
British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by rosie - 2007/12/09 21:00

This thread discusses the Content article: British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

:P Well done David on the excellent article. Its great that you have taken the time to lay out everything that is potentially available to everyone who enjoys western riding. I hope you are going to put this article into the next copy of Freerein too. I know that people were worried about the UKCC and how it would affect them and its great to see how it is coming along and I think it is so important for coaches nowadays to have a qualification and especially CRB checks where children are concerned. I hope that the council members of all the relevant organisations think hard about your article and I, for one, will certainly raise it at the next AGM (AQHA.UK).

Rosie

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by RichardA - 2007/12/09 21:32

Hi

Much of what David has written is correct. However; it is the Council of BEF who decide on any application to join not its Chief Executive. If the British Western Equestrian Association is formed then it is up to it to canvas for support within the Council of BEF. British Reining is there as a discipline specific organisation not as a body representing Western Riding.

Richard M Allan

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/11 07:50

It would be naive of RA to not realise that this 'Western' issue has been descussed at great length at BEF. As I said in my post, this affiliation structure is the direction forward that the BEF want western riding to take, nothing else is acceptable.

Past divisions within western nearly destroyed Reining by some of those involved. After much solid groundwork to resolve the image of western riding, don't let the power hungry few destroy it all over again.

Yes, it will be the council of chief executives that will discuss and vote on acceptance of any new member to the BEF. That council is made up from two members from each discipline and that would include BR....!!

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by Roland - 2007/12/11 08:26

Thank you David and thanks also to the other BR people who have put in so much work with the BEF. I just hope all western disciplins not just reining get represented including cattle classes...

Post edited by: Roland, at: 2007/12/11 20:05

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by curly - 2007/12/13 19:11

Many thanks David for taking time to write this article. It is clear that much time and effort is being put into finding the way forward however, having thought it over for a couple of days now I just cannot let it go without commenting. I initially thought the best course of action would be to affiliate as a way of "getting a foot in the door" but I just cannot come to terms with that as a solution. I know a lot has been going on with this for some time behind the scenes and we, the members of the various societies involved know very little of the detail and the history but there is something very

wrong here. We have been told on several occasions what the BEF will and will not accept and that things will not be changed. Why can't things be changed? We live in a democratic society . The BEF apparently want Western riding as a whole represented but will not let anyone else join, so BR are trying to represent all of western on our behalf. This is just not reasonable on the part of the BEF and I think the lack of support from the other societies confirms that we have a problem here. I would like to thank BR for trying to represent western as a whole, but I believe BR should tell the BEF that they can only represent reining. BR should not accept this situation any more than the rest of us.

BR is a comparatively new organisation and we all know of the problems it has had in the past which are hopefully behind it now, but frankly with a track record like that I need a while longer before I am going to trust BR enough to approve of WES affiliating to it. Please do not take offence at this comment as I mean no criticism of any of the individual BR council members. WES is far from perfect but it has always maintained it's original aims and is widely acknowledged as having consistently raised standards. WES deserves a place on the BEF and I do not think we should accept anything less.

Maybe the only way forward at this point is for all the excluded western organisations should get together, not to form another society which I agree is unnecessary, but to tell the BEF that this is not acceptable and to keep telling them until a solution is found. OK, now that I have started the revolution time to sign off! I could go on for hours but have probably said enough. No offence BR, but you did want to start the debate!

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/15 17:31

I am delighted that 'Curly' has responded in the manner she has. As far as the Affiliation Proposal is concerned, we hold differing views but that is the democratic process and I am entirely happy with that.

I think it would help though if I could strike a few parallels which may help us all firm up our opinions.

Firstly, why can't things at BEF be changed?

According to the BEF Constitution (as I said before) one and only one member body from each discipline/style of riding is recognised on the Chief Executive Council.

The BEF represents 4.2 million riders in the UK, most attached to one or another of the member body organisations. Many of these separate disciplines like Dressage, Show Jumping etc have thousands of other associations, societies and clubs attached to them, They all think they should also be on BEF council!!

If BEF were to admit even one other organisation of a similar discipline they would then be inundated with thousands and thousands of organisations applying for membership which would make the council unmanageable.

To hold the view that you could change the Legal Constitution of an organisation the size of the BEF is doubtful in the extreme. To suggest that it can be done from 'outside' of membership is just never going to happen.

Last Thursday 13th Dec, I was at my regular Participation Strategy meeting at BEF, Stoneleigh. Each member body (BR included) were reporting and discussing their strategies and progress as to getting more people into our individual sports. It was so pertinent that the Chief Executive for British Dressage was relaying a very similar situation to western.

'UK Chasers' and 'Trail Blazers' are two organisations that differ very little from BD and BSJA. Each hold shows featuring both dressage and show jumping. They each have hundreds of regional clubs and literally thousands of members around the UK. For a long time now both have been arch-rivals to BD and desperately trying to join BEF. Simultaneously, they are now both affiliating to BD!!

I asked the BD Chief Exec directly across the meeting table "what was the catalyst that changed their minds?" His answer "dialogue and just talking to them"... If the western community doesn't get the message from that.....?? ...They will both now be adopted into BEF structure as affiliates, willingly working together, for the greater good of their sport.

BR cannot turn round and say we will only represent reining and not work with other western organisations as it shows we are all unable to form a cohesive group, this will only further destroy westerns image.

Because of unrest in the past, Western has to ensure we can show that we can act responsibly and be constructive in moving our sport forward. Forming an 'Alliance' will never gain membership of BEF, especially when it does not include the western BEF member body.

I am sure that BR does not consider that they represent all forms of western riding or it's various societies. What I have done personally wherever possible in my field, is to support and represent western riding in the best possible light, in an effort to give us a credible place in modern equestrianism. At the first opportunity, I have grasped the incentive to get all or any other western organisation recognised and affiliated so they can manage their own affairs at the highest level.

This membership/affiliation situation is 'an old chestnut' at BEF and organisations many, many more times the size of the

whole western, have likewise never gained admittance.

Affiliation is the only practical answer.

David Brimson.

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by qhrider - 2007/12/15 17:51

'UK Chasers' and 'Trail Blazers' are two organisations that differ very little from BD and BSJA. Each hold shows featuring both dressage and show jumping."

But is that not the point here - BR is JUST reining where as the case you mentioned were representing the same disciplines. BR does not represent any other western riding where as WES represents them all.

I am a member of both BR and WES, but do not see the logic of a large organisation having to tag on to a very small one for this representation, but what do I know!

