

# Cornish riding centre puts itself firmly on the map to achieve Clubmark first

BY ANNABEL GROOM

Barguse Riding Centre is celebrating after becoming the first riding school in Cornwall to achieve Clubmark accreditation from the British Horse Society and British Equestrian Federation. They are one of only 24 equestrian centres in the whole of the UK to have this approval.

"We are thrilled and could not have done it without the support of all our staff," said a delighted Lisa Todd who owns the centre with her husband Alistair.

"The UK has an enormous pool of potentially talented riders and we hope that this accreditation will allow us to further develop the existing links with schools and youth organisations. We firmly believe that all junior riders should have access to quality training and are about to launch our charity to enable more riders to have that opportunity. We pride ourselves on being able to offer tuition for all abilities, including accessing tuition from top class trainers in a welcoming and safe environment."

Margaret Linington-Payne Director of Standards for The BHS and Clubmark assessor said: "Barguse Riding Centre have worked very hard to produce their Clubmark Portfolio, we would like to welcome them as the first centre from Cornwall to achieve this important accreditation."

In order to achieve the status, which took Barguse nine months, they were required to compile a portfolio of evidence covering four areas – The Playing Programme, which covers everything from coaching regimes to providing suitable competitions and training to assist a participant to realise his/her potential; Safeguarding and protecting children, where all the staff are fully CRB checked and have full first aid training; Knowing your club and it's community, where the centre is required to further develop links with schools and Club management, which includes having a continued development plan.

The husband and wife team moved to Barguse in 2007 which was operating as a riding school/competition venue on a smaller scale than now.

"Our ambitions for the centre are to continue to raise the standards of both the riding and the facilities



Alistair and Lisa Todd, owners of Barguse Riding Centre which has achieved Clubmark accreditation

here," explains Lisa.

"We believe that all riders should be given the chance to learn to ride whether they want to continue just for pleasure or develop their skill further."

Barguse recognises that there are some people who cannot afford to even try to ride with no access to funding, so they are about to launch a charity to help bridge that gap.

"The Barguse Charitable Trust is a registered charity that will provide funding towards riding lessons subject to certain criteria being met and give them the chance to experience a new sport," adds Lisa.

"This reinforces our commitment to our Clubmark accreditation to encourage new members and provide equal opportunities for everyone in the community."

Despite the economic climate, Barguse has increased its coaching staff from three to seven to accommodate the increase in demand for riding lessons.

Lisa adds: "We attribute our success to providing good, quality coaching at a reasonable price, providing competitions, training and activities for all levels at a sensible rate and constantly evolving the business."