



Lauren Bilton on the competition that celebrates riding schools and enables non-horse owning riders to compete with each other

No horse? No problem for these championships

For more than two decades the BHS Riding School Championships has given horse lovers who don't own their own mounts the chance to compete against each other and enjoy a day dedicated to celebrating wonderful riding school horses. This year's event saw 124 passionate, talented competitors from around the UK assemble at Pickering Grange Equestrian Centre for the event.

Hard work and dedication all round

So much hard work and dedication was on display from everyone involved, giving both horses and riders the chance to gain confidence, and develop partnerships and teamwork skills.

We spoke to Taylor Adams from Cliff Hollins Riding School, who was delighted to be competing on school pony, Lily. They took part in the all-rounder introduction to canter equitation, 60cm show jumping and the stable management quiz. "I'm really excited that I got to do show jumping. I love it, it's one of my favourite things," she said.

The day ended on a high note, celebrating the achievements of all the competitors – with many rosettes and happy memories to take home. Congratulations to Four Winds Equestrian Centre, who took home the champion award for the second year running.

Bringing people together

BHS Generalist Trustee for Approved Centres and qualified coach Andrew Stennett travelled with Grove House Stables LLP and I-Pegasus CIC, a leading equestrian centre based between Doncaster and Radford. He shared his thoughts on how important the championships are to so many people: "It's a great opportunity for riders from all parts of our community. It gives non-horse owners that chance to experience a national competition as part of a team. And, competitions such as this give us the chance for friendly competition between the centres." [®]

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Top: Clair Needham and Blue, above: Trinity Reeve and RSPCA Kenzie and (left) Beatrice Hesketh on RSPCA Paisley
Below: Winners of the overall competition for the second year in a row, Four Winds Equestrian Centre

Martin Fox Photography

in the **numbers**

124 Riders from all over the UK took part

60 horses from **14** Approved centres

