

British 
Equestrian

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



INTRODUCTION

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This report covers the period of January to December 2024

Unless stated, all photography by Jon Stroud and Adam Fanthorpe.



COMPANY INFORMATION

Honorary Patron
Her Majesty The Queen

Chair
Fields Wicker-Miurin OBE FKC
(FROM 01 JULY 2024)
Malcolm Wharton CBE (TO 30 JUNE 2024)

Chief Executive
Jim Eyre

Company Secretary
Lynne Bailey

Company number
3174767

Registered office
Equestrian House
Abbey Park
Stareton
Warwickshire
CV8 2RH

BRITISH EQUESTRIAN AUDIENCE IN NUMBERS

27m	interested in equestrian activities	£5b	industry
290k	participant members across the federation	1.9b	social media followers
1.8m	regular riders	88%	female participation
7th	most popular disability sport	178m	riding days per year

Sources: The National Equestrian Survey 2023 and British Equestrian State of the Nation 2024

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
- Communication
- Integrity
- Fairness and transparency
- Respect

MEMBER BODIES

FOUNDING MEMBERS



MEMBERS



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



IN COLLABORATION WITH



CEO WELCOME

Twenty twenty-four was a pivotal year for British Equestrian. With the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games as a major highlight, we also focused on reviewing our strategy, refining our delivery to and with member bodies and embedding the initiatives developed over the past four years.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

We began the year with the search for a new Chair following Malcolm Wharton CBE's decision not to stand for a second term. Malcolm's leadership brought stability and helped navigate difficult challenges, such as the Covid pandemic and Brexit, and we thank him sincerely for his service and dedication. In July, we welcomed Fields Wicker-Miurin OBE FKC as our new Chair. Fields brings in a wealth of international experience in finance, public policy and social enterprise, as well as a deep passion for horses.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Early in 2024, we initiated the development of a new five-year strategy (2025–2030) to ensure our purpose remains relevant and impactful. This strategy will reflect our leadership role in equestrian sport, our commitment to social impact and above all, the highest ethical standards in equine welfare.



WELFARE AND WELLBEING

Equine and human welfare remain central to our mission. In 2024, we launched three key initiatives: the Charter for the Horse, promoting unified welfare standards, a partnership with Sport in Mind to raise mental health awareness and 'Safe to Play', a safeguarding project supported by Sport England, aimed at educating and empowering all participants. We continue to promote these areas of work, which are vital to all participants in our sector.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Over the 12 months, we advanced our work in equality, diversity and inclusion and in environmental sustainability. Our 'Horses for All' strategy and the new Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan set clear goals and measurable outcomes. We also launched a federation-wide sustainability strategy, reinforcing our role as guardians of the land.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks to our Board and HQ team for their dedication and support. The collaboration within the federation is stronger than ever and I look forward to delivering our new strategy together.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

It's a privilege to write to you as the new Chair of British Equestrian. Beginning the role on the eve of the Paris Olympic Games gave me the opportunity to see what excellence under pressure really looks like. I had never seen such teamwork surrounding and enabling our equine and human athletes to do their very best under the spotlight. They made the nation proud, with every athlete across both Games returning with a medal (including two team golds). We were the only British team to achieve this high standard. Our top athletes serve as an inspiration to the millions of people involved with horses in the UK, and in Paris they truly inspired.

A SOLID FOUNDATION

After this unforgettable French summer, I spent my first months getting to know our member bodies, their leadership and their wide range of activities. I came away with a strong sense of the quality we have in our federation – quality of leadership, of responsibility, of care of their members and the horses for whom we are guardians. The passion and intensity of aspirations for an equestrian sector that is open to all and where everyone can feel welcome impressed me. Ensuring equine welfare would never be put at risk was at the front of everyone's mind. We have put the care and guardianship of the horse front and centre of our new strategy to be launched in 2025. It is our North Star. And we have already set up an Equine Welfare Steering Group to guide the federation's united efforts to improve how we live up to our aspirations of guardianship.

Equally important for all our members is to ensure a vibrant, healthy, and growing equestrian sector. My experience in the creative sectors showed how demonstrating social and economic value can influence government policy and wider public understanding. Equestrianism must speak with the same confidence. This important work has already begun at British Equestrian, and I look forward to sharing the results next year.

GRATEFUL THANKS

I would like to thank Malcolm Wharton for his outstanding leadership during his five-year tenure during which the federation and its member bodies strengthened their understanding and collaboration. Thank you also to my Board for their warm welcome and hard work this year. I appreciate the commitment and the unity of the Board towards our common goals for the federation. The Council and our member bodies are central to progress, and I look forward to building relationships founded on collaboration and open communication. I have also been humbled by the dedication of staff and volunteers across our headquarters and member organisations, whose commitment drives our collective success. Lastly, a warm thanks to Jim Eyre who has been a huge support throughout my first months. I look forward to working with him, and the wider team, to drive positive change.

A STRATEGY TO GUIDE US

Looking ahead, we know the challenges we face, whether economic pressure, public perception or continuing to deliver excellence in all we do. On the back of our success in Paris, and with the support and positive commitment of our members, our new five-year strategy is designed not only to meet these challenges but also to put the equestrian sector in the UK on even stronger footing for the future. Engagement with member bodies has provided invaluable insight, and we are committed to harnessing our collective strength for the benefit of all participants.



FIELDS WICKER-MIURIN,
CHAIR

JIM EYRE,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



WORLD CLASS PROGRAMME

PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

One hundred years since the iconic city of Paris last hosted the Olympic Games, the action returned in 2024 with the equestrian competitions set against the backdrop of the iconic Palace of Versailles, which became the home of King Louis XIV's court in 1682.

A spectacular temporary arena and 20,000-seater grandstand was built in the Etoile Royale – an esplanade that sits west of the Grand Canal in the grounds of the palace which proved to be one of the most memorable settings of the Paris Games.



EVENTING

The eventing trio arrived in Paris as firm favourites to finish on both the team and individual podiums, and with 27 flags and 64 starters represented in the eventing competition, Team GB was drawn ninth of the 16 nations who put forward a team.

In the first phase, Tom McEwen (JL Dublin), Laura Collett (London 52) and Ros Canter (Lordships Graffalo) posted a collective total of 66.70 for the dressage – a new record Olympic team score. Individually, Laura produced a supreme 17.5, smashing the previous Olympic individual record score to hold the lead while Ros was sixth and Tom 11th.

The Pierre Le Goupil designed cross-country course made fantastic use of the Palace's woodland and grounds including the Grand Canal which featured two pontoon crossings. Tom McEwen was team pathfinder and, with JL Dublin, produced an impressive clear four seconds inside the optimum time.

Laura Collett and London 52 lost a shoe early in the course which required careful management, they were clear over the fences but stopped the clock two seconds over the time allowed to add 0.8 to their total. It was

down to Ros Canter and 'Walter' with a clear required

to keep the gold medal in sight, which the duo delivered, finishing six seconds inside the time but then news came through of a 15-point penalty for a missed flag. Team GB still held the gold medal position despite the penalty, with Laura in silver individually going into the final phase.

