

The Lead Body for British Sport Horses and Ponies

The concept and the benefits

7 June 2007

Setting the scene

Graham Suggett

Lead Body Steering Group Chairman

The Lead Body

- **Called-for in the Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales 2005**

Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales



British Horse Industry Confederation

The Lead Body

- **Called-for in the Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales 2005**
- **Will be included in the strategy for the horse industry in Scotland**

The Lead Body

- The Lead Body is intended to provide inspired member-driven leadership to improve the situation of British breeders and help them to help themselves

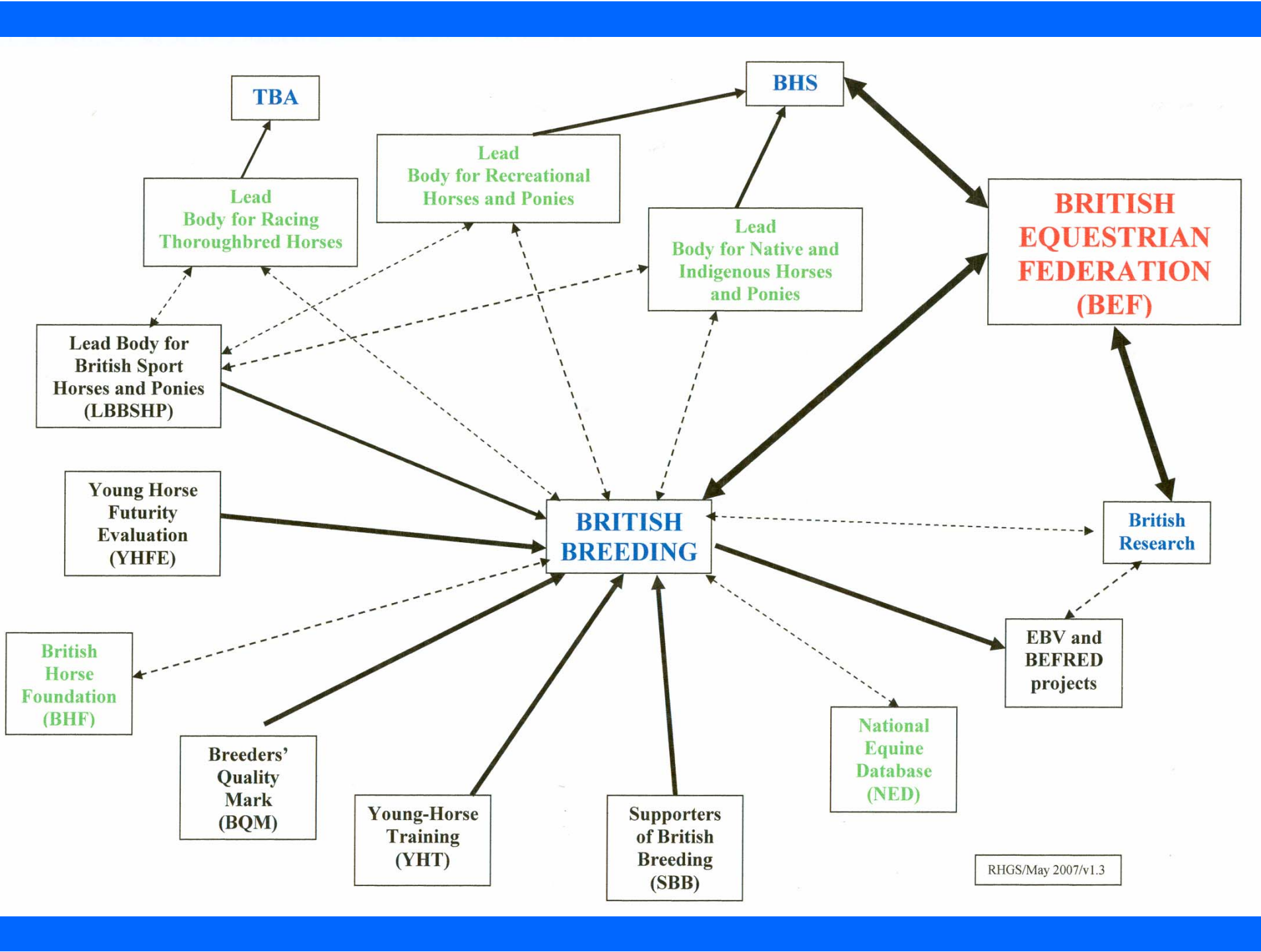
Actions to-date

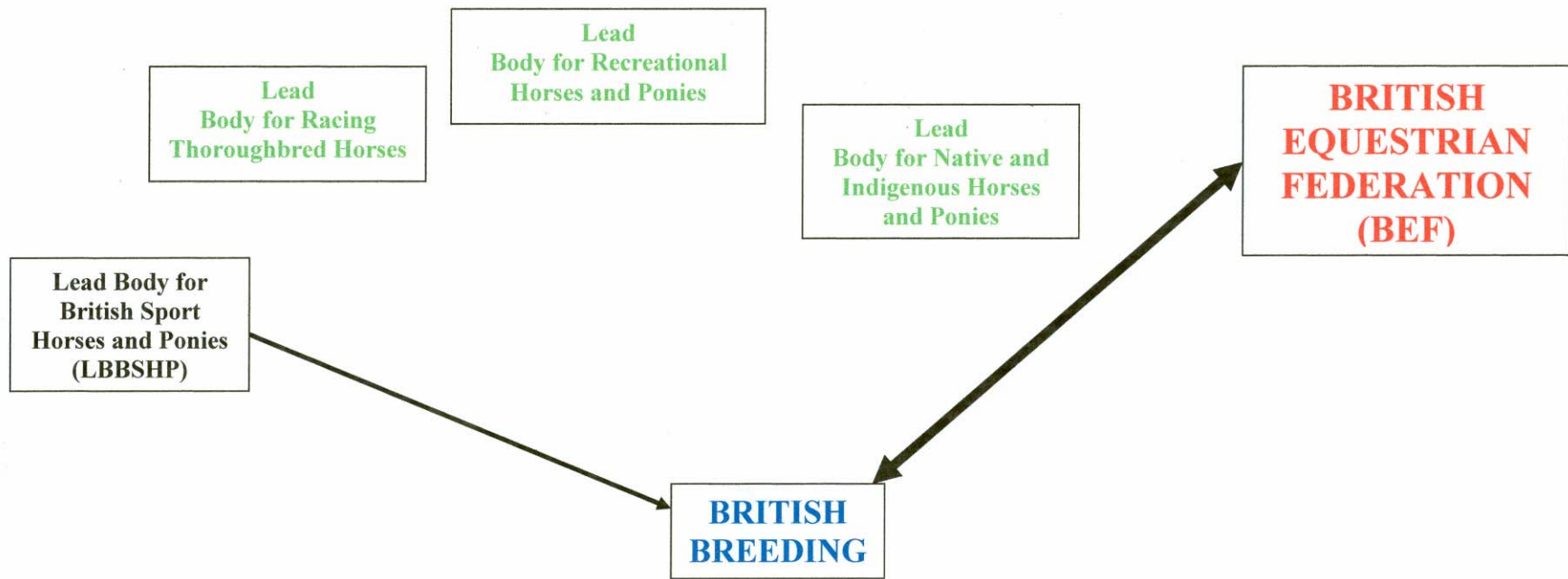
- BEF called an open meeting.....Buckingham University.....March 2006
 - Four Lead Bodies
 - BEF to lead for Sport Horses and Ponies
- Sport Horse interest meeting January 2007
 - Steering Group formed
- To-days meeting
 - Report back

