Janette Chinn's **Imperial Cavalier**

Zara Phillips

riding BGC Partners & Associated companies inc. Cantor Index, Mr James Blackshaw and her own **Toytown Lucy Wiegersma**

riding Mr and Mrs Mark Lean's **Shaabrak**

Commenting on their selection the athletes said:

William Fox-Pitt

"It is very exciting news, particularly with three horses in contention. Knowing this early in the year means we can prepare for the Games in the best possible way. The Olympics is the ultimate challenge and is one which I am really looking forward to."

Mary King

"I am over the moon to be picked to ride at what will be my fifth Olympic Games! Now the hard work starts making sure the horses are in tip-top condition. I have two potential horses, so I will work closely with my trainers to ensure we get the best possible results."

Sharon Hunt

"This really is a dream come true. I have owned and ridden Tankers Town since he was a four-year-old, so it feels even more special. I am looking forward to the whole experience and I am thrilled to be picked for my first Olympics and represent my country."

Lucy Wiegersma

"I am overwhelmed to have been picked. It has been my lifetime ambition to ride in an Olympics. I am particularly thrilled as I have ridden Shaabrak for ten years - he is a real trooper and I shall now be wrapping him up in cotton-wool."

Zara Phillips

"It is nice to be selected, but we still have a long way to go. I am lucky in that Toytown has been to championship events before, so he knows about big occasions and has been consistent, but an Olympic Games really is special. I am delighted for Toytown as he really deserves it."

Simon Clegg, Team GB 2008 Chef de Mission, said:

"I am delighted to welcome these riders into Team GB. Equestrian was able to deliver Team GB a medal of each colour in Athens and the experience in this team and their recent results bode well for success in Beijing. I wish the riders well in their final preparations for the Olympic Games."

Will Connell, British Equestrian Team Leader:

"Whilst there have been a number of athletes and horses in contention for selection to the Eventing Team, the five riders and horses that the selectors have decided on represent a mix of experience and youth. The Team includes athletes who have medalled at Olympic, World and European level, so this is an exciting proposition for the Games.

The athletes and team staff, under the direction of Yogi Breisner, will now focus on preparing the horses to peak on 9th August, when the Eventing competition starts in Hong Kong. The support of UK Sport lottery funding and the BOA will make this detailed preparation possible. As always, we are extremely grateful for the support of the owners of the horses selected to represent Team GB."

Yogi Breisner, British Equestrian Team Manager

"As the team manager I am fortunate to have five such talented riders on the team, and I am very grateful to all the owners for making such excellent horses available."

To see the team riders and horses in more detail see the [Equestrian Team GBR website](#)

The selectors also named two groups of reserves who are:

1st Reserves (in alphabetical order)

Kristina Cook (Miner's Frolic)

Daisy Dick (Hope Street or Spring Along)

Ruth Edge (Two Thyme)

Oliver Townend (Flint Curtis)

2nd Reserves (in alphabetical order)

Georgie Davies (Fachoudette)

Pippa Funnell (Ensign)

Rodney Powell (Zin Zan II)

Polly Stockton (Tom Quigley)

Oliver Townend (Coup de Cour)

Re-Staging of the 1908 London Olympic Games Polo Final - Great Britain v Ireland - 29th May 2008

16th May 2008

100 years ago, London hosted their first Olympic Games. To commemorate, the British Olympic Association (BOA) and Guards Polo Club are staging a unique and historic re-match of this hotly contested Polo final between Great Britain and Ireland. This event is part of the BOA's year long celebrations marking the centenary of the London 1908 Olympics Games.

An exclusive champagne reception will be held after the game where you can expect to rub shoulders with Olympians and celebrities. A very limited number of special price tickets are now available at £50 per person. Ticket price includes the champagne reception, match ticket and car entry.

Team members to date are:

Great Britain

Malcolm Borwick

Oliver Hipwood

Jonny Good

James Rome

John Martin

Ireland

Richard le Poer

Charles Beresford

Sebastian Dawney

Stephen Hutchinson

To download the official invitation see [here](#)

To book please email: events@boa.org.uk

Funds raised from the reception will go towards helping Team GB prepare for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Team GBR Launch New Gloss-E-Zine

19th May 2008

Equestrian Team GBR are proud to announce the launch a new glossy online magazine, 'IMPULSION'.

The first of its kind to hit the market, 'Impulsion' is a totally interactive upmarket lifestyle magazine, covering all aspects of equestrianism. With expert writers from every discipline and evocative photography, Impulsion is an eclectic and powerful publication.

