



British 
Equestrian

Annual Report 2023



INTRODUCTION

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This report covers the period of January to December 2023

Company information

Honorary Patron
HM The Queen

Chairman
Malcolm Wharton CBE

Chief Executive
Jim Eyre

Company Secretary
Lynne Bailey

Company number
3174767

Registered office
Equestrian House
Abbey Park
Stareton
Warwickshire
CV8 2RH

Equestrian audience in numbers

19m	equestrian consumers	0.4m	participant members	7th	most popular disability sport
6.8m	television viewers	£4.7	billion industry	4th	most popular female sport
1.8m	regular riders	2.1m	social media followers	74%	female participation

Purpose

To enrich the lives of horses and people together.

Vision

Together we will be the voice of, and provide leadership for, all who are inspired by and engaged with horses

Values

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Communication
- Fairness and transparency



WELCOME

From the spectacle of the coronation of King Charles III, to a continuation of the 'cost of living crisis,' 2023 was a year to remember for many reasons. The shadow of geo-politics beyond our control only serves to remind us how privileged and lucky we are to be involved with horses and sport, and how important it is for us to protect that and to utilise sport to drive positive change.

Operationally, the British Equestrian Board and staff put a focus on environmental, social and governance objectives, with key projects on equality and inclusion, concussion, equine welfare and environmental sustainability all being rolled out. Concurrently, our World Class Programme squads continued to deliver medal-winning performances in Europe, with a view to preparing for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A year of competition highlights kicked off with success at Badminton Horse Trials supported by MARS Equestrian for Ros Canter and Lordships Graffalo thanks to a dominant performance in challenging conditions. Then, after a 13-year wait, the British jumpers conjured a historic win on home soil at Hickstead for the Longines FEI Jumping Nation Cup. A total of 11 medals over four FEI European Championships was a fitting reward for some inspiring performances from our horse and rider combinations. Both the eventing and dressage teams secured the golds to sit at the top of the podium, whilst also securing an individual gold and silver in eventing and medalling on the dressage individual and Freestyle podiums, while a para team of new and experienced names produced personal bests to take a team bronze and a clutch of individual medals.

It was also great to see some of the developments and achievements on the sporting front in some of our member bodies, including completion for James Dickinson at the FEI World Endurance Championships, a new Fall Festival for the British Horseball Association, strong results for the para drivers at the FEI World

Driving Championships in Exloo, the British Reining National Championships with a great showing from newcomers and bumper entries at the UK Polocrosse Association National Championships in September. Alongside the sporting achievements, our role in creating positive social impact through equestrianism came to the fore throughout 2023. We recognise the unifying power of sport – and indeed horses – to bring people together for the greater good and influence change, and that is something we must use effectively for a viable future.

With the changes in climate an ever-growing concern and UK Sport launching a comprehensive [environmental sustainability strategy](#), we made reducing our environment impact a priority. We began 2023 by forming a partnership with Horse Sport Ireland to work with sustainability agency White Griffin to ascertain a baseline – at both federation and industry level – from which to set our sustainable aspirations for the future. Extensive research yielded great insight and we released the headline findings, alongside a vision document, to get the process of setting a dedicated strategy mapped out in 2024.

In 2022, we put a spotlight on making our industry more representative of society and the preliminary research work culminated in the groundbreaking Horses for All report and response, which was released in the spring. We were proud to then launch our equality, diversity and inclusion strategy in November 2023, which sets the agenda for our long-term commitment to lead change in our industry and foster a culture of everyday inclusion and equity.

Also in 2022, we worked with member bodies to look at the current status of our riding establishments up and down the country – the picture was mixed. We repeated this Health of Riding Establishments research in 2023 and it again highlighted that the sector was still suffering with operational capacity levels and a workforce shortfall. However, many centres have a positive outlook for the future and the findings identified key areas where we can collaboratively work to provide support in the future.

The Sport England-supported Together Fund continued to help centres across England to encourage growth and engagement in physical activity. Collaborations between centres and local schools, groups and charities helped to improve mental health in participants and provide a sense of community, all the while allowing a chance for people to discover their new passion for horses. As part of a continued effort to unite the federation and strengthen member body relationships, the Participation team held their first Member Body Open Day at Onley Grounds Equestrian Complex. This provided a chance for those

across the federation to network, collaborate and share new ideas, and such days will be a regular fixture going forward.

Working with member bodies, we released unified concussion guidelines for use across the equestrian industry and supporting educational materials that dovetailed chimed with the UK Government concussion guidance for grassroots sport. A Cross-Industry Concussion Symposium, hosted jointly by British Equestrian and the Injured Jockeys Fund at Cheltenham Racecourse in October, was held to discuss best practice and shared learning for a more collaborative approach moving forward.

We also teamed up with Riders Minds to take part in the Baton of Hope relay through London, where British Equestrian athletes and advocates Oliver Townend, Mollie Summerland, Lewis Carrier and Richard Waygood rode down The Mall to raise awareness of suicide prevention and mental wellbeing.

Over the course of the year, the World Class Programme held insightful training camps and theory sessions for athletes and coaches on the performance pathway and Young Professionals Programme. A day at Hartpury College and University Centre to study equine performance and fitness, a two-day seminar



on female health and wellbeing in the youth coaching sector, and a new booklet 'Psychological factors underpinning young rider development' all contributed to the development of the future leaders of the equestrian industry.

Equine ethics and welfare have always been at the heart of what we do, but the increasingly discussed concept of social acceptance of equestrian sport within the wider society is a concern which we continue to address. Working with member bodies, our Equine Welfare and Ethics Advisory Group and the wider community, we are working on initiatives to safeguard the future of our activities and preserve the horse-human bond for generations to come. A cross-industry 'Horses in Society' day at the end of the year showed the strength of feeling across equestrianism to work together on this issue, but also put into perspective the challenge ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their valued input and support, as well as their continued enthusiasm in delivering on the strategy developed by British Equestrian in partnership with the wider federation. The primary focus for the Board in 2024 will be the development of a new strategy to securing a sustainable future for equestrianism in all aspects.