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/15 18:15

For once in my life size has nothing to do with it!!

BEF already has a western organisation....!!
It will not take another.....!!

You tell me the answer.....??

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by billywhiz - 2007/12/15 19:02

The other organisations are larger, reining is the minority.

Reining is the only FEI recognised western discipline.

Cutting and Working Cow are both large in the states, they are not FEI sports.

Pleasure, Horesmanship, Trail they are all larger and they are not FEI sports.

BR like it or not is representative of the only FEI discipline and therefore needs to hold the BEF link.

David Brimson is offering an olive branch. "you can lead a horse...."

What is wrong with the other Western Disciplines affiliating to BR, what are they so afraid of?

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by RichardA - 2007/12/15 20:50

REINMAN wrote:

For once in my life size has nothing to do with it!!

BEF already has a western organisation....!!

It will not take another.....!!

You tell me the answer.....??

ABSOLUTE RUBBISH

BEF can accept another Western Organisation because BR represents the sport of Reining and nothing else. All it needs is for the BEF Council to produce a majority vote to accept the BWEA. Even Andrew Finding, BEF's C.E. has accepted that, perhaps David should as well!

David has already stated that BR will vote against but there are other BEF member bodies who will be supportive of the application.

Richard M Allan

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/16 03:35

Any organisation applying for membership must be discipline specific. There is no other discipline specific western organisation. The ghost organisation that does not yet even exist would consist of WES which is not a discipline. AQHA that has already been refused admission.

The maths is not really that complicated is it.

I have never stated that BR would vote against. I outlined the procedure of a membership application because Richard Allan's was vague and misleading.

The proposed BWEA is quite openly a power struggle, The same few will drag the genuine and innocent western members into another war that will only damage the already fragile image of western.

British Reining members represent our country at the highest level on the world stage and I think do very well considering our size. So what is so wrong if BR give western in the UK a 'leg-up' and to get western riding in the UK on the map once and for all.

Never would a 'piggy-back' be so appropriate.....

Post edited by: REINMAN, at: 2007/12/16 03:38

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by QQH - 2007/12/16 08:13

REINMAN wrote:

.....BEF already has a western organisation....!! It will not take another.....!!

Surely then this is contrary to their own published Mission Statement as outlined in their revised Strategic Plan to 2009 which was updated in May of this year?

The following is taken directly from said document, Section 2.4 Our Mission, Values and Vision - page 12 (this may be found under public documents if anyone would like to read more...)

2.4.1 Our Mission

With the above rationale and context in mind, the mission of the Federation is:

'Working as a cohesive, unified, progressive and modern organisation of independent member bodies... the Federation will work together for the collective good of horse sports in general, as well as for individual disciplines/organisations'.

In support of this Mission the Federation will:

- Speak with one voice to Government, the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and riders/participants
- Maximise the potential of equestrianism by attracting, engaging and retaining participants and members, increasing participation for all age groups in all areas of equestrian sporting and recreational activity for the able bodied and disabled through enhanced partnerships
- Facilitate the financial success, stability and development, administration and regulation of equestrian sport and recreation
- Promote the values and contribution of equestrianism to our national life
- Provide leadership and vision in steering the future direction of equestrianism in the UK
- Through the development of a broadly-based and sustainable performance pathway, support elite performers to the medal podium and underpin this mission with substantially increased strength in depth by supporting talented riders and horses from grass roots (riders) and breeding (horses) to World and Olympic levels
- Host major events to underpin Great Britain's position as one of the most successful equestrian nations and to showcase our facilities, breeding industry, coaching profession and elite performance
- Bringing more organisations, and therefore more people into BEF memberships

Don't get me wrong, I do not disagree with a great many of the points made previously, although I don't believe anyone is afraid of anything here;) , rather that change is always a most difficult pill for people in general to swallow, made more especially so when it is presented to them as a fait accompli.

David is correct, there is currently no other discipline specific organisation within Western Riding in this country - that in itself is beyond contestation but clearly affiliation to BR unlikely to fulfill the requirements of "cohesive, unified, progressive and modern" if the discussion on this thread is anything to go by.:whistle:

So, we come back to formulating a positive and viable alternative - membership of the BEF is able to be applied for provided a number of specific criteria is met - currently none of the existing other organisations tick all the boxes, but that doesn't mean they never will.....the assertion that no other western body will be accepted may be valid based on current framework and organisation but it doesn't have to always be that way.

Oh, whilst I am at it (may as well, in for a penny, in for a pound!B)) Reining is currently the only discipline recognised by the FEI, but that is not to say that the other disciplines, widely practiced in other areas cannot apply for Regional recognition, which is the first step to full status - I offer tent pegging and horse ball as examples. I am most certainly not suggesting it would be easy, only that the possibility exists so the argument of FEI recognition should not be seen a major drawback.

I have chosen to highlight some of the points in the Mission Statement to accentuate the points that I felt most applied to this thread, as such, the emphasis is mine and mine alone.

See below for link to the statement, as I have quoted directly from it, I figure it should be acknowledged.

Jude.

http://www.bef.co.uk/Downloads/Strategic_Plan_Final.pdf

Post edited by: QQH, at: 2007/12/17 10:07

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by Roland - 2007/12/16 09:08

Um do we really care and does it matter???

most of us just want to have fun with our horses ie showing and trail riding, if BR can give us a voice then good, we are tiny in comparison to say show jumping. my guess is the BEF wouldn't miss us one bit if we all packed up and took up sewing:P

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by AGF - 2007/12/16 09:37

Hmmmmm and I bet you already have the needles ready...!!

Thats the attitude that will stop the whole industry moving forward. Nobody said that this would be an easy task, and those who are working on it for the greater good of western ridinig as a whole work exteamly hard. I do not doubt that for many of you it it your hobby, and something that you do for the sheer pleasure of being out and about on your western horses. Whether they are quarter horses or welsh's or arab's. That is where the sport grows, with people who start off just enjoying it... However to some of us its a little more, and I for one DO CARE because it will have a direct impact on my job.. The more of us that DO CARE about how we go about getting proper national recognition, the faster it will come and the whole industry in this country will grow.

Or is that what some of you are afraid of...?