With only a fence in hand over France, jumping for the team medals was going to be tense. Ros was first up and she lowered one rail, but with France adding eight penalties to their score, Britain was still in the lead. Tom produced an immaculate clear to bolster the team chances. It was down to Laura to clinch the gold. Riding in an intense atmosphere and under huge pressure, she produced the goods – just the final fence down and two-time penalties, but it was enough to secure back-to-back Olympic team gold for Britain's eventers.

Individually, Laura's six penalties in the team round left her third going into the jumping final. She produced a foot-perfect round to secure the individual bronze, while Tom was fourth with another clear.



DRESSAGE

It was an unnerving final build up for the dressage trio due to bringing debutants Becky Moody and Jagerbomb into the team when Charlotte Dujardin withdrew following a welfare complaint hours before the start of the competition. However, with seven-time Olympian Carl Hester (Fame) and reigning world champions Charlotte Fry and Glamourdale alongside her, Becky was in good company to take on the Olympic challenge.

In the first round – the Grand Prix – it was a matter of qualifying for the team honours, the Grand Prix Special, as well as a place in the individual final, the Grand Prix Freestyle. Carl was first out for Team GB and he posted 77.345% which left him third in his group and with the top two qualifying, he'd have to wait until all combinations had gone to learn his individual fate. It was then the turn of Becky and any thought of nerves were quickly dispelled and a 74.938% was just a fraction off her personal best with 'Bomb'. They topped their group, guaranteeing a place in the individual finale. After day one of the six teams with two riders gone, Britain lay in silver.

Day two was the turn of Charlotte Fry and she rode the perfect qualifying test – plenty enough for a good percentage but leaving enough in the tank for two more big tests to come. They scored 78.913% which left them in the same situation as Carl, third in their group. In the end, they'd both done ample with Lottie sixth overall and Carl seventh which left Team GB third.

In the team medal decider, Becky was first to go for Britain, and the crowd had taken her and Bomb to their hearts which made for quite an atmosphere. Becky managed her nine-year-old admirably to score 76.489%, a great start. Carl was next and it was a fragile start, but he rose to the challenge with Fame, and they posted 76.520% which kept Team GB very much in the mix with Germany and Denmark, with final riders to come. Charlotte

thrives on pressure, so it was a position made for her, she just had to deliver with 'Glammy'. The score was 79.493% – including six perfect 10s. It was enough to secure team bronze while Germany just edged the gold over Denmark.

In the individual final, Carl was first to ride amongst speculation that this could be his final Olympic, or even championship appearance. Riding a Freestyle test with a 10.0 degree of difficulty, he posted a huge 85.161% much to the crowd's delight. Yorkshire duo Becky and Bomb were up next and with nothing left to prove, they could just enjoy their moment with songs from Tom Jones – 84.357% was their score. Our hopes of an individual medal lay with Charlotte and riding to her distinctive 'Best of British' mix with an added French flair, she posted 88.971% which secured a bronze, with riders from Germany topping the podium.





JUMPING

Britain's threesome of Scott Brash (Jefferson), Harry Charles (Romeo 88) and Ben Maher (Dallas Vegas Batilly) headed to Paris in great form and under the medal contention radar of some. The team medal was the first up and day one was the qualifying round to whittle 20 teams down to 10 for the medal round the following day.

Ben, who headed to Paris as the reigning individual Olympic champion, has made the pathfinder role very much his own and on the Olympic stage, none more was more qualified for the task. He duly delivered a textbook clear with 'Tilly' to get the team off to the perfect start. Next up was Harry on a second Olympic appearance having been called up for Tokyo aged just 21. A matter of weeks before Paris, the Hampshire rider had a fall when representing Britain at the iconic Aachen show in Germany leaving him with cracked bones in his wrist. It was a scramble to get him the best medical advice, but he was declared fit to ride with days to spare. He and Romeo navigated the course well, until three quarters of the way round when they got to the final treble combination and the lightest of rubs brought the middle element down. They were clear the rest of the way and four was added to the Team GB total.

As suited as Ben is to being the first to go, Scott is to being the anchorman – a cool head and nerves of steel. With feedback from Ben and Harry in his mind, he took on the course with Jefferson in their characteristic style. They also incurred four at the treble but a total of eight proved good enough to progress to the medal round with Britain in third behind Germany and the USA.

Medal morning dawned and with the scorecards wiped clean, it would be a day of excitement. Ben was in first and the team needed something special to get them off to a good start and he certainly delivered. It was an assured round but carefully ridden to leave the fences standing, it did yield one time fault for exceeding the time allowed – but they were the first combination to leave all the poles up.

For Harry, the Olympic Games will forever be special as his father Peter Charles was part of the gold medal team in London 2012 and today, he had the chance to emulate that. As he cantered into the imposing ring, Team GB was in the lead, so the pressure was on. There was a tense moment when Romeo's back hoof caught a rail, but it bounced back safely in the cups and they came home with

a vital clear, keeping Britain in the mix. As he did in London 2012, Scott was in the hotseat to jump for Olympic gold. The final rotation of riders went in reverse order, so Scott came into the arena knowing he had to leave all the fences standing to take gold – they had only three penalties in hand. Fence by fence they progressed around the arena clear but measured...they were clear but over the time. It was a single penalty added which gave Britain gold after 12 years of wait.

In the first individual qualifier, all three riders were successful in securing a spot to jump for the medals with Harry and Scott going clear and Ben having a quick round with four faults.

However, the final day brought the sad news that Harry and Romeo had withdrawn due to a minor overreach injury sustained in qualifying. So, it was down to Ben and Scott to contest the individual medals. The tall grandstands were full to the rafters for the thrilling equestrian finale and Ben was the first Brit to take on the challenging course which was proving difficult. They were clear until a double at fence five, when the tricky distance between the two elements caught them out and they unluckily had the fence down. On to Scott and it was almost a carbon copy with Jefferson catching the same rail. As the class panned out, it would require a clear to be in with a medal shot which ruled out our duo. Scott finished sixth with Ben in ninth – Team GB had two athletes in the top nine, the only nation to do so.

In the Paris equestrian action, Team GB matched their Tokyo medal tally of five – two golds and three bronzes – and, with all three discipline teams winning a medal, all the athletes returned home with a medal to show for their heroic efforts. Enormous credit must go to our travelling reserve combinations who did an amazing job in supporting their respective teams: Yasmin Ingham (eventing), Andrew Gould (dressage) and Joe Stockdale (jumping).



PARIS 2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES

The ParalympicsGB quartet of Mari Duward-Akhurst (Grade 1), Georgia Wilson (Grade 2), Natasha Baker (Grade 3) and Sophie Wells (Grade 5) led the British charge among the 78 competitors from around the globe in Versailles for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.



