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# The Equestrian World Class Programme

**NEWSLETTER - February 2010**

Welcome to the latest World Class newsletter, the team here are now stepping up a gear on preparations for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, as we turn all our provisional plans into concrete arrangements. If you are riding at FEI level, or intend to this year, please check out the dates for our new anti-doping education programme and try to attend - it really will benefit you.

*Will Connell, Performance Director*

## Equine and human anti doping education programme launched

The World Class Programme, in conjunction with British Dressage, British Eventing and British Showjumping, will be hosting a number of regional education days throughout March and April for riders and owners to find out more about the new FEI Equine Anti Doping and Medication Control rules. The new rules will be introduced on 5th April 2010.

The days, which are free of charge to attend and open to British riders in all FEI disciplines who compete or intend to compete in FEI competition, will help riders understand what has changed and why. The days will assist riders in making sense of the new Equine Prohibited List, the new rules surrounding stewarding and security at events and medication log books. Equine anti doping and medication control is a hot topic throughout the world and it is vital that all riders fully understand the rules and the implications of falling foul of them, which could result in a 2 year ban from the sport. The days are also open to owners of horses who compete or who are intending to compete in FEI competition.

Human drug testing will be increased in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, so the education days will also cover human anti doping issues with input from UK Anti Doping (UKAD) and BEF Chief Medical Officer, Dr Peter Whitehead. The rules affect all riders at all affiliated levels and with some "everyday" substances appearing on the Human Prohibited List, it is important that riders are familiar with what can and cannot be used. Details about how to go about applying for Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) or making a Declaration of Use (DoU) for riders that require a prohibited substance due to a medical condition will form an important part of the human anti doping session.

The dates and venues for the days can be found [here](#).

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place, send an email entitled "Anti Doping Education" to Sophie Thomas ([sophie.thomas@bef.co.uk](mailto:sophie.thomas@bef.co.uk)) including your name, postal address, contact telephone number and the discipline in which you compete. Emails must be received no later than 5 days prior to the day that you wish to attend. Places will be confirmed by return email.



## Horse Hero visit eventing squad session

Popular horse 'how-to' website, Horse Hero visited a World Class Development Squad session held in February to produce two videos providing an insight into World Class training. These provide a follow up to the videos they filmed last year at dressage and para-equestrian dressage squad sessions.

The session was held at Summerhouse Equestrian Centre in Gloucestershire and was focused on the show jumping phase. Each rider took two to four horses to the session and jumped a show jumping course at a variety of different heights. Each round was filmed and observed by trainers Peter Murphy and Gill Watson who held feedback sessions afterwards with each rider.

You can check out the first of these videos now on the [Team GBR website](#), the second video will be available online shortly.

## Hoekstra appointed as World Class Performance Manager for Showjumping

Rob Hoekstra has been appointed as the World Class Performance Manager for Showjumping, with immediate effect.

Rob will be charged with leading the Showjumping Programme during the run up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and will start to develop plans immediately for the 2010 season. At this stage it is not known whether Britain will be competing in the Promotional League or the Meydan FEI Nations Cup series.

An international show jumper, Rob has ridden at 5\* level and represented Great Britain. He is also renowned as a successful trainer across Europe, with experience of coaching riders up to Olympic level. He comments: "I am extremely pleased to be appointed as the Showjumping Performance Manager and I am looking forward to what will certainly be a challenge but also presents a huge opportunity. My first task is to meet with all the riders and ensure they are focused on developing plans through to 2012. Over the next couple of months we will build those plans, working with key stakeholders across the sport in Britain."

"The selection process has been detailed and thorough," comments Will Connell, World Class Performance Director. "We are delighted to welcome Rob on board to the UK Sport funded World Class Programme. There is no doubt that he has a healthy challenge ahead of him but we do have very talented riders and an increasing number of horses together with supportive owners; I am confident that Rob will develop plans over the next few months that will bring the team together as a cohesive and successful unit. This appointment would not have been possible without the exchequer and lottery funding we receive from UK Sport."

"Rob's appointment as Showjumping Performance Manager is a fresh start for everyone," adds Clare Whitaker, Chairman of British Showjumping's Performance Development Committee. "He will be the driving force to take us to medal success at the 2012 Olympic Games. I believe his appointment is a positive step forward for the sport and I hope that everyone will pull together under his leadership to achieve success for Britain on the World stage"

## Show jumper rewarded for progress

Daniel Moseley (20) from Blyth, near Worksop has been promoted from Pre-Start to Start on the showjumping Development Programme.

Based with William and Pippa Funnell at their yard in Ewehurst, Surrey, Daniel has shown good progress in his training and competition skills – both instrumental in his promotion from Pre-Start to Start.