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by rosie - 2007/12/16 12:51

B) Hi All, I have been reading the responses to David's article and am glad to see people participating, afterall we all need to air our views on this. I only hope that all the western organisations are reading these posts and will include this in next year's AGMs. I also hope that both the WES and AQHA.UK AGMs are on different days so we can all have our say. I consider this subject very important to the future of western in this country and hope that obstacles are not deliberately put in the way of what ALL the organisations need to do.(GET TOGETHER!!)

Rosie

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/16 14:51

Just as Rosie comments, I am delighted that peeps are taking the trouble to join this debate. The fact that contributors are taking the trouble to search out facts for themselves and air their views openly, can only show that we do care enough about our sport.

I would just like to steer QQH to a section from:

BEF Articles of Association at clause 4.7 which requires the (BEF) Council to take account of the membership criteria for:

- 3 years audited accounts (4.7.1)
- committed to equestrianism and/or equestrian sports and the development thereof in the United Kingdom (4.7.2)
- the organisation not having an interest similar to one already represented by a member(4.7.3)

Post edited by: REINMAN, at: 2007/12/16 14:52

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by herbalcowgirl - 2007/12/16 15:43

I've just read all the previous posts with interest and took a look myself at the BEF website. I'm a little confused here. From reading the information about what the BEF does it seems clear that they support equestrian disciplines with the hope of developing new riders TO WIN MEDALS. The BEF act as an agency to distibute government funding and regulate the industry. They are overall a 'steering' group to increase profitability in the equestrian industry and prestige in international sport.

As far as I am aware reining is the only western sport that is recognised by the FEI, so you can only win an olympic medal in western if you're reining. This puts reining (as a discipline)a high priority for the BEF due to the possibility of a

gold medal for Britain, this is the main part of their mission statement isn't it?

When I first started western i'd only heard about reining - it is more photogenic, has huge amounts of prize money available to it and is a crowd pleaser. In the US there is an effort by the NSBA, for example, to readdress this but it is taking time to build the industry. As I got to know more about the sport I actually decided I'd like to do pleasure all around instead. I'm sure many other people do the same or vice versa, after all the variety of events available to you in western is part of the attraction in the first place.

The reiners have the same problems that I do with the dreaded geltrack surfaces and as more arenas are being 'upgraded' to the horrid sticky stuff, we're losing the opportunity to compete in big arenas and potentially to host future FEI events in the UK due to a lack of surfaces for the reiners as there must be a venue that is suitable for ALL disciplines otherwise the country can not be a host. This means the industry as a whole is potentially stunted in development.

I have no problem with reiners representing my views as I never intended to win an olympic medal doing pleasure (definitely not trail - i really could do with some more practice!) and I feel that getting western into the mainstream in the UK will benefit all disciplines in the industry. As more people become more involved there will be a growth in business related to western which means more choice, there will be more horses. more tack and most importantly more bling in the UK which will save me on import taxes! We have a foothold in the council now and our western profile is being raised SLOWLY.

Is there no way that other organisations could affiliate to BR and perhaps have an elected representative(s)solely to deal with the BEF, almost a seperate group within BR that primarily represents the reiners - after all they have the FEI recognition and will be allocated money from the government - would this be a more acceptable situation for those from other western disciplines/organisations? Representatives should follow the mandate formulated from the views of those they represent. This is one of the key precepts of democracy,if they're not representing your views or even misrepresenting them you impeach them.

Alternatively we could trust the council of BR to represent the interests of the western community as a whole, after all I doubt few shows could be financially viable without the entries from other disciplines to keep up numbers. I am sure that BR are aware of the need to keep the western community healthy, balanced and progressive in it's aims.

Western riding is my hobby and I love this sport, my family are involved in the business side of things and I know how much time and effort they spend introducing new people to the sport. It is growing slowly, so why don't we give it a chance on the international level and see what happens?

Becky

Below is an excerpt from the website that I have based some of this post on:

As a national governing body the BEF works on policy issues with the FEI. It co-ordinates the British calendar of international events, disciplinary procedures, doping control and oversees the training of British international judges, stewards, vets and course designers.

At home it plays an active role in representing the common interests of its member bodies to organisations such as the British Olympic Association, the Sport Aid Foundation, and Central Council for Physical Recreation.

The BEF is responsible for distributing Government funding to the equestrian sports. Funding from UK Sport and Sport England supports the BEF's work from developing the best riders, with the aim of winning medals for Great Britain, to encouraging complete beginners to get involved. Funding support is also provided by Sport Scotland for the Scottish Equestrian Association (SEA), a member of the BEF.

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by Roland - 2007/12/16 16:53

Well I think western will allways be a very small part of the equestian scene in this country, like american football baseball etc is in relation to our football and cricket but Im pleased and wish to support western as im totally turned off by show jumping and dressage... why dont we encourage and support BR give them a chance to show what they can do... we are too small for infighting

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by tansi - 2007/12/16 17:04

I totally agree. David Brimson is doing a fantastic job, let him continue. He has his finger on the pulse, and has our best interests at heart, we should be happy to join him and help promote and push western through. As the saying goes 'slowly slowly catchy monkey'

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by QQH - 2007/12/17 14:31

REINMAN wrote:

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- Post edited by: REINMAN, at: 2007/12/16 14:52

Excellent! Serves to further highlight my points exactly....oh sorry David, I think I called you Peter earlier.....getting you confused with Admin :blush:

Jude

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/18 08:39

Hi Jude/all,

with the greatest respect, I think it's a case of reading into things what you want to hear from the constitution!!
.....BR is western, WES/AQHA is western, that's how equestrianism in the UK view us. WES is a club and AQHA is a Breed Society. they are not a discipline or different way of riding and therefore do NOT qualify for membership and neither will an Alliance.

Let me try to put things in a different light.

For about four years now I have been a chief executive at the BEF for British Reining. During that time I have been able absorb both the workings of the BEF structure, the whole genre of equestrianism as it is perceived from within the Federation and their attitude to 'western'.....and that is probably the most crucial issue.

The way to gain any respect for BR (especially after all our probs) was to work hard and long alongside all the other disciplines on council and to have equal input and undertake as much work and be equally productive on the many, many day to day equestrian management issues. To put things into perspective here, some member bodies have more than fifty permanent paid staff!! Gradually I have gained good working relationships with, most of the other member body representatives, the staff at BEF and crucially the strategy and direction of the Board and Council.

Now there is a trust issue here:

I know how it all works, I know what they like (BEF) and what they don't like and in this affiliation debate, I know what they want and what they will accept.

Believe me I have had so much input and dialogue on the 'Western issue' both in full council and in casual dialogue with individual members of BEF management. I am trying to give some guidance here via the forum on a way forward for western.

