



Press Release

Hartpury College, UK carry out first batch of Riding Club Accreditations in China

In late November 2005 Jeremy Michaels, Equine Director of Hartpury College, University of West England, and Chief Examiner for the British Horse Society (BHS) visited China to implement the China Hartpury Club Accreditation and Club Instructor Programme (CHS) that Hartpury and the Chinese Equestrian Association have been working on for the past year. The objective of the programme is to give goals and the methods for Chinese riding clubs and their instructors to attain international level of accreditation.

Hartpury have designed a set of detailed criterion for judging the standard of the riding clubs ranging from one star to four stars. The clubs are judged on:

- a) The overall care of the horses
- b) Suitability of the horses for the objective the club has set itself
- c) The qualifications and especially teaching abilities of the staff
- d) The efficiency of the clubs record keeping
- e) Suitability of the facilities for the objective the club has set itself
- f) Overall safety aspects

In China there are now two three-star clubs.

Equuleus in Beijing who concentrate on the training of clients and members from beginners to National Competition Level (showjumping). Jeremy Michaels said: “Equuleus shows a high degree of commitment to excellence in all aspects of their work. The club management’s commitment to the continuous improvement and training of its staff shows itself in the high quality of stable management at all levels. This Club has understood that only well trained and motivated staff can supply a high service to the riding public”.

Meadowbrook in Shanghai who concentrate on teaching beginners, children and dressage. Jeremy’s comment on this club: “ Meadowbrook shows that with simple facilities and local horses they can still provide an outstanding service to their clients. Their success is in concentrating on the well-fare and the training of the horses and the quality of teaching. Their attention to detail is very impressive”.



Press Release

Club Instructor Programme

Jeremy Michaels said: “When I first came to China I was impressed by the enthusiasm among the instructors I met. Some had had the opportunity to train abroad or locally with many famous trainers but the emphasis had been always on improving their competitive riding. There had been little work on the basics, the theory and particularly on how to teach their skills to the many different types of clients. We have designed this programme to address the specific problems faced by Chinese club instructors. Our plan is to have the first batch of Chinese instructors gaining their international instructing licence in 2007.”

The Club Instructor Programme is based on the British Horse Society Programme (BHS). Jeremy was the BHS Director for Training until recently and is still a Chief Examiner for the BHS, so he has worked closely with Sarah Noble, Senior Advisor to the CEA, and Li Wei, CHS Trainer and Assistant Examiner and many other people from throughout the China horse industry to design the programme.

The focus of the programme is on

- a) Stable management both practice and theory – “To run a successful yard an instructor needs to have an in depth knowledge of the theory behind all aspects of horse care as well as being current with best practices” says Jeremy.
- b) Riding – “A successful instructor needs to be able to assess and improve the horses under his care to ensure that they are suitable for his clients. Also through working on his own riding skills, he can improve his understanding of riding, and therefore be a better teacher”.
- c) Teaching – “The Club instructor needs to be able to satisfy the needs of all level of clients, in terms of lesson content, lesson structure and general enjoyment. Only the will he be able to build a strong client base for his club.”
- d) Safety – “Safety in all levels of work in the stable should be the number one responsibility of any instructor: the safety of the clients the staff and the horses”.



Press Release

Training in Hartpury

To assist in the set up of the programmes, Hartpury has offered one yearly scholarship to train at Hartpury College. So far, Li Wei has completed his scholarship and is now the CHS Trainer and Assistant Examiner. During his visit to Beijing, Jeremy selected Qi Yang, from the Huitong Nuer Club, as the 2006 scholar to go to England for a period of 6-8 months, with the aim to concentrate on teaching and preparing horses for the riding club. Equuleus also plans to send Yang Fujun for 3 months to build on the training he received in Hartpury in 2004. Gao Meiwa is now in her second year of her degree in Equine Business Management. She is one of the top students in her course at Hartpury College. Hartpury College offers a range of courses from professional to university and post-graduate courses.