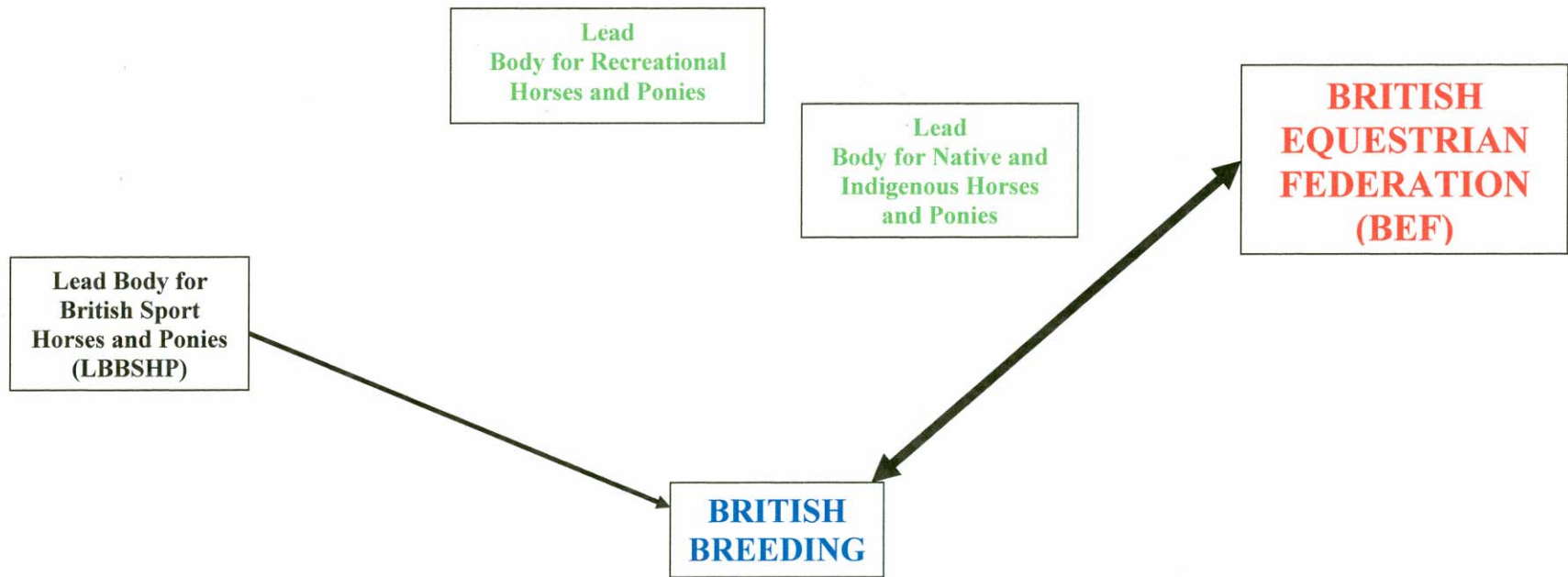
**Lead Body for
British Sport
Horses and Ponies
(LBSHP)**