While Paris 2024 will rightly take the spotlight next year, we look forward to furthering our projects in the key social impact areas, working collaboratively with member bodies to provide data, insight and actions for a viable industry and ensuring our network operates in line with our core values for success.



Malcolm Wharton

Malcolm Wharton CBE | Chair



Jim Eyre

Jim Eyre | CEO



WORLD CLASS PROGRAMME

FEI European Championships

With Paris qualification already secured in 2022, we headed into the FEI European Championship season with a clear strategy in place – to provide some new and debutant combinations opportunities to shine alongside their more experienced counterparts, and the performances we saw exceeded expectations. Our four squads headed to three venues, which posed a logistical challenge to our Operations team, particularly with back-to-back competitions in Milano and Riesenbeck respectively – but one they ably met.

First out of the blocks was our eventing squad, who hopped across the Channel to France. It was a week of top-class competition across tricky ground conditions, but our squad rallied together to pull off some fantastic performances across the three phases under the leadership of Performance Manager Dickie Waygood. When Haras du Pin in Normandy last held a European Championship in 1969, Great Britain took the team title, plus individual gold and individual silver. Quite remarkably, 54 years on, our all-female quartet of Ros Canter, Kitty King, Laura Collett and Yasmin Ingham managed to repeat history, winning team gold, with individual gold and individual silver silver going to Ros Canter and Kitty King respectively. Championship debutant Tom Jackson and Tom McEwen with a new ride in JL Dublin also showed plenty of potential for the future.

Next, we headed to Italy for the showjumping, where Di Lampard oversaw a squad made up of Harry Charles, Tim Gredley, Samuel Hutton and Donald Whitaker, anchored by the experienced Ben Maher. The goal was to give these partnerships valuable experience in a pre-Olympic year in one of the most demanding competition formats in showjumping – and over yet more testing ground following

some monsoon-like conditions in the build-up, which saw our Operations team having to pull out all the stops to keep our squad in the best possible state of readiness. As the sun came out and temperatures rose, Ben and Faltic HB finished fourth individually at a second consecutive championship, and while there's an element of frustration at being so close to the podium, it shows a huge amount of potential, consistency and ability to deliver repeatedly at this level.

Finally, it was over to Germany for two concurrent championships between the white boards. Caroline Griffith's dressage team of Charlotte Dujardin, Lottie Fry, Carl Hester and Gareth Hughes continued to prove that they're a force to be reckoned with, taking team gold and a trio of individual medals for Charlotte and Lottie. Carl also notched up some impressive scores with new ride Fame. It's worth remembering that Great Britain's dressage team last stood atop a European Championship podium in 2011, just before they went on to make history at London 2012 – no pressure for next year in Paris!

Meanwhile, our para dressage squad of Gabriella Blake, Charlotte Cundall, Sophie Wells and Georgia Wilson might have dubbed themselves the 'green team' owing to their relative lack of mileage and some new combinations, but they certainly didn't let this hold them back. Guided by Georgina Sharples, they took home a fantastic team bronze and four individual medals, delivering multiple personal bests along the way – a true sign of championship performers.



Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

As the Paris Games loom ever closer, work is well underway to secure our operations and plans for the team. The equestrian events will take place to the southwest of Paris itself, in the grounds of the Palace of Versailles. The travelling distance between here and the Olympic and Paralympic Village in the northeast of the city means that we have taken the decision that our equestrian teams will reside outside of Villages for the duration of the Games, in accommodation which is already secured by the Operations team. Horses and grooms will be housed on-venue, with team vets housed close by in a Paris 2024 hotel.

In August, an operational cross-country test event took place at Versailles, which was open to National Federation representatives, key technical officials, course designer Pierre le Goupil, Palace spokespersons and experts. Specific areas of the course were tested to assess the footing, groundworks and selected obstacles, including the pontoon crossing of the Grand Canal. There was also a comprehensive review and update on all the logistics surrounding venue and sports infrastructures, access, the Olympic Village, transport, vet and groom accommodation, accreditation, horse movements, stabling and facilities.

While Paris is geographically close to the UK, the normal challenges around scenarios such as operations, transport, accreditations and venue familiarisations will all still exist, and the team will work tirelessly between now and the Games to ensure that the team are prepared to a world-class standard.





PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

Podium Potential Pathway

Successful recruitment and induction of athletes on to the 2023 – 2025 Podium Potential Pathway (P3) programme, which is funded by Sport England and UK Sport, was completed in March 2023. The 70 applicants resulted in 18 Olympic discipline athletes and four para-equestrian athletes being selected.

Podium Potential Pathway Squad Training has taken place throughout 2023, with 20 days of training camps delivered.

The World Class Programme Equine Sport Science and Medicine Day took place in early November at Hartpury University, with 'Equine Fitness' being the headline topic. Presentations and workshops were led by Dr Kathryn Nankervis, Dr Rachel Murray and Team Vets, Liz Brown and Tim Randle.

Podium Potential Pathway athletes continued to compete successfully during 2023, notably:

Dressage

- Jess McConkey was in the top three in all the Young Rider classes at Leir CDI and Wellington CDI on two different horses, was third in the Young Rider Team and Freestyle at Le Mans CDI, and was a member of the bronze medal team at the 2023 FEI Young Rider European Championship.

Eventing

- Kristina Hall-Jackson was the highest-placed British first-timer at Badminton Horse Trials, as well as one of the youngest riders.
- Emily King won the CCI3*L at Millstreet.
- Lizzie Baugh won the CCI4*S at Chatsworth and was sixth in the CCI4*L at Bramham.

Para dressage

- Gabriella Blake won bronze in the Grade 1 Individual Test and Freestyle Test at the Waregem CPEDI3*. Gabriella went on to win individual bronze and team bronze at the FEI Para Dressage European Championship on her senior team debut. She will transition onto the Podium pathway from 1 January 2024 and will campaign for Paris 2024 selection.

