

HORSE TRIALS SUPPORT GROUP

Backing Britain's Three-Day Event Teams



Newsletter, March 2009

www.htsg.co.uk

Dear HTSG Member

After 30 years in existence, the Committee of the Horse Trials Support Group felt it was high time we had a patron. I am, therefore, delighted to announce that Zara Phillips, the reigning World Champion and European gold medallist, has kindly agreed to be our Patron, to raise our profile and to front our cause as we go forward fundraising towards the 2012 Olympics and beyond. We are very grateful to Zara for agreeing to this when she has so many other demands on her time.

In this year of economic uncertainty, I believe the HTSG's contribution to the sport, and to supporting our British teams, will be of even greater importance and I am pleased that so many members have renewed their subscriptions this season. New members are welcome at any time, including in time for Badminton, and should contact our Membership Secretary, Jan Martin (address below).

GREENWICH VISIT

With Hong Kong now behind us, huge interest and curiosity now centres on Greenwich, the venue for the 2012 equestrian Olympic competitions. Tim Hadaway, LOCOG's Equestrian Competition Manager, has kindly invited a group of HTSG members to have a look around the site on Thursday, April 16. This is a great privilege and an opportunity for members to get a first preview of how the equestrian competitions will be laid out at Greenwich and the direction of the cross-country track. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this generous invitation, should telephone or email Rosemary Barlow to confirm their place (tel: 07802 700306; rosie.barlow1@btinternet.com).

The plan is to meet between 10.30 and 11am in the Regatta Café at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. The best way to Greenwich is via the Docklands Light Railway to Greenwich Cutty Sark Station or by overland train to Greenwich or Blackheath. The group will return to the Café at about 1pm where members can buy lunch if they wish.

BADMINTON

Enclosed with this newsletter is an order form for guest wristlets to the HTSG tent at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials (May 7-10), plus information on lunches. Please return the form to Margie Gibb, as instructed (not Rosemary this time) and before April 21. By this time you should also have ordered your HTSG season car pass, plus any other tickets required, from the Badminton box office (tel: 01454 218375; www.badminton-horse.co.uk).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A few subscriptions are outstanding (there will be a slip enclosed with this newsletter if we have not received your 2009 subscription, explaining how much you need to pay). If you feel able to support the HTSG this year and, indeed, if you want to make use of the HTSG tent at Badminton, please send in your cheque as soon as possible to our Membership Secretary: **Jan Martin, 1 Field View Cottages, The Green, Oaksey, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9TP (tel: 01666 575304)**.

You can also pay via Internet Banking – account details overleaf.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (contd)

If you would prefer to pay via Internet Banking, please use the following details:

Account name: Horse Trials Support Group
Sort code: 40-24-17
Account no: 61892266
Reference: Please enter your initials and surname, so that we can identify you

TEAM TRAINING DAY

HTSG members are, as usual, invited to watch the Senior Team in training for the European Championships. Details of the day, which will be during July 20-23, will follow in a later newsletter.

BURGHLEY

The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials are on September 3-6 and, once again, Burghley will be writing to HTSG members in the near future with booking forms. HTSG members are entitled to a free pair of members' season tickets and one car pass. The Box Office opens on May 1.

BLenheim

The Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials are on September 10-13. The event has kindly organised a special offer for HTSG members which is enclosed with this newsletter. The Box Office is open now (see form).

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The HTSG is supporting a trip organised by Ultimate Travel to the European Championships at Fontainebleau, France, on September 24-27, where Great Britain will be attempting to win a record eighth successive team gold medal. As ever, the International Supporters' Pavilion is a matter of strenuous negotiation! However, there will be such a facility, which will be ringside and organised by Rosemary Barlow, and details of prices and tickets will be sent to HTSG members after Badminton. In the meantime, anyone interested in going on the escorted trip should contact Richard Appleby-Brown at Ultimate Travel on 0207 386 4646 or visit www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk.

THE FUTURE

Our new-look Committee is working hard on new initiatives to provide extra fun for members, as well as benefiting the sport, which we believe may be more important now than at any other time in our 30 years of existence.

In the meantime, I wish you all a happy season and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Badminton.



TIM HOLDERNESS-RODDAM
Chairman