Free to subscribe, a fabulous competition in every issue, the latest flash page turning technology, and 80 pages of inspiring journalism, Impulsion, like Team GBR, is a pursuit of excellence.

This first issue include 'Memories of Badminton', a special feature revisiting the evolution of this the most famous and glamorous horse trial; the launch of Toggi's new Team GBR supporters clothing range; a competition to win an Albion saddle; an article about Bentley's flashy new Zagato model, and much more ...

Marketing Director, Clive Hetherington said: "Impulsion is designed for anyone and everyone who has a love of sport, fashion, food and of course horses. Allowing you to interact with the content in a dynamic and totally different way, Impulsion is a potent and persuasive creation that is set to be top of its class."

Visit www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk and click on the magazine to view.

Eventing Pony Squad Selected for Pony European Championships

22 May 2008

Following a very competitive Charles Owen British Pony Championships in its new location at Chepstow in Monmouthshire last weekend, the Pony Selectors are delighted to announce the Derby House Pony Squad of five for this year's European Championships at Avenches, Switzerland 24 - 27 July 2008.

Newly crowned British Champions Gina Ruck and Ice Cool Bailey head the list. The combination had a good start to the season, only being out of the top three on one occasion. Lying second after the dressage at Chepstow, they put in a superb double clear, inside the time, to lift the title and secure a place on the squad. Gina and Bailey were members of the team that took Gold in Freudenberg in 2007.

The remaining four places are occupied by squad debutantes. Chepstow runners-up, Althea Bleekman and Nightgirl 002 capitalised on their Necarne win last year and fill one of the slots. Ella McEwen, sister of last year's Gold medal winner Tom, takes the third spot with her own Catherston Nutsafe. The squad is completed by the 2007 reserve combination Helen Dunning riding Glenayre Bay Surf and Eliza Stoddart riding Killacorran Blue.

Riding as reserve will be Lottie Kennedy with Darraks Tonto, the individual combination from the 2007 Championships.

Squad Details

Althea Bleekman (16) and Nightgirl 002

Helen Dunning (15) and Bay Surf

Ella McEwen (14) and Catherston Nutsafe

Gina Ruck (15) and Ice Cool Bailey

Eliza Stoddart (15) and Killacorran Blue

Reserve Rider

Lottie Kennedy (15) and Darraks Tonto

British Equestrian Federation says "Thank You" to Volunteers

28th May 2008

On Wednesday 28th May HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Patron of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) kindly hosted a reception for volunteers from across the Equestrian industry at Clarence House, London.

Without volunteers the Equestrian industry probably would not be able to continue. It is currently estimated

that tens of thousands of volunteers each give an average of 15.5 hours of time each year to equestrian sport and recreation in Great Britain, although many give much, much more of their time. The British Equestrian Federation and its Member Bodies value volunteers highly and recognise them as one of the sport's greatest assets.

The reception was a thank you to all those who give so much of their time. Many of those who attended the reception give their time and talents freely to serve on the executive boards, councils and committees of the BEF and its sixteen Member Bodies. Others give their time and expertise on a regular basis to represent the BEF and Member Bodies at grass roots level in the regions and many officiate at affiliated shows and events nationwide.

This reception coincides with the commencement of National Volunteers' Week (1-7 June 2008) when the nation recognises and celebrates the outstanding work volunteers do. During the week, events are being held across the country to recognise, reward and recruit volunteers in a variety of different spheres.

The reception was held in the beautiful surroundings of Clarence House, with the kind permission of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. The house was built between 1825 and 1827 to the designs of John Nash for Prince William Henry, Duke of Clarence. It was the London home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother from 1953 until 2002 and has also been the home of The Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, and The Duke of Edinburgh. Today Clarence House is the official London residence of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

During the reception The Duchess of Cornwall greeted the guests and thanked them for their valuable contribution to the Equestrian industry. The reception also included a formal thank you and presentation to Hugh Thomas and his wife, Mandy, to thank them for the outstanding contribution they have made. Hugh is the current chairman of the BEF and has been for the last three years; he stands down in June when this term comes to an end.

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation comments, "Our industry relies heavily on volunteers and although we have been able to thank just a few today in this special way, we extend our thanks to all who do so much for us. In particular it is a very fitting occasion to thank Hugh Thomas formally for all he has achieved for and on behalf of the BEF over the last three years. We are indebted to our Patron, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall for hosting this reception at Clarence House and extend our thanks for honouring so many for their support of equestrianism. "

Sport England announce return of Sportsmatch

29th May 2008

Sport England is delighted to announce the return of Sportsmatch in May 2008 with the new web based facility enabling applicants to apply online.