I have been privileged to been put in this role by the council members of BR in a specific role for BR, I cannot at this crucial stage stand aside from Western in general.

To be in a position of trying to help and guide so many members of different societies along specific route developed

from a great deal of genuine understanding of the system of what could or could not happen, is a bit of a burden. If we win, we win big time if we loose only western loses BUT, BR carries on without you.

It will not happen the way Jude and others would like. What it does do is to illustrate very admirably their passion and commitment to their way of riding....

Once again just look at the process so far. WES has inquired about becoming a member of BEF, basically they were told NO, AQHA has made a formal application and also told NO, unless they affiliate!! (albeit to British Breeding) At this point we have a way in, and that is the whole point of the BEF invitation to affiliate. They are opening the door and providing the opportunity, the only opportunity.

The trust issue here is to take advice from a BEF member (BR) that has the working knowledge of that way in for Western.

Maybe the best thing that could ever happen in Western is to start creating some trust??

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by QQH - 2007/12/18 10:27

REINMAN wrote:

Hi Jude/all,

with the greatest respect, I think it's a case of reading into things what you want to hear from the constitution!! That certainly works both ways - if not we would have no legal system and I would be unemployed :lol:

.....BR is western, WES/AQHA is western, that's how equestrianism in the UK view us. WES is a club and AQHA is a Breed Society. they are not a discipline or different way of riding and therefore do NOT qualify for membership and neither will an Alliance.

Hence my comments about not meeting the criteria as things stand

Let me try to put things in a different light.

For about four years now I have been a chief executive at the BEF for British Reining.

During that time I have been able absorb both the workings of the BEF structure, the whole genre of equestrianism as it is perceived from within the Federation and their attitude to 'western'.....and that is probably the most crucial issue.

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To be in a position of trying to help and guide so many members of different societies along specific route developed from a great deal of genuine understanding of the system of what could or could not happen, is a bit of a burden. If we win, we win big time if we loose only western loses BUT, BR carries on without you.

It will not happen the way Jude and others would like. I have not said I did not think this should happen this way, in fact I clearly stated that I did not disagree with the majority of what had been said merely that it was presented as a fait accompli which is a very bitter pill to swallow for most hence the various reactions

What it does do is to illustrate very admirably their passion and commitment to their way of riding....

Once again just look at the process so far. WES has inquired about becoming a member of BEF, basically they were told NO, AQHA has made a formal application and also told NO, unless they affiliate!! (albeit to British Breeding) At this point we have a way in, and that is the whole point of the BEF invitation to affiliate. They are opening the door and providing the opportunity, the only opportunity.

The trust issue here is to take advice from a BEF member (BR) that has the working knowledge of that way in for Western. Maybe the best thing that could ever happen in Western is to start creating some trust??

Trust, like respect is earned, I have no reason to mistrust you - you have not done anything to warrant that as far as I am aware, questioning does not equate to mistrust merely to an enquiring mind who likes to understand the numerous sides of the issue. So far many of your arguments are sound - personally I am glad that the majority folk on here have not simply said "yes, let's do it" or "no way" but have taken the time to look and research and take the discussion further which gives a feeling of inclusion in the process, however small it may be. No one likes to feel utterly out of control of something that affects them and, in this instance, that is effectively what was being asked for - put in the style of 'this is the only choice':ohmy:I applaud the sentiment contained in the final section of your post...the issue here is whether we blindly take advice from a BEF (BR) member who knows the way things work or whether we question and research the topic and issues, ask for information and counsel from others who know the workings and may have even been part of the discussions also, and content ourselves that this is indeed the best or possibly even the only line to take - not simply the most opportunist or simplest.

Jude

Post edited by: QQH, at: 2007/12/18 10:29

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by beeb - 2007/12/28 14:48

With respect to the discussion on BEF affiliation, there are some very important points that have not yet been put forth and which completely contradict certain statements made by Mr. Brimson. Namely,

Neither the Pony Club nor the BHS represent a specific discipline, yet THEY ARE MEMBERS OF BEF. These organisations are little different operatively than WES and the AQHA-UK. As far as the argument that BEF exists to promote the winning of medals, there are no medals to be won within the BHS. Dressage, show jumping and eventing are ALL ENGLISH RIDING events, just as Western Pleasure, Trail, and Cutting are Western riding events, yet dressage, show jumping and eventing ARE ALL SEPARATELY REPRESENTED as part of BEF. Therefore the statement that Reining and Western Pleasure are the same thing—Western riding—and can only be represented by one body—BR—is fallacious and patently ridiculous.

As far as the discussion of trust goes, one need only look back at the recent history of BR to see exactly why that organisation should NOT be trusted to represent the interests of all of the rest of us. No matter which side one was on during the 'mutiny' against the former elected Council, the fact remains that many constitutional rules and regulations were blatantly ignored in the takeover of power by the current ruling body. Then there was the whole affair of how the BR team competing at the WEG was chosen in 2006, which, again, was a tawdry affair no matter whom one thought should be on the team. As the BEF itself ruled in response to David Gray's appeal, the selection process was NOT fair and transparent, plus we had BR Council members using the official BR newsletter—which was sent out to all BR members and the postage paid out of BR membership fees—to air personal views and make offensive comments about David Gray, as if neither David Gray nor those many BR members who supported his appeal were members of BR or were worthy of having their views represented. Even after the BEF found in favour of David Gray's appeal, the BR Council insisted on sending out a special letter to all members—again paid for by funds from ALL members—denying the validity of the BEF's ruling. Finally, with respect to the UKCC programme, I have already pointed out in my article on Western riding instructors posted on this website that development of the programme was a completely closed shop with favourites appointed by still others auto-nominated to certain positions, and with no consultation whatsoever with all the many very knowledgeable, experienced and capable Western riding professionals in the U.K. who belonged to other organisations, or even while belonging to BR were not within the BR circle of 'those who count'. And as I also pointed out in a response to another of David's article on this website, no one from BR was the least bit interested at the beginning of the Western riding community's battle to save their horses' health and well-being from the consequences of the gel-track invasion, which I and others like Jane Wallace had been fighting for a good two years before DB took any interest.

