

Tracy Ormrod

Para Director candidate

Proposed by Emile Faurie and Jennie Loriston-Clarke

I have always believed that our sport needs to be accessible to all, whatever your background, ethnicity, gender, ability or disability. Accessibility in its widest sense is even more fundamental when looking at the needs of para riders and helping them on their journey.

People should have the opportunity to progress and develop their skills within an inclusive sport framework.

To help people, if I was elected, I would initially like to focus on:

- Communication
- Connection
- Community

It is important that we **communicate** effectively to members, para reps, organisers and with external organisations such as the Riding for the Disabled and other potential collaborators.

During the pandemic, we have seen how important it is to be able to use many different channels to talk to each other. Sometimes location and disability can leave members isolated from training opportunities so technology as well as traditional methods need to be bolstered to aid communication.

From the moment you realise that maybe you are a classifiable para rider, it should be clear what the path to grading and registering is. Riders need to be able to **connect** with the organisation in an easy to understand and transparent way. Support needs to be available in the form of online help, information packs and mentors who can guide riders through the process. It can be quite bewildering to be dealing with an illness, disease or disability and also to be trying to understand the system. This can become a barrier to taking that first step and joining our para community.

The existing Bronze, Silver and Gold structure is still in its infancy for paras and the Summer and Winter Championships would not be something that I would change. Getting to the championships needs to be celebrated and the new Freestyle tests for Bronze and Silver are something that I would like to see become an important part of the championship structure.

We have always been a strong nation in para dressage and I would like to see that continue. However, we need to look at other para equestrian sports and bring people together to share knowledge. By looking at ways we can improve we can encourage more people to join our para community.



At local and regional level we also need to learn from each other by looking at best practice within the regions and establish a level playing field of training opportunities across the country. I would like to help and support para reps in establishing interesting and viable training opportunities to build the para **community** in their area.

Although the para world is my 'specialist subject', my business background is as a business analyst and project manager of large-scale software development projects. As a rider myself and a member of British Dressage since I was 12, I have seen the changes as the sport has grown significantly over the years. I am keen that the needs and voice of grass roots members are addressed at Board level. It can be hard to juggle the needs of so many members when as a board member we have to take difficult decisions. But I feel with my background that I have both the analytical thinking and passion to represent members and their horses with integrity and commitment.