

UKCC SEMINAR WELCOMES ALL

A day of imaginative and entertaining workshops greeted participants of the UKCC seminar hosted by BR earlier this month. Designed to provoke thought about the skills and qualities required for successful coaching, Pauline Brimson chaired the session accompanied by Susie Anderson and guest speaker Suzanne Genery.

Over 30 people attended including David Deptford, Lee Rutter, Lucy Adams, David Brindley, David Hudspeth, Lisa John, Caroline Lockhart and Sue Woods, with representatives from BR, WES, AQHA UK, the British Rodeo Cowboy Association, the Western Performance Pony Association, the British Morgan Horse Society and the Appaloosa Horse Club UK.

Suzanne Genery, Consulting Coaching Manager for the BEF, introduced the UKCC in detail. Working with all the equestrian disciplines in the BEF, she was able to impart specific information as to how it would affect the equine industry and explain how other member bodies were embracing the challenge.

This seminar worked to dispel any confusion as to why BR had been charged with delivering the UKCC for Western riding, and allowed participants the opportunity to express any concerns and raise questions. While BR will act as the formal registration route for the Western UKCC, it was made clear that there would be no requirement for applicants to become members of the association. As no other Western body qualifies for inclusion into the BEF, BR has encouraged open debate across the whole of Western equestrianism to formulate the discipline specific context in which coaches are assessed.

The question arose as to the relevance of existing Western industry qualifications from WES, the BRCA and other associations. Suzanne assured participants that these would be assessed and related to the UKCC as with the BHS instructor's exams. She went on to say that there was a system in place that would acknowledge the wealth of experience Western candidates held, whether or not they possessed formal qualifications. This will be achieved using the Coach Profile Tool, which forms part of the application process.



Lee Rutter and Lucy Adams work together on an exercise defining the role of a coach.



Sue Woods leads a coaching session with Susie Anderson, David and Sarah Deptford

The Coach Profile is a questionnaire that is filled out by the applicant allowing the opportunity to detail all relevant experience as well as to highlight other skills that may be required, including sports psychology, child protection and physiological fitness etc (skills that are transferable across all disciplines and sport). At this point Pauline went on to explain that should an obvious skills gap appear in candidates' profiles, BR will put on modules to allow them to 'top up' their applications. Later in the day it was agreed that BR, via Pauline, would send out the Coach Profile to all interested Western instructors as a pilot project prior to the actual registration process.

With many important questions answered, participants entered the group exercises enthusiastically. Delivered imaginatively by Pauline and Susie, these highly entertaining tasks were designed to show the skill and thought required in successful coaching. This helped participants understand that to be a great coach you don't necessarily have to be a great rider – something that equestrianism does not always recognise. Suzanne Genery made the point early in the day that although coaches must demonstrate that they have sufficient skill and experience, the UKCC accreditation is about 'how you coach what you coach' and not who is the best rider.

The groups then went on to define the roles and qualities of a coach; discussing what makes communication effective, the power of setting goals, and how feedback is a crucial requirement for a client's progression. Lisa John explains;

"The afternoon feedback exercise was particularly enlightening. I was blind folded and asked to throw a beanbag over my shoulder. I had been given no instructions and wasn't aware there was a hoop on the ground behind me. Instead of being guided by the instruction of 'my coach' (Lee Rutter), I had to ask if I needed to aim left, or throw a bit harder etc – not knowing what was required of me. Lee was able to work with the feedback I was giving him and I eventually hit the target. It just goes to show that until you tune into the feedback from your client, there will be no progression."

Lee Rutter adds: *"I found the workshop exercises most useful as they took the theory of communication a step further. Despite being so far removed from a usual riding session, what we learnt really had an impact. I am already using the methods in my lessons and clinics, and feel that I have become a better teacher for it!"*

It was made clear that the UKCC is not mandatory and if it does become so, it will not

in a role play exercise.

QUALIFICATION INFO

The UKCC represents a radical, five-tier coaching system that will be consistent across the whole of sport.

Level 1 – Coaching Assistant

Under direct supervision of a higher-level coach. A level 1 coach may deliver an aspect of a session.

Level 2 – Basic, Safe Coach

Prepares, delivers and reviews a series of sessions and will have a Level 3 mentor.

Level 3 - Fully Autonomous Coach

A role model at County/Regional level and able to plan, analyse and review annual programmes of rider development.

Levels 4 & 5 - Nationally Recognized Coach

At the cutting edge of sports coaching.

Using a process of agreement, the UKCC level of entry will be decided with the applicant and an appropriate assessor arranged. Although no one, whatever their prominence in the industry, will be automatically awarded a UKCC level, if (for example) it is agreed that an applicant be assessed at Level 3, they will by implication have attained a Level 2 standard.

The assessment will be carried out at dedicated centres across the UK and will comprise oral and practical elements and include the delivery of a coaching session. Candidates will be assessed in the context of a technical syllabus specific to Western riding.

Should there be a problem during an assessment whereby an individual fails to reach the agreed level, an internal verifier can be involved. There are also external moderators that may step in at any stage from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (OCA), Equestrian Qualification Ltd (the awarding body) or British Reining.

happen over night. The formal endorsement process for equestrian UKCC will be signed off at the end of April for levels 1 and 2 with accreditation for level 3 expected by the end of the summer.

"The day itself was conducted very professionally" continues Lee. "There were no grey areas and all questions were answered clearly and honestly, which gives me great confidence in the people who are involved in running the new system.

"I came to the seminar positive about the new UKCC system and have come away with more knowledge of its background and procedures. I am personally looking forward to the next step and am excited to see which level I will be assessed at. I have already signed up for a four day first aid course so I can add it to my application."

In summary, Lisa concludes; *"What I really like is the philosophy that seems to go in hand with the UKCC. Unlike some rigid examination systems, it promotes personal development and progress. For instance, if a coach feels that they are at level 2, when they submit their application, they will be encouraged to train and be assessed for level 3 – helping people advance with confidence.*

"I am very excited about this new system and I believe that most of the day's attendees share my enthusiasm. The seminar was a really fun and informative insight into the UKCC and I want to thank Pauline, Susie and Suzanne for their excellent delivery of what is an exciting step forward for Western instruction."

With 127 different qualifications available in equestrianism, the UKCC offers a UK wide, cross-sport pathway for experience and ability that will strengthen the profession and ensure the highest quality, progressive coaching for our riders. It is thanks to the hard work and persistence of Pauline Brimson and formally Richard Allan, on behalf of BR, that the wider Western community will benefit. [top](#)

The coaching UKCC has been designed to:

- be coach and participant centred developed to benefit both parties and intended to help each fulfill their own potential in their roles
- based on national standards bringing the qualifications inline with other nationally recognized awards such as NVO's, A-Levels etc.
- allow for vertical and horizontal progression encouraging coaches to strive to be the best at what ever level they choose to coach - based on the philosophy of 'how you coach what you coach.'
- deliver quality assurance with an independent element to assessments
- be flexible recognising that there is no one way to achieve a UKCC qualification
- be centrally coordinated to make use of common themes and threads running between sports
- have stakeholder ownership to engender a spirit of goal sharing and accountability with all member bodies, and
- build on existing good practice taking into account the expertise and knowledge already established within sports coaching.

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