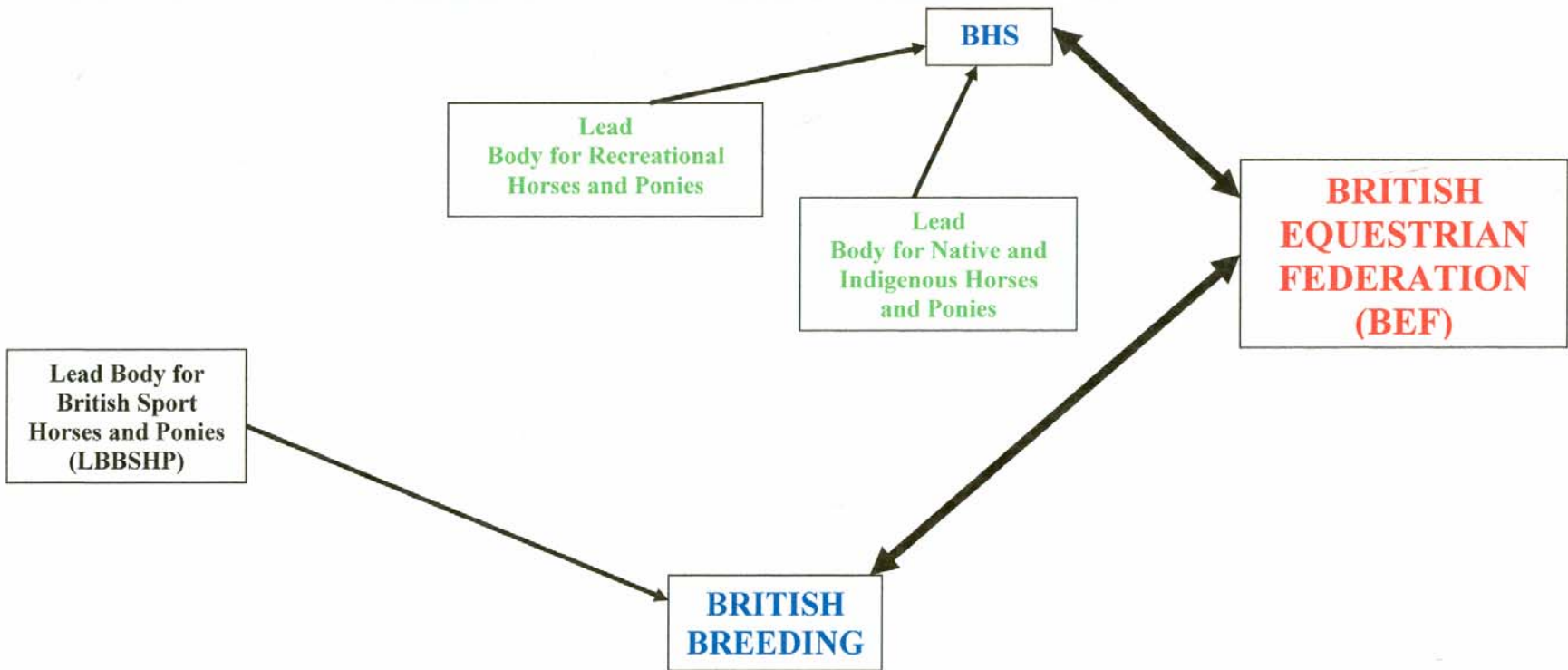
**BRITISH
BREEDING**

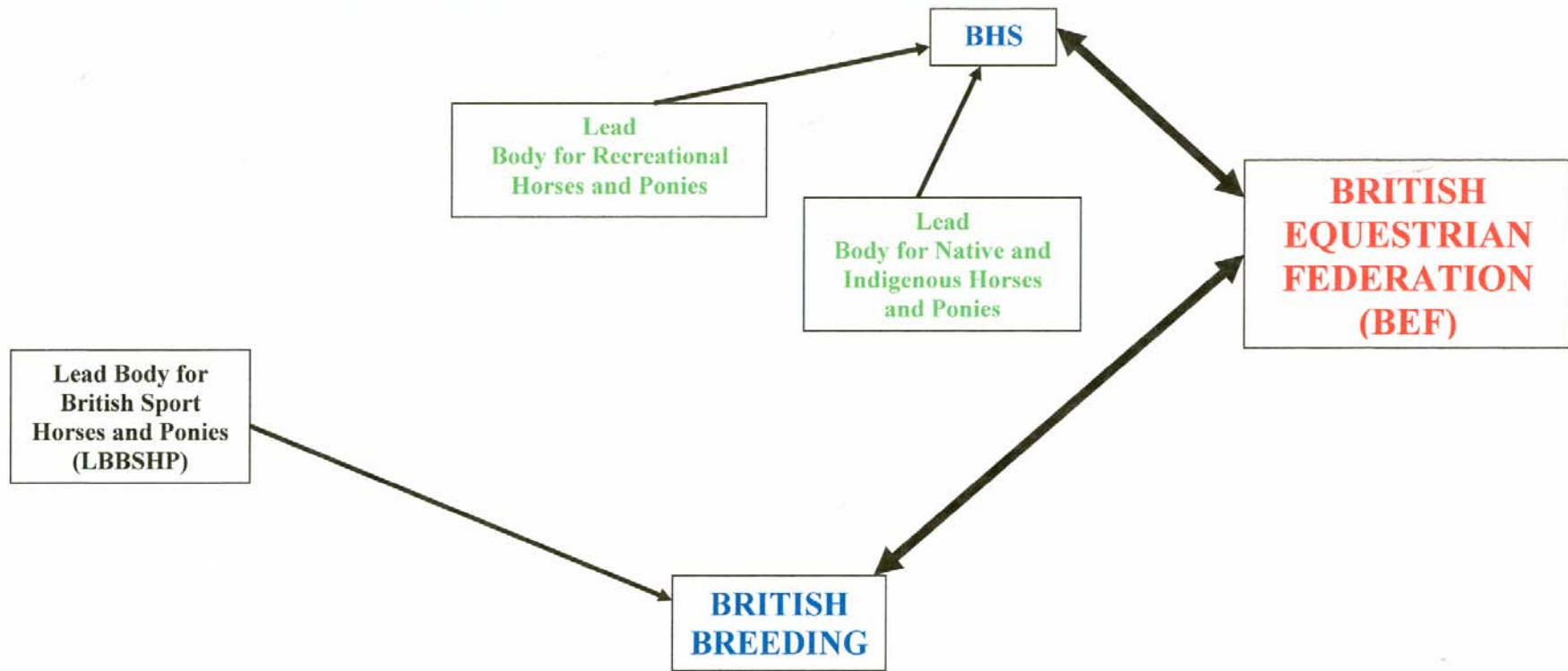
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EQUESTRIAN
FEDERATION
(BEF)**











