

British Eventing AGM 2021 Pre-Submitted Questions

INTRODUCTION

Ahead of the British Eventing AGM, 24th November 2021, please find below answers to questions submitted in advance.

AGM pre-submitted questions

Participation

Name	Question	Answer
Simon Blake	Given that nothing can happen without volunteers, and the challenges of requiring people to volunteer as part of our membership, how can we create a culture within BE where we are all expected to volunteer at least once or twice a year?	No event can run without volunteers, as we all know. Sadly Covid had a big impact on resource within BE, including progressing the Volunteer strategy. But, going forward in the 'off season' we are now reviewing that strategy, aiming to deliver this in 2022. What is crucial however is that BE delivers a strategy that works for both the volunteers AND the organisers. Regarding the Volunteer Working Group please see further below.
Dave Thompson	What action is planned to reduce the flow of members from British Eventing to Unaffiliated competition?	New Level I membership at BE80 & BE90 level which is significantly cheaper for 2022 (26% cheaper for existing members & 33% cheaper for new BE members), along with a new PAYG system. Key objective is to grow the membership significantly in 2022 and provide greater incentive for grassroots members to compete in BE, rather than unregulated market. New BE80 National Championships at Bramham for 2022, along with BE90 & BE100 National Championships at Badminton will certainly help draw members to BE (obviously Badminton has not happened in

		<p>2020 or 2021, so significant loss to GR market).</p> <p>Listening to membership feedback re Area Festivals and simplifying the pathway to National Champs & getting Area Festivals at a better time in the season.</p> <p>New regional leagues being investigated for grassroots members to encourage them to chase points and stay within BE umbrella.</p> <p>We are looking at ways to enable a more level playing field i.e. getting entry fees further in line with the unregulated market.</p>
Lisa Phillips	When is the Volunteer Working Group going to commence. It is in crisis and action is required.	We are highly conscious the Volunteer Working Group has not progressed as planned. This was again, due to a Covid, furlough and no staff resource during the season. However, we are aiming to re-start the process soon alongside the review of the Volunteer Strategy. Obviously, the Working Group needs to have clear purpose to achieve the goals set out in the strategy.
Christopher Jenkin	Have BE discussed recently with other sport-horse bodies (BS, BD etc.) the huge savings in admin and IT costs and time for all of us if there was one common platform that we could all access for all memberships. sport options, horse registrations, result recording etc.etc.? It could be entirely independent since such a facility would not require any equestrian expertise or perhaps it could be managed under the auspices of the BEF.....	The principles of shared services are discussed regularly with the BEF and the other Olympic disciplines. We do collaborate in some areas however we are yet to find a platform which works for the needs of all organisations, but that is not to say that it will not happen in the future.
Helen White	Eventing in the UK is becoming an increasingly disjointed sport with differing objectives. How can we unite the different markets from unaffiliated to elite to the benefit of the long term progression of the sport?	There are so many differing aims and aspirations within the sport and I honestly do not believe that you will ever be able to align them completely. One of the things that really struck me when I was out and about at different events around the country in August, was just how few grassroots members, for example, actually aim for the

		<p>National Championships at Badminton. There is a huge proportion of this membership that just want to have a nice day and compete at events that are safe.</p> <p>The BE Gold standard and hallmark of quality is something that I would like all markets to benefit from and this is something that absolutely does unite all levels within the sport.</p> <p>I think it is essential that we listen to the membership and provide the pathways to suit a wide variety of people's aspirations. This applies from grassroots to elite sport.</p> <p>The sport has shrunk, and my plan is to grow it. Change brings opportunity, and I believe there are so many ways we can unite for the good of the sport. Working more closely with the Pony Club & British Riding Clubs is a first step forward.</p>
Katie Bleloch	What initiatives are being discussed/implemented to encourage and reward amateur riders who are competing at Intermediate and above?	Following the successful pilot of the Novice Masters, the Intermediate Masters will be piloted in 2022 that is aimed at riders competing at Intermediate level. This is another concept put forward by the RWG which runs along similar lines to the Novice Masters did in 2021 but at Open Intermediate level. The venues for these new classes will be announced soon and we hope that this will provide a competition for riders at that level to aim for.

