

# Discover Dressage

*Unlock your potential*



Your handy guide to  
joining British Dressage



**Dressage has been an integral part of my life for over 30 years, I can't imagine what else could fill my day and give me the pleasure that this sport does.**

For me, it's not just about putting on my tailcoat with its red collar, climbing on my horse with his bright white saddlecloth sporting the Union Flag and riding into an arena on the international stage. It's the small things and little achievements along the way.

It's the buzz you get when it all clicks that makes it worthwhile. That could be a wobbly four year old trotting the perfect circle in balance, a pupil getting the feel of the faultless change or seeing your faith in a horse realised. All those are down to one thing, training. And that's the heart of dressage.

We put the hours in at home to improve ourselves and our horses in search of the perfect ten before putting it all to the test in the arena.

British Dressage can help you ensure that the small things make a big difference in your riding career.



*Image courtesy of PDS Saddles*

*Carl*

Carl Hester MBE

# A world of opportunity...

Dressage is from the French word 'dresseur', which means 'to train' and it's at the heart of what we do here at British Dressage (BD). We train for the big occasion, we train for the next level, we train to extend our knowledge and we train to realise our potential. But we love to compete too!

Our job is to promote and regulate the world of dressage. BD affiliated competitions take place on almost every day of the year (around 2,500 competition days per year!) and at every corner of the United Kingdom, across 180 or so venues in eight regions around the country.

All our venues have to meet a rigorous check list to become affiliated and each listed judge has to qualify and undergo continual training to keep up their skills. So you know all our competitions are guaranteed to be top quality.

Your goals with us are up to you: by competing you earn points which move you up the competition ladder – and the higher your scores, the more points you can win each outing. So maybe a certain score is your goal each time out, or perhaps gaining points to secure qualification for one of our championships or festivals is your aim, or simply progressing up the levels and fulfilling your potential.

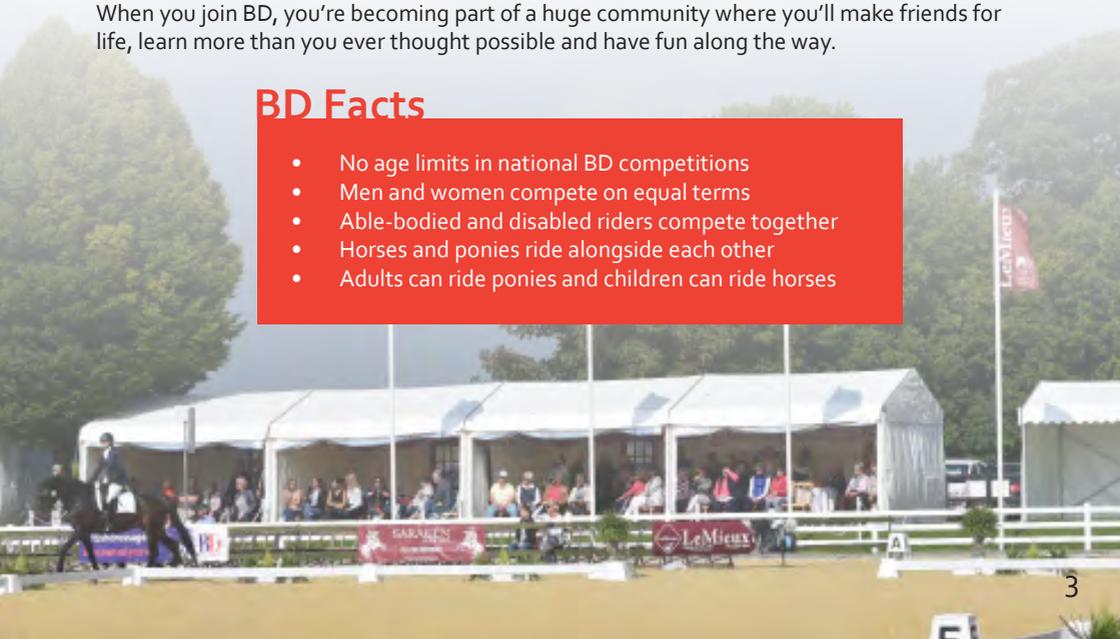
Whatever you choose, we have a pathway to help.

