



Tracy Ormrod

BD Para Director candidate

I have over 27 years of experience as a member of British Dressage, as a competitor and coach of all levels from grass roots to Inter I. I am also a volunteer in various roles, a UKCC level 2 coach and committee member. Since October 2021, I have been the Para Director and I'm passionate about continuing my time in this role.

What's been happening in Para Dressage

There's been plenty of progress made in para dressage during my first term. On the competition front, all Para Bronze tests have been updated and completed to allow an easier route for riders to get into the sport, with better flowing tests within each grade. We've also seen the expansion of the Bronze and Silver Championships, which now host Virtus and RDA Grade 6 and 7 classes alongside the Para Summer Championships. The Gold Semi-Finals were also brought to this event, to create one big celebration of Para sport.

In Training & Education, the introduction of the Para Academy has been a huge success since its conception two years ago. The most recent academy, hosted by Sophie Wells, was a showcase of ideal development and confirmed the need to continue this into the future.

We've also introduced a formal process for the selection of Para judges for all Para championship events, to provide a fair and structured approach. In addition, we have conducted a full review of venues in use, considering location, judges and facilities, to ensure that we're continuing to develop accessibility to events for BD Para riders.

Finally, I've been pleased to see the introduction of more 'standard' Para equipment accepted in BD non-disabled classes, approved via the formal dispensation process. This has been a great step forward to ensure accessibility to the sport for all.

Looking to the future of Para Dressage in BD

I'm proposing that there are more opportunities for Para riders. Regardless of your level, section or grade within the BD Para structure, I want to ensure that all athletes feel supported and have bountiful competition and training opportunities available to them.

To achieve this, I would like to develop closer working relationships with the BD Regions, by connecting with the Development Officers, Regional Representatives and venues to improve local para competitions, making them more accessible, well-run and effective.

I would also like to see a review of Freestyle competitions and championships. Freestyle competition is a fantastic opportunity for all, something we introduced during my term. However, participation at the Winter Freestyle to Music Championships has proven lower than expected. To address this, I'd like to consider hosting a Freestyle to Music Championships, making this a high-profile and celebratory occasion annually.

Finally, I would seek to continue the fight for recognition of other disabilities to be graded and included within the FEI Para system. This also includes the work we have just started, looking at the impact of lowering the age limit for National classification. Everyone deserves a chance to shine in the arena, and I would continue to champion this into my second term.