On the first day, individual medals were up for grabs in the Grades 3, 2 and 1 divisions and it was Natasha Baker, making her fourth consecutive appearance for ParalympicsGB, in action first riding Dawn Chorus. The duo delivered a trademark test full of harmony and accuracy to score 73.167%, which gave them individual bronze as well as a coveted chance to contest the Freestyle medals. In the Grade 2, Georgia with Sakura, whom she'd partnered in Tokyo some three years earlier, rode an assured test which gave 73.414% and bronze for the Welsh rider. With a field of 22 combinations, the Grade 1 was the biggest competition and Britain's representative was Mari Duward-Akhurst on her Paralympic debut riding Athene Lindebjerg, a horse with plenty of championship experience, and medals, to her credit. Mari's face was a picture of pride through the test in realising a dream and she rode a great test to score 71.792% which left them a credible sixth in their first Games appearance.

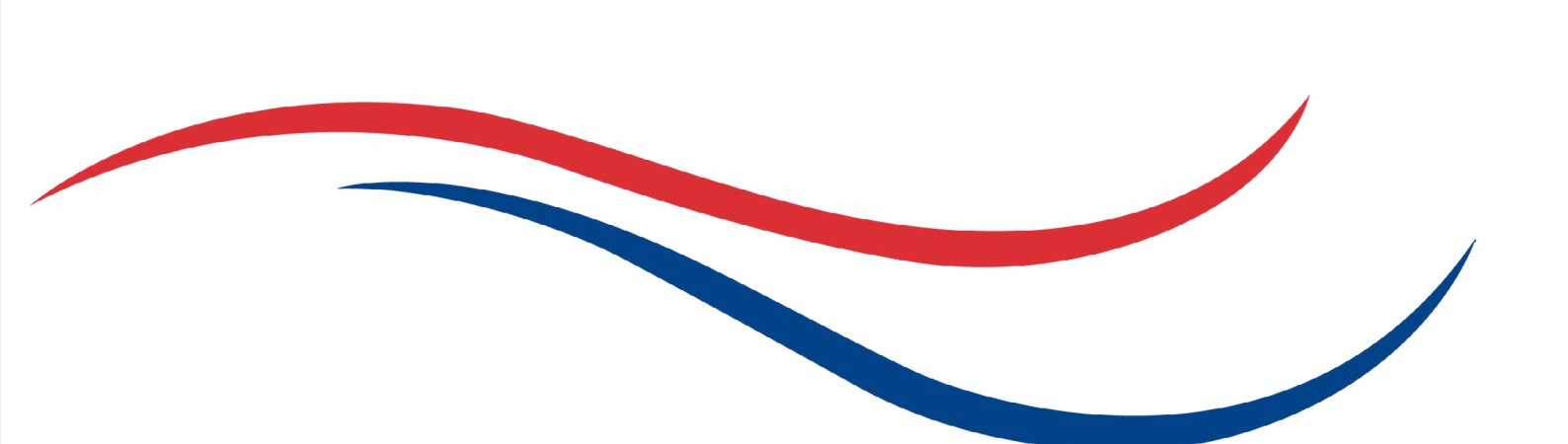
Day two was the turn of Grade 5 world number one Sophie Wells and her relatively inexperienced LJT Egebjerggards Samoa, who was just eight years old. This was always going to be a fierce competition but being Sophie's fourth Games she knew exactly what it would take to produce a podium place test. Despite an enthusiastic crowd toward the end, they scored 72.257% which comfortably took bronze and gave them a great start to their Games.

In the team competition, the selectors named Georgia, Natasha and Sophie as the trio to contest the medals against strong competition from Germany, the Netherlands and the USA. Grade 5 was first up which gave Sophie the pathfinder role. Her young partner was on her toes and Sophie did a top job managing the test, but a few miscommunications pegged the score to 70.895%, still a solid start for the team. Georgia was next and it was a team debut for her having ridden as an individual in Tokyo and she was first up in the Grade 2. It's never easy setting the benchmark, but Georgia

rode for every mark to earn 73.3% to keep Britain in the medal hunt. Natasha Baker knew what she needed to do in the Grade 3 and that simply was not to leave any marks in the arena. She certainly did everything in her power and the final mark was 75.367%, a season's best. However, when all five grades had ridden, it left Britain in sixth place, just three percent off a podium place in one of the tightest competitions the sport has witnessed since its Games introduction in 1996.

The final Freestyle was the perfect curtain raiser on the equestrian action at Versailles. Sophie was the first Briton to ride and when third last to go, she produced a stunning 75.445% which secured her a bronze, her 40th championship medal. Mari was back in action after sitting out the team test and she was hungry for a first Paralympic medal. Her clever floorplan was packed with difficulty set to complementary music which the judges loved for 77.747%. It was a long wait but that eventually was enough for a bronze and that medal Mari so fiercely worked for. Georgia was next in Grade 2, and her piano medley gave a fantastic backdrop for her intricate floorplan, which was beautifully executed to score 79.374%, a new personal best and more importantly, a silver medal. Our final rider of the Games was Natasha, and she harnessed the power of pop divas Cher and Shania Twain for her medal bid. It certainly got the crowd going...and the judges, who awarded 77.140% which gave a further bronze to the total. In taking four medals, ParalympicsGB was the only nation to have all their riders on the podium.

The performances over the three tests gave a total of seven medals, and like their Olympic counterparts, all the riders returned home with at least one medal. Across both Games, Paris matched the best Games-time performance for Britain, which previously was London 2012 and with several horses and riders on debut, it shows the depth of talent on offer as we build towards LA 28 in four years' time.



THE LA CYCLE 2025 – 2028

Funding for the Los Angeles 2028 Games Cycle was confirmed by UK Sport late in 2024. The Equestrian Programme has been awarded an increase of 2.8% and the Para Equestrian Programme an increase of 9.7%.

The FEI European Championships in 2025 will feature four teams at four different venues across the continent, including on home soil at Blenheim Palace for the eventers. It will be a year of building and developing as there is not an opportunity to qualify for LA but as ever, being podium competitive will be the aim. The next year brings our first chance to qualify for the Games across all four disciplines at the FEI World Championships, all held in Aachen, Germany over two weeks in August. In 2027, it's again the European Championships but venues and dates are still to be announced by the FEI.



PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

PODIUM POTENTIAL PATHWAY

During the second of the two-year 2023 – 2025 Podium Potential Pathway (P3) programme, which is funded by Sport England and UK Sport, the programme delivered 22 squad training days. These days covered performance and rider profiling, rider individual performance planning, as well as discipline specific training activity to support the riders during their competition season. This included test riding for the P3 dressage and para dressage riders with Olympic and Paralympic standard judges, and arena cross country and test riding as a warmup and preparation for Burghley CCI5* for the event riders. Individual training days took place for the P3 showjumping riders to fit around their tours in Europe.

This report is published at the end of the four-year Paris cycle of funding, so we can reflect on the Podium Potential Pathway programme during this period which has supported the progression of seven athletes to the next level of Podium Potential (P2) and three athletes directly to Podium (P1).

Two P3 riders, Lizzie Baugh (eventing) and Robert Murphy (showjumping) and

P2 dressage rider Lewis Carrier attended Paris 2024 as part of the Team GB Olympic Ambition Programme. ParalympicsGB ran their Paralympic Inspiration Programme a few weeks later, in which P2 riders Charlotte Cundall and Nicola Naylor were joined by P1 Gabriella Blake. This was a fantastic opportunity for the two groups to see behind the scenes of Olympic and Paralympic environments and have a feel of what an athlete experiences competing at a Games.