No one can or should deny, or be ungrateful, that David and Pauline Brimson have worked exhaustively in their respective roles in promoting Reining and, indirectly, other Western riding disciplines. However, the attitude of those who compete only in Reining toward the other Western disciplines has very often been dismissive and condescending, despite the vast size of the Pleasure, HUS, Halter, Cutting, and Barrel Racing industries worldwide. As an example, at Bodiam one year, the Reiners (of whom I was one) were given an unscheduled hour-long break to let the Reining arena dry out more, so the schedule was completely changed and the Halter competitors (of whom I was also one) were callously given exactly 15 minutes to run like mad back to the stabling area, change their clothes, clean up their muddy horses, and get back to the arena, which tells me that Halter is obviously not taken seriously by certain UK Reining

organisers. The track record of BR is not a good one, and the behaviour of certain BR Council members leaves much to be desired; therefore, I and many others prominent in the Western riding industry in Britain chose to avoid any affiliation with such an organisation.

Edited to allow users without access to wordprocessing software to read this response - Admin

Post edited by: admin, at: 2007/12/28 15:24

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by QQH - 2007/12/29 11:27

I was going to add a point but, on reflection, I don't think it is needed.:laugh:

Thanks beeb for adding your information.

Jude.

Post edited by: QQH, at: 2007/12/29 12:05

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/29 14:28

FYI.

I hope this helps clear the fog Re: BEF membership.

Pony Club is an organisation for youth and ponies.
It was founded in England in 1929.

1947

The British Horse Society is founded through the 'Affiliation' of the National Horse Association and the Institute of the Horse and Pony Club.

1961 •

The Dressage Group is founded

1972 •

The British Equestrian Federation is formed with the British Show Jumping Association.

BSJA establishes itself as a separate discipline and subsequently becomes independent as a member body of BEF..

1998 •

British Dressage establishes itself as a separate discipline and becomes independent, but remains as a member body of BEF

It is quite clear that the individual member bodies that currently exist were historically parts of larger groups via affiliation, they then after establishing themselves as larger separate Disciplines have broken away to form individual groups and thereby continue within BEF as member bodies.

If you don't get the message from that you never will about how BR is trying to draw 'western' into the BEF fold via affiliation.

Best regards and happy new year.

David Brimson.

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by curly - 2007/12/29 17:45

I don't think the history is that relevant. Are you suggesting that other western organisations should affiliate then break away again at some future point?

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2007/12/29 19:11

The history is extremely relevant in as much as Terrie (Beeb) is challenging my advise that only one member body shall represent each discipline. i.e. BR is already a member of BEF and 'Western' thereby no other western organisation shall be acceptable.

Beeb is challenging that fact that certain other member bodies of the BEF (Pony CLUB Blah de Blahyawn) are in fact NOT disciplines, however my point is their BEF membership is historical over time with the emergence, growth and development of BEF, and the membership criteria have shifted with governance and progress over time.

My whole point is from a position of knowledge that WES, AQHA, PH.UK are NOT disciplines and not acceptable for membership to BEF.....NOR is an Alliance as it is also not a discipline.....By aligning to and associating with an association that IS a member body you create a connection which means you are IN, then by whatever maneuvering and communication and by working together 'WESTERN' has representation and can develop sideways
RM

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by herbalcowgirl - 2007/12/30 21:37

"Neither the Pony Club nor the BHS represent a specific discipline, yet THEY ARE MEMBERS OF BEF. These organisations are little different operatively than WES and the AQHA-UK. As far as the argument that BEF exists to promote the winning of medals, there are no medals to be won within the BHS."

I think (from reading the BEF website) that they exist to promote riding disciplines/sports that will provide riders with the skills to win medals in the future in medal events.

:woohoo:

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by beeb - 2007/12/31 10:36

Reply to Becks: Yes, but the BHS promotes recreational riding and horse ownership just as much as it promotes competitive riding.

Message to David: To the contrary of making it 'clear', by delineation of the historical development of equestrian groups in the UK, that the only way Western disciplines besides Reining can become part of the BEF is through affiliation to BR, your facts demonstrate that there have always been many different equestrian groups with different vias of development, and that the current elements of the BEF (which itself was only fairly recently formed) became part of it through many different avenues. There is also no reason why other Western disciplines cannot form a federation that stands on its own in Britain, with affiliation only to the other huge international associations who share and promote their interests. Even if the BR threatens that no funding from the BEF will ever be available in this manner, it is doubtful how much funding other disciplines would ever see with the BR running the whole show and telling us to 'trust' them.

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by rosie - 2007/12/31 14:37

:ohmy: hi beeb, i am sorry to read in your post that you think BR will not help/give money to other western organistions. in fact david has said all along that the money is for helping BR and western all together, afterall why do you think they have expanded the new coaching certificate to include all western instructors? when they could have left it just for reining instructors. a lot of unpaid time has been put into BR/BEF by people who want to progress western in this country. it is time to stop arguing and start building together in 2008.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.
Rosie

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by hobbyhorse - 2007/12/31 20:20

I have read with interest the comments on this topic, however I dont get the impression that there is a willingness to start going forward. If we want to get western to the forefront, we will all have to push this forward or another season will go by without regonition for all our efforts.

I for one will bs pushing hard for our association to affiliate asap. Come on guys stop bickering and start doing.

Post edited by: hobbyhorse, at: 2007/12/31 20:21

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by Muffin - 2008/01/01 16:43

What do think about it all - take the poll at <http://www.westernscene.co.uk>

Post edited by: Muffin, at: 2008/01/01 16:44

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by rosie - 2008/01/01 17:49

:P Well done muffin for suggesting the poll and am glad to see 50% in favour so far. onward and upward i say!!! lets all get together in 2008!!!

Rosie

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by Roland - 2008/01/01 18:00

Good Idea, will be intresting to see how people vote, this needs sorting and then hopfully we can resolve the most important issue.... venues and surfaces. I dont give a stuff who we have representing us, just like to see less of personal differences, rivalry, and more pulling together...

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by hobbyhorse - 2008/01/01 19:24

This is more like it, positive reaction, I voted for involment,Western can not move forward and be taken seriously if we have division. I for one would like to see our sport in what ever form given more air time by the madia but while we argue between ourselves no one will give us the time and we will still be seen as cartoon cowboys.