Showjumping

- Lily Freeman-Attwood had her first CSI5* win at Windsor and was second in the CSI5* Global Champions Tour in St Tropez.
- Robert Murphy won the CSI2* GP in Valkenswaard and also won the CSI4* 1.45m in Maastricht as well as finishing second in the U25 class at Geneva CSI5*.
- Claudia Moore won the CSI2* Grand Prix in Sancourt and was a member of the bronze medal team at the 2023 FEI Young Rider European Championships.

Podium and Podium Potential

World Class Programme Podium and Podium Potential selection for dressage, eventing, jumping and para dressage and annual nomination to UK Sport for 2024 was completed in November, with 48 athletes nominated from 1 December 2023 for a 12-month UK Sport funded place. Many of the 2023 programme riders were re-nominated onto the programme, with some additional riders being selected:

- Dressage: Becky Moody
- Eventing: Harry Meade, William Fox-Pitt and Wills Oakden
- Para Dressage: Mari Durward-Akhurst
- Showjumping: Tim Gredley and Sienna Charles

Youth Pathway

The following programmes have been made possible through funding support from Sport England.

Young Professionals Programme

The Young Professional Programme for 2022–23 concluded with yard visits to two of our top international riders, Piggy March (eventing) and Dan Greenwood (dressage). These visits are invaluable because they give participants the opportunity to learn by listening to the lived experience of riders who have forged a successful competition career and run their business to support it.

The recruitment process for the Young Professional Programme 2023–2024 cohort has been completed and their [induction day took place in October](#), with 16 riders selected – six from eventing, seven from showjumping and three from dressage.

Youth Pathway Coaching

Supported by Sport England funding, British Equestrian ran a two-day Youth Pathway Coaching Seminar in February entitled Sport in Her Shoes, which focused on the physiological and psychological issues affecting girls in equestrian sport. Attendees were invited from British Dressage, British Eventing, British Showjumping and Pony Club.

British Equestrian published the [Psychological Factors Underpinning Young Rider Development](#) information booklet in March 2023. The booklet will support equestrian coaches working within the youth pathway, as it outlines the factors that contribute to the cognitive development of young riders as they progress through the early stages of their sporting journey.

Para Entry Programme

Training has continued throughout the year, with two new venues now also offering the opportunity to aspiring Para Dressage riders at Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Centres across the England regions. The venues now also offering training are Abingdon RDA and Penniwells RDA. They join the established centres, Cotswold RDA, The Unicorn RDA, The Diamond Centre, Papplewick RDA and Avon RDA to provide support to riders with training given by leading Para Coaches to make the next step into the British Dressage Para Dressage competition and training pathway.





PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

State of the Nation 2023 Report

We instigated a 'State of the Nation' report with the objective of providing an overview of the latest data and research known about the equestrian industry and to shine a spotlight on the benefits of bringing different strands of data, information and insight together.

The 2023 report covered British Equestrian member body membership data, BETA's National Equestrian Survey, British Equestrian's Health of Riding Establishments Survey, British Equestrian's Urban Equestrian centres research, Sport England's Active Lives Survey for adults and children and research providing context on the current economic challenges and cost of living crisis.

Urban equestrian centres

Working in partnership with Sport & Recreation Alliance, we conducted [research into the operational profile of 13 urban equestrian centres](#) across England to discover their different business models, the impact they have on local community and the challenges they face.

The key findings underscore the significance of urban equestrian centres and the overwhelmingly positive impact they have on their local areas. Despite each centre having unique business models they all successfully create a sense of community, favourable social outcomes and benefit physical and mental wellbeing. A centre's

ability to forge partnerships with their local authorities to create engagement around education and employment was found to be a key factor to a centre's success.

Other commonalities between the centres included being 'mission-driven', with the aim to deliver equestrian opportunities to those outside the reach of 'traditional' riding schools, particularly those from deprived areas, low-income households and diverse ethnic groups. Ethnic diversity of these centres averaged around 26% of participants from non-white backgrounds, with some as high as 50% demonstrate how crucial these centres are for tackling inequalities and access to equestrian activity.

Health of Riding Establishments Survey

Introduced in 2022, we conducted a second [Health of Riding Establishments research project](#) working with member bodies The British Horse Society (BHS), the Association of British Riding Schools (ABRS+), The Pony Club (PC), Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) and horsescotland. The findings concluded that there is a continued capacity issue, with 70% of centres wanting to improve their capacity but struggling to do so, this was backed up by half of all respondent centres having an average wait list of 20 customers. Workforce was raised as a contributing factor to capacity issues faced with shortfalls across coaches, volunteers and horses across the sector impacting respondent centre's ability to deliver to customers.

In response to these findings, we're working with member bodies to better utilise existing resources and act on the key areas requested by respondents:

- business development and growth
- fundraising
- marketing
- staff management
- volunteer management.



Federation data

To provide good insight and track our success we have developed a list of measurable, relevant and timely key performance indicators (KPIs). The information is gathered across the federation to look at people, places and workforce. Over time, the data will develop to also capture ethnicity, diversity and inclusion data. Our initial collection of member body KPIs suggests the federation has over a quarter of a million memberships across participants, workforce, officials and volunteers. By gathering these KPIs we can identify the strength of our industry and evaluate our objectives.

We've also analysed some of Sport England's 2022 Active Lives data which highlights that 48% of horse riders do not participate in any other sport and would otherwise be inactive. Further data from the National Equestrian Survey by the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) suggest that 1.82 million people ride horses regularly, with around 850,000 horses in Great Britain.

Member body projects

In 2023, British Equestrian and Sport England continued to fund Project 2026, managed by the British Horse Society, which identifies, records and safeguards public rights of access, in particular bridleways. Project 2026 recorded a further 748 routes in 2023, taking the overall total since the project's inception to 3,260.

Through Sport England investment, British Equestrian financially supported BETA to carry out the National Equestrian Survey. This survey provides key insight into the size, shape and economic contribution of the equestrian industry which enables our sport to better understand the size, scope, and needs of the market to better sustain participation impact of recent events, such as the pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis.