Co. Ltd

Setting the scene

Andrew Finding
Chief Executive
British Equestrian Federation



BRITISH
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FEDERATION

The British Equestrian Federation

Andrew Finding
Chief Executive



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FEDERATION**

Our Role

BEF is the GB National Governing Body working with

- **The Government**
- **Regional Development Agencies**
- **Sports Councils:**
 - **UK Sport**
 - **Sport England**
 - **Sport Scotland**
 - **Sports Council for Wales**
- **Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)**
- **British Olympic Association**
- **London 2012**



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Vision

More People - More Horses - More Places - More Medals

“we aim to increase the numbers who ride and work with horses and to increase our international medal tally to record numbers by 2012”



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The BEF Family



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Members Sports



- British Dressage
- British Eventing
- British Show Jumping Association
- Endurance GB
- British Reining
- British Equestrian Vaulting
- British Horse Driving Trials Association



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Members

Charities & Other Bodies

- British Horse Society
- The Pony Club
- Riding for the Disabled Association
- Association of British Riding Schools
- Scottish Equestrian Association





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Members

Associate Members



- British Equestrian Trade Association
- Mounted Games Association of GB
- British Horseball Association
- UK Polocrosse Association



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Members

Potential Members

- *British Breeding*
- A body representing research
- Showing Council
- Welsh Equine Council (WEC)





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Lack a Spiritual Home

We have no:

- Wimbledon
- Newmarket
- Wembley
- Twickenham



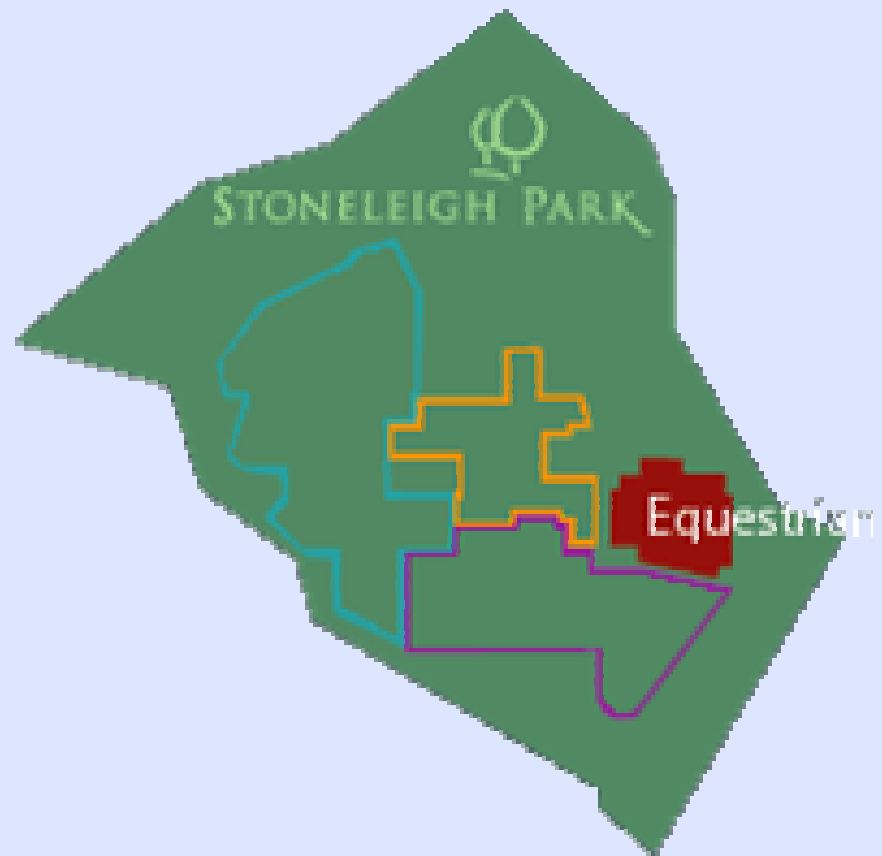


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A Spiritual Home

This could be: -

- **Stoneleigh Park**





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Stoneleigh Park could provide: -