"This is a well deserved promotion for Daniel after he has shown consistent improvement," commented World Class Performance Director, Will Connell. "We are lucky to have great strength in depth on the Programme which is essential if Great Britain is to win more medals on the International stage at European, World, Olympic and Paralympic level. The standard of riding on the Programme continues to improve year on year and demonstrates the value of the tiered development approach."

## Sam puts faith in new horse

Southampton based Show jumper Sam Hutton is looking forward to the start of the new season after the arrival of his new horse, Astral.

Astral was chosen to help strengthen Sam's chances of success in the future and brings Sam's number of horses to three. The eight-year-old bay gelding, by Argentus was acquired by former Olympic show jumper, Tony Newbery on behalf of a new owner, and is stabled at his international training centre in Hampshire where Sam is based. He joins Sam's existing top rides Olympia III and Valentino VII, both owned by Sharifa Al-Homaizi.

"I've only had Astral for four months and I'm really looking forward to producing him this year through to Grand Prix level," said Sam. "He is a very brave, scopey and careful horse and I am really pleased with his progress in the short time I have been riding him. He was placed in both the World Class Development Under 23 and PCA (Premier Centre Association) Rising Stars qualifiers for this year's British Open where I am hoping to compete him. My main focus, however, will be the European Championships and I will be taking him to the under 21 trials later this year. I have high hopes for him."



## Charlotte goes for girl power!

Event rider Charlotte Agnew from Kelso, Scotland is hoping her new horse Pavonita provides her with some real girl power this season.

Sadly 2009 wasn't the best for Charlotte as she lost her top ride Little Beau after a freak accident in the field. Pavonita, a nine year old bay mare who has competed up to Novice level, was bought from Germany to help strengthen Charlotte's continued chances of success in the future.

"Losing Little Beau last year was devastating," said Charlotte. "Pavonita has a lot to do to step into his shoes, but we're all very excited about her. She's got an amazing jump and is a really fun horse – we are currently looking for potential owners who might want a share in her."

Charlotte who is currently studying English Literature at Edinburgh University, will be moving (with her horses) to Cirencester after her finals in May.

## WEG Preparations full steam ahead

The World Class team have been very busy this month, pushing forward with preparations for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, which takes place this September and October.

With around 40 horses now due to travel to Kentucky this is a huge logistical challenge, the planning for which started over 12 months ago. One of the big challenges is travelling the horses to Kentucky, this is being managed for the World Class team by Pedens Bloodstock Ltd who have assisted the British Team in this area for many years. They will coordinate all the different aspects of getting the horses from here to the Kentucky Horse Park, including quarantining the horses at Cincinnati airport on arrival. With eight different sports to organise, each with different date requirements for flying in and out of the venue this is understandably complex! Staff and athlete accommodation and travel has also been high on the agenda this month with all the provisional bookings now needing final confirmation.

To aid the preparation process a day was held to brief potential team members and staff from the sports of endurance, vaulting and reining. This aimed to provide everyone with the all the information and advice necessary to ensure the best possible preparation for the event.

The non-Olympic sports are still busy fundraising for the trip and you can help by checking out the latest prizes on the [Team GBR auction](#). Also check out the websites of [endurance](#), [vaulting](#) and [reining](#) for more information about what they are doing to help fund the trip.

To follow all the preparations and other news from across the British Equestrian Teams sign-up to Team GBR Ontrack **FREE** at [www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk](http://www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk)



## Under 23's battle it out for Championship places

The qualifying competitions for the World Class Development Programme Championship are well underway with five of the seven rounds now completed. European Junior gold medallist Carian Scudamore is currently heading the qualification table, with Abbie Squires in second place and George Whitaker and Chris Smith sharing the third spot.

A number of World Class Development squad riders have been out competing in the competitions, including Joe Clayton who won the 4th competition, at Addington Manor. He has two horses in the top 22 and is joined by fellow World Class riders William Whitaker and Daniel Mosely who also currently hold qualification spots.

The competition is open to riders aged 23 years or under and will qualify 22 rider and horse combinations through to the World Class Development Programme Championships at the British Open Showjumping Championships in April at the LG Arena, Birmingham.

As part its sponsorship the World Class Development Programme is funding the first place prize money of £300 at each of the qualifying competitions as well as training vouchers for the top six prize-winning riders currently eligible for British team selection.

There are two qualification competitions remaining at Towerlands Park on 13th March and the Hand Equestrian Centre on 20th March, which will decide the final line up to go forwards to the championship.

The World Class Programme incorporates the three Olympic sports of dressage, eventing, show jumping and the Paralympic sport of para-equestrian dressage. It comprises the Performance and Development programmes plus the Equine Pathway.

The aim of the Programme is to have in place a sustainable system that can deliver more medals on the international stage now and in the future. The Programme has been funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, through Exchequer and National Lottery funds, via UK Sport since 1998.



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