The Pony Club has used Sport England investment through British Equestrian to explore a new membership offer to educate five to ten-year-olds who may not have ever had the opportunity to visit a riding centre as a first step into understanding equines, with a specific focus on those groups typically underrepresented in equestrian sports and activities.

UK Polocrosse Association have utilised funding to recruit, train and qualify more coaches to support their club network as they had identified this as a specific issue

that could have a detrimental impact on their sport. UK Polocrosse Association have also developed and delivered a new training process for umpiring and the development of a more comprehensive training programme for their executive umpires, with plans in place to recruit more umpires throughout 2024.

British Equestrian Coaching Bursary

In response to the findings of the Health of Riding Establishments report, which highlighted a shortage of qualified staff within riding schools, British Equestrian introduced a coaching bursary scheme in February 2023. This initiative aimed to address the workforce challenges identified in the report but also prioritised applications from underrepresented groups.

A remarkable 169 applications were received from member bodies, encompassing a diverse range of qualifications. We were able to provide support to 51 coaches in their coaching qualifications from the BHS, the ABRS+ and The Pony Club, with a total of £19,366 going to the member bodies. Forty-seven of these coaches were based in England, three from Wales and one from Scotland.

There will be another Coaching Bursary scheme scheduled for early 2024, aimed at the same demographics.

Level 4 Coaching Certificate

Run in conjunction with British Rowing and the University of Gloucestershire, the Level 4 Coaching Certificate enhances a coach's exceptional skills and behaviours, and ensures they work to the highest ethical standards. The course has been developed for coaches to advance their craft, developing their multitude of skills:

- build long-term working relationships
- create and sustain a supportive learning environment
- empower and challenge participants and themselves
- generate strategies and make effective, quick decisions
- demonstrate exceptional communication skills and be able to adapt these to fit each specific situation
- be self-aware, self-reflective and strive for continued self-improvement
- demonstrate a positive impact on the behaviour and performance of participants.

Congratulations to our nine 2023 graduates who all worked hard to successfully complete their qualification.

In late 2023, we announced a new cohort of eight coaches to join the two-year programme, with participants from the British Horse Society, British Dressage, British Showjumping and British Eventing.

Together Fund from Sport England

In August 2022, Sport England awarded British Equestrian a funding grant of £195,000 to support equestrian centres, community groups, and targeted organisations. This funding was aimed at facilitating riding activities to engage priority audiences, including lower socio-economic groups, people with long-term health conditions, ethnically diverse communities, and disabled individuals. The funding aimed to enhance participation and inclusivity within these priority groups.

In addition to the £195,000, British Equestrian successfully secured an additional £58,875 for resilience. This supplementary funding was designated to assist equestrian centres in addressing challenges and fostering growth in participation, particularly within the priority audiences, with the expectation that it would contribute to the long-term sustainability and development of equestrian activities.

The programme concluded in September 2023 and its impact has been evaluated to inform Sport England's assessment of the Together Funding Programme. The report highlights the positive impact on participants, emphasising the role of horses and riding in managing mental health, including anxiety, stress, and depression. Specific instances are shared where the project positively affected physical health and boosted confidence, encouraging participants to be more active.

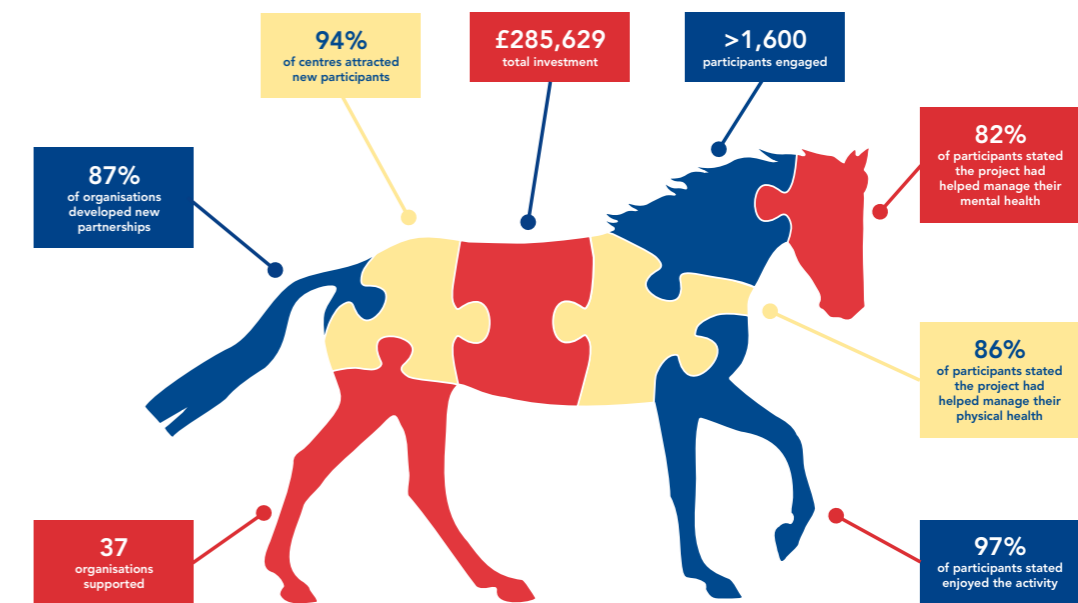
Feedback from equestrian centres and community organisations indicates that the funding not only helped them survive the pandemic but also facilitated the development of new partnerships and the attraction of new participants. It enabled these organisations to offer more opportunities for audiences, both new and existing, to engage in physical activities.

The Together Funding, coupled with resilience support, allowed British Equestrian to collaborate more closely with alternative structures, fostering business growth and addressing operational challenges. New partnerships with national organisations such as Sport in Mind, Sported and Get Grants were established.

