



HORSE TRIALS SUPPORT GROUP



2016 Round Up and Farewells

British event riders finished 2016 on a high with a brilliant win in the Nations Cup finale at Boekelo, Oliver Townend's magnificent lifting of the inaugural Event Rider Masters series and great performances at Pau by Alexander Bragg, Nicola Wilson and the legendary Tina Cook, who has been wonderfully consistent at four-star level all year.



The great disappointment, though, was the failure to win a medal of any colour at the Rio Olympics where, on the one day of 2016 that mattered – cross-country day - nothing went right for the British team; this was particularly sad for a nation which has won most of its medals on the back of feisty, committed cross-country riding.

It was a particularly undeserved ending to Yogi Breisner's 17-year tenure as national coach: no other nation has been able to boast such an uninterrupted run of senior

medals, which have included Olympic individual gold, three team silvers and double bronze, two World golds (team and individual), two team silvers and two individual silvers as well as five European team golds and three individual golds, plus numerous other medals.

We have been lucky to enjoy Yogi's wisdom and planning skills for nearly two decades, but he leaves on an upbeat note, advising that British fortunes should be on an upward curve with a new wave of promising horses and even more promising riders. He also warns, however, that British teams could be in for an expensive time, with a longer-than-usual journey to the 2017 senior Europeans, in Poland, the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and the prospect of reduced Lottery funding as other sports such as triathlon capture public imagination and command a greater share of Government money.

The one shining light is the prospect of Christopher Bartle as British team trainer. Chris is not only one of the best all-round horsemen Britain has ever produced, but he is an inspirational and tactical coach who can get into riders' minds and get the best out of them. We are so lucky that timing has turned out right. The British Equestrian Federation and British Eventing also recently announced the appointment of Richard Waygood MBE into the position of World Class Eventing Performance Manager as we embark on the exciting journey through the next Olympic cycle.

In other good news, our Junior team won team bronze in Montelibretti and the Pony team silver in Vilhelmsborg. The HTSG spent the £1,000 legacy from long-time member John Huntridge on two £500 prizes, for the best British rider aged 25 and under, at Barbury and Gatcombe (British Open). These were won by two talented young men, David Doel and Sam Ecroyd, who finished the season as the best British rider aged 21 and under and who was in the running for a saddle presented by the

Worshipful Company of Saddlers to the most promising young rider of 2016 as voted on by the British Equestrian Writers Association.

Finally, 2016 will go down as the year that the legendary Rosemary Barlow finally hung up her boots, after an association with the HTSG that goes back to the year of its formation in 1978 – Rosemary was one of the original group of people asked to give money to set the Support Group up to help give British riders the best chance at overseas championships, since when more than £2 million has been raised.

Thanks and Farewell

Rosemary has been a committee member on and off since the early 1980s, is well known to all of you for her indefatigable running of supporters' tents in far-flung and sometimes inhospitable venues, from Los Angeles to Prato del Vivaro via Stockholm, The Hague, Atlanta, Athens and London and many others, and she has been an inspirational and energetic chairman since 2011.

Committee members Kate Green, who has been Hon Sec since 1993, Yogi Breisner, Peter Durrant and Nicky Salmon also step down this year, and we thank them for their loyalty and hard work.

The efforts of the Horse Trials Support Group have never been more crucial and the new committee undertakes to do their very best to preserve the spirit of the organisation as well as to contribute towards the future success of British teams. We look forward to seeing you all again for another exciting season in 2017.

New committee

As a result of the committee elections this autumn, Margie Gibb, who has been re-elected, will take over as Hon Secretary.

The other two elected committee members, Spencer Sturmey and Fi Boughton, will join Karen Bartlett (Hon Treasurer) and Jan Martin (Membership Secretary) plus Jane Hamilton (co-opted). The committee are delighted to announce that Ginny Elliot has been appointed as our new Chairman. Ginny brings a wealth of experience as a rider, owner, coach and a previous HTSG scholar. At the time of writing, we are waiting to confirm the World Class/British Eventing representation.

HTSG Scholars

Some of you may have seen on social media that the HTSG is offering an exciting funding opportunity to British riders through a scholarship to assist with training, travel etc. We have invited riders who are not receiving funding from any formal organisation to apply and applications will be assessed by a panel at the end of January.



HORSE TRIALS SUPPORT GROUP



European Championships 2017

Zip Travel will be running a trip to the FEI European Championships at Strzegom in Poland (August 17-20) – see enclosed leaflet. This is an up-and-coming venue with a great atmosphere, run by Marcin Konarski, who has great ambition and energy, and is in beautiful rural countryside about 45 minutes' drive from Wroclaw.

It's great that we have a senior championship back in Poland for the first time since Bialy Bor in 1986 and it should be a fascinating trip. It's not, however, the easiest place to get to, so it's definitely worth thinking about joining this escorted trip and letting the organisers take the strain of organising transport and hotels.

Zip Travel has kindly agreed to extend the deadline for the "early bird" tour costs to 31 January 2017.

Despite retiring from the HTSG committee, Rosemary Barlow has been persuaded by the event organisers to run the International Supporters' Pavilion (ISP) for the final time in Strzegom. Information about the ISP is included in the enclosed leaflet and it can either be booked through the event if you are planning to travel independently (booking form enclosed), or as an add-on to the Zip Travel package.



Photographs supplied by: Fiona Scott-Maxwell



Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials 4 – 7 May 2017

The box office is now open, and members will receive an email with log in details to apply for your car pass. Please do not request your car pass from the box office until your 2017 subscription has been paid in full.

Details regarding the HTSG marquee, guest wristbands and catering will be sent to members in February.

Communication with Members

As costs for printing and postage are ever increasing, we would like to communicate with our members electronically as much as we are able, and will be sending future newsletters/ information via email.

This will also enable us to communicate more regularly and keep members updated in a more timely manner.

To ensure that we have correct details recorded for you, please send an email to mgibb@live.co.uk and htsgmembership@hotmail.com titled HTSG.

If you would prefer NOT to receive your communication electronically then please return the enclosed slip.

With best wishes for a very happy, healthy and successful 2017.

Subscriptions

Subscription rates for 2017 will remain at **£225 (single) and £275 (joint)**, and are due by **31 January 2017**. The subscription rates have not increased for six years, and the new committee will be carrying out a review of rates and different membership options during the beginning of 2017.

If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to Horse Trials Support Group and send it to:

HTSG Membership Secretary,
**Miss Jan Martin, 1 Field View Cottages,
The Green, Oaksey, Malmesbury,
Wiltshire SN16 9TP
Telephone: 01666 575304
or Email: htsgmembership@hotmail.com**

If you would like to pay online, the details are:

A/C name: Horse Trials Support Group
Sort Code: 40-24-17
Account no: 61892266

Important notice: Please enter your initials and surname so we know who it is that's paid.

January 2017