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by beeb - 2008/01/02 12:30

Personally, as amazing as it may seem, despite the important issues that I have raised in support of NOT affiliating other Western organisations to BR, I am not wholly intransigent with regard to this possibility, because the work that the Brimsons are carrying out in their respective roles can and does have benefits in some aspects for other organisations. I would even be in favour of letting bygones be bygones with respect to the trust issue and previous behaviour by BR Council IF there could be certain safeguards put into place to ensure that those individuals do not dictate conditions to everyone else without consultation, input and votes from other organisations. These safeguards would include the following:

- Other organisations like WES and AQHA-UK would only AFFILIATE to BR; their members would NOT be members of BR, and their numbers would not be used to inflate the membership numbers of BR, nor would their membership dues be used to fund any programmes initiated and decided only by BR.
- There would be a separate Council that includes a member of every affiliate organisation as well as a BR member; this Council would need to be consulted on each and every issue or action that relates to--or is purported by the BR to be in the interests of--Western in general (rather than just BR/Reining).

Can BR guarantee this? I am not so sure, given the way the UKCC programme has been run, excluding everyone except BR insiders from its conception, planning and operation. Whether or not those running it believe that it is good for everyone else, and whether or not it actually does benefit everyone else in the Western riding world, this does not alter the fact that other organisations should not have to accept whatever the BR wants/does with no voice whatsoever allowed. Those people who says things like "who cares, let the BR run things, I'm not bothered, stop bickering" are the first to moan and complain when things don't go as they like. Whether one agrees with David B or with me or with others who battle for a different outcome, at least we are putting in the time and effort to try to ensure what is beneficial for our sport and for the majority of the participants, and THAT is what this debate is all about.

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by Muffin - 2008/01/02 14:18

Can i add my two penneth. The whole point of this, as I have been told, is about numbers. Yes AQHA.UK members and WES members and WHA members etc will not be members of BR (Unless of course they already are members separately) but the affiliation means that the numbers will be counted together.

For example, AQHA.UK is affiliated to the BHS and so they are already being counted twice with the BHS membership numbers. This is normal practice as just like the western associations, people are in more than one english riding club just the same. The thing is though that BHS will not do anything for western with their funding.

The more BR can swell the number count the more funds will be available. I trust David Brimson will correct me if that is wrong, but I'm pretty sure its correct.

Post edited by: Muffin, at: 2008/01/02 16:01

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/01/02 18:23

Hi Muff – Beeb and all,

In trying to give as much information as possible in my initial posts, they did inevitably become quite lengthy and in turn so did some of the responses. I felt it was becoming a little clogged up with long posts and having a negative effect on peeps that might have just wanted to make the odd comment although equally as valid, so I stood back a little and just let the debate develop. I am delighted with everyone's responses which ever way you think, for this truly is the democratic process which I for one felt was being sidetracked by some councils by not letting their members have either the full facts or opportunity to guide their councils as to the members wishes.

I would just like to give a little clarification on a couple of points.

For Beeb

In terms of any proposed structure:

“Societies do not ‘merge’ nor ‘join’ each other. What this affiliation structure means is that each association sits down together and decides on a code of practice and maps out the format of how they agree to work together. It may only include specific items that are of mutual concern/benefit and will not include the whole of the day-to-day running of your organisation. Each association can negotiate separate and different terms if necessary” etc., etc.....(please go back to my original post for this whole para).

So it is the societies themselves that decide how they want to work alongside each other. This can start small/slow then grow.....or indeed different projects and incentives can find their own level of involvement that suits each individual society with time.

As I see it there will be no “if you want to affiliate this is what you will have to do”.

BR will have specific needs and so will other societies. Deciding how to start will be the first step in working together.

For Muffin.

Yes it is pretty much a numbers game but not necessarily only BR's way, What it will mean is just as you suggest a new total number in respect of the whole of 'BR/Western' in all its forms and the total number of each affiliate member will be counted. So let's say, two major associations affiliated to BR each with 500 members almost certainly at least half the members of each association will belong to the other, so the real total of the two will be nearer 500 and not a 1000. BUT if both affiliate to BR then the number that will be recognised by BEF would be 1000,(al la each seperate total) ADDED to BR's total. This is how the numbers game is played to get more recognition. This recognition goes right up the chain to Sport England and the devolution of funding.....It's a bit like how the government play games with NHS waiting lists...!!

On the funding issue, I must stress that this is not about getting huge chunks of cash into BR. What it does mean, is when funding is allocated to projects and incentives that benefit each BEF member body, the level at which those incentives are funded are based onyep you guessed it, NUMBERS. When we are a greater force, we deserve more financial support for the benefits we need.

.....

I would once more like to emphasise how 'western' has benefited from BR's involvement with the UKCC from within the BEF.

BR along with each BEF member body has been involved in developing this huge new structure. BR only had the requirement to develop a 'Reining' structure and reining alone. It was around the time Pauline B took over, that BR recognised that 'Western' was about to loose out big time. Western riding in all its other forms would not have had and never would ever have had a UKCC system available to it.

Of the thirty one different sports that are involved in the UKCC, ONLY BR has been given the opportunity to develop TWO level three qualifications (which is the advanced qualification) otherwise any non-reining western trainer could only have taken level two.

We now have 'level three reining' and 'level three advanced western' qualifications. BR are the only sport in the whole structure to have achieved this.

We decided that this would be so counter productive to the whole western way of riding that we could not let this happen and this was totally without any of the 'Trust issues' that Beeb has raised.

I personal do not think we could have been more magnamous with our efforts for the whole of western riding. Nobody asked us to be included, nobody paid us, and neither did we hold any other society to ransom with it. We jus did it coz thats what western needed. This is exactly how western can further develop; we just need to work together.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions and wish everyone a great competition year 2008.

DB.

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by RichardA - 2008/01/02 18:56

REINMAN wrote:

It was around the time Pauline B took over, that BR recognised that 'Western' was about to loose out big time. Western riding in all its other forms would not have had and never would ever have had a UKCC system available to it.

David has suffered another lapse of memory!

I decided that there should be a Western Riding Coach UKCC qualification. The UKCC Western Riding Coach level 2 Qualification was written long before Pauline was appointed as BR's Coaching Development Officer. The Level 2 and 3 Reining Coach was also written by that time. I know this as I wrote the original paperwork which may or may not have been modified since then.

Richard

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/01/02 19:25

I think I have got something stuck on my shoe.....??

At the time RA left BR the level two qualification was based on the WES instructors assessment and subsequently considered by BR totally inadequate for purpose.

The syllabus was enhanced and approved by BR's technical verifier, Doug Allen.

At that time there was only ONE level three REINING syllabus and NO level three advanced western.....

This is categoric.

DB

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/01/04 18:11

Hi all,

I am so appreciative of the last few posts, thank you all.

