

# NEWSLETTER

United States Equestrian Federation



## EVENTING OWNERS TASK FORCE

### Selection: Thoughts from the Chairman

Dear Owners and Supporters of the US Eventing Program,

I am pleased to be asked to write a bit about USEF Eventing Selection and some the work our committee has ahead of us in 2016.

First, let me say a big "thank-you" for your enthusiasm for, and participation in, the high-performance program. The support of the EOTF has been one of the many genuine positives to come out of the rebuilding of the program over the last few years.

To say 2016 is going to be a very important year would be a big understatement! When most folks think about the work of the Selection Committee, choosing the teams to represent us at Olympic, World and Pan-American Games most readily comes to mind. Those of you intimately involved with the process know that our task list is much longer than that. There is much preparatory work that is done by the Selector's far ahead of any naming of teams.

In November the committee convened to draw up the 2016 Training Lists. The riders chosen will train over the winter with Coach David O'Connor. 2016's list is purposely narrower in focus to allow David to put all of his efforts toward the success in Rio. The list will be significantly broader at the beginning of the new quadrennial in 2017.

We will be busy this winter observing many of the bigger CIC competitions around the country. These **are not** selection trials, but serve as a way for the selectors to keep up with a horse and rider combination's current form.

Additionally, the CIC's will allow us to observe those that have applied for Land Rover Grant Funding for International Eventing Competitions in 2016. If you would like to study the criteria for these grants you can click on this [link](#). The Land Rover funding has proved to be an invaluable way for our top riders and horses to get much needed experience and exposure that an over-seas trip offers. Approximately 15 of these grants are available in 2016. It's just one piece of the puzzle in putting together teams that can be competitive in a given year--with 2016 of course being the Olympic Games in Rio.

As far as actual Selection Trials go, things will really come into focus beginning with the Rolex Kentucky CCI\*\*\*\* at the end of April. The selections period for the 2016 Olympics began at the beginning of 2015 and will run through mid-June of 2016. All five Selectors routinely attend both Rolex and Fair Hill CCI each year as those events give us the best opportunity to watch a very large number of candidates. We then divide the work-load of the other [selection trials](#) so that, most commonly one or two selectors are in attendance at these competitions no matter where they happen to be in the world.

Following the strict criteria laid out in the [Selection Procedures](#) the committee will develop a Vet List for the Olympic Games, and those horses will undergo thorough veterinary evaluations by our Vet Team. With the input of that group, the USEF will name the team and reserves no later than June 20, 2016.

These Procedures make it very clear to the riders what is expected of them for selection.

There is an element of subjectivity to choosing teams as well, and that is where the selectors' (chosen by the riders themselves with approval from the High Performance Committee) depth of experience and practical, thorough knowledge of each applicant is of vital importance. These are not easy decisions to make, and the Selectors appreciate what rides on every single one of these decisions. At the end of the day, *our job is to pick a team that has the very best chance of bringing back to the U.S. an Olympic Medal.* If one was to describe in the simplest of terms what the ultimate job of the Selection Committee is over the quadrennial, that would be it.

Wishing all of you the best for a Happy, Healthy, Safe, Fun, Satisfying and Successful 2016!

Robert Costello

Chairman, Eventing Selection Committee

January 2016



### Up Coming Events

January 12—16

[USEF Annual Meeting](#) Lexington, KY

January 17-19

HP Training Session Temecula, CA

January 25-27

HP Training Session Aiken, SC

January 22

[Rockin' Rio USET Gala](#) Wellington, FL



February 5

Champagne with Champions  
Wellington, FL

February 5-6

Wellington Eventing Showcase

February 8-10

HP Training Session Ocala, FL

February 17-18

HP Training Session Aiken, SC

February 19

[OLYMPIC APPLICATIONS DUE](#)

February 23-24

HP Training Session Ocala, FL

March 2-3

HP Training Session Aiken, SC

March 3

Celebration of US Eventing Aiken, SC

[HP Eventing Calendar](#)[2016 Eventing Training  
Listed Riders](#)[Winter HP Eventing  
Training Sessions](#)

