



Area Festivals

The Petplan Equine Area Festivals were introduced in 1999 to give grassroots riders the opportunity to perform in true championship conditions at leading venues across Britain. Since then they have gone from strength to strength and in 2017 Area Festivals have stepped it up a notch to become even bigger and better in a new three-part format!

27 Area Festivals will take place in 2017 from which qualification for eight Area Festival Finals can be achieved. The top horse and rider combinations from the Finals will then go on to compete in the Area Festival Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire in April 2018. Also new for this year, special Under 18 sections from Prelim to Medium to encourage young riders to get involved and give them their moment in the spotlight!

Registration

At all levels, with the exception of Preliminary Bronze, horse and rider will need full membership with British Dressage to qualify and then take part in any of the three rounds. At Preliminary Bronze, you can join British Dressage as a Club member, for only £30, and take part in Prelim Bronze classes to gain your qualifying scores and then pay the difference to upgrade you and your horse as fully registered to compete at the Area Festival.

How to qualify for an Area Festival

To be part of the glitz and glamour of these prestigious shows, which run from May to September, is easier than you think. All you need to do to qualify is compete at affiliated shows and score just **62% three times from Preliminary to Elementary at the same level, same section** and **60% two times from Medium to Intermediate II same level, same section** between 1 October 2016 and the closing date for entries for your chosen Area Festival. To qualify in the Silver section from Prelim to Advanced Medium one of your qualifying scores must be from a qualifying test labelled with a 'Q' in the schedule (see page 124 in the BD Member's Handbook for a full list of qualifying tests).

At all levels your qualification will be generated when your scores are graded on the BD database. Members will receive notification by email once qualified, a copy of which must be sent with your entry form as proof of qualification. If you do not have an email address, you need to send the original sheets, with the date and venue of the class written on them, to the show organiser of the Area Festival you would like to go to, together with your entry form. Test sheets can only be used once, but it is a good idea to keep copies as they will not be returned to you. Qualifications can only be used once however you can qualify for more than one Area Festival if you acquire a second batch of three/two scores.

Scores from class tickets, freestyles, HC tests, Area Festivals, any Championships, inter-county competitions, Team Quest, My Quest may not be used to provide part qualification towards an Area Festival. Scores from BYRDS/Senior Home International, Senior Inter Regionals and U25 Championships may be used.

Eligibility

Group 1-8 riders may compete in Area Festivals up to and including Intermediate II according to normal eligibility rules.

Combinations competing at Winter/Summer Regional Championships (excluding music classes) are ineligible for any Area Festivals at that level or below in the same calendar year. i.e. if a combination qualifies for the Winter/Summer Regionals and decides to compete at the Regional Championships they will need to compete at a higher level in the Area Festival in the autumn of the same year.

NEW Under 18 Section Eligibility

These new sections are open to riders until the end of the year of their 18th birthday. Riders in this age group must compete in the Under 18 section. To qualify for an Under 18 section scores may come from the Bronze or Silver section or a combination of both.

Taking part in an Area Festival

You enter in the normal way by downloading an entry form from the British Dressage website. You will also need to print off a copy of your qualification email to include with your form. Plus, in your email, there'll be a link to download a biography form to complete and return with your entry so the commentators know all about you and your horse.

The venues have been hand-picked to host this special occasion so they'll pull out all the stops to make it memorable. Expect flowers, flags, podiums – just like a mini Olympics. Everyone who takes part will receive a commemorative Petplan Equine plaque.

The top 10 combinations in each section at Area Festivals from Preliminary to Advanced Medium and top five combinations in each section at Area Festivals for Prix St. George to Intermediate II will qualify to compete in an Area Festival Final. You'll only be allowed to compete in one Area Festival Final but the choice of which is down to you.

Taking part in an Area Festival Final

Combinations qualify from Area Festivals Final to the Area Festival Championships on a proportional basis, providing that the minimum score of 63% is achieved depending on the total number qualified at each level and the number of starters at each Area Festival. A table showing the ratio of qualifiers to starters and details of the proportional qualification basis for each class will be displayed at the Area Festivals.

Going to the Area Festival Championships in 2018

It may be a long wait over the winter months, but going to the Petplan Equine Area Festival Championships is a dream of any rider! Just taking part is a major achievement alone. At your Area Festival Final, you'll get a pack if you qualify to make your entry so keep it safe!

Please note that the information given here is a simplified guide and that you will need to refer to the current British Dressage Rules for full details.

2017 Petplan Area Festivals

AREA FESTIVALS

Wellington	Hampshire	11 - 14 May
Rockrose	East Lothian	13 - 14 May
Arena UK	Lincolnshire	20 - 21 May
Kingswood	West Mids	2 - 4 June
Moreton	Dorset	3 - 4 June
Pachesham	Surrey	10 - 12 June
Codham Park	Essex	17 - 18 June
Alnwick ford	Northumberland	17 - 18 June
Tushingham	Cheshire	24 - 25 June
Muirmill	Ayrshire	24 - 25 June
Allens Hill	Worcestershire	29 June - 2 July

Brook Farm	Essex	30 June - 2 July
Aintree	Merseyside	5 - 9 July
Crofton Manor	Hampshire	7 - 9 July
The Cabin	Aberdeenshire	1 - 2 July
Sheepgate	Lincolnshire	7 - 9 July
Mount Ballan	Monmouthshire	14 - 16 July
Moreton Morrell	Warwickshire	20 - 23 July
Myerscough	Lancashire	27 - 30 July
Chester Hall	Kent	12 - 14 Aug
Duchy	Cornwall	11 - 13 Aug
Beacons	Carmarthenshire	12 - 13 Aug
Keysoe	Bedfordshire	19 - 21 Aug
Northallerton	North Yorkshire	18 - 20 Aug
Sparsholt	Hampshire	25 - 27 Aug
Hartpury	Gloucestershire	27 - 28 Aug
Jersey	Jersey	2 - 3 Sept

AREA FESTIVAL FINALS

Fieldhouse	Staffordshire	22 - 24 Sept
Oldencraig	Surrey	23 - 24 Sept
Houghton Hall	Cambs	23 - 24 Sept
Widmer	Buckinghamshire	27 Sept - 1 Oct
Manor Grange	West Yorkshire	7 - 8 Oct
Morris	Renfrewshire	14 - 15 Oct
Bicton Arena	Devon	21 - 22 Oct
Pencoed	Glamorgan	28 - 30 Oct

AREA FESTIVAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

11 – 15 April 2018 (provisional) – Area Festival Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire