

## **Report from the Competitions Advisory Group meeting September 30<sup>th</sup> held at Stoneleigh**

As the representative for the Southwest, I attended this meeting and will attempt to document the main subjects discussed, along with proposed changes. These will be published on the BHS website in due course but I am keen to let everyone know immediately because some of the changes are far reaching. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions [underhillsue@yahoo.com](mailto:underhillsue@yahoo.com)

- There is a proposal for the appointment of new Chefs D'Equipe for the Junior and Senior GB TREC teams. Applications must be in by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Info to be posted on the BHS website. Sue Underhill has a copy and can email it to any interested persons.
- The BHS are planning a TREC slot at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May 2009. This will take the form of TREC riders competing in COP/PTV against top riders from all the main disciplines.
- Championships 2009: From 2009 there will be only one championship run by the BHS; the GB championship. It will take place in Scotland in 2009 and thereafter move to Wales and England in turn. Qualification will be required for the GB championship. The proposed date for the championship is August 21-23rd, 2009.
- Regional Qualifying competitions will be held where competitors will need to place 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> at their chosen level in order to compete at the championship. Additionally, they may have completed all phases at a championship within the last two years at their chosen level in order to enter.
- Qualifying competitions for the championships must be run according to the BHS TREC rulebook and include at least two levels, one of which MUST be a Level Three or Four.
- Organisers will be encouraged to run Level Three events that will encourage competitors to move up from Level Two; these should have specific information provided about the route length in particular to encourage riders.
- There will be league results published for the 2008 TREC League. Awards will be given at a dinner to be held in the middle of the country; provisional date, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009. There will be no cost for the League this year or in the future.
- On the same day as the awards dinner there will be a TREC forum held at which there will be various workshops, to include an organisers workshop. Riding clubs, pony clubs and any equestrian centres or other interested parties will be invited to attend.
- Specific rules for the league in the future are being considered urgently by the Competitions Advisory Group and are likely to include rules to place a handicap on those riders who consistently win at one level. Competitors may be asked to carry a qualification/record card that is signed at events attended as in other disciplines. An authenticated distance award for personal achievement is being considered.
- The new 2009 Rule Book with proposed changes and additions was discussed; queries and suggestions from comments submitted by Jane Chivers' group were discussed and will be detailed in a separate report.
- The issue of vetting and competitors' behaviour at championships was discussed. There will in future be guidelines on competitors' behaviour and consequences of abusive behaviour at events included in the TREC Rulebook and schedules.
- The BHS is to investigate allowing riders to compete unassisted at TREC at a younger age. In France Young Riders can compete in TREC at 14. Endurance GB is now aligned with the Pony club as a recognised sport, and the same must happen with TREC. In the EGB rulebook it states that riders under 13 shall be supervised. This is encouraging, but the final outcome rests upon the insurance cover and advice re child safety issues.