



Hello All,

I would like to introduce myself as I was elected as Chairman of BTC yesterday at our inaugural AGM. Some of you may know me as I have been competing in team chases for the last few years and more recently been part of the small working group leading BTC since last September.

My equine background is mainly through playing polo professionally for many years and also involved with the administration of the polo at local and national level. I also run my own business which thankfully allows me the flexibility to devote time to other things such as BTC!

Over the last 5 months the working group led by Olly Hughes (MD of BHSA) has given up a considerable amount of time to put in place a BTC constitution and started the ongoing process of reviewing the rules, regulations and guidance for organisers and riders all of which has laid the foundations for BTC to build an exciting future. All the new governance documents are on the BTC website, please take a look at them as there are rule changes. The group's efforts will ensure we are able to make real progress from this season onwards with some important innovations.

SPRING EVENTS

17TH MARCH - KIMBLEWICK

24TH MARCH - OAKLEY

7TH APRIL - FERNIE (TBC)

21ST APRIL - BICESTER

28TH APRIL -
WORCESTERSHIRE (OPEN
CHAMPIONSHIP)

New BTC Website, App and Results

We are about to go live with a new entry, scoring and results system. This will reduce the administrative burden on events and give competitors, spectators and supporters access to live running orders and results via a new BTC app and website. Teams will be able to amend entries for free and events will be updated to any changes as they are made. Accurate information provided to the commentary and scoring teams will be one of the many benefits.

All riders will be required to register themselves and their horses on the system for team managers/captains to enter their teams. This will be done through the new BTC app or the new BTC website. BTC will provide each event with their own app accessed via the main BTC app.

We are pleased to announce a new real-time results system designed and built for us by the Eventing Scores team. This will add to the excitement of a class as each team's progress and the leader board will be constantly updated.

The BTC website is currently being redesigned and modernised with some new and interesting additions.

Competition Rules

- Rider Fall Rule 6b The rider welfare group has assessed all the rider fall data including extensive video footage from the last 12 months. The aim was to show that it would be reasonable to amend the rider fall rule in such a way that riders could remount after certain falls. For the reasons explained in detail at the AGM the decision has been taken to come in line with other equestrian disciplines and not allow riders to remount after being unseated until they have been checked and cleared by a healthcare professional to ride again. A more detailed update will be sent out about this in due course.
- Restarting in a Class Rule 8g In circumstances when a rider does not continue past fence 5 they may be allowed to start another round in the same class on the same horse, should they find another team to join.
- Body Protectors Rule 7e Body protectors must be up to the BETA 2018 Level 3 standard and labelled as such. Events have been asked to carry out spot checks at the finish and anyone found to not be wearing a body protector which meets the rules will disqualify themselves and their team. Unfortunately body protectors do degrade over time and it is important BTC fulfils its duty of care to riders.

Annual Leagues

- Scoring System Rule 3 Open teams will receive half points towards the Open League when running in Intermediate Speed classes at events when there is no Open class.

Membership

The new constitution requires anyone wishing to vote at general meetings to be members of BTC. We also really encourage anyone who regularly competes at BTC events to join as members in order to support BTC and have a say in the direction and growth of the sport. For 2024 the annual membership fee for individuals will be £10. This membership is not exclusive for riders so anyone can apply to join. Members will be invited to the AGM and kept up to date with the executive committee's progress.

Sponsorship

We are moving forward with contacts and ideas for bringing money and prizes to BTC. If anyone has any contacts whom they think would be interested in partnering BTC please get in touch with Suze Tucker - btcsponsor24@gmail.com. The aim is to build up a fund which can be used to support event organisers old and new, secure the future of team chasing, continue to innovate and thrill whilst ensuring the wellbeing of riders and horses is safeguarded.

Your board is looking forward to delivering on an ambitious plan and I truly hope you will all join us for the ride. I am looking forward to seeing you all this spring season so fingers crossed the weather gods play ball!

Please approach any of the Board members if you have any questions and ideas about BTC.

Yours faithfully,

Roddy Stanning
Chairman