



TEAM QUEST

A NEW TEAM BASED COMPETITION FOR AFFILIATED AND NON AFFILIATED RIDERS AT GRASS ROOTS LEVELS

Introduction

Over the last five years, British Dressage has seen a significant increase in the interest levels in members wishing to ride in a team competition. With the advent of inter-regionals and home internationals, both at senior and under 25 (BYRDS) level, the passion of our members to ride as part of a team has been extensive.

The only downside to this enthusiasm is that only a small number of riders have been able to secure places on teams, due to a limited number of spaces available for selection. So, to cater for this demand, British Dressage has devised a brand new team competition, focussing on riders who ride at the lower levels. Open to members and non-members of BD, it aims to be inclusive and attract a new audience to the sport.

Competition Overview

Two distinct series will be run:

- **Dressage Team Quest – Open (open to all riders, no age restrictions)**
- **Dressage Team Quest – under 25's (specifically for riders aged 25 years and under)**

Team Quest competitions will be held locally at BD affiliated venues. Teams will be allocated points dependent on their team placing, and points will count towards the Team Quest league. At the close of the qualification period the top teams will be invited to a Team Quest Final, to be held in the Autumn.

Team Composition

Team members will be decided by the individuals themselves; there will be no selection on the part of BD. Groups of friends, family members or livery yards can get together and form a team.

Teams will be made up of 3 or 4 riders. Teams with 4 would have a discard score (i.e. the lowest scoring rider's score will not count). Riders can be BD members or non-members, on registered or unregistered horses; however, each team must have at least one BD full registered member.

To enable results to be tracked, team members who are not already BD members will be asked to register for free as a 'Team Quest Member'. This can be done via the BD website.

To keep Team Quest for truly the lower level competitor, only one member of the team can be above a BD Group 7 rider.

For all Team Quest competitions all combinations must be eligible for intro, preliminary or novice level competition (in accordance with BD rules). Teams can be made up of riders competing in any of the three levels of tests.

Age Categories for Teams

There will be three age categories for teams:

- **16 and Under Team** – all riders up to the end of the year of their 16th birthday. These teams take part in Team Quest under 25 competitions.
- **25 and Under Team** – all riders up to the end of the year of their 25th birthday. These teams take part in Team Quest under 25 competitions.
- **Mixed Team** – any riders of any age. These teams take part in Team Quest Open competitions.

Competition Structure

All BD affiliated organisers are being invited to run the new Team Quest events. There will be two separate and distinct competitions (Team Quest Open and Team Quest Under 25's), however, if initially numbers are low, then competitions can be run on the same day.

Team Quest Under 25 – competition specifically aimed at young people to cater for the 16 and under and 25 and under teams.

Team Quest Open – competitions organised specifically to cater for the mixed teams of riders of any age.

There will be no restriction on the number of competitions organisers can run. However, we encourage you to run these events at weekends or during the holidays.

Timings

The concept of Team Quest is being launched in November 2013, with the first competitions taking place from March 2014.

The 2014 qualification period will be from 1 March to 21 September. All final results have to be submitted to BD by 26 September to calculate the final league.

The Finals will be held on 1-2 November 2014.

Marketing

A media partner is currently being sought to meet the needs of communicating to a grass roots, unaffiliated audience. Ideally this will be 'Your Horse' or 'Horse and Rider'. Communication to Pony Clubs and Riding Clubs will also be included in the marketing plan.

An article in the BD magazine and online will introduce it to members, along with a leaflet and poster campaign. These will be distributed to all venues as well as riding schools, unaffiliated venues etc.

A dedicated Facebook and twitter account are being established to help spread the word and for competitors / organisers to engage throughout the year.

Schedules

Initially, Team Quest schedules unfortunately cannot be printed in the BD magazine, but your dates can be listed on the BD website. We can also link through to your own websites where you can display information about your shows. A dedicated Facebook page will allow you to promote your competitions as well.

Competition Rules

BD aims to keep the rules of this competition series to a minimum, keeping things simple and easy to understand. A more relaxed approach will be taken to this series, whilst still ensuring safety of those involved.

All tests will be run in short arenas. Organisers can choose to put on any of the following tests:

Introductory Level	Preliminary Level	Novice Level
Introductory A (2008)	Preliminary No. 4 (2002)	Novice No. 24 (2010)
Introductory B (2009)	Preliminary No. 7 (2002)	Novice No. 27 (2007)
	Preliminary No. 12 (2005)	Novice No. 28 (2008)
	Preliminary No. 13 (2006)	Novice No. 30 (2006)

Rider can choose which level they ride at, providing they and their horse / pony are eligible for the level, in accordance with BD rules.

