

Do you know the History of The British Riding Clubs (BRC) Movement and The British Horse Society (BHS)?



Well, until very recently I wasn't aware of much of the detail so I thought that you too may be interested in refreshing your memory or learning some of the information that I've picked up (extracts courtesy of Wikipedia and BHS website)....

Firstly though, I'd like to thank all our HRRC members who supported my nomination to become a voluntary Trustee of the BHS. I'm delighted to report that I have been elected to the Board of Trustees and feel truly privileged to play such a role in supporting our British Equestrianism.

### British Riding Clubs

The British Riding Clubs (BRC) movement became affiliated to The British Horse Society over fifty years ago, when several riding clubs from South East England (was HRRC one of these?) approached the BHS with the idea of providing a scheme where riding clubs could become affiliated to the BHS, while remaining relatively autonomous, running their own affairs. Since then, the numbers have grown considerably, with more than 440 affiliated clubs, over 50 affiliated riding centres, and over 34,000 members, each coming within one of 23 administrative areas. Each riding club's membership is open to everyone, from leisure riders to competitors.

The aims of BRC are to help people to ride by providing support and encouragement to amateur riders of all levels – from dedicated competitors to happy hackers and also to compete and train together at national competitions, training and social events. BRC areas organise a wide range of competitive, social and educational activities for their members, with championships held at some of Britain's most prestigious events, such as the Royal Windsor Horse Show and the Royal International Horse Show and the London International Horse Show (Olympia).

### [Training and BRC Competitions](#)



Local clubs arrange competitions for all levels throughout the year and in addition, BRC run six Championships per year as well as classes at some of the biggest equestrian events in the UK.

Designed to help you get the most from your experience with horses, there are many different training opportunities open to all senior and junior members.

Compete – Here are the Six Championships that run each year (with dates and venues to help your planning for the 2017/18 season)

[Novice Winter Championships](#) - 14-15 April 2018



at Arena UK, Allington Lane, Allington, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 2EF

Looking for a goal for the darker months? Sponsored by KBIS, we've got dressage and show jumping championships and qualifiers for you to aim for.

[Intermediate Winter Championships](#) - 27-29 April 2018



at Bury Farm Equestrian Village, Bedfordshire

Looking for a bigger goal for the darker months? We've got a new Intermediate Winter Championships for you to aim for in dressage and show jumping, sponsored by Equi-Thème.

[BRC Festival of the Horse](#) - 19-20 May 2018



at Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls, Northamptonshire NN11 6RT

Sponsored by Horslyx, this Championship features combined training, show jumping and cross country as well as showing classes.

[Horse Trials Championships](#) - 27-29 July 2018



at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian, Grange Farm, Banbury, Oxon OX15 5EX

Sponsored by NAF, this Championship hosts five classes for junior and senior teams and individuals.

## [National Championships](#) - 1-2 September 2018



at Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 2NA

The National Championships, sponsored by NAF, are held in September with Dressage, Riding Test, Show Jumping and Style Jumping classes.

## [Dressage to Music Championships and Quadrille Selection Trials](#) - Date (October) and Venue for 2018 awaited



The Dressage to Music and Quadrille selection trials are held at the end of September and are great fun to get involved in.

I was amazed to learn that, although the BHS is the overall owner and guardian of British Riding Clubs, only a third of BRC members are also BHS members. I wonder why? Here's some BHS data:-

The British Horse Society (BHS) is a membership-based equine charity with a stated vision of "a Society which provides a strong voice for horses and people and which spreads awareness through support, training and education". It currently has almost 100,000 members, with a further 34,000 members affiliated through a British Riding Club, making it the largest equine membership organisation in the UK. It is one of the 19 organisations which form part of the British Equestrian Federation.

### History

The BHS was founded in 1947 in the amalgamation of two organisations - the Institute of the Horse and Pony Club, and the National Horse Association of Great Britain. Mary Colvin was its first president.

Here's how the BHS describes their purpose:

We want a world where every horse is properly protected and cared for and we want to ensure horse owners and riders get more from their relationship with horses.

We represent the interests of the 3.5 million people in the UK who ride or who drive horse-drawn vehicles. With over 99,900 core BHS members, 34,000 members of affiliated Riding Clubs and the members of Affiliated Bridleways Associations, we have a powerful voice with Government.

We work tirelessly for every horse, rider and carriage driver, focusing on horse welfare, horse and rider safety, access and rights of way, qualifications and careers, and working with the proprietors of riding schools, livery yards and trekking centres to maintain the highest standards. We also work in partnership with many other organisations, not least the British Equestrian Federation, to promote the interests of all those who participate in equestrian activities.

As a charity, the BHS relies on people like us to participate, donate and volunteer in their many activities in order to fulfil their purpose which is ultimately our own pastime and passion! Don't forget also that BHS Gold Membership also provides that all important Third Party Liability Insurance in case of accident or injury when you're not at a Riding Club event or have your horse(s) insured separately.

I hope you feel inspired to participate in HRRC and BHS activities throughout the Autumn and Winter months.

Jane Domhill

September 2017

PS Toyhorse Prince Dillon, now 25, has qualified for the SSADL Championship Finals at Olympia on Friday 15 December at approx. 9.00am. The first round qualifiers were well supported at the HRRC Summer Show so if you want to see what you could be doing with



your 'oldie' next year do come along.