Finance

Name	Question	Answer
Sarah Franklin	What is the five year / ten year plan for British Eventing and how is it to be financed?	The new strategy is being finalised but some of the key aims include: - attracting the grassroots riders back from the unregulated events, increasing competing membership numbers back to 2019 by offering cheaper memberships at the lower levels; rebuilding both our

		cash and capital reserves; maintaining high standards balanced against value for money entry fees
Simon Martin	There are many rumours about the way BE is funded and spends funds. Please can we have more transparent accounts ?	The last 9 pages of the annual report and financial statements include full details of income and expenditure. If there is specific information which members would like added to those pages, we can certainly consider any requests to do so.
Teresa Cresswell	<p>A new charge (2021) was made of 27.00 per horse rider combination for youth riders to enable them to compete in youth age classes. How much income was raised in 2021 ?</p> <p>As BE did not send any youth teams to the Europeans in 2021 However Frickley did run the youth championships could you advise on the total amount of money spent from this extra charge ?</p> <p>Who has been paid and how much and for what service ? Break down of all expenditure required please. How much money is left in this pot ? Did BE provide any other money to support youth eventing IE standard budget ? for example what money was set aside for youth eventing in 2018 ? was this matched in 2021 ? If not why not ? What was the savings made by not sending any youth teams to the Europeans ?</p> <p>Many Thanks</p>	<p>Total income raised was £50,382.</p> <p>The cost associated with supporting the Regional Youth Programme and Youth championships at Bishop Burton is budgeted at £72,800, the majority of which has been spent against invoices and expenses received to date.</p> <p>In addition, we have subsidised some development activities for the youth teams and ponies who were unable to travel to the Europeans.</p> <p>50% of the annual retainer was paid to Vets and the Youth Performance Manager is paid an annual retainer. All these costs are forecast to total around £40K</p> <p>The funding provided in 2018 totalled slightly over £160K for both the Regional Programme and the Youth Performance Teams. The original budget this year for both totalled £150K</p>

Sport (Rules and Covid-19 Protocols)

Name	Question	Answer
Nic Bevan	Any chance of going back to the previous regional final system for Grassroots comps? By having more qualifying dates it provided greater opportunity for combinations to attempt to qualify in the event of a	The Area Festivals were launched in 2021 and following much feedback we acknowledge that the time of year and consequent pathway needs adjusting, along with greater

	<p>problem eg illness or lameness and by spreading the RFs around the country competitors were not advantaged or disadvantaged by the distance they had to travel to venues. It was disappointing to see that downgraded horses are allowed to qualify, , how long before a horse that has won or competed at the main Badminton competition wins at the Grassroots comp? I think this alone puts people off as it discourages grassroots riders on genuine grassroots horses in favour of grassroots riders that can afford an ex 5* horse. No riding club competitor is going to be enticed to BE unless they have a shot at the championships and these rules appear to put any qualification way out of their reach.</p>	<p>geographical spread. The organisers of the Area Festivals committed to run them for 3yrs so going back to historic RFs is not an option at this point in time.</p> <p>The Scottish Championships & BE90 & BE100 3DE at Bicton in October both provide direct qualification to Badminton. In 2023 we plan on introducing a 5th Area Festival once the organisers of the existing Area Festivals have run in 2022 with the numbers they need to provide greater event viability. The Area Festivals will be permitted to run with national classes in 2022, so this will aid viability considerably.</p> <p>New regional leagues are being investigated for 2022 for grassroots members to encourage them to chase points and stay within the BE umbrella. There will also be Area Championships at the Area Festivals should members not wish to pursue the National Qualifier route to the National Champs at Badminton.</p>
Olivia McCullough	<p>Are there any plans for a National Championship at BE90 Open and BE100 Open in 2022? Thanks!</p>	<p>In 2022 I'm afraid not as quota for Badminton has already been reached. Moving forward it is something we can definitely look into, although if you look at Nic Bevan's submitted question, it suggests this would not be a popular move!</p>
Andrew Spalding	<p>Now that we have a very efficient scoring system through Eventing scores is there any possibility that horses that have been retired on cross country through no fault of their own, i.e when a rider misses a fence , can be marked as technically eliminated, as more and more people look into horses records.</p>	<p>Currently, if you do not finish the competition, some information is displayed on your results on Eventing Scores:</p> <p>W means they chose to Withdraw before starting that phase</p> <p>R means they chose to Retire after starting that phase</p> <p>E means they were Eliminated during that phase, using various codes:</p>