The selection process for the 2025 – 2027 commenced in August, with those wishing to be part of the selection process registering their interest. This was then followed by the opening of applications for those who met the performance standards to be eligible between September and early December. Selection and training camps for all those who meet the eligibility criteria will take place between January and March 2025. The 2025 – 2027 P3 Programme will commence on 1 April 2025.



Podium Potential Pathway (P3) athletes continued to compete successfully during 2024, notably:

EVENTING

- **Emily King** won the CCI4*S at Thoresby Park and came fourth at Badminton CCI5*. She was also included on the nominated entry for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- **Max Warburton** completed his first CCI5* at Badminton and then finished 18th at Burghley CCI5*. Max was also second at Bramham CCI4*.

DRESSAGE

- **Jess McConkey** won the U25 Grand Prix at Addington Premier League and competed in her first CDI U25 Grand Prix at Hickstead, finishing fifth.

SHOWJUMPING

- **Claudia Moore** won the CSI3* Grand Prix in Valencia.
- **Joe Fernyhough** won the CSI2* Big Tour Grand Prix at Chepstow, the CSI3* Medium Tour at Harthill and the CSI2* Rydale International Speed Challenge at Balmoral (IRL).
- **Robert Murphy** represented Great Britain in the Nations Cup at CSIO3* Roeser (LUX), finishing third and at CSIO3* Deauville (FRA), finishing second. He also jumped as a member of the British Team at the CSIO5* Nations Cup in Brussels and in the CSIO4* in Warsaw.

PODIUM AND PODIUM POTENTIAL

World Class Programme Podium and Podium Potential selection for dressage, eventing, showjumping and para dressage, and annual nomination to UK Sport for 2024 was completed in December – 34 Olympic discipline riders and nine para-equestrian athletes being nominated from 1 January 2025 for a 12-month UK Sport funded place.

Many of the 2024 programme riders were re-nominated onto the programme, with some additional riders being selected:

EVENTING:

Tom McEwen, Oliver Townend, Laura Collett, Yazmin Ingham, Ros Canter, Kitty King, Piggy March, Bubby Upton, Harry Meade, Tom Jackson, Izzy Taylor, Wills Oakden, Alexander Bragg and Caroline Harris.

DRESSAGE:

Carl Hester, Charlotte Fry, Gareth Hughes, Becky Moody, Andrew Gould and Annabella Pidgley.



SHOWJUMPING:

Ben Maher, Scott Brash, Joe Stockdale, Harry Charles, John Whitaker, Tim Gredley, Robert Whitaker, Matthew Sampson and Donald Whitaker.

PARA DRESSAGE:

Sophie Wells, Natasha Baker, Georgia Wilson, Gabriella Blake, Mari Durward-Akhurst, Charlotte Cundall, Nicola Naylor, Isobelle Palmer and Jemima Green.



YOUTH PATHWAY

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

The Young Professional Programme for 2023-24 concluded with yard visits to two of our top international riders. The dressage riders visited Louise Bell's bustling yard in May, and the eventing and showjumping riders had an excellent a yard visit at Ros Canter's yard in August. Ros had only been home from the Paris Games for a day but gave the riders great insight into her pathway journey and the management of her horses. These days provide these aspiring young professionals with expert advice in to how to manage an equestrian business from top international riders.

The 2024 – 2025 Young Professional Programme Induction Day took place in October with 16 riders selected from dressage, eventing and showjumping selected. This cohort is the last to be selected on the current programme format. Since it started in 2017, the Young Professionals Programme has supported over 150 young people to transition away from the youth pathways of British Dressage, British Eventing and British Showjumping and take the next step in achieving their aspirations within the equestrian industry.

Many have gone on to develop highly successful international riding careers, which are supported by businesses such as running livery yards, coaching and training services, and providing rehabilitation facilities. From next year, with continued support from Sport England, the format will be adjusted to offer a more flexible delivery model that can offer the right balance of support and education to a broader group of young people.

YOUTH PATHWAY COACHING

Supported by Sport England funding, British Equestrian ran a two-day Youth Pathway Coaching Seminar in January with 40 coaches attending from British Dressage, British Eventing, British Showjumping and Pony Club under the theme of Coaching Generation 'Z'. With insightful sessions delivered on Communicating with Generation Z Athletes: Building a framework for effective communication delivered by Dr Kieran File; How to Manage Conflict and Challenge taken by Leonie Lightfoot and a professional development session to reflect on how to be an effective leader in a coaching context taken by the team from UK Coaching. The two days concluded with an inspirational keynote presentation from Kelly Sotherton MBE, which covered her transition from being Olympic athlete to a coach.

PARA-ENTRY PROGRAMME

Training has continued throughout the year at Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) centres across the England regions. The training days offer riders access to para coaches to make the next step into the British Dressage para dressage competition and training pathway. This programme is supported by funding from Sport England and a review is now underway to further evolve this programme in 2025 to offer more regional support to RDA groups to signpost riders into the British Dressage para equestrian training and competition pathways.



INSIGHT THAT MATTERS

STATE OF THE NATION

The [State of the Nation 2024 report](#), now in its second edition, provides an overview of the equestrian industry's latest data and research. Building on the foundation of the 2023 report, it reflects on last year's achievements and challenges, highlighting areas of progress while charting a course for future research and insights through 2025.

Drawing from research conducted by British Equestrian, member bodies, and other equestrian organisations, as well as broader statistics from the sport and health sectors, the report identifies trends, tracks progress and highlights critical issues impacting the sector.

The following section provides a breakdown of key data and insights from the report, offering a detailed look at the current state and future direction of the equestrian industry.

PARTICIPATION TRENDS IN EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES

Data from Sport England's Active Lives 2022/2023 survey provided valuable insights into participation in equestrian activities, highlighting how people engage with the sport across various demographics.

- 285,600 adults take part in equestrian activities at least twice a month.
- 85% (242,200) of participants identify as female, while 14% (39,700) identify as male.

The Active Lives Children and Young People Survey captures data on younger participants:

- 198,700 children and young people ride at least once a week.
- Of these, 165,300 identify as female, 30,400 as male and 2,900 as another gender.
- 13,000 children and young people receiving free school meals (Years 7–11) ride weekly.
- 23,600 children and young people with a disability or long-term health condition also participate weekly.

Annual data collected on federation memberships revealed that 570,800 adults participated in equestrian activities last year. These figures reflect memberships rather than unique individuals, as some participants hold multiple memberships.

This comprehensive data offers a detailed view of engagement trends and points to opportunities for growing participation across diverse groups.