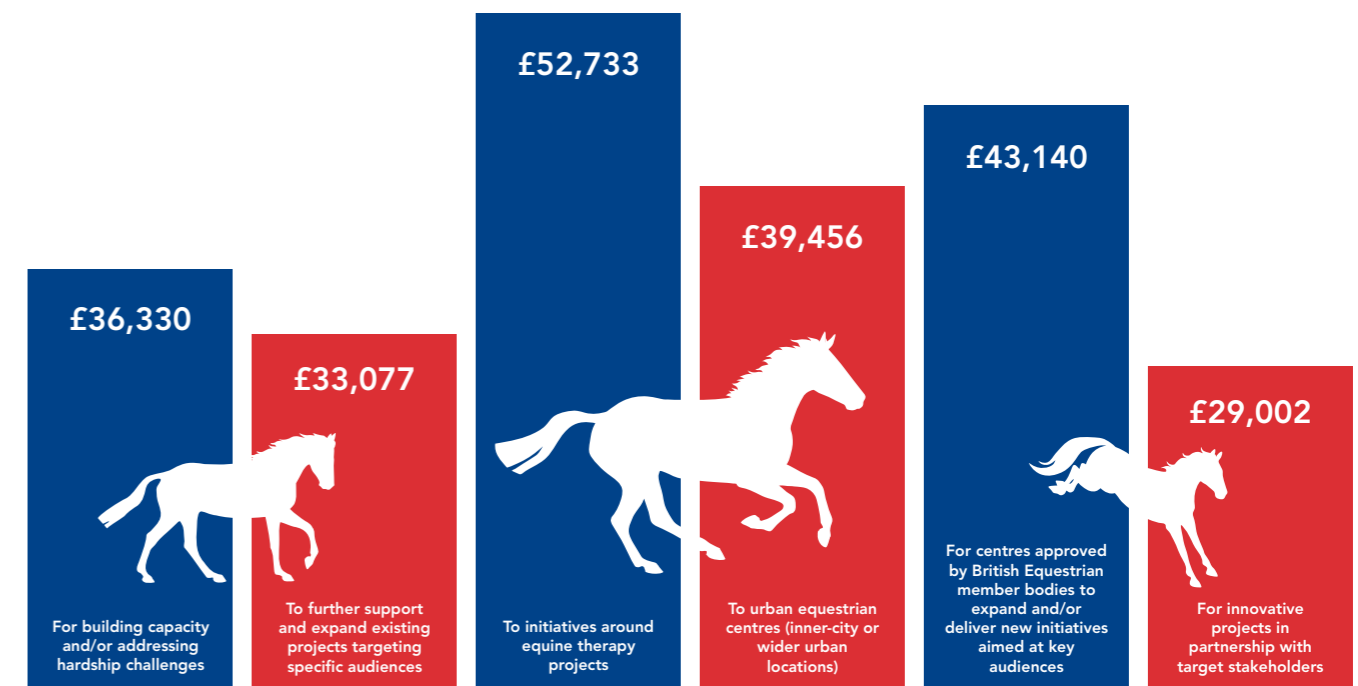
The Together Funding Programme served as a proving ground and springboard, with several follow-on projects now in development with community organisations, equestrian centres, and their partners.

For detailed insights into the Together Fund projects supported by Sport England, [visit our website for case studies](#).

Together Fund impact and learnings



Together Fund distribution





SOCIAL IMPACT

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We firmly believe that diversity and inclusion are essential for creating a vibrant and healthy equestrian community. By embracing and celebrating our differences, we can learn from each other and work towards a more equitable and just future. Every one of us has a part to play in ensuring that our community is welcoming and inclusive to anyone who wants to participate, whether that means speaking up, listening attentively, or questioning unjust practices. By embracing and appreciating each other's unique perspectives and contributions, we can create an inclusive community where all members of the equestrian world can thrive.

In 2023, British Equestrian made huge strides on a transformative journey towards fostering inclusivity and equity in the equestrian industry, with the release of the groundbreaking Horses For All research in April, conducted by AKD Solutions. A 12-month research process in 2022 involved reaching out to underrepresented individuals in our sport, seeking to understand the barriers they face and learn from their lived experiences. The candid criticisms, opinions, and experiences have enabled us to be honest and realistic about how our industry is perceived, instilling confidence in building a more inclusive future. Six months on from the release of the report and accompanying response document, there were already advances being made with tangible, short-term outcomes.

The federation-wide commitment to advancing Diversity and Inclusion is evident through the initiation of a comprehensive EDI strategy, launched in November. Headlining our response to the Horses for All research was a commitment to creating an overarching equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) strategy for British Equestrian and our member bodies. As a federation comprising 20 different organisations, we decided to co-create an all-encompassing strategy that we could align with while designing our individual action plans. The strategy outlines

a vision of 'an equestrian community which is truly representative of society, where everyone feels valued, safe and a strong sense of belonging.'

This is backed up with the mission statement:

"To create a culture of everyday inclusion, at every level, in everything we do, and give every individual, regardless of background, the opportunity to thrive."

This strategy serves as a 'blueprint' for achieving greater diversity and inclusion in our sector. Its release marks a significant milestone, outlining six key strategic objectives:

- leadership and governance
- data and diversity indicators
- workforce
- partnership and collaboration
- education and accountability
- communication and engagement.

Regular reviews of the strategy will not only measure and assess the impact of implemented actions, but also facilitate continuous listening and learning from each other. Sharing best practices and actively evolving the culture of our shared community will help us to meet our mission statement.

British Equestrian's progress extends beyond strategic planning, with tangible initiatives underway. A Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), aligned with UK Sport and Sport England requirements, is in development, expected to be finalised and implemented in March 2024. Rulebook revisions and policy development actively address conduct and integrity matters, ensuring consistency across the federation. Simultaneously, an extensive education program, starting at the leadership level, is being rolled out to ensure influential positions lead by example, fostering an inclusive organisational culture.

Our commitment to EDI is further shown through collaborations with initiatives linked to the Sport England Together Fund, where we've provided financial support, guidance on organisational development, governance, and fundraising support. Research projects focusing on urban equestrian centres aim to share best practices and address disparities. Moreover, a comprehensive approach to data collection and metrics is being explored for adoption, with the integration of new diversity and inclusion metrics planned with member bodies in the coming months.

