



Paul Hayler

BD Officials Director candidate

I wish to put my name forward for consideration for the Board position of Officials Director. Over 42 years, I have dedicated my life to dressage, building my experience as an International Grand Prix rider, trainer and List 1 Judge. This journey has given me a full 360-degree understanding of what the sport needs and how it works, from grassroots right through to the highest international level.

I have already served on the British Dressage Board as Training Director, and I now wish to bring that same commitment, knowledge and leadership to the role of Officials Director, to help guide our sport forward in a clear, progressive direction.

During my time as Training Director, I focused firmly on raising standards and bringing world-class learning and expertise to our membership. I helped bring leading global figures such as Helen Langehanenberg, Ulf Möller, Michael Klimke and Daniel Bachmann Andersen to our National Convention, giving riders, trainers and judges direct access to the very best in the sport.

I also created and developed the current Young Horse competition format and training Forum, an initiative designed to bring judges, riders and trainers together around a shared vision, and to ensure that the training, judging and development we do here in Great Britain stays fully aligned with international standards and practice.

In addition, as a previous Director and a business owner, I fully understand the responsibilities that come with this position. I have a strong knowledge of business management, financial planning and controls as well as charity and organisational governance which are vital for a secure and thriving future of the sport.



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If appointed as Officials Director, my work will centre on:

Refreshing the Judging System

We need a judging system that is transparent, consistent, fair and easy for everyone to understand. Having previously led the work to rewrite our current dressage tests, I will now work to review and improve how judging operates. I aim to ensure that both the process and the reasoning behind marks and decisions are clear, and that every judge and competitor, at every level, has a positive experience. I want to remove confusion and build full trust in the way our sport is adjudicated.

I believe that the strongest sport is one where there's real understanding and respect among all groups – judges, riders, trainers, and officials. Drawing on my experience from all three roles, I will act as a bridge between these different parts of our community, creating learning opportunities, sharing knowledge and building a shared culture where everyone works together towards the same goals. Education is the most powerful tool we have to drive improvement, and I will make it central to everything I do.

My commitment to this sport is lifelong and unwavering. I have spent more than four decades working in, competing in, and leading dressage, and I bring the experience, the relationships and the insight to make a real and positive difference. My goal is to ensure that British Dressage remains progressive, respected and successful, and that every person involved can be confident in the system we work within.

I would be honoured to bring my expertise, passion and leadership to the role of Officials Director.