- A National Equestrian Institute for the exchange of best practice
- State of the art veterinary hospital
- Centre for sport horse research
- Public facing showcase for the horse (Horse World)
- Organisational leadership (BEF)
- Home for equine disciplines and societies
- Facilities for equine events



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Thank you

Today's short presentations

What's in it for us?

- Breeders
- Studbooks
- Competitive disciplines
- The British horse industry

THE BRITISH BREEDER

“The State of the Art”

Lynne Crowden and Mary Wilson

The British Breeder Needs...

- Clear Guidelines for Breeding
- Access to the Marketplace
- Access to Riders & Trainers
- Business & Marketing Skills
- A Level Playing Field
- A “Shop Window”
- Comparability with Imported Horses

We need to provide for the British breeder....

- Information on performance and bloodlines
- Transparency and comparability of different assessment processes
- British Breeding Shows and Auctions
- Supported and Sponsored Access to Riders and Trainers
- Professional Advice on Marketing their Products
- A Focal Point for Breeding and Business Initiatives

Above All.....

The British Breeder
Needs
RECOGNITION



The “Lead Body” can....

Provide Energy, Expertise and Action to facilitate:

- Information to Improve Breeding Decisions
- Professional Marketplace Advice, Support and Platforms
- Access to Top Riders/Trainers who can develop inherent talent in British Bred Horses
- Top National Level Competitions and Events for British Bred Horses.
- The Development of Premium Schemes for Small Breeders who make Good Breeding Decisions.
- An International Benchmark for British Horse

More benefits for the breeder

John Shenfield

Lead Body Breeder Benefits

- Unique Equine Life Number (UELN)
- Legacy and Performance data
- Uniform young horse evaluations
- Equine Estimated Breeding Value (EBV) model for competitive success
- Recognition of breeders in schedules and media

Why studbooks should support the Lead Body

Providing a unified voice for the sport horse and pony breeding industry

Celia Clarke

Stud books should join the Lead Body because

- As a united body they will have a voice to which the wider equestrian world will have to listen

This is important because ...

- The stud books together produce an impressive number of good quality animals already but there is no way they can be promoted consistently
- As a member of the BEF family the Lead Body will be able to promote both the British-bred sport horse and pony and the needs of its breeders, especially the use of UELNs at all times
- Stud books need to work together to defend the industry from the external threat from mass importations and the internal threat of ID-only PIOs issuing passports to pedigreed animals

Stud books should join the Lead Body because

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- An exchange of views on techniques of grading assessment, evaluation and judging of young horse classes will benefit all concerned

This is important because

- Through the Lead Body membership of the BEF and co-operation with the disciplines we will be able to identify the needs of the sport more quickly
- Although we all have different procedures for grading, assessment and judging we are all working towards providing a sport horse or pony for the British rider so we need to identify our common aims in order to progress
- An agreed structure of identification of grading levels across the stud book will strengthen the image of the industry

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- An exchange of views on techniques of grading assessment, evaluation and judging of young horse classes will benefit all concerned
- Collaborative shows, training sessions and marketing programmes provide a heightened profile and economy of scale

This is important because ...

- It is more cost effective to plan and run such events together
- The more people that attend the higher the profile
- The higher the profile the more likely they are to attract good coverage in the equestrian press
- The long-term aim of a centre for excellence will provide unequalled facilities for hosting events that combine the needs of breeders and riders

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- Through the Lead Body members will have access to BEF specialist expertise

This is important because..

- Welfare expertise is available through the BHS both directly and in its role as a member of the BEF
- The BEF will also be able to provide access to:
 - Current and future specialist *British Breeding* research into breeding, EBVs and related issues
 - FEI drug testing and policy
 - FEI and BEF national policies on legal issues relating to equestrian sport

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- Collaborative shows, training sessions and marketing programmes provide a heightened profile and economy of scale
- Through the Lead Body members will have access to BEF specialist expertise
- The Lead Body will recognise the great contribution made by non-sport horses and sport horse stud books to the development of sport horse and pony breeding in the UK

This is important because ..