Environmental sustainability

A further key focus for British Equestrian in 2023 was the area of environmental sustainability. As a land-based industry, we have a responsibility to ensure equestrianism has a positive impact on the environment to create a more sustainable future for us all. In January, we launched a research project with leading sport and culture environmental sustainability specialists White Griffin jointly with Horse Sport Ireland to establish a 'ground zero' for our sectors.

A comprehensive report was delivered outlining the impact of equestrianism on the environment, the risks, challenges and opportunities we face, a baseline for the equine industry and recommendations. Key headlines from the research, which involved some 900 responses, include:

- 67% of those who took part stated environmental sustainability is very important to them.
- The responses indicate the potential of developing the relationship between equestrianism and agriculture with 73% of landowners grazing livestock alongside horses.
- 83% of respondents said waste was the most important topic to address with 80% of individuals citing removal of single use plastics as the second priority.
- Most organisations said lack of money (41%) and time (26%) as their barriers to change.
- Encouragingly, 94% of respondents requested training or access to information to help improve their environmental impact.

Ten overarching recommendations were made covering both organisations which we will continue to work on collaboratively. We went on to deliver a [vision document](#) in response to the report and resulting recommendations which outlined:

Our vision is to create a biodiverse future, where horses and humans thrive in a healthy ecosystem; where we only take what the earth can sustain, and through responsive stewardship of the land, we lead the way in benefiting the natural world.

This would be based on a collective agreement with member bodies to:

- **Lead and inspire** – continuous improvement in our operations to reduce emissions, use less resources and improve waste management.

- **Educate and inform** – provide support to individuals and businesses so they understand the risks, challenges and opportunities of environmental sustainability through centralised resources.
- **Focus on the achievable** – aim for small, manageable changes which collectively have a big impact.
- **Communicate regularly** – highlight progress as well as raise awareness of legislation and risk to help prepare for change.
- Create meaningful partnerships – work with organisations and businesses that share our vision and add value.
- **Influence and lobby** – recognise those who are advocating responsible practices, ensure all equestrians are supported to take action to protect the natural world and collaborate with other sectors to drive improvements.

A working group has been established with representatives from member bodies and we'll work on the development of an overarching strategy for British Equestrian as an operational organisation and a federation-wide blueprint. This will provide leadership and support to the member bodies and to complement their own environmental strategies and those of UK Sport and Sport England.

The strategy will be released in early 2024 with a corresponding awareness and education campaign to inspire and engage the industry.

As a national governing body that has started its sustainability journey, we have been invited to be a part of UK Sport's Accelerator Programme alongside British Rowing, British Canoeing, British Mountaineering Council and the Royal Yachting Association. The programme will help determine our carbon footprint and develop a corresponding action plan to sit alongside the strategy as well as provide support, education and knowledge.



Health, wellbeing and welfare

Anti-doping

British Equestrian is responsible for human anti-doping rules as well as delivering the Equine Anti-Doping Programme on behalf of the FEI disciplines. This year, there's been a rise in the number of horses tested through the equine testing programme with 400 tests having been undertaken. We had eight positive analytical findings involving controlled medication substances, including Meloxicam, Bute and Cetirizine.

We've increased the delivery of our education programmes through the greater use of webinars as well as increasing our messaging around clean sport through our website and social media channels.

UK Anti-Doping launched their eLearning course in 2023 which has been highly successful in developing better understanding on human clean sport education, with all of the World Class programme athletes successfully completing the course.

Clair Moir joined the British Equestrian Board in 2023 and has been appointed the Anti-doping Board Champion.

Equine

The Equine Infectious Disease Advisory Group (EIDAG) continued their vital role under the Chair Celia Marr, meeting quarterly to discuss infectious disease, and co-ordinating six-monthly meetings with member body chief executives and their veterinary representatives for a united approach across the Federation.

In February, there were confirmed cases of EHV at shows in Europe at Lier (BEL) and Oliva (ESP) and British Showjumping was quick to implement isolation protocols in consultation with the EIDAG and thanks to the quick action of the organisation and its members, an outbreak in the UK was prevented.

Both the British Horseracing Authority and FEI had made notification of proposed changes to the recommended equine influenza vaccine intervals which the EIDAG worked with member bodies to implement and adopt for 2024 rule books where applicable.

The Group also made updates to their two biosecurity handbooks; [Advice notes for member bodies and organisers of equine gatherings](#) and [Reducing risk together: advice notes for venues](#).

Following on from a successful first running of Equine Health Week in 2022, the next edition was scheduled for November 2023, with a focus on welfare and wellbeing. However, workflow and resources lead to a revised date in January 2024, which also would see it fall before the spring competitions get underway.

In 2022, we established The Equine Welfare and Ethics Advisory Group, chaired by Professor Madeleine Campbell. Their first major undertaking in 2023 was to review and respond to the 24 [recommendations put forward by the FEI's independent Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission](#) at the FEI Sports Forum in April. The concept of a '[Good life for horses](#)' was agreed and the Group felt British Equestrian should ensure the 'equine centric' approach be woven into the 2024 British Equestrian rulebook.

Additionally, they suggested an 'equestrian charter' be explored on similar lines to that [published by the FEI](#), as a baseline for welfare standards that British Equestrian member bodies and other could collectively sign up to and which could be used as the basis for a relevant 'code of conduct'. This concept was followed up by the British Equestrian Council and a set of guidelines has been drafted for adoption in spring 2024.

In December, a cross-equestrian sector 'Horses in Society' meeting was held, graciously hosted by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers. A morning of presentations looking at the ethical use of horses in sport, experiences of others on the concept of 'social licence to operate' and how to shift perceptions was followed by an afternoon of discussion around how to deal with the 'tricky' questions and the further development of a charter for use across all elements of equestrianism in the United Kingdom.