		<p>E AR means Accumulated Refusals (at different fences) E R3 means Three Refusals at one fence E RF means Rider Fall E HF means Horse Fall E TH means Trapped Horse E E means any other reason, the most common of which is Error of Course.</p> <p>The reason we removed the use of TE is because riders took advantage of the elimination code in order to avoid a true E. There is concern that reintroducing this code would see this behaviour return, along with pressure for E's to be recorded as TE's as it looks better on the horse's record.</p> <p>More information could be provided about what happened on the XC course so that you can see all the penalties accrued e.g. 20@1, 60@2, R@2. This provides more granularity than a catch-all Technical Elimination.</p> <p>At the moment, the BE website does not display it and the results only stay on ES for 48hrs, therefore it would be visible on ES for those 2 days. It is always visible on ES when you search for the horse/rider, and there is the potential to change the BE website to display this information should it be deemed necessary.</p>
Rosemary Penn	How can we reflect prize money in our entry fees to be at least equal or more than the entry fee?	Sport Committee have recently passed a new prize money calculator which will ensure that first prize is, as a minimum, always equal to entry fee less VAT plus start fee less VAT.
Melissa Ann Seddon	I am a regular BE volunteer, mostly as a cross country fence judge but occasionally in other roles. In previous years I have purchased a copy of the	We do understand that a printed copy of the BE rulebook is very useful for volunteers and others

	Members' Handbook and Rulebook as it is very useful to have, but this year copies were not on sale. As BE gets copies printed for the members who request one, would it be possible to get a small number of extra copies of next year's handbook made so that you do have some for sale? Alternatively, would it be possible for supporter members to opt to pay an additional fee in order to receive a copy? I do not ride or own a horse, so I don't need one of the more expensive categories of membership. I know that the handbook is available online, but there is often no signal at event venues, and it is quicker to flick through a physical book than it is to scroll through an online document.	involved within the sport. In 2021, as you rightly say, we only produced printed copies for those members who requested a copy however in 2022 it is our intention that a printed copy of BE Rulebook will be available for purchase online.
Ottilie Salwey	Is BE Able to arrange any fei pony measurement days in the Uk for 2022?	We are pleased to confirm that there will be dates in the new year for FEI Pony Measurement days at the BS Training Centre at Home Farm. These will be released shortly.

Sport (Fixtures)

Name	Question	Answer
Jo Milnes	How could the schedule be altered so that events don't clash as much particularly in the North where competitors will travel much further than in the South ie - the last weekend in July this year there were 7 BE events across the country but events such as the Youth Championships, Grassroots Championship at Cholmondley and large events such as Burgham with Frickley thrown into the Northern mix all on 1 weekend - no wonder events get low entries as lower level or amateur riders can only afford so many events!	We try to balance and spread events out as best we can across all regions, however we are often constrained but other calendar pressures on estates and venues, such as farming practices, other events, access to volunteers and in the case of youth classes holidays. It is worth noting that the 90&100 Champs are not normally in July (at Badminton in May) and the calendar has been erratic for the 2020 and 2021 seasons due to the pressures and restrictions of C19. We are aware we have some weekends which are busier than others due to all the reasons mentioned and we strive to balance the calendar as and where we can
Douglas Weymouth	how will BE protect peripheral events from disappearing out of the calendar	With the huge membership drive BE are doing to incentivise

	<p>as membership declines and the international wish more days and more national classes?</p>	<p>members in at grassroots levels, we would hope to see a significant increase which will in turn provide more entries for organisers. The automatic additional day mechanism has been removed for 2022 so with an increase in membership we would hope to see entries filtering out which will help the peripheral events.</p>
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