1,901,988
social media
followers



658
affiliated centres



1,151
clubs



289,715
memberships

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE BREAKDOWN

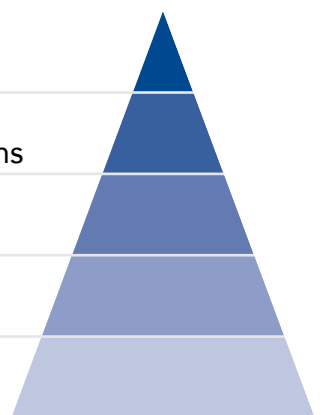
4,766 officials

5,664 workforce / grooms

10,149 coaches

13,830 volunteers

255,306 participants





RIDING SCHOOL AUDIT

We commissioned Critical Research to conduct an ambitious audit of UK riding schools. The aim was to create a truly representative database by including riding schools both affiliated to our member bodies and unaffiliated. This audit marks a turning point in understanding the landscape of equestrian centres across the country.

The newly created database has over 1,000 riding schools, 52% of those participated in the telephone interviews. Key findings from the interviews reveal that most UK riding schools are sole traders with fewer than 20 horses, supported by small teams of paid staff and dedicated volunteers. Encouragingly, 57% expressed interest and capacity to grow and develop, with an average weekly customer count of 94.

The data uncovered key inclusivity and accessibility metrics, including 58% of riding schools offering wheelchair-accessible toilets and services accommodating young riders

from as early as three-years-old. Prices for lessons range from £10 to £120, also highlighting the diverse offerings, depending on ability, age and activity.

This dataset is already driving impactful initiatives, supporting campaigns like Safe to Play and integrating with Sport England's Moving Communities dataset. It's also enhanced user tools, including our 'find a centre tool', making it easier than ever for individuals wanting to engage with their local facilities. Using this dataset, we have categorised riding schools into urban and rural locations, highlighting regional clusters across the country which enables us to better our understanding of the landscape, leading to improved support focus.

Looking ahead, we're already expanding this dataset to include competition venues and therapy centres and are also underway with several projects helping to connect riding schools with potential projects and funding programmes.

THE SOCIAL VALUE OF EQUESTRIANISM

A [comprehensive review](#) commissioned to the Sport and Recreation Alliance and Sheffield Hallam University demonstrates how current research can evidence the social value of equestrian activities in the UK. Drawing from 290 studies, the report showcases how equestrian activities provide transformative physical and mental health, subjective wellbeing, individual development, and social and community development benefits.

The findings highlight the therapeutic potential of equestrian activities, including improvements in motor function, cardiovascular health and mental health. Equine-assisted therapy is particularly impactful for individuals with conditions such as PTSD, anxiety and chronic pain. Beyond therapy, participation in equestrianism enhances self-esteem, confidence and social skills, offering developmental benefits that improve school performance and employability, especially for underrepresented groups and those with mental health challenges, or neurodiverse individuals with ADHD and Autism. These [therapeutic benefits](#) are brought about by the unique aspect of having horses at the centre of this community. Social benefits also extend to fostering community bonds, reducing loneliness and promoting social trust, with equestrian volunteers reporting positive connections with others, creating a stronger sense of belonging within the community.

The next step in 2025 is to use this comprehensive research to quantify the social value of equestrianism. By following the new Sport England social value framework to calculate these contributions, we will be better equipped to advocate for the equestrian community and its role in public health, education and community development. This data-driven approach will strengthen efforts to support the equestrian community and promote its long-term sustainability.





WORKING WITH OUR MEMBER BODIES TOWARDS A STRONGER EQUESTRIAN SECTOR

In 2024, we hosted two successful member body open days, each addressing key themes to strengthen the equestrian sector. The February session focused on place-based working and environmental sustainability, offering insights on building local partnerships, adopting sustainable practices, and initiating impactful community projects. The September open day centred on the social value project, using it as a model to improve communication and advocacy across the federation. Both events highlighted the importance of collaboration in driving meaningful progress for our community.

Through providing investment in 2024 via member bodies, we continued to drive positive change across various equestrian initiatives, partnering with organisations to improve accessibility, education and community engagement, while making a significant impact in diverse project areas.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

PROJECT 2026, managed by the British Horse Society, focuses on preserving public rights of access, particularly for bridleways. In 2024, the initiative successfully recorded an additional 352 routes, bringing the total to 3,632. Legal challenges and appeals to ensure the recognition of these rights by local authorities remain a key part of its success, ensuring these pathways are protected for future generations.

THE PONY CLUB'S DIVERSIFICATION PROJECT reached over 1,100 young people from culturally diverse and lower socio-economic backgrounds, fostering greater interest in equestrian activities. Through an education pack delivered in community settings, this initiative gave a first introduction to children and young people to horses who may have never considered equestrian activities, removing preconceived notions and opening doors for children to get involved in the equestrian world.

SPORT IN MIND, in partnership with British Equestrian, also made strides in promoting the mental health benefits of equestrian activities. Following the success of the Together Fund project at Enborne Riding School, the two organisations entered a two-year partnership. In the first year, through consultation with our member bodies, we identified three accessible riding centres in Surrey, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire to run an extended pilot programme. This initiative evaluated the mental health benefits of the human-horse relationship through adult and youth sessions, as well as horse care activities. A tailored mental health toolkit for the equestrian industry is also being developed, with plans to expand the programme in year two.

THE RDA'S MY RDA UPDATE AND RELAUNCH, supported by funding from Sport England, modernised its platform for improved accessibility for groups, volunteers, and regional committees. The project also updated documentation and resources, supporting the RDA's volunteer network and enhancing the efficiency of its operations.

BRITISH DRESSAGE'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR COACHING EXCELLENCE (NDPCE) provided essential training for 22 coaches, focusing on advanced coaching techniques, working with neurodiverse athletes, and fostering self-belief. This programme is crucial in preparing coaches for higher-level qualifications, ensuring the sport's future growth and inclusivity.

BRITISH EVENTING'S HERE TO HELP PROJECT, gathered valuable feedback from participants to improve the overall event experience. The project facilitated collaboration with Pony Club to streamline the event calendar and create a more welcoming atmosphere at events. A continuation of the project is planned for 2025, focusing on scheduling, coaching and rider development, support for event organisers and increasing the feedback from current participants to aid retention.

BRITISH CARRIAGE DRIVING'S VOLUNTEERING PROJECT has been developing a national database of volunteers which will enable better co-ordination of the workforce and improve the support of clubs and events. It's also developing training and resources to support volunteers' pre-deployment and in this first year supporting four carriage driving clubs to attract new volunteers to the clubs and the sport through community outreach and open days.

THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH RIDING SCHOOLS (ABRS+) delivered an extensive series of business support CPD sessions, engaging over 350 unique participants. Topics included establishing Community Interest Companies (CICs), improving governance, embracing environmental sustainability, and diversifying income streams. These sessions have equipped riding schools with tools to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.

Collectively, these projects showcase a strong commitment to tackling inequalities in sport, accessibility, mental health, coaching excellence, and the growth of the equestrian community, making a meaningful and lasting impact on individuals and the broader public.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In collaboration with our member bodies, we've identified key geographical areas to strengthen relationships and integrate projects into local communities, aligning with Sport England's place-based working approach. Efforts have been particularly focused on partnerships with Active Partnerships in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Birmingham and the Black Country.

A project working with Archery GB, British Wrestling, England Athletics and Swim England has facilitated engagement with British Muslim communities, focusing on activities and sports with cultural and historical significance. By partnering with the Greensville Trust and hosting 'try it' sessions, this initiative has fostered dialogue with local groups, encouraging participation, coaching and leadership while promoting inclusivity across sports.

