

Introduction

Tonight each member of your support team is going to introduce themselves and say what they feel their role is going to be in bringing us together to produce the best team that we can to go to France next year.

We shall also say what we expect from our team members and then you will have a chance to give us feedback if you have comments or suggestions.

We have already been busy planning for the Winter when many of us will not be driving much or at all and into the start of next year's training, so we have dates and venues for your diary.

Marisa Pinnock

I am proud to have taken on the role of Chef d'Equippe for the GB Ponies team, though I am aware that I have very big shoes to fill and I will need a lot of help.

I have a varied background having started out working in cancer research, I then moved to commerce and then to Clinical practice and I have run a large multidisciplinary private healthcare Clinic for over 25 years, but that also means I have a wide range of skills to offer the team

Since I have run successful businesses and employed staff for over 40 years, I hope not only to balance the books but also to manage peoples' expectations, support them through thick and thin. I am organised and not afraid of hard work as some of you already know.

In the past I have sat as a Professional Registrant on a government Regulatory Council with many associated committees including Professional Conduct. Other committee positions include being a member or Chair of those with my Professional Association through to being a Director for the Royal College of Chiropractors all of which has given me good grounding in governance, how committees work and how to get things done.

For over 15 years I ran a national mentoring system for new graduates in their 1st year which taught me to listen, guide and support professionals as they found their own way to begin their careers. I have lectured both at National Conferences and Internationally as well as teaching, supervising M level students and examining M level theses.

I have enjoyed horses all my life and have been fortunate to ride and compete to a good level in many disciplines before moving to Carriage driving. As many of you know I still drive a pair of horses at competitions and we have competed abroad several times as an FEI 3* driver, so I understand what is expected of you and where problems and pitfalls might arise.

I have done the training and become an FEI Level 1 steward, though I have so many conflicts of interest I struggle to work at many shows! The training does mean that I should know the Rules, and those I cannot remember I know very well where to find quickly.

My Role

I believe my main role is as an organiser and a facilitator. You need to know quickly, clearly and completely anything that comes out of the FEI or from British Carriage driving which may affect you.

We all train in different ways with our own trainers but the key point is where we need to end up is the same- Le Pin next year, so we need to bring the training together to have consistency through the team. I am here to support you, not criticize, to ensure that you all have competition based skills as well as driving skills which are covered by your own trainers.

We all need to have a real training plan which will be individual to each driver and have confidence that you are doing all that you can to get the best out of your turnout.

I believe that I have good 'people' skills and put a high level of importance on listening and being inclusive.

We have not had the traditional first year of shows and many of us are still working with a great number of adversities but it does not mean that we won't be ready with each driver working to their full potential to produce an excellent team next year.

I am thrilled to have such keen, willing and talented people prepared to join me as your support team, we are not here to catch you out, make your life difficult or force you to do anything but help, advice and support are here if you need it.

We shall provide a firm framework to support your training at home through the Winter, helping you make a definite plan for yourself and making you aware of areas or subjects that might have come up as problems in the past so that next year we have the best chance of real success.