BD rules will apply with regards to saddlery, but dress rules will be relaxed. Safety is paramount, so protective headgear will be in accordance with BD rules. However, jackets are not compulsory. In fact, teams will be encouraged to wear 'team colours' should they wish. Footwear needs to be safe (i.e. a small heel and clearance each side of the stirrup). It can be long or short boots with or without gaiters. Breeches/Jodhpurs can be of any colour.

Commanders and whips will be allowed at all levels and in the final.

Horses and ponies of any height are eligible for all levels but must be 4 years old or over. Horses / ponies may be shared, but can only compete in 2 tests per day.

Teams will need to register their team name and the occupants with British Dressage. The name chosen must not have been used before. If the composition of the team changes (i.e. a rider or horse drops out), changes to the team must be registered with BD. All riders who take part in the final must have taken part in the team qualification (competed with the team for at least one competition).

No BD points are allocated for any Team Quest competition, including the final.

Judging

For local Team Quest competitions one judge will be required for each test, to be the relevant BD listing for the level (list 5 and above for novice, list 6 and above for intro and preliminary).

For the Team Quest Finals three judges for each test will be required of list 4 and above and will be selected by BD.

Prizes

Local Team Quest competitions - Rosettes will be awarded to the top four teams in each competition as a minimum. The venue will provide these rosettes. No prize money will be awarded; however, organisers are encouraged to present prizes in kind if they wish.

Team Quest Final events - Rosettes will be awarded to the top six teams in each competition, in addition to completion rosettes being awarded to all. BD will provide a winning team trophy for each level. Further prizes will be dependent on a sponsor being secured.

Entry Fees

Entry fees for the local competitions are set and should be £15 per combination (i.e. £60 for a team of 4 or £45 for a team of 3). It is purposefully priced competitively to attract participants.

Entry fee for the Team Quest Final will be set once further planning has taken place.

Scoring

Team scores will be made up of the highest three percentage scores added together. Equal percentage places will be split on the combined collective totals of the three riders.

Team Quest League

A league will be held for each of the three levels (16 & Under, 25 & Under and Open). Points will be allocated according to team placings, as follows:

Team Placing	Points
1 st	10
2 nd	9
3 rd	8
4 th	7
5 th	6
6 th	5
7 th	4
8 th	3
9 th	2
10 th	1

Teams lower than 10th receive no points.

As previously stated, the 2014 qualification period will be from 1 March to 21 September 2014. On-going league results will be published on the BD website so competitors can see where they are in the rankings.

The top 15 placed teams from each level will qualify for the final, providing 45 teams and 180 horses for the final.

Team Quest Finals

The 2014 Final will be held at Bury Farm on 1 – 2 November. This is the second weekend of the half term week so hopefully will attract lots of entries. A championship atmosphere will be created, with all of the usual trimmings (flowers, flags, commentary, music, prize givings etc.)

By way of promoting membership, competitors in the final have to be full BD members riding associate (free) or fully registered horses.

Financial Considerations

Should you wish to run the Team Quest local shows, we ask you to be responsible for the running costs, but consequently will keep all profit generated. It is proposed to not charge a BD levy in lieu of keeping the entry fee low (£15 per combination).

However, as BD Judges are used, we ask that you pay them £1 per horse judged.

No prize money will be awarded for local competitions.

Structure to a competition day

If your competition attracts a suitable number of entries, we encourage you to hold Team Quest Open events on separate days to Team Quest 25 & Under events. That way, the events for young people can have a distinct 'youth' feel to them. However, we appreciate this new concept may take a little time to establish itself, so if needed, perhaps run one event in the morning and one in the afternoon.

For each of the events, you will choose one intro, one prelim and one novice test from the approved list. Competitors enter the level relevant to them. Their scores will be displayed as usual in the results for the class, but in addition to that, will be added to the team results scores. Once all 3 or 4 riders have been, you will be able to calculate the overall team results. Remember, teams of 4 will have the lowest score discarded from the total.

Conclusion

We hope that you will agree this is an exciting new concept for dressage. All riders we have spoken with think it is a great idea and they are keen to take part. Hopefully Team Quest will be a popular initiative and another product your venue will be able to run successfully. Thank you in anticipation of your support.