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**NEWSLETTER - March 2010**

# The Equestrian World Class Programme

Since the last newsletter we have received the welcome news that the Showjumping team will remain in the Meydan FEI Nations Cup, this is fantastic news and thank you to everyone who contributed to making it happen.

All our riders are now fully focused on the 2010 season and are back into the swing of regular competition. With the British Open underway and Badminton just around the corner the major events will come thick and fast now.

We are also now into our last push of fundraising for WEG - check out the latest auction prizes on our [dedicated web site](#)

*Will Connell, Performance Director*

## Great Britain to compete in Meydan FEI Nations Cup

Great Britain will be reinstated in the 2010 Meydan FEI Nations Cup series, following the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) decision to allow the appeal filed by the BEF on 5th February 2010.

The CAS has annulled the decision of the FEI Tribunal of the 21st January 2010 and set aside the 15th September 2009 resolution by the FEI Bureau to the extent that it relegated Great Britain from the FEI Nations Cup. The teams of Belgium and Italy did not challenge the FEI decision and remain relegated from the Top League.

"We are delighted that our team will now be able to compete in the Meydan FEI Nations Cup series in 2010," comments Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation. "Our wish is to achieve success on the field of play and I am sure our riders will compete with vigour and determination to prove their credentials throughout the 2010 season."

"It is great news for British Showjumping that this matter is now concluded, especially as the decision secures Britain's place in the Meydan FEI Nations Cup for 2010," comments Showjumping Performance Manager, Rob Hoekstra. "I now have a clear picture of what we are dealing with this season – this means, together with the riders and other team staff, I can secure our plans. Remaining in the top league will create a fantastic opportunity for more riders to gain experience at this level, which will increase the pool we have to choose from for future Championships and Olympic Games. We must now ensure we are competitive in the Nations Cup and focus on our preparations for London 2012 and beyond."

## World Class Development Championship line-up confirmed

A total of twenty-three riders have qualified for the World Class Development Programme Championship and its supporting competition, the World Class Development Programme Pathfinder that are being held at The British Open Show Jumping Championships in Birmingham's LG Arena on the 7th and 8th April 2010.

From seven qualifying competitions held across the country attracting over two hundred entries, the top twenty-three horse and rider combinations based on points from best their four results, will now come forward to jump in this prestigious competition, which is open to riders aged 23 years or under.

Last year's winner, Ellen Whitaker is over the age limit to defend her title, but with three other Whitakers in the final line up, including William Whitaker, who won both the Pathfinder and Championship classes in 2007, it could still be a Whitaker name on the Championship Trophy. With the standard of young riders in this class there it promises to be a tough competition.

Tina Goosen, World Class Development Showjumping Co-ordinator commented, "The standard of riding throughout the qualifying series has been impressive and I believe the qualified riders, including the six World Class Development Programme riders, will make the Pathfinder and Championship classes one of the strongest competitions we have had and the outcome is no foregone conclusion."

The final twenty-three qualified riders are listed on the [Team GBR website](#).



World Class Development rider Sam Hutton is amongst the line-up

## Masterclass in training for World Class coaches

Coaches from the British Equestrian Federation's World Class Development Programme were treated to a training masterclass by Nicole Werner, home coach to European Dressage Champion Edward Gal, earlier this month.

The 12 World Class Development coaches had the opportunity to watch Nicole training riders working on horses from Prix St George up to Grand Prix. The focus was on developing a quieter yet more effective riding style – achieved through greater sensitivity and responsiveness from the horse.

“Nicole was very quick to adapt training exercises to match particular problems, and avoided the ‘one size fits all’ approach to training. This was very thought provoking for the coaches present – helping to demonstrate that their training needs to be adapted to suit a horse and rider’s requirements,” said David Hamer, World Class Development Para-equestrian dressage Coordinator.

“All the coaches found the day very worthwhile and motivating – providing them with a perfect opportunity to have some input into their coaching, rather than being involved with the output of their knowledge.”

During the day, all coaches met up with Michel Assouline, Para-equestrian dressage squad coach, to discuss Nicole’s training methods and ‘bounce’ ideas off each other about training techniques.

## Equine and human anti doping education days – don’t miss your chance to attend

There is still time to attend one of the education days for riders and owners to find out more about the new FEI Equine Anti Doping and Medication Control rules. The new rules were 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.

The remaining dates are listed on the [BEF Website](#).

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.

## Second part of eventing squad session video now online

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 – the first was featured in last month’s newsletter and the second video is now available on the [Team GBR website](#).

In this video Emily Llewellyn talks to Fiona Price about her ambition and her main challenge in moving up to seniors. She jumps a round on Pardon Me under the watchful eye of trainer Peter Murphy and Fiona asks Peter about the differences in style between Emily and Laura Collett. Tim Rogers, the youngest member of the World Class Eventing squad, who has recently moved up from ponies, talks to Fiona about training with the Funnell’s and his plans for the future.



## Riders saddle up for charity demo

East Sussex based event rider, Emily Llewellyn teamed up with dressage rider Andrew Gould on the 26th March at the Oldencraig Equestrian Centre, Lingfield, in a demonstration to raise funds for charity.

Emily, who is on the World Class Development Eventing squad, joined Andrew in an evening performance to raise funds for the Spinal Research, Saddle Up Campaign. Andrew is an ambassador for the charity and is running the London Marathon for the cause this month.

The event included both dressage and jumping demonstrations. During the evening guests will had the opportunity to meet the riders as well as take part in a raffle with numerous equestrian goods up for grabs.

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