Concussion

When the government announced that all who regulate sport had a duty to help reduce risks and the potential long-term effects associated with head injuries, we set about producing unified concussion guidelines for use within the equestrian industry. [Launched in March](#), the [Concussion and Return to Riding Guidelines](#) help users to recognise the signs of concussion and what actions to take, both immediately after and during recovery from a suspected concussion, including suggested safe 'return to riding' protocols in conjunction with advice from a qualified medical practitioner or healthcare provider.

Athlete Health Lead Ashleigh Wallace and Chief Medical Officer Anna-Louise Mackinnon adapted protocols in place for the World Class Programme Human

Sports Science and Medicine Team for general use to improve the welfare of participants at all levels and their connections.

A [concussion information hub](#) was built on the British Equestrian website, which houses the guidance and supporting documents including a 'pocket guide' and symptoms poster. All educational collateral is available for joint branding by our member bodies. The UK Government also released their own [concussion guidelines for grassroots sport](#), which feature in the hub.

In October we were part of a first ever Cross-Industry Concussion Symposium alongside the Injured Jockeys Fund. The day was a huge success with sharing of best practices and raising awareness for a more collaborative approach across all equestrian activity and sport. Racing is well advanced in spotting and managing concussion and through working together, we hope to make progress in the wider equine sector with education and training.

Safeguarding

The wellbeing and welfare of all participants continues to be our highest priority. Therefore, we're delighted that this year we have once again been awarded the highest-level rating by the Child Protection in Sport Unit at its annual audit. In To retain this rating, we have remained vigilant in ensuring that our safeguarding policies and practices are up to date and fit for purpose, sharing best practice with our member bodies and working together to ensure children and adults at risk are provided with a safe environment in which to enjoy their sport. We also focused on reviewing our practices in light of the Whyte Review, improving our lower-level concerns processes and building more robust links with the British Equestrian Coaching Development Action Team to ensure welfare is at the centre of everything we do.

We continue to operate the British Equestrian Safeguarding Case Management group, who assist member bodies with the management of their safeguarding cases. The demand for our safeguarding services has continued throughout 2023, with significant growth in the number of safeguarding concerns being raised on a broad range of safeguarding issues. British Equestrian has provided professional guidance, independent investigations, risk assessments and recommendations relating to safeguarding matters.

Development of our new Safe to Play safeguarding hub, supported by Sport England, has continued. Filming, photography and design are nearly complete, while the building of the website is ongoing. We anticipate a launch in spring 2024.



- Georgina Sharples: EEF Para Working Group
- Richard Waygood: EEF Eventing Working Group
- Phil Nunnerley: EEF Endurance Working Group
- Andrew Counsell: EEF Driving Working Group.

Brexit

British Equestrian is actively engaged with the British Horse Council, where sector leads work together to overcome the challenges that persist from having left the EU. These include liaising with government departments and port officials in France to minimise delays encountered by competitors when entering the EU, although these are less prevalent than they were.

The costs associated with transporting horses across borders remain high and we're working to support UK Government's stated policy aim of digitising equine identification and imports/exports to improve efficiency, accuracy and processing times. We will be challenged by the impact of the introduction of Border Control Post (BCP) checks on arrival in Britain from October 2024, and have worked hard to negotiate reduced checks and inspections for High Health Horses, which include thoroughbreds for racing and breeding as well as FEI horses for competition.

We await Ministerial sign off in 2024 on a 0% inspection rate which will be a huge gain for equestrian sport. This will exclude random checks which will be a requirement for safety and security from time to time.

As well as BCP checks for live animals, in April 2024 changes will be introduced for germinal products (which include semen, oocytes and embryos) and these highly time sensitive commodities are pivotal to the success of our sector. Current negotiations are exploring the classification of these products and the frequency of proposed BCP checks, which we suggest are modified because the rigorous biosecurity protocols stallions undergo in quarantine and testing prior to collection have resulted in zero incidence of disease transmission from the fresh chilled product since the practice of artificial insemination became routine in the 1990s.

This period of intense activity will persist whilst we keep a watching brief on the General Election in 2024, the likelihood of a change of government and making sure that the contribution of the equine sector to the economy and the wellbeing of equestrians remain at the forefront.



INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

British representation

Britain continues to be well represented on the international stage at the administrative heart of equestrian sport, the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). We have a number of volunteers across the committees who continue to provide their expertise, insight and guidance as follows:

- Janice Shardlow: Chair, FEI Audit & Compliance
- Jenny Hall: Chair, FEI Veterinary Committee
- Dr Mark Sinnott: Member, FEI Veterinary Committee
- Sarah Coombs: Deputy Chair, FEI Endurance Technical Committee
- Alec Lochore: Deputy Chair, FEI Eventing Technical Committee
- Peter Storr: Member, FEI Dressage Technical Committee
- Andrew Counsell: Member, FEI Carriage Driving Technical Committee
- Erin Orford: Member, FEI Athletes Committee

We thank the following members who have dedicated their time and expertise to assist with their committee duties who are stepping down at the end of 2023:

- Martin Gibbs as a member of the FEI Tribunal Committee
- Anna-Lousie Mackinnon as a member of the Medical Committee.

We are working closely with the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) to inspire the growth and accessibility of equestrian sport with horse welfare as the guiding principle and have a number of volunteers who assist in their working groups and committees:



GOVERNANCE

Board

The British Equestrian Board is responsible for managing the business of British Equestrian, working collaboratively with the British Equestrian Council. It focuses primarily on strategy, governance, finance and the oversight of the executive team.

Board of Directors (as of 31 December 2023)

Chair

Malcolm Wharton CBE

Independent Non-Executive Directors

Mark Jeffreys (Senior INED until 30 November 2023)

John Troiano (Senior INED as of 1 December 2023)

Alison Wallace

Daniel Mensah (as of 1 December 2023)

Founder Member Nominated Directors

British Dressage: Lise-Lotte Olsen (until 31 October 2023)

British Dressage: Claire Moir (as of 1 November 2023)

British Eventing: Terry Miller CBE

British Showjumping: Alison Rankin Frost

The British Horse Society: Jane Domhill

Council Elected Directors

Claire Williams (until 31 October 2023)

Quintin Cornforth

Roly Owers OBE

Naomi Howgate

Suzanna Anslow (as of 1 November 2023)

Committees

Audit Committee

Role: Mandated to monitor the financial reporting process, the system of internal controls regarding financial reporting, accounting compliance and the audit of the company's financial statements.

