



Anne Keen

BD International Director candidate

I hope to win your confidence and your vote for International Director.

As a Senior Selector, List 1 Judge and Coach Educator for British Dressage I have a broad understanding of the current challenges in the dressage world.

I have many years of experience working with youth riders, their coaches and parents, both nationally and internationally in a variety of rewarding roles.

Two terms as Chairperson of the BD South & West Committee, owning a successful Grand Prix horse and judging eventing at international level are also experiences I would draw on in this role.

I have been privileged to learn from some of the best coaches, riders and judges in equestrian sport. These role models have helped to shape my values and beliefs.

Over the next four years I aim to build on the excellent work of the current International Director. British Dressage has much to be proud of and my aim is to help further strengthen Great Britain's position as a leading light on the international dressage stage.

This would include helping to promote and develop the brilliant international shows we are so lucky to have in this country. Regular senior rider meetings after trot ups would be a great opportunity to discuss what's on riders' minds, share ideas and catch up with friends. Building team spirit and a united front is more enjoyable in a sport that can feel quite isolating at times.

Our reputation as a nation that truly has horse welfare at its heart must be valued and protected by all of us. I make no apologies for being sensitive to horse welfare issues in all equestrian sports – horses must always come first.

We need to be more proactive in developing our sport in the best way possible. For example, research into equine behaviour and how horses learn should be topics that coaches and riders have more awareness and understanding of.



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I aim to build an environment where riders feel safe to express their views and concerns, without prejudice. Riders need to feel well prepared, secure and supported to perform at their best. I would also encourage riders to self-reflect and take more responsibility, making changes when needed. Rules and policies (of which there are many!) need to be clear to all and seen to be applied consistently and fairly.

For young aspiring international riders, developing a more structured long-term training programme is a priority. Funding is always a challenge, but more innovation to support each riders' individual development needs would be the aim. A more joined up approach across the various youth programmes would be helpful. Encouraging more competition experience abroad, although financially challenging, would be beneficial for some riders.

Supporting young riders in their quest to become better riders and competitors can bring more joy and priceless memories to all concerned than purely focussing on teams and medals. Mentoring to help our young riders become well rounded adults, whilst building a career in the equine industry, are also areas I hope to develop.