I am not sure I can add anything now that will help the debate. The call has now gone out to go to the Westernscene Poll and vote.....

When the result is clear, it will then be time to go tell your individual councils what 'you the members want them to do on your behalf'

Reinman

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by hobbyhorse - 2008/01/04 19:26

Although I agree that members should be telling what their council what they want, this very rarely happens.

As I see it councils of the associations should be informing their members and debating the issue to be voted on by the members.

If left to the members you will only get division and the debate will go on and on. Some one has to take a lead, or as I said before another year will pass and we will get left behind.

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by rosie - 2008/01/05 09:14

hi all, although hobbyhorse is right to some degree, members can have their say at the AGM each year and its up to the members to go and make their wishes known. come on everyone, lets make 2008 the year to remember when all the western organisations get together and show the english lot we can get on and work together. GO TO AGM'S THIS

YEAR!!!!!!!

Rosie

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by Muffin - 2008/01/05 22:28

Well said Rosie. It really irks me that people complain after a decision is made when they don't let their wishes be know before. You can never please all the people all the time of course but all these people that run the various associations aren't mind readers. Let them know what you think.

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by hunterrookie - 2008/01/05 22:45

All sounds very positive, and it is vital that members of the 'other' western organisations are informed of the process so that they can lobby their chairmen to be involved and ensure that their particular discipline or breed gets a say and has its needs met. Anyone who is a regular on the Western Shop would now have a good grasp of the issues BUT we are a tiny minority. This must be a priority issue for all societies' agms, and for their websites/newsletters.

And of course Freerein can play a part - Tally I will email you asap!!!

One issue has to be image - if I had a pound for everyone who asks "So do you round up cattle then, or have you got guns" I could buy world class horses for the entire British reining team!!!

Can we ensure that the 'non western' industry sees pleasure, trail, halter, and yes, cattle work, AS WELL AS reining somehow?

BTW I'm a huge reining fan - as a spectator. Our horse has a speed limiter fitted, hence we're not members of BR!!!

Post edited by: hunterrookie, at: 2008/01/05 22:47

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by hobbyhorse - 2008/01/05 23:34

Once again the point of all this is being missed, no one is asking people to be members of BR, just their association to affiliate, so we can all recive the benifits from BEF and have a bigger presents in the equine world. In the UK there is 14 clubs and associations representing western, alone you can not be heard but together we can all make a bang and get the regonition we all deserve

Post edited by: hobbyhorse, at: 2008/01/05 23:48

Post edited by: hobbyhorse, at: 2008/01/05 23:48

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/01/11 16:56

Hi all,
Regulars on the forum maybe interested to know that there are now two associations locked into the affiliation process with BR and another is at the serious enquiry stage.

RM.

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/01/14 08:03

FYI:

The official Team GBR website (linked to the BEF site), now carries a picture of one of our top reiners.

<http://www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk/contact.php>

Please also see:

<http://www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk/horse-and-rider.php?id=7>

Post edited by: REINMAN, at: 2008/01/15 09:05

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/02/25 17:53

Has everyone seen the report in 'Horse and Hounds' last thursday regarding the invitation by the BEF to ALL western associations.....

Now is the opportunity to start pressuring your organisations to discuss this issue openly (at AGM's) amongst their members to get a democratic view from you all on this issue.

RM.

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by bonito - 2008/04/03 16:13

I find it odd that as a member of NRHA and AQHA and WES that I am being told that a comparatively new group is the ONLY western group that BEF are interested in talking to !

I know, I'm a bit slow !

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by Roland - 2008/04/03 16:38

:P ;) Hi Bonito sorry you missed this discussion, here goes, I believe Reining is now a FEI discipline so the BEF right or wrong see BR as the logical group to represent western riding. AQHA UK is a breed society WES is a riding club, hope this helps :) Oh and it depends how valuable people think BEF membership is, BR seem keen

to represent all of us.. the alternative

is for ALL groups and clubs to form a western riding federation to join the BEF

and how can I put it, is every one going to pull together???

Post edited by: Roland, at: 2008/04/03 18:08

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/04/03 17:57

Clearly this whole process could have been illustrated quite openly and democratically to all if, for the benefit of their members the organisations involved had sought further information from either the BEF or BR, which none have had the courage to do.....

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by appynospots - 2008/04/03 19:48

In the defence of WES, David Brindley and Roger Wells did contact members about the affiliation offer by BR.

This is old news. The latest WES news has a clear for and against article, including letters and emails from members.

Last Summer the ApHC, AQHA, and WES where invited to talks to discuss a Western Alliance.

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/04/04 00:41

For clarity let me emphasise that this affiliation proposal came from the BEF not BR.

WES stated they would print the 'for' and 'against' responses in the wesnews..!!!!

For the benefit of all members involved, I have probably offered more information on this subject than anybody so far. My contributions were 'editorialised' with sections of negative input right the way through them, I feel that was outrageous and undemocratic. So what you actually got was 'on the one hand we have the reasons why not' and 'on the other hand we have the reasons why not'

If an affiliation proposal is so bad for western, you may want to ask why a senior member of AQHA wrote an eight page document and presented it to WES on all the reasons it was essential that WES gains admission to the BEF.....??

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by rosie - 2008/04/04 07:36

:ohmy: it will be interesting to see what happens at the AQHA.UK AGM tomorrow - will the subject be raised at all at the mtg as it is not on the agenda at all!!!

rosie

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Propo

Posted by Muffin - 2008/04/04 11:54

if no one raises it and you want to discuss it you can raise it under any other business. Perhaps debate by the members instead of the politicians will show what people really want to do.

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/10/02 06:29

An interesting development at BEF recently:

World Horse Welfare (formally ILPH) have had their applicaton for admittance to the BEF blocked because as an organisation they are too simmlar to an organisation that is already a member which is BHS. Both both have responsibilities towards horse welfare.

Regards,

RM.

Sport England Funding

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/12/05 16:56

The British Equestrian Federation today confirmed it's bid for funding from Sport England to be channelled into the member bodies (i.e. British Reining) was confirmed at 17.3 million pounds over the next four years.

Reinman.

Post edited by: REINMAN, at: 2008/12/05 16:57

Re:Sport England Funding

Posted by RichardA - 2008/12/05 17:36

Is it not correct to say that UK SPORT has allocated £13.6 Million for Olympic Sport and £3.7 Million FOR Paralympic Sport? Thus none of this can be allocated to a non-Olympic sport such as Reining.