Designed to encourage new or additional sponsorship investment from businesses, trusts and private individuals, Sportsmatch, funded by Sport England, will continue to offer pound for pound matched funding to sporting stakeholders* for projects that encourage sports participation at grass roots level.

The scheme's criteria for awards has been amended to provide greater flexibility for applicants. From May 2008 onwards partnership funding from Trusts and Private individuals becomes eligible for match funding. In addition, applicants will now apply online with telephone support available from Sport England on 08458 508 508.

All projects applying in 2008/09 will need to ensure that they are able to deliver their project in its entirety by 31st March 2009. This will ensure that the benefits of the project are received at the earliest opportunity.

Sportmatch reinforces Sport England's commitment to community level sport. Launched in November 1992, Sportmatch, together with commercial sponsorship, has invested more than £102 million into 5784 community sports projects across England.

Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe said:

"Sportmatch has proven to be a great initiative over the years and has encouraged businesses to support grass roots sport projects up and down the country. I hope that it continues to go from strength to strength as we look to create a world class community sport system that encourages people to play sport for life."

* Clubs, National Governing Bodies, Charities, Local Authorities, County Sports Partnerships, Schools and voluntary organisations

If you have any general questions regarding Sportmatch please contact: E-mail:

info@sportmatch.co.uk

Clubmark has reached the Equestrian World

29th May 2008

Two Clubs, both affiliated to British Equestrian Federation Member Bodies, have achieved their goal of Sport England Clubmark accreditation. Grove House Stables, a British Horse Society approved riding centre in Doncaster and Nottingham Horseball Club are the first two equestrian Clubs to receive this valuable Accreditation.

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) has been awarded the licence to accredit Clubmark clubs in the Equestrian Industry. The British Horse Society (BHS) has been instrumental in leading on a pilot of this scheme, supporting a number of their approved centres to progress towards gaining the accreditation. In the long term the BEF plans to utilise the BHS model to support many of its Member Bodies to allow a variety of clubs to gain the mark. The British Horseball Association has also been one of the first successfully to accredit a club.

Clubmark, introduced in 2002, is 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 mark is awarded to clubs that can satisfy minimum operating requirements in the four areas of the playing programme; duty of care and child protection; sports equity and ethics and club management.

The mark is an accreditation scheme covering a variety of different sports and is specifically designed for clubs with junior sections. The scheme is designed to ensure the well being of young people whilst participating in sport, enable them to use their leisure time creatively and optimise their talents and personal ability.

The benefits are not just for the participants, accredited clubs will gain assistance in many areas from structure to direction. Through the attraction of a strong youth membership the clubs will be able to develop; membership should increase; clubs will receive assistance in developing coaches and volunteers and will develop an increased profile via a listing on the Clubmark national database. In the long term, accredited clubs should find that they have a distinct advantage when they come to work with local authorities and other government agencies.

Until now the scheme had not been rolled out to include any Equestrian clubs. With the support of the BEF, the BHS have been piloting the scheme at some of their approved riding centres and it is also being rolled out outside of the traditional riding school environment, with a Horseball club being one of the first to gain accreditation. In the longer term the BEF hopes that a wide variety of equestrian clubs will be able to gain accreditation.

Nottingham Horseball Club and Grove Farm Stables will be awarded their certificates at the Petplan National Riding Festival Day at Grove House Equestrian Centre on 30 May 2008.

Nottingham Horseball Club is one of the founder Clubs of the British Horseball Association (BHA) and remains a leading club in the UK both in terms of development and competition success, the junior section of the club has been awarded the Clubmark accreditation. It is the first Horseball Club in the UK to gain the award but the BHA and the BEF are assisting other clubs to complete their portfolios.

Grove House stables, based in South Yorkshire, was established in 1991 and now has around 35 horses and ponies plus a range of facilities for both horses and riders. The centre caters for both children and adults and are one of only a handful of equestrian centres to have been awarded the coveted "Investors in People" standard
Andrew Stennett of Grove House stables comments, "In order to maintain the progressive nature of our organisation's development we have recently committed ourselves to obtaining the Clubmark Scheme. Britain is a leader in equestrian sport and schemes such as 'clubmark' will help individuals develop their potential within a secure and structured learning environment. Making sport available to the younger members of society, and encouraging them to commit to continued participation in physical activity is absolutely vital and I personally feel that being part of a club can also play an even wider role in the personal development of young people."