FUNDING AND TAILORED SUPPORT

We published the [Together Fund Impact Report](#) in February. The Together Fund was a major part of Sport England's support package to help the sport and physical activity sector through the pandemic. Funding was granted via British Equestrian to centres, organisations and charities to provide both on and off-horse activities, aimed at engaging priority audiences including those from lower socio-economic groups, culturally diverse communities or those with physical or learning disabilities.

Key figures from the report:

- A total of £233,738 was allocated to 41 projects, with a further £51,891 of support for centres to help with resilience initiatives.
- Over 1,600 participants engaged in the projects.
- 82% of participants said being involved helped control their mental health, while 86% felt better placed to manage their physical health.
- 93% stated the initiatives enabled them to do more activity than they would have done without the opportunities.

Additionally, the Participation and Development team has provided funding workshops and bespoke support to member bodies, riding schools, a Wales focussed workshop and the Urban Equestrian Network, ensuring these stakeholders are equipped with the resources and guidance needed to advance their initiatives. Examples of this work are with British Eventing (young riders), British Horse Society (Everyone Welcome Centres) and Pony Club.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

Through a collaborative effort involving the British Equestrian HR and Integrity Team, the Participation and Development Team, and the Safeguarding Action Team (SAT), significant progress has been made in engaging and upskilling the Sport Welfare Officer (SWO) Network. This network, established in response to the Whyte Review, has enhanced safeguarding support for equestrian centres, groups and clubs fostering a stronger and more proactive approach to welfare across the sector.

These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to empowering members, broadening participation and positioning equestrianism as a vital contributor to active, inclusive and sustainable communities.

LEVEL 4 COACHING CERTIFICATE

Ten coaches in the 2024 cohort Level 4 Coaching Certificate successfully completed the programme, bringing the total number of graduates to 61. This year's cohort produced an [impressive range of research projects](#), exploring diverse topics including:

- Factors impacting male riders competing in amateur showjumping
- The role of the performance coach during the progression of young dressage riders from junior to senior level
- Coaches' appreciation of athletes centred coaching
- Challenges faced by the equestrian coach in advocating for the unsound horse
- Impact of perimenopausal and menopausal symptoms on the wellbeing of the carriage driving athlete
- An investigation into the impact of the Dame Tanni Grey Thompson report in relation to how coaches interpret their duty of care in British Showjumping.

In the spring of 2024, we launched a tender process to select a higher education partner for our Level 4 programme. After receiving submissions from several institutions, we shortlisted candidates and conducted interviews in collaboration with our programme partners at British Rowing. Following this process, the University of Stirling emerged as the preferred partner. We are now working closely with them to prepare for the arrival of the first cohort in the 2025/2026 academic year.

COACHING BURSARY

At the start of 2024 we launched the second round of the coaching bursary, receiving 108 applications and supporting 65 coaches to gain qualifications with BHS, Pony Club, ABRS+, British Dressage and British Carriage Driving. This round amounted to £17,185 in total and we have now supported a total of 116 coaches across the two rounds of this bursary.

The scheme is aimed at supporting riding school staff, volunteers and aspiring or current coaches - particularly those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, culturally diverse communities, disabled people, or those working with underrepresented groups - who face financial barriers to gaining coaching qualifications and whose development would help expand access to equestrian sport.

We have conducted a review of the bursary programme, incorporating feedback from member bodies and coaches to enhance its impact. Based on these insights, we opened a third round in November 2024 which will support 23 coaches with qualifications from five member bodies to a value of £8,352.



SOCIAL IMPACT

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

HORSES FOR ALL

Launched in December 2023, the [Horses for All](#) strategy reflects British Equestrian's and its federation members' commitment to making the sport more inclusive and accessible, where people from all backgrounds feel valued and can participate. Building on the Horses for All research and an independent Culture Health Check, this strategy addresses barriers to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) with a focus on education, policy development, and community engagement through its first 12-month action plan to bring our ambitions to life.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

In the 12 months since the strategy's launch, significant progress has been made, including the finalisation of our [Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan \(DIAP\)](#) to underpin the strategy and provide a clear framework for delivering on its goals. Additional achievements include:

- Developing a new BEF Rulebook with enhanced anti-discrimination policies, effective January 2025. This was highlighted in the Horses for All research as a key focus to ensure consistency in approaches across the federation.
- Launching the [Safe to Play](#) platform to streamline inclusive reporting processes.
- Completing an 18-month EDI training programme for Board members, leadership teams and staff across the federation.
- Advancing diversity data collection across membership systems, with a specific focus on gathering diversity indicators from BEF and member body Boards, totalling nearly 200 individuals. This underscores the importance of governance and diversity at

the leadership level.

These actions lay a strong foundation for a more inclusive sport. The ongoing integration of diversity indicators into membership systems, along with data collection efforts from senior leadership teams and wider staff, will help measure and guide future progress.

The Horses for All strategy and the progress made reflect our federation-wide commitment to embedding inclusion in every facet of equestrianism. Looking ahead, our focus will be on deepening community engagement, building partnerships with underrepresented groups, continuing EDI education efforts, and further enhancing diversity data systems to sustain long-term impact.

To read more about our federation-wide

progress and initiatives, please visit the [Horses for All progress report](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Funding partners UK Sport and Sport England have prioritised environmental sustainability as a key area in their social impact campaign to harness the power of sport to drive positive change. UK Sport launched an ambitious strategy in March 2023, the [Team of Tomorrow](#). As part of their actions, national governing bodies will be supported with their sustainability aspirations and BEF was selected as part of an innovation cluster accelerator programme alongside British Canoeing, the Royal Yachting Association, British Rowing and British Mountaineering Council. The programme supported the cluster towards producing a carbon footprint and action plan to lead the way for all funded sports to follow.

Using 2023 as the baseline year, the BEF's carbon footprint was calculated and reviewed by Useful Projects, who were supporting the UK Sport Programme. BEF's carbon footprint was calculated to 624.1 tCO₂e. It's anticipated that this figure will increase as better data on the Scope 3 emissions, which account for the majority of the footprint, becomes available. Useful Projects also provided suggested actions for BEF to take to meet its targets in reducing its footprint, aligned to the UNFCCC sports for climate action framework.

Sport England launched their strategy in May 2024 with equally progressive aims. [Every Move](#) includes investment of £45 million alongside practical support, training, tools, resources and peer learning. As a system partner, our funding will be linked to having robust plans in place as a condition by March 2027 but we're working to be well ahead of that deadline.



After a busy year with the UK Sport accelerator programme, BEF launched the federation's [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#), developed with the member bodies and supported by consultants, White Griffin. This strategy has been developed from the initial research project launched in 2023 to determine equestrianism's environmental baseline. This comprehensive plan outlines the federation's priorities, how change can be delivered and goals to take us to 2030. Inspired by the environmental sustainability commitments of funding partners UK Sport and Sport England, the strategy not only addresses British Equestrian's own operations but also provides a federation-wide blueprint to support its member bodies in driving sustainable practices.