Richard

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/12/05 18:17

As usual RA is totally out in the wilderness with his 'MISS-infomation'

I can categorically state that over the past nine months or so I have been totally involved in the presentation and negotiation of British Reining's proposals for our portion of this funding. IT IS NOT FOR OLYMPIC DISCIPLINES ONLY. That is categoric.

I hope to soon be able to release a statement regarding EXACTLY what benefits British Reining will benefit from this new funding.

I have an Chief Executive seat on the council at the British Equestrian Federation, and I should know. If anyone doubts my statements call me and I will tell them all about it 'With Facts'

Reiman.

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by rosie - 2008/12/05 21:15

:cheer: :cheer: well done. its great to have such enthusiastic support for reining and western at the BEF.
R

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by RichardA - 2008/12/06 10:06

Reinman, I was quoting from BEF's own Press Release issued to me on 4th December. It starts:-

UK Sport today confirmed funding of £292 million for the London Olympiad from April next year until to March 2013. Equestrian sport will receive £13.6 million for Olympic sport and £3.7 million for Paralympic sport which will be managed

by the British Equestrian Federation's (BEF) World Class Programme.

I suggest that Reinman contacts Anna Greenway at BEF (anna.greenway@bef.co.uk) to inform her that she's wrong!!!!!!

So either BEF and myself are correct or Reiman is correct!

The full Press Release is available on the BEF website.

Richard

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by REINMAN - 2008/12/14 10:00

Sport England Funding:

OK, now I'm back it's time to deal with this.
(this is for the benefit of all those who would like to know what the actual position is).

Firstly I think it is important to explain how a funding grant of ANY size is awarded.
Sport England is the delivery system of Lottery money for all equestrian sports in the UK and is only channeled via the BEF.

Funding is NEVER awarded on the basis of 'Here is a great wad of money to help your sport, spend it how you like'. It is only ever awarded on the basis of the acceptance of a formal, structured proposal by the Federation.

It is this latest proposal that I have been involved with on BR's behalf to create and establish the exact content and benefits that British Reining have pitched for within this new funding. This is EXACTLY how I can state that the Non-Olympic disciplines ARE included within this new funding grant.

I have been to specific meetings purely for the discussion of Non Olympic Disciplines requirements. One of these meetings was also attended by Pauline B with the express interest of getting more financial support for all UKCC courses. So in essence there are two people from within BR who can confirm this funding.

This current funding proposal has been under construction for some considerable time in preparation for the ending of the previous funding contract.

As this is a sport 'England' funding stream, England is the only country in Great Britain that will benefit....!!!?????

Members of ALL western societies might now get a better idea of why I was so keen to get a more joined up western community; it is entirely possible that we could have ALL been included in this funding via affiliation, and that is exactly what BEF wanted, thats why BEF issued the affiliation invitation and not BR.

Scare mongers that suggested that BR only wanted more members to get more money that they would not pass on have now had that comment totally torpedoed by that last 'Funded Clinics' that I/BR have arranged.....Three totally private and commercial western facilities have now received nearly 6000 quid to run very heavily subsidised clinics for new and green as grass riders. These three facilities have a written agreement directly with BEF, they are for all riders and not just BR members.

David Brimson.

=====

Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by RichardA - 2008/12/14 13:35

To help clarify the situation on BEF's funding the following is a quote from their website.

"How the BEF is Funded

Lottery funding, via UK Sport, helps develop elite riders for future success in the four Olympic and Paralympic disciplines of Show Jumping, Dressage, Paralympic Dressage, Eventing.

Additional Lottery funding via Sport England supports our non-Olympic disciplines, riding clubs and organisations in encouraging people to take up equestrian sports, supporting volunteers and helping to develop riding facilities."

The £17.3 million Reinman referred to in his previous posting was UK Sport funding for Olympic & Paralympic disciplines,

not Sport England funding. He is correct in suggesting that most of Sport England funding to the BEF has to be spent in England, similarly funding from SportScotland channelled through the Scottish Equestrian Association is used in Scotland. Wales has its own funding stream and Northern Ireland is not covered by the British Equestrian Federation!

Richard

Post edited by: RichardA, at: 2008/12/14 13:54

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by campbh - 2008/12/14 19:45

Reinman - great to see that funding is coming through for clinics that can be accessed by all Western participants, not just current BR-enrolled reiners, that's great – it provides an answer to one of the earlier fears raised in this thread, and offers fantastic value in this cash-strapped climate.

RichardA - thanks for your audit on information! But gentlemen, forgive me for saying so, but by your sequence of exchanges it does appear as though you are armed with handbags and prepared to fight :unsure: ! Isn't there enough in-fighting already??

To get back on thread, we're truly in a deja vu situation: one year on from when this debate was last blowing up, the Western associations outside of BR appear to have gone quiet on (or have they totally dismissed??) the affiliation issue. Around the time of AGMs, there was a minor fracas and a somewhat disjointed set of 'communications' and 'decisions' on behalf of members by both WES and AQHA.UK - then, a resounding nothing.

Speaking personally, I feel pretty tired whenever I bump into a friend who is also involved with BEF on behalf of another discipline, since I know I will be asked when we Western people are going to join together? Given this repeated experience, I don't think Reinman is painting a one-sided story on this; this is how the Western community is perceived (rightly or wrongly) by BEF, as a series of 'cottage industries' that can't see eye to eye or develop a common vision. As a relative newcomer to the sport, I find that both depressing and frustrating, and as a business person I also know how difficult it is to lobby for change from outside the relevant consortium/supplier framework etc.!! I couldn't care less whether Reining gets all the limelight within BEF as the FEI discipline (I love watching reining, I simply don't feel the urge or capability right now to get into that side of the sport.). What I am happy about is that, via BEF and by great performances in Manerbio and elsewhere internationally, the performance of British reiners is gradually building credibility in UK Western riding as a whole - and surely that's worth supporting on its own? Anything that stops my preferred way of riding being ridiculed and marginalized is good thing by me.

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by Roland - 2008/12/14 19:53

Yes very well put Campbh, and yes hopefully we can all pull together... heres to a great 2009....

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Re:British Equestrian Federation Affiliation Proposal.

Posted by bonito - 2008/12/15 15:51

Well said, if western equitation as a WHOLE gets better press then great. One thing we prefer about the western shows to the "english" show circuit is the friendly atmosphere. :)
Lets not forget "we" did not invent our preferred type of equestrianism, we need to promote IT !

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