When you join BD, you're becoming part of a huge community where you'll make friends for life, learn more than you ever thought possible and have fun along the way.



## BD Facts

- No age limits in national BD competitions
- Men and women compete on equal terms
- Able-bodied and disabled riders compete together
- Horses and ponies ride alongside each other
- Adults can ride ponies and children can ride horses





# The key to unlock your potential

## Why join British Dressage?

Qualify for **amazing championships** at regional and national level



Select your shows from a packed schedule of around **2,500** days of competition per year run at over **180** approved venues nationwide



There's regional training for riders at all levels given by BD accredited trainers who have their **UKCC qualifications**



You'll be judged by judges who have **passed exams** and receive **on-going training**

Full members receive a free copy of **British Dressage magazine**, published every six weeks, packed with news, training features and show schedules



Train to become a **dressage judge**

There's a dedicated **programme for young riders** to train and compete



You can **improve your own and your horse's performance** in our competition structure with clear progression through the levels

## Music license

to cover you to do  
**freestyle tests,**  
so you have unlimited  
music to choose from  
for your floorplans



We operate under the  
**FEI and BEF** with strict  
anti-doping policies for equine  
and human athletes, to ensure our  
sport is drug-free and it's a **level  
playing field** for all



A copy of the British Dressage  
**Members' Handbook,**  
which includes all our rules but  
also has lots of information  
about **what judges are  
looking for** from you and  
your horse



Special **discounts on tickets** for BD events

**Free legal  
helpline from  
Harrison Clark  
Rickerbys** to discuss  
any legal issues



Access to a host of regional  
activities including **teams,  
camps, training,  
educational seminars,  
yard visits** and, of course,  
**great social occasions**



Peace of mind from our  
**free third party public  
liability and personal  
accident insurance**  
for all equestrian activities  
from our official partners,  
**Shearwater Insurance**



# Your route, your choice



## Membership types

Membership	What is it?	What can I do?	How much?
<b>Full</b>	Complete membership, which covers you for one year from joining date with the full package of benefits.	All events and shows affiliated to British Dressage.	£90 or £85 annual Direct Debit, or £8 a month by monthly Direct Debit
<b>Trial</b>	All the benefits of Full membership but for a six month trial period for those new to BD.	Trial all the benefits of Full membership but for a six-month period.	£55
<b>Winter</b>	All the benefits of Full membership, to run from 1 October - 31 March. Ideal for eventers or Riding Club members.	Full member benefits for a six-month period.	£50
<b>Non-competing</b>	A year-long package aimed at owners, officials, trainers and supporters.	Same as Club member benefits, plus receive the BD magazine eight times per year.	£55 or £50 by Direct Debit
<b>Club</b>	A year-long package that enables you to ride at the grassroots levels. Qualify for various finals such as the Associated Championships.	Team Quest, My Quest, Music classes, Prelim Bronze or Gold classes and Combined Training.	£30

## Horse registration

As well as the rider, horses will need to be registered with us too:

Registration	What is it?	What can I do?	Price?
<b>Full</b>	Complete registration which covers the horse for one year from joining date.	All events and shows affiliated to British Dressage.	£80
<b>Trial</b>	For those new to BD for a six month trial, must be used in conjunction with a Trial membership.	All the benefits of Full membership but for a six month trial period.	£55
<b>Winter</b>	Same as Full registration but runs from 1 October - 31 March. Ideal for eventers or Riding Club members.	Full membership benefits valid for period of registration.	£50
<b>Associate</b>	For those riding in Quest, Prelim Bronze/ Gold, Young Horse, Music and Para classes.	Can only access the classes mentioned to the left.	Free

All horses must have a valid passport, which shows it has current vaccinations against equine influenza. Please check the Members' Handbook online for more information.

