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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **RECORD FUNDING FOR ABRS FROM SPORT ENGLAND**

The Association of British Riding Schools (ABRS) is proud to announce the exciting news that it has received a substantial funding award through the BEF from Sport England. After vigorous scrutiny, the BEF gave it's seal of approval to the ABRS proposed project and awarded the highest score rating to the ABRS above other member bodies who had also applied for the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) funding. The announcement was made at the highly successful joint ABRS Annual General Meeting and Conference held at Shrigley Hall in Manchester on 19 October 2009.

The successful four year funding project will see the ABRS allocated an initial £54,000 in its first year to grow and sustain participation in equestrian sport, plus an additional £15,000 towards supporting sport strategy for young people. Projects will be rolled out regionally among ABRS member schools and will follow the already hugely successful BEF funded "Young Riders" model currently being piloted at an ABRS member riding school in Essex.

Julian Marczak, Chairman of the ABRS, who made the announcement at the AGM / Conference, said, "Naturally we are delighted and immensely proud at the outcome of the funding bid. This represents a major step forward not only for our Association, but also in recognising the vital role that riding schools play within the sport. Riding schools so often provide the means by which newcomers are introduced to the sport and in effect they are an essential launch pad for riders wanting to progress to participating in the various different areas of equestrianism."

Julian continued, "The outcome of our funding bid reinforces our belief in the value of BEF membership. Were it not for this, the opportunity of the funding would not have materialised and we are deeply grateful to the Federation in this respect. I would like to thank members of the ABRS committee for their hard work, time and dedication in preparing this lengthy bid and for the BEF in having belief in our delivery.

The conference is always an excellent opportunity for new alliances to be made and this year's event was no exception. Ed Bracher, Chief Executive of the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) presented his ideas on how the ABRS and the RDA could work together to increase RDA groups within a commercial environment. Other speakers present were, Maggie Still, Head of Regional Development of the BEF and Gill Barham, a BEF Regional Coordinator who were invited to present information on what the Federation could do for riding schools. Another keynote speech was made by Ben Mayes MA VetMB MRCVS from the BEVA Council who spoke about RE Act Licensing and Livery Yards and equine welfare.

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## **Association of British Riding Schools**

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