The next actions are to turn the strategy into an action plan in 2025 to drive the change and culture required to meet our objectives and aspirations.



HEALTH, WELLBEING AND WELFARE

CLEAN SPORT

British Equestrian is responsible for human anti-doping rules as well as delivering the Equine Anti-Doping Programme on behalf of the FEI disciplines. We also work with UKAD to support their objectives and to comply with the Assurance Framework.

For our equine anti-doping programme, we increased the number of horses tested over the year, with 442 tests having been undertaken.

We saw a large rise in positive analytical findings, totalling 22 anti-doping rule violations in 2024. The prohibited substances detected were all controlled medications and included, Acepromazine, Phenylbutazone, Cetirizine, Flunixin, Meloxicam, Prednisolone, Triamcinoloneacetone and Dexamethasone.

Through 2023 and 2024 a key focus was ensuring the delivery of clean games education to all athlete and athlete support personnel in time for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The education was mandatory in line with UKAD's Clean Games policy covering online courses and workshops.

Broader clean-sport education has continued to increase with the delivery of our education programmes for all participants through webinars and raising awareness of clean sport through our website and all social media channels.

The BEFAR management committee continues to advise and support on all equine clean-sport matters with meetings being held twice a year.

The BEFAR technical committee offered extra support throughout 2024 due to the increased amount of positive analytical findings in this time period.



SAFEGUARDING

In August, we delivered the new 'Safe to Play' campaign, aimed at keeping every participant safe while spending time with horses. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) launched a similar initiative in 2020, and thanks to funding from Sport England and with the support of both the LTA and the NWG Network, we were able to develop resources aimed specifically at our sport. The campaign is directed at coaches, parents, participants and volunteers involved in the sector, to ensure that everyone is aware of signs of abuse, how to report concerns and how to keep everyone safe while enjoying the sport they love.

The campaign featured a brand-new [one-stop-shop website](#), which includes educational videos, top tips and FAQs as well as an easy way to confidentially report a concern online. Assets including posters, pull-up banners and pocket cards are available for coaches, equestrian centres and events to help spread the message.



EQUINE WELFARE

In October, we proudly announced a partnership with Agria on key social impact areas where both brands share a passion and commitment, particularly horse welfare. Through promoting best practice, education and sharing knowledge, Agria and BEF will ensure horse owners create the best environment for happy, lifelong partnerships.

THE CHARTER FOR THE HORSE

As responsible members of the equestrian community, we pledge to this charter for the ethical and fair treatment of all horses and other equids under our care.

<h4>Empathy</h4> <p>Recognising horses are intelligent and emotional beings, we always prioritise their mental and physical health and overall wellbeing.</p>	<h4>Care</h4> <p>Throughout their entire life, during exercise and rest, we offer horses a secure and suitable setting to create positive experiences that address their social, behavioural, nutritional and physical needs for a high quality of life.</p>	<h4>Respect</h4> <p>Through compassionate, mindful, patient and empathetic interaction, we foster positive relationships with horses based on trust and respect.</p>
<h4>Consideration</h4> <p>Each horse is an individual, and we strive to understand and meet their specific needs, including how they learn. We don't push horses beyond their health, fitness or ability levels, and we never let competitive or commercial influences compromise their welfare.</p>	<h4>Ethics</h4> <p>In all our equine interactions, whether for leisure, training or sport, we adhere to the highest standards of equine welfare, safety, equipment, veterinary care and biosecurity, always guided by ethical principles.</p>	<h4>Learning</h4> <p>Through continuously improving our equine knowledge, we evolve our behaviours based on education and informed advice from qualified professionals and the broader equestrian community.</p>

CHARTER FOR THE HORSE

In collaboration with our 19 member bodies, we launched the Charter for the Horse in March after six months of considered development. Released in two versions, a poster and a signed pledge, the Charter commits to endorsing the highest standards of equine welfare, wellbeing and ethics and has been widely adopted across the industry. With a focus on the mental, physical and behavioural needs of equids, the Charter will be at the centre of BEF's education and awareness campaigns as well as the three Fs of freedom, friends and forage, and the five domains model.

We have been approached by a number of other national federations to adopt the Charter for the Horse in their own language which we had no hesitation in accepting to continue the consistent welfare messaging across the globe.

EQUINE WELFARE AND ETHICS ADVISORY GROUP

The Equine Welfare and Ethics Advisory Group met under the chairmanship of Dr Madeleine Campbell in February, May, September and December in 2024, and continues to be a strong conduit for information and linking our activity with that of the FEI. Through the year, there has also been collaborative working with the World Class Programme Rider Advisory Group to encourage dialogue between elite athletes and the sport rule and policy makers.

During the year there was also work on crisis communications and language, reporting, FEI procedures/matters and tack and equipment, as well as major contributions to feedback on recommendations from the FEI Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission, The Charter for the Horse and revised BEF Rule Book.

With equine welfare and the public perception of our sports increasingly in the public eye, the Board took the decision in November to form a second welfare group, the Equine Welfare Steering Group. Membership of the group would come from the member bodies with formal terms of reference in place and meetings would commence in early 2025.



EQUINE HEALTH WEEK



After a review of a successful year one late in 2022, Equine Health Week moved dates to take place early in 2024 to be better timed with horses coming into work ahead of the spring season. The second running focused on equine wellness and wellbeing, and a few other key 'w' words such as weight, worms and welfare.

We utilised expertise once again from the Equine Infectious Disease Advisory Group, member bodies and World Class Programme to deliver a full week of engaging content – graphics, resources and podcasts which now feature as a [hub on our website](#).

The social media statistics show the awareness week was popular with over 120,000 social media accounts reached, yielding over 200,000 impressions. Over 55 vet practices, practitioners and equestrian businesses shared our content during the week.



EQUINE INFECTIOUS DISEASE ADVISORY GROUP

The Equine Infectious Disease Advisory Group (EIDAG) plays a strategic and influential role in protecting the health of horses across the Britain. Chaired by Professor Celia Marr, a respected authority in equine medicine, the group brings together leading veterinary experts to tackle the most pressing infectious disease threats facing the equestrian community.

EIDAG met quarterly to review emerging disease risks, share surveillance data and refine biosecurity strategies. In addition, the group coordinated biannual meetings with the chief executives and veterinary leads of our member bodies. This ensures a unified, cross-discipline approach to disease prevention and response.

Key areas of focus included:

- Monitoring and reporting of equine disease threats
- Equine influenza vaccine compliance
- On-site vaccine checking at events.

Through its collaborative, science-led approach, EIDAG is helping to build a resilient and proactive equine health network - one that protects horses, supports competition integrity, and strengthens the UK's leadership in global equestrian welfare.



INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

BRITISH REPRESENTATION

Through our involvement in the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) committees, Britain continues to play a pivotal role in assisting the FEI with equestrian governance. Dedicated volunteers contribute their vast expertise and experience in their respective disciplines, offering essential insights to the committees and playing a vital role in helping the FEI influence and shape the future of equestrian sports globally. Our 2024 representatives:

Janice Shardlow: Chair, FEI Audit & Compliance

Jenny Hall: Chair, FEI Veterinary Committee

Dr Mark Sinnott: Deputy Chair, FEI Veterinary 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

Martin Gibbs: Chair, Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU)

Dr Madeleine Campbell and Roly Owers: Members, FEI Equine Welfare Advisory Group.

