

1. Three things I would change :

Firstly, put BE on to a sustainable footing.

It should be possible for a membership run organisation to enhance the membership benefits and be more attractive to its members. If this is not enough to keep BE viable then look for patrons to support this successfully proven, internationally renowned sport. Instead of the bottom of the membership supporting the top, the top should be encouraging the lower levels, with some sort of financial support.

Secondly, divide BE up regionally.

This would make it easier to keep abreast of costs, local officials could report what is working well and where help is needed to encourage more members in their area.

Thirdly, my particular interest is in formalising teaching at the lower levels. I can't do that without BE!

Over the years BE has done a really good job in protecting the horse and promoting training. I think that, possibly because lack of finance, the teaching is now taking a back seat and needs a revamp. Having watched a number of videos, stable management also needs the same. However, should BE be taking this on, or should teaching and training run under a different flag?

I would go as far as to make 70/80s put their trainer details on their entry form then if there is a problem their trainer could be contacted, and the problem discussed.

2. BE should stipulate that if these competitions are run under BE rules a fee should be charged. This should also be the case if the cross country has been passed by BE.

If a deal with the venues could be reached this could be a solution but it all depends on what the unaffiliated events are getting out of it. The best way would be to ensure all competitions are run under BE rules and come under one umbrella for the welfare of the horse and the safety of the rider but this is unlikely to be possible.

3. The biggest issues facing BE are a lack of members' confidence, and transparency.

4. Possibly the inclusion of a registered list of producers who would gain points for an annual purse. These horses could enter a prize fund, rather like that of the breeders of racehorses, when winning big and international competitions for the producers.

5. The Rider Working Groups are a vital part of our sport, and I would like a working paper from them recognising the importance of horse welfare. Horses are too fat, unfit and lacking training in all phases. Competitions are the opportunity for BE to perform well internationally, but funding this is costly. I do think that the more horse sport comes under scrutiny the more we should be ahead of the game. I don't want to see unfit horses socked in the teeth, ridden by overweight unfit riders out of balance. That's just the dressage! I know the show jumping is the same and I have seen it cross country. There are many lovely riders with fit horses and I'm happy to give out 8s and 9s, but there are too many of the others.

Just as we have put our house in order in the upper levels, so it should be lower down. If William F-P is asking us to look at our basic riding position, we must follow his and Lucinda's lead.

I'm not a household name, I have never won any important competitions, but I have taught many riders and horses who have gone on to success. I am possibly the most experienced teacher, trainer and coach, having apprenticed with Lady Hugh Russell in cross country, show jumped with Richard Stillwell and Iris Kellett, learned dressage with Herr Rockowansky, Jennie Loriston-Clarke and latterly Ulla Salzgerber. I have learned from these knowledgeable teachers and try to instil my knowledge from them in my students. Some of the problem is that equestrianism is treated as a leisure sport so doesn't need the same level of commitment as other sports. I would not have devoted my entire working life of over half a century to something that can be 'picked up' in five minutes. Not many want to commit as I have done but they must at least be prepared to learn the basics.

I hope this has gone some way into answering your questions, please let me know if you need more information.

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