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the BEF comments, "It is great news both for clubs and participants that this valuable award is being rolled out across Equestrian clubs. It shows great coordination throughout our member bodies and demonstrates what can be achieved by the power of collective working."

Dave Pettifor BHA Head of Training and Development will accept the certificate on behalf of Nottingham Horseball club and Andrew Stennett will accept the award on behalf of Grove House Stables.

Call for Volunteers for the Special Olympics

5th June 2008

Opportunity

Help make a difference over the next 14 months.

Why not begin an incredible journey - destination the 2009 Special Olympics National Summer Games to be held in Leicester 25th -31st July.

As a Volunteer Venue Team Manager, you will learn new skills, face new challenges and encounter new experiences every step of the way. You will give your time, commitment, energy and enthusiasm and play an integral role in the planning, preparation and implementation of this unique event. Volunteers are being sought who are well organised, good communicators, determined but with a sense of fun, self motivated but with the ability to guide and motivate others.

So, if you want to do something to really make a difference over the next 14 months come and find out more about the role and responsibilities of the Volunteer Venue Team Manager.

Come along to an information session to find out more about these volunteer roles. The information sessions will be held at Voluntary Action Leicester, Thursday 5th June 2008, Session 1-2-4pm, Session 2-6-8pm.

To book your place on one of these sessions or find out more, please contact

Lynn Senior, Volunteering

Director, Special Olympics 2009

on either of the following,

lynn@voluntaryactionleicester.org.uk, 0116 257 5041.

English and Welsh Teams announced for Junior World Driving Trophy Austria 2008

13th June 2008

From a starting point of 23 children who came forward for the selection process, 8 have now been chosen to represent England and 5 for Wales at the Junior World Driving Trophy, Austria 2008.

British Young Drivers and the BHDTA between them, held 4 training and selection events where the children were taught new skills, were able to practice techniques and try out the unique marathon format of the competition. Team Trainer, Anna Grayston (former National pony 4's champion) said, "I am really impressed with the schooling the children have put in between training clinics and the improvements they have all made in the last few months."

English Team

- Class 6 (17-18 years) Mark Bell, Rosanna Walter- Symons and Frank Campbell (Harriet Bradford- non travelling reserve)
- Class 5 (15-16 years) Charlotte Snow, Katie Bell and James Gambs (Amber O'Neil non travelling reserve)
- Class 4 (13-14 years) Clare Campbell and Michael Hodgson

Welsh Team

- Class 6 (17-18 years) Emily Ham and Alice Pritchard
- Class 4 (13 -14 years) Alice Stables
- Class 3 (11 -“ 12 years Fleur Snow
- Class 2 (9-10 years) Jay Snow

Two of the selected drivers, Frank Campbell and Rosana Walter-Symons are currently part of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), a scheme they joined through the British Equestrian Federation and were the first TASS awards to be allocated to a non-Olympic Equestrian discipline. TASS is a Government funded multi-million pound scheme with the overall aim of assisting Britain's most talented young athletes who wish to optimise the effectiveness of their sport and academic programmes.

Chef d'Equipe, Sara Howe (International Individual Bronze Medallist, Pony Singles 2007), is working hard to finalise the travel arrangements for all the competitors. Sara commented, "Team members come from all over the country so it is thank heavens for e-mail, and also big thank yous to our feed sponsor Baileys and equipment sponsors Charles Owen and MacWet. The show ground at Stadl Pura, Austria opens on Monday 21 July and competition starts on Thursday 24 for 4 days. The young drivers are very excited and it is a huge honour for them to represent their country's.

Caroline Douglas was the third member of the selection team and has assisted with the training and Sydney Smith has been a terrific source of advice.

Young drivers have been fundraising since November 2007, Frank Campbell (British Young Drivers committee member) said, "We would like to thank everyone who has helped us raise funds and given their time to the project, we are very grateful for all the support we have received. The HDT Development Trust has also awarded the team £1000 which we are very pleased about.

More details of the competition can be found at www.jwt08.com Any further offers of sponsorship will be welcomed, for more information please contact campbells@ramsland.plus.com

List of business sponsors

Baileys Horse Feeds

Charles Owen

Carriage House Insurance

Dartmoor Hunt Pony Club

D C Disley

Fenix Carriages

Gawton Associates Ltd

Jack in the Box

Kepak Convenience Foods

J & O Pilling

MacWet

Barry Marshall

Totnes & Bridgetown Races

The Sandwich Factory Holdings Ltd

South Moor Vets

Williams de Broe

Wyke Farms Ltd

Plus lots of other very generous individuals

Jacky Wood, OBE - Winner of the Tourism & Leisure Award at the First Women Awards 2008

16th June 2008

The 2008 First Women Awards Dinner held at the London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square saw BSJA Chief Executive - Jacky Wood OBE announced winner of the highly prestigious First Women Tourism & Leisure Award.