Members: Chair: Lise-Lotte Olsen (until 31 October 2023)
Chair: Terry Miller CBE (from 1 November 2023)
Mark Jeffreys (until 30 November 2023)
John Troiano
Quintin Cornforth
Daniel Mensah (from 1 December 2023)

Meetings in reporting period: Four

Nominations and Remuneration Committee

Role: Mandated by the British Equestrian Board to lead on the process for all Board appointments and evaluations, determine succession plans for directors and the CEO, assist in the determination of remuneration of senior staff, review the annual salary process for British Equestrian staff and lead in the development of remuneration policies for British Equestrian.

Members: Chair: Malcolm Wharton (Nominations)
Chair: Alison Wallace (Remunerations)
Mark Jeffreys
John Troiano
Terry Miller CBE
Jane Domhill (as of 1 November 2023)

Meetings in reporting period: Four

Board meetings

	19-20/01/23	20/02/2023	04/04/2023	08/06/2023	07/08/2023	04/10/2023	07/12/2023	Attendance count	Possible attendance
Chair (MW)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	7
SA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	1	1
QC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	7
JD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	7
NH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	7
MJ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	5	6
DM	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		0	1
TM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	7
CM	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	1	1
LO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	6	6
RO	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	6	7
ARF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6	7
JT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	7
AW	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	7
CW	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	N/A	5	6

Board Champions

The Board has appointed four of its members as 'Champions', to lead in specific areas, supporting our staff in ensuring compliance with the relevant governance in each area.

Equality and Diversity Champion: Naomi Howgate

Appointment: 20 February 2023

Role: To promote the highest standards in relation to equality and diversity on behalf of the Board and to provide strategic insight in relation to equality and diversity and promote best practice across the Federation.

Anti-Doping Lead: Claire Moir

Appointment: 5 December 2023

Preceded by: Claire Williams (until 31 October 2023)

Role: To be the main point of contact for anti-doping on the Board, to support the effective leadership in anti-doping matters on behalf of the organisation and to act as an advocate for and help to identify sport-specific practices and best practice.

Safeguarding Champion: Terry Miller CBE

Appointment: 4 August 2022

Role: To monitor compliance with and to promote the highest standards of safeguarding in equestrian sport at Board level and throughout British Equestrian, and to provide high level strategic insight in this area.

Welfare and Safety Champion: Roly Owers

Appointment: 4 August 2022

Role: To promote the highest standards of human and equine welfare and safety throughout British Equestrian on behalf of the Board, to act as an advisor in relation to equine welfare and ethics and to act as an advocate for best practice in human and equine welfare and safety.



Council

The Council is the forum of member associations and other key interest groups. Its composition and powers are governed by the Articles of Association.

Chair of Council

Christopher Smith KC

- British Dressage
- British Eventing
- British Showjumping
- British Carriagedriving
- British Equestrian Vaulting
- Mounted Games Association
- British Equestrian Trade Association
- World Horse Welfare
- The Showing Council
- British Horseball Association
- The British Horse Society
- The Pony Club
- ABRS+
- Endurance GB
- Riding for the Disabled Association
- British Reining
- British Grooms Association
- UK Polocrosse
- The British Horse Foundation

Council meetings

The Council met four times during the reporting period for 2022.

Council meeting description	Date
British Equestrian general meeting	05/04/2023
British Equestrian extraordinary general meeting	27/06/2023
British Equestrian annual general meeting	03/10/2023
British Equestrian general meeting	06/12/2023



FINANCE AND FUNDING

British Equestrian is responsible for distributing government funding to the equestrian sports. Funding from UK Sport and Sport England supports our work, from developing elite riders aiming to win medals to encouraging complete beginners from a range of backgrounds to get involved. Funding support is also provided by sportscotland for horsescotland, aligned to British Equestrian.

Lottery and exchequer funding, via UK Sport, helps develop elite riders for future success in the three Olympic sports of showjumping, dressage and eventing, plus the Paralympic sport of para dressage. British Equestrian applies for Lottery funding on a four-year award cycle and this in turn funds the World Class Programme to run in conjunction with the Olympic sports. This programme gives riders with potential the opportunity to fulfil their talent. This should enable equestrian sport to continue to maximise its successes on the European, World and Olympic and Paralympic stages.

Lottery and exchequer funding via Sport England supports not only the talent pathway, but also various initiatives encouraging children and adults to the sport, retain people within the sport, opening up access to the sport for diverse candidates and disabled participants and supporting volunteers.

Major funding awards

2022	UK Sport	£4,602,948
	Sport England	£1,236,950

Financial statements

Income statement (year ended 31 December 2022)

Turnover	£5,820,755
Direct costs	£5,015,745
Gross surplus	£805,010
Operating surplus	£13,126
Interest receivable	£5,352
Surplus before taxation	£18,478
Tax on surplus	£1,017
Surplus before financial year	£17,431

Income and expenditure account

At 1 January 2022	£477,904
Surplus for the year	£17,431
At 31 December 2022	£495,365

Detailed income and expenditure account (year ended 31 December 2022)

Brought forward	£20,094
Bad debt	-
	£790,268
Finance costs	
Bank charges	£1,616
Net surplus	£18,478

Member bodies

Founding members



Members



Associate members



In collaboration with  horsescotland
enable develop exce

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Partners and suppliers

Partners



Suppliers



British Equestrian would like to thank the following sporting bodies, whose ongoing support is vital in enabling us to support the needs of equestrian participants across the levels:



Home nations support





Abbey Park
Stareton, Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2RH

T: 02475 313 443
E: info@bef.co.uk
britishequestrian.org.uk

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