Our sincere thanks go to Sarah Coombs, who stepped down in 2024 after her valued service on the FEI Endurance Technical Committee.

Britain actively participates in various FEI working groups to help the FEI address complex issues that require focused expertise and stakeholder input.

Gareth Hughes, Dressage Working Group to develop an Action Plan for Dressage

Alec Lochore: Eventing Education and Officials Working Group

Stuart Buntine, Chair Eventing Risk Management Steering Group

David Hamer, Solidarity Education Working Group and Compensatory Aids Panel.

We collaborate closely with the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) to promote and sustain equestrian sport in Europe, actively participating in meetings.

BEF CEO Jim Eyre has taken a pivotal role as the independent Chair of the EEF Veterinary Working Group Committee. Established in May, this working group empowers veterinarians to have a strong voice in shaping the future of the sport by elevating veterinary standards across European equestrian disciplines, advocating for horse welfare through evidence-based practices and working alongside the FEI on updates to rules and policy development.

Many of our disciplines continue to be represented in the EEF's working groups and are engaged as needed to contribute to important tasks and these have afforded good relationship building opportunities within the European Federations:

Georgina Sharples: EEF Para Working Group

Richard Waygood: EEF Eventing Working Group

Phil Nunnerley: EEF Endurance Working Group

Andrew Counsell: EEF Driving Working Group.



BRITISH EQUESTRIAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

British Equestrian has been actively engaged with UK Government regarding the implementation of a number of post Brexit requirements. These requirements didn't all come into force immediately after the UK left the EU; some have been years in development, and many are not yet in place.

The proposed implementation of Border Control Posts (BCPs) for horses entering the UK has involved a lot of activity, advising on the design and construction of facilities that would allow effective inspections where required.

The BEF has also helped to mitigate the challenges created when physical border checks were implemented for germinal products (mainly fresh chilled semen from the EU). This continues to bring up issues which require speedy resolution to help make sure that British breeders who have purchased their product from EU stallions receive their purchase on time and whilst the consignment is still viable, so that vets can inseminate their mares.

At times of high volume or industrial action on the continent, our involvement has included careful negotiations with French authorities, governing and veterinary bodies, as well as the FEI to help horses stuck or yet to reach BCPs to get through without unreasonable delays.

In 2025, there is the likelihood of a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement with the EU, meaning that further engagement and negotiation will be required in order to support all-important border horse welfare checks as well as the smooth transit of high health competition horses and germinal products, to continue to champion the needs of British businesses, competitors and breeders.





GOVERNANCE

BOARD

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024)

CHAIR

Malcolm Wharton CBE (to 30 June 2024)
Fields Wicker-Miurin OBE FKC
(from 1 July 2024)

INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

John Troiano (Senior INED)
Alison Wallace
Daniel Mensah

FOUNDER MEMBER NOMINATED DIRECTORS

British Dressage: Claire Moir
British Eventing: Terry Miller CBE
British Showjumping: Alison Rankin Frost
The British Horse Society: Jane Domhill

COUNCIL ELECTED DIRECTORS

Quintin Cornforth
Roly Owers
Naomi Howgate
Suzanna Anslow

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: Terry Miller CBE (to 10 September 2024, then Member)
Chair: Daniel Mensah (from 10 September 2024)
John Troiano
Quintin Cornforth

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 CBE (Nominations – to 30 June 2024)
Chair: Fields Wicker-Miurin OBE FKC (Nominations – from 1 July 2024)
Chair: Alison Wallace (Remunerations)
John Troiano
Terry Miller
Jane Domhill

MEETINGS IN REPORTING PERIOD:
Two

BOARD MEETINGS

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.

	15-16/02/24	11/04/24	04/06/24	22/08/24	29/10/24	09/12/24	Attendance count	Possible attendance
CHAIR (MW)	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3
CHAIR (FWM)	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	3	3
SA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
QC	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	5	6
JD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
NH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
DM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
TM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
CM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
RO	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	5	6
ARF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
JT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
AW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	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.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CHAMPION: NAOMI HOWGATE

APPOINTED: 20 FEBRUARY 2023

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

ANTI-DOPING LEAD: CLAIRE MOIR

APPOINTED: 5 DECEMBER 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: THERESE MILLER

APPOINTED: 4 AUGUST 2022

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

WELFARE CHAMPION: ROLY OWERS

APPOINTED: 4 AUGUST 2022

Role: To promote the highest standards of human and equine welfare and safety throughout the BEF 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. The group’s composition and powers are governed by the Articles of Association.

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Christopher Smith KC

VICE CHAIR

Phil Nunnerley (from 1 December 2024)

MEMBERS (ON 31 DECEMBER 2024)

- Association of British Riding Schools
- British Carriagedriving
- British Dressage (founder member)
- British Equestrian Trade Association (associate)
- British Equestrian Vaulting
- British Eventing (founder member)
- British Grooms Association (associate)
- British Horse Foundation (associate)
- British Horseball Association
- British Reining
- British Showjumping (founder member)
- Endurance GB
- Mounted Games Association of Great Britain
- Riding for the Disabled Association
- UK Polocrosse Association)
- The British Horse Society (founder member)
- Pony Club
- The Showing Council (associate)
- World Horse Welfare (associate)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met four times during the reporting period.

Council meeting description	Date
British Equestrian general meeting	20/03/2024
British Equestrian extraordinary general meeting	01/07/2024
British Equestrian annual general meeting	24/08/2024
British Equestrian general meeting	06/12/2024



FINANCE AND FUNDING

British Equestrian is responsible for managing government exchequer and National Lottery funding towards 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.

The funding we receive from 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 disciplines. 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.

As a system partner, British Equestrian receives investment from Sport England to support our role in shaping a more relevant, resilient and collaborative future for equestrian sport across three key focus areas: systemic leadership, governance and talent. While the investment is not focused on direct delivery, it supports the conditions that enable more inclusive and sustainable participation across the equestrian landscape through working in collaboration with federation members and wider partners in the sector.

Funding support is also provided by sportscotland for horsescotland, aligned to British Equestrian.

MAJOR FUNDING AWARDS

2023	UK Sport	£4,168,241
	Sport England	£1,266,199

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME STATEMENT (YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023)

Turnover	£6,034,598
Direct costs	£5,169,719
Gross surplus	£864,879
Operating surplus	£3,783
Interest receivable	£13,536
Surplus before taxation	£17,319
Tax on surplus	£2,572
Surplus before financial year	£14,747

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

At 1 January 2023	£495,365
Surplus for the year	£14,747
At 31 December 2023	£510,112

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023)

Brought forward	£19,334
Bad debt	-
	£859,081

FINANCE COSTS

Bank charges	£2,015
Net surplus	£17,319

PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS

PARTNERS



SUPPLIERS



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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





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