The First Women Awards recognises women who are not only trailblazers but also pioneers in business - genuine 'glass ceiling breakers'. From the initial entry of 350-400 entries, a shortlist of candidates were invited to an interview with a panel of distinguished judges culminating with the awards being announced at the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday evening.

Before being presented this significant award by the celebrated motivational speaker, author and cook Pinky Lilani guests were informed that the panel of judges had commented, "It is no exaggeration to say that Jacky Wood has personally transformed the culture of a worldwide sport. She has a refreshing outlook on the role of women in her sector and has not only broken down barriers, but created opportunities for others". The judges further commented that the BSJA is a beacon for other bodies in the sector.

Michael Mac, Chairman of the BSJA commented, "I'm sure you will agree this is a very significant award for Jacky who has devoted over forty years of her life working for the Association. In addition to this, we are all not only incredibly pleased that Jacky has been recognised in this way but also extremely proud."

British Equestrian Federation Announce New Chairman

18th June 2008

Yesterday the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) elected businessman and keen Equestrian Keith Taylor as its new Chairman, following the decision of Hugh Thomas to stand down after his first three year term in office. A ballot to choose between three exceptional candidates was held at the BEF Council meeting yesterday, the other candidates were Jane Holderness-Roddam and Toby Vintcent.

Keith Taylor is currently Managing Director and CEO of Guinness Nigeria Plc and has 30 years of international managerial experience with Diageo Plc and Mars Inc and is taking early retirement in August. He was awarded full University Colours for Equestrian achievement and has had a lifelong involvement in equestrian sport. He owns and is currently developing Seagry Stud as a breeding centre for dressage horses.

Prior to the election, all three candidates met with the current Chairman, and separately the Chief Executive, to discuss the demands and nature of the role. Further to this informal discussion a panel comprised of the current Chair of the BEF Council, Linda Whetstone and Council representatives Diana Bown (British Eventing), Tim Forrest (British Show Jumping Association) and Graham Corey (British Horse Society) interviewed the candidates who also provided manifestos for the Council Members to consider. The interview panel reported back at the BEF Council meeting yesterday when it was decided, by a formal ballot, that Keith Taylor would be Hugh Thomas' successor.

Linda Whetstone commented, "We were very pleased to have such strong candidates to choose from; it was a difficult decision for the BEF Council to make and I know I speak for the Council as a whole in saying how grateful we were that three such well qualified people were prepared to stand. I believe that Keith Taylor's considerable management experience and his lifelong interest in different aspects of equestrian sport will be important assets in his new role."

Keith Taylor went on to say, "I am delighted that the members of the Council of the Federation have shown their confidence in me to lead the Board of Directors as Chairman. I will be working very closely with them and the Executive as the Federation and its member bodies take the next vital steps in building on the success achieved to date."

Applications Open for Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS)

27th June 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.

The opportunities that the TASS scheme offers Equestrian sport could be significant in encouraging talented young equestrian athletes to continue their education by providing training funds and support, fitness and lifestyle support and forms an important stepping stone between the SportsAid Scheme and the World Class Development Programme. The support that TASS offers provides not only 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 the sport.

TASS is open to equestrian athletes in the three Olympic equestrian disciplines, Para-Equestrian Dressage, and two non-Olympic equestrian disciplines, Driving and Vaulting. Due to a re-allocation of funding there will be a restriction on TASS places made available for equestrian athletes in 2008/09.

The following criteria will be used to identify equestrian athletes selected to the TASS programme:

- Aged between 15 (16 by 1st June 2009) - 25 years (up to 35 years for Para-Equestrian Dressage riders)
- Recognised from performance profile to be a potential future international winner.
- Commitment to an agreed annual training programme.
- Commitment to an agreed annual competition programme (where applicable).
- Meet minimum academic entry requirements, specified by the University/College.
- Reside at an English address or be studying at an English Educational Institute.
- Achieve qualification standard set by the British Equestrian Federation in consultation with the governing body for each discipline.
- The final selection to TASS will be at the discretion of the British Equestrian Federation.

There is one type of TASS award and successful candidates aged between 15-25 years (35 years for Para-Equestrian Dressage) will receive funding to the sum of £3,500.

The closing date for applications is 8th August 2008, application forms, eligibility criteria and FAQ's can be downloaded from the BEF website - see [here](#).

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