# Competing with British Dressage



Whatever your dressage experience, we have a competition to help you reach your goals and progress up the levels at a pace that suits you. Our competition structure ensures there's no pressure to rush up the grades until you prove you're ready; you'll be competing in sections against riders of a similar ability and there's lots of opportunity.

## The structure

Classes at national level all run with three sections, Bronze, Silver and Gold – and which section you compete in depends on your riding experience, the achievements of your horse and what championships you want to aim for.

If you and your horse are completely new to BD competition, it's likely that you'll be able to start in the Bronze section, which is essentially for those new to the level. You move up to Silver as you gain points and then on to Gold.



## The levels

Competition with British Dressage starts with the most basic level of Introductory, which features movements in walk and trot, all the way up to the ultimate level of Grand Prix. You can start at any level and qualify for a whole range of prestigious championships.

The percentage you're awarded will earn you points at each level, which then help you gain qualification and enable you to progress up the levels. Find out how points are allocated in the Members' Handbook, which is available online on the BD website.

Introductory
Preliminary
Novice
Elementary
Medium
Advanced Medium
Prix St Georges
Intermediate I
Intermediate II
Grand Prix

# The competitions

There are competitions across the breadth of the country regulated by us, with many championships for you to aim for throughout the year.

## Quest Club

Quest competitions are held all around Britain and you can either compete as an individual in My Quest or with a group of three or four friends for Team Quest, aiming to qualify for the Quest Championships at the end of the year. Sponsored by Kent & Masters, classes run from Intro to Novice, with U18 sections. To take part you and your horse will need to be eligible for the Bronze section. Uniquely, with Quest Club, dress rules are relaxed and you can wear your own team colours!



## Area Festivals

Petplan Equine Area Festivals are held at Prelim to Inter II level. These are aimed at the grass roots competitor and combinations who are new to a level. They're a great way to give yourself a target to aim for, with qualification an achievable ambition for most riders – and many progressing through to the coveted Area Festival Championships! New for 2017: U18 sections from Prelim to Medium.

## Regional Championships

Qualifying for a Regional Championship, either Winter or Summer, is a fantastic achievement. They act as semi-finals for our Winter and National Championships – and for many it's a first taste of the big time. You'll need to earn points in both qualifying and non-qualifying classes. You can get all the information you need on this via our online Members' Handbook.

## Winter and National Championships

A showcase of Britain's finest in dressage; talented amateurs, seasoned pros, up and coming horses and established combinations all meet in one big festival twice a year – in April and September.

The Winter Championships hosts finals for standard classes, dressage to music freestyle and Area Festivals. The National Championships is the sport's biggest occasion where, after a week of exciting dressage action at all levels, we crown our National Champion.

## Dressage to Music

A favourite with many of our members, we also run music freestyle classes which are based on a test that you plan yourself, from set movements that you match to music of your choice. This is where our phrase 'dancing horses' comes from. Music freestyles start at Intro level with sections for Silver and Gold combinations and are popular with both riders and spectators alike. They qualify for Regional Championships in the winter with their grand finale as part of the Winter Championships each April.



## Associated Championships

Dressage is for everyone! We also have several Associated Championships, including a range of championships especially for those with a special breed of horse, with classes from Prelim to PSG, which might be of interest to you:

- Veteran Horse
- Veteran Rider
- Retrained Racehorses
- GBPRE Spanish Horses
- Forces Equine
- Traditional Gypsy Cobs
- Native Breeds
- Draught Horses
- Lusitano Horses
- Arab Horses



## Combined Training

Love dressage and jumping? The mix of white boards and coloured poles is the competition for you.

The dressage element runs at Prelim and Novice levels with short arena tests and the showjumping from 70cm to 1metre. There's no requirement for your horse to be registered, so it's an inexpensive way to hone your dressage skill while working on your show jumping technique – all with the chance of qualifying for a fabulous final.

# Go Regional

As a member, you'll be a part of one of our eight regions, each headed by a Regional Development Officer (RDO) who is supported by a volunteer committee. There's plenty of activity going on in your region all the time – from training, trips and team competitions, to DVD evenings and social occasions – so make sure you get involved.