### 2015 Team Success

#### Gold Medalists at Pan American Games

Phillip Dutton and Fernhill Fugitive (owned by Thomas Tierney & Annie Jones)  
 Lauren Kieffer and Meadowbrook's Scarlett (owned by Marie le Menestrel)  
 Boyd Martin and Pancho Villa (owned by the Pancho Villa Syndicate)  
 Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous (owned by Jacqueline Mars, Michael and Phoebe Manders & Raylyn Farms)

#### Bronze Medal at Aachen CCI03\*

Phillip Dutton and Fernhill Cubalawn (owned by Thomas Tierney & Simon Roosevelt)  
 Lauren Kieffer and Veronica (owned by Team Rebecca, LLC)  
 Colleen Rutledge and Covert Rights (owned by Colleen Rutledge)  
 Lynn Symansky and Donner (owned by the Donner Syndicate)

#### Silver Medal at Boekelo CCI03\*

Matt Brown and Super Socks BCF (owned by Blossom Creek Foundation)  
 Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous (owned by Jacqueline Mars, Michael and Phoebe Manders & Raylyn Farms)  
 Elisabeth Halliday-Sharp and HHS Cooley (owned by Deborah Halliday)  
 Buck Davidson and Copper Beach (owned by Carl Segal and Sherrie Martin)

### 2015 Individual Success

#### Pan Am Games

Individual Gold: Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous (owned by Michael and Phoebe Manders & Raylyn Farms)  
 4th Boyd Martin and Pancho Villa (owned by the Pancho Villa Syndicate)  
 7th Lauren Kieffer and Meadowbrook's Scarlett (owned by Marie le Menestrel)  
 10th Phillip Dutton and Fernhill Fugitive (owned by Thomas Tierney & Annie Jones)

#### Blenheim International CCI3\*

1st Clark Montgomery and Loughan Glen (owned by Jessica Montgomery, Kathryn Kraft and Holly and William Becker)  
 6th Lauren Kieffer and Veronica (owned by Team Rebecca, LLC)  
 7th Emily Beshear and Shame on the Moon (owned by Deep Purple Eventing)

#### Luhmuhlen CCI4\*

6th Clark Montgomery and Loughan Glen (owned by Jessica Montgomery, Kathryn Kraft and Holly and William Becker)

#### Bramham International CCI3\*

6th Lauren Kieffer and Veronica (owned by Team Rebecca, LLC)

#### Bramham International CCI3\* U25

10th Caroline Martin and Quantum Solace (owned by Caroline and Sherrie Martin)

#### Military Boekelo CCI03\*

6th place Matt Brown and Super Socks BCF (owned by Blossom Creek Foundation)



### Please join us for a Celebration of U.S. Eventing

**Thursday, March 3  
Stable View**

(117 Stable Drive Aiken, SC 29801)

5:00pm - Masterclass with  
Phillip Dutton & Boyd Martin

*Followed by recognition of U.S. Eventing Legends*

6:30pm - After Party to follow  
in the Main Barn

*Including your favorite athletes as Guest  
Bartenders, Food, Live Auction and more*

#### **Advance Ticket Information:**

*usetf.org*

(Advance Ticket Sales close February 22nd)

\$150 for Masterclass and After Party  
(\$125 tax deductible)

\$35 for Masterclass only  
(\$25 tax deductible)

Limited Tickets Available

Contact Bryn Wells, bwells@usetf.org with any event questions.

*All proceeds benefit the Land Rover U.S.*

*Eventing Team's Road to Rio*

The USEF Foundation is a 501c3 Tax ID: 22-1668879



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## JOIN US



**CHAMPAGNE WITH CHAMPIONS**  
Asheville Regional Airport Eventing Showcase

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH**  
30 minutes after the completion of Dressage

*Come and meet Eventing Olympic and Pan  
American Games Gold Medalists, Legends and  
current Eventing High Performance Riders!*

*Interested in attending? Please contact bwells@usetf.org*

[www.ExperienceEventing.com](http://www.ExperienceEventing.com)