

Equestrian Sport & Polo

British Horse Council
12 December 2025

Jim Eyre
Chief Executive

FEI European Championships 2025

Jumping **A Coruña, ESP**

Team silver – Scott Brash, Ben Maher, Matthew Sampson, Donald Whitaker

Individual silver – Scott Brash

Para Dressage **Ermelo, NED**

Individual bronze – Mari Duward-Akhurst (Grade 1)

Individual bronze – Jemima Green (Grade 2)

Individual bronze – Nicola Naylor (Grade 4)

Freestyle bronze – Mari Duward-Akhurst (Grade 1)

Freestyle bronze – Jemima Green (Grade 2)

Dressage **Crozet, FRA**

Team silver – Lottie Fry, Andrew Gould, Carl Hester, Becky Moody

Eventing **Blenheim Palace, GBR**

Individual gold – Laura Collett

Individual bronze – Tom McEwen

Additionally, the youth and veteran teams across the three Olympic disciplines scooped 10 FEI European medals.



FEI Championships 2025

FEI Driving Pairs World Championships Beekbergen, NED

Team silver – Roger Campbell, Tara Wilkinson, Peter Bennett

Individual silver – Roger Campbell

FEI Driving Four in Hand European Championships Lähden, GER

30th – Robert Wilkinson

FEI Para Driving World Championship Singles Lähden, GER

Team bronze – Debbie Daniel, Emily Ham, Jayne McGarvie

FEI Endurance Young Hore Championships Hippodrome de Jullianges, FRA

Sixth – Maisie Raikes

FEI Endurance European Championships Castiglione de Lago, ITA

20th – Nicola Thorne

FEI World Youth Vaulting Championships Stadl Paura, AUT

17th – Ursula Levett

22nd – Abigail Ward

FEI Vaulting European Championships Stadl Paura, AUT

Seventh – Ursula Levett and Abigail Ward in the Pas-de-Deux

Plus... FIHB European Championships Le Mans, FRA

Fourth – u16s

Sixth – u21s



The power of horses: equestrianism's social value

- The study focused on three categories of engagement:
 - on-the-horse participation
 - off-the-horse engagement
 - volunteering.
- These are assessed for two primary outcomes:
 - Primary benefits: Improvements in individual life satisfaction, valued via WELLBY.
 - Secondary benefits: Cost savings to the NHS.
- Launched October 2025 at Saddlers' Hall.
- Phase 2 - 'Securing a bright future' - advocacy piece of work - going to tender for a partner in early 2026
- Riding for the Disabled's Impact Report launched last week.



The WELLBY figures

It is estimated that 25% of this total value comes through riding schools.

That's a value of **£292,000** per riding school.

£1.2 billion

Estimated annual social value of the equestrian sector in the UK.

On-the-horse participation

ADULTS

Value of twice monthly participation, per adult:

£2,000

through improved wellbeing (primary)

£150

wider value to society (secondary)

YOUNG PEOPLE

Value of weekly participation, per young person:

£3,500

through improved wellbeing (primary)

Off-the-horse participation

ALL AGES

Value of twice monthly participation, per person:

£2,000

through improved wellbeing (primary)

Volunteering

ALL AGES

Value of weekly volunteering, per person:

£2,100

Value of monthly volunteering, per person:

£1,000

through improved wellbeing (primary)

2025 Polo Updates

- Zero cases of Strangles in the polo community in 2025
- Continued to perform random drug testing across the levels
- Spur and whip rules updated and continually reviewed
- Introduced digital system for tracking pony injuries and falls
- Welfare Booklet updated for 2026 and translated into Spanish
- Apprenticeship scheme established for UK grooms
- Established annual Coaching Conference with focus on pony welfare and training