Your RDO is the perfect person to help you get started in the sport as they can help with any aspect of your BD membership – where to compete, how to enter, training opportunities, etc. When you join, you'll receive an email with details of who your RDO is and how to contact them, so do get in contact to introduce yourself.



## BD U25

If you're aged six to 25, as a member you'll automatically become part of this amazing group. With dedicated regional training with accredited coaches, regional team competitions and camps, there's so much to do. It's a great way to get to know the riders in your area, make friends for life and improve your dressage skills too! Wherever you live, there's a young rider programme near you.





## Join today and make a start on realising your dressage dreams!

- Join online – it's simple and easy at [britishdressage.co.uk/membership](http://britishdressage.co.uk/membership)
- Join by post – complete the form on the right and post to us

### To register a horse, you can:

- Go online to complete the process
- Request a form from the office by ringing **02476 698832** or download one from the website

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- The Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the organisation will notify you (normally 10 working days) in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request the organisation to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by the organisation or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when the organisation asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify the organisation.



# Did you know we're a charity?

As well as a sporting governing body, BD is also a charity for our work with amateur sport, education & training, recreation and the welfare of horses. We strive to continuously improve standards in riding, training and horsemanship through education and participation. That's why training is so important to us – and the right kind of training.

As a charity, we can claim Gift Aid on your membership subscription to help us continue our work and it won't cost you an extra penny. If you're a UK tax payer, chances are you can help – see the Gift Aid info on the application form.



British Dressage, Meriden Business Park,  
Cose Drive, Meriden, West Midlands  
CV5 9RG

# To join call us on 02476 698836, visit britishdressage.co.uk or post this completed form to:

British Dressage, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden, West Midlands CV5 9RG

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. Please note: items marked with an asterisk **MUST** be completed.

*Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other	*Date of birth
*Forename/s	*Surname
*Address	
	*Postcode
*Nationality	*Phone number
Preferred method of communication – email <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail _____

*If you are under 18, please have a parent/guardian contact the office as we will also need their details.*

Please tick here if you are a Para-Equestrian dressage rider  Grade (I, II, III, IV, V)

Para-Equestrian riders must send a copy of their classification certificate with their application form.

If applicable, please tick if you are one of the following: I am a; BHSI  FBHS

Have you ridden at British Eventing competitions? If so, to what level? Intermediate  Advanced

## MEMBERSHIP - Please tick as appropriate

FULL – new member	£90	<input type="checkbox"/>	NON-COMPETING – new member	£55	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULL – Direct Debit Annual	£85	<input type="checkbox"/>	NON-COMPETING – Direct Debit	£50	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULL – Direct Debit Monthly (12 x £8)	£96	<input type="checkbox"/>	CLUB	£30	<input type="checkbox"/>
WINTER	£50	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRIAL	£55	<input type="checkbox"/>

I confirm that in submitting this application for membership/renewal of membership:

- I agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of British Dressage and the Rules and Regulations of British Dressage
- I agree to be bound by the BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules and the BEF Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes
- In the event that the person applying for membership is under 18 the parent or legal guardian signing on behalf of that person specifically agrees to accept primary responsibility for that person's compliance with the BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules and that that parent or guardian will be the Person Responsible for any Horse ridden vaulted or driven by that person for the purposes of those Rules.

Signature

Date

Please tick the box (es) below if any of them apply to you:

- I don't want my details given to journalists to contact me for reporting purposes.
- I don't want to hear from our sponsors, business partner or selected third parties who may wish to provide information about goods or services which may be of interest.
- I don't wish to receive email communication from BD (this includes newsletters, important updates, renewal notices, etc). **Please note:** this is our main form of member communication.
- I don't wish to receive SMS updates from BD

**Data Protection Statement:** The information you have provided in connection with your application will be used to process your membership and may be disclosed to affiliated show organisers, their employees, employees of British Dressage, the British Equestrian Federation and its member bodies, in order to process your competition records. Your competition records will be displayed on the British Dressage website and may be displayed on the event organiser's website.

