



20th October 2009

Members of the Eventing community

At the beginning of September I took over the chairmanship of the Event Riders Association from Clayton Fredricks Who had to resign his position due to his new roll on the FEI Eventing Committee. Due to his quick departure from his roll of Chairman it was necessary for someone to fill this position straight away. I was voted on by the members present to fill this roll on a temporary basis.

It is apparent that I need to clarify the position of the Event Riders Association.

At this moment in time we are working on creating a new structure that will better enable the flow of communication between riders and officials, organisers, NF and the FEI. I am aware that we have not been the best at representing our concerns through the right channels. No matter how hard the previous chairman tried. It seems riders have been unable to express their views in a constructive manner.

It is necessary for a few changes to take place. We plan to have these changes implemented along with a new updated website by the beginning of 2010. It will be at this stage that we invite members to sign up. Once the membership has grown we will ask for nominations from riders interested on becoming members of the ERA committee. It is at this point that we'll select a permanent committee. Until this time it is necessary for some one to head ERA on a temporary basis. This is where I came in. As things stand there are 4 other riders who are assisting me in this process.

All our decisions are based on the future advancement of ERA, Rider responsibility and communication. We hope to have a structure set up next year that will provide the basis of a truly representative group.

Until this time please be assured that everything is being done to facilitate the flow of information that is passed to us by the relevant bodies. In order for ERA to work I believe to is necessary for each country to have it's own association through which all communication can be passed. We feel it is the responsibility of ERA to assist in this matter. If you are interested in forming a national association or have already formed one, please contact me via my email. The end of the Eventing season is upon us and now is a great time to work together in creating a new future for rider communication.

In order for ERA to survive it needs support and it needs to have representatives from the many countries that partake in this great sport. If you would like to be a part of this please contact me at francis@whittingtoneventing.co.uk, after all we are all hoping to achieve a better sport and this is only going to happen if we all work towards the same goal.

Thank you for your time

Francis Whittington

Temporary Chairman of ERA