- The input of these unique stud books (especially native, indigenous and rare breeds) to the national herd has been a great source of competition talent in the past and still is now
- Many of our top riders begin their competitive career on these animals and they play a great role in rider development

Remember

- This is the only specialist forum to represent sport horse and pony breeders to the wider equestrian world and is a major action in the national strategies for the horse.
- We need your support NOW to ensure maximum representation of the British-bred horse in 2012



How Competitive Disciplines can benefit from the Lead Body

Improving communication between competitors and the people who provide the horses and ponies on which they compete

Jan Rogers

Disciplines and stud books need to work together to ..

- Ensure that competitors get the animals they want



This is important because ...

- In mainland Europe the competitors have a regular input into breeding programmes to ensure that the horses and ponies being produced:
 - Suit the requirements of the skills of the riders at every level
 - Top performing animals are talent-spotted and produced as Elite animals from foals onwards
 - Talented animals are kept entire until they have a performance record
 - Are not sold abroad at an early age or low price

Disciplines and stud books need to work together to ..

- Guarantee access to a regular source of sound, correctly raised animals bred with the British rider in mind

This is important because ...

- British-bred sport horses and ponies are bred with the British rider in mind
- British-bred sport horses and ponies are more likely to be quietly and correctly raised with the long-term soundness of the animal uppermost in the breeders mind
- Only animals sound in both body and mind can cope with the ever increasing demands of equestrian sport at every level

Disciplines and stud books need to
work together to ..

- Provide value for money for British buyers

This is important because...

- Paying a higher price to a seller abroad for the same product available in the UK is a waste of money
- Horses and ponies are usually sold for the highest price so many animals are sold to UK buyers because the home market (e.g. Germany, French, Dutch buyers) won't pay as much!

Disciplines and stud books need to work together to ..



- Identify and nurture top class potential at the earliest possible stage

This is important because ...

- The disciplines and breed societies working together with the Equine Pathway can draw up a framework for identifying talented British-bred equines and developing them from foal to competitive maturity
- Inputting competition results into NED using UELN data will provide instant and on-going information on successful bloodline combinations
- Provide a greater likelihood of long term soundness compared with expensive 'potential young horse class' winners brought in from abroad

Disciplines and stud books need to work together to ..

- Have input into the development of a centre of excellence and to share joint promotional opportunities

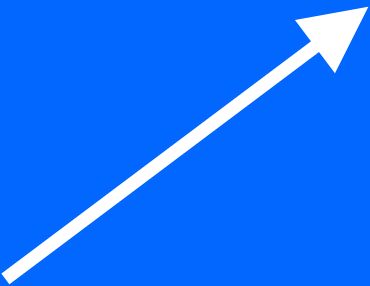
This is important because ...

- This project will form a vital role in providing on-going facilities for events that:
 - Help identify talented young horses
 - Help develop young horses
 - Bring breeders, owners, riders, trainers and team selectors together on a regular basis
 - Promote talented British-bred horses to potential buyers

Industry Benefits

Long Term Equine Development (LTED)

- LTAD completed
- BEF charged to build, in consultation, best practice for LTED
- Once built and agreed – will share best practice with the industry
- Identifying talent early and nurturing it
- Maximising chances of competitive success
- Providing a pathway from “stable to podium”



Membership and Finance

Mark Shaw

Lead Body Members

It is proposed that members be:

- Defra listed stud books (split into sub categories)
- Grading, evaluation or performance testing organisations
- BEF Member Body Competitive Disciplines

Financing the Lead Body

- Cost of an administrator to run the Lead Body's initiatives
- Cost of related office expenses and consumables
- Estimate approx £25,000
- Suggest flat fee for competitive disciplines
- Suggest fee for each foal passport issued for studbooks
- Suggest min fee of £250 and max of £2000

The Lead Body benefits.....

- Breeders
- Stud books
- Competitive disciplines
- The British horse industry

- Join in!

Agenda

- Objectives
- Functions
- Membership types
- Membership fees
- Where next?

Thank you very much for
attending this important meeting

Comments:

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