

Mrs Susan Rawding
President – 2021-2023

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I cannot believe how the time has flown by, three years ago, I was hugely privileged and honoured to become the British show Horse Associations President, having been a panel judge since 1982, and been elected to the list of offices and subcommittee ever since 1996.

I have seen many changes over the years and have to admit that some of today's methods and attitudes have left me wondering where Association is going. I am not good with modern technology! My first year as President was when we were coming out of Covid and we managed to have an excellent championship show, all outdoors at Arena UK.

Sadly the following year we lost her Her Majesty The Queen on the first day of the show. The decision was made to cancel the rest of the show which caused a great loss of revenue to the Association.

This year it was decided to book Addington Equestrian Centre. This was great news until problems began to rise with the services and the indoor arena. I took myself of the venue to visit when a BSPS show was running and met up with other board members, time was flying by, and it was suggested we should relay relocate to Arena UK, but more discussions were had and final decision was made to stay at Addington.

Yes a few problems arose, but these were dealt with on the whole. Everybody was delighted to be back at Addington and a fantastic show took place due to a lot of hard work by Lucy and her team and I take my hat off to them all. Thank you!

Addington as always been a very special place for me and John. It was the former home of our fantastic Cameo, and the stallion, Dallas, formally with the Countess of Inchcape. At last year's AGM, Nigel Hollings took the chair once again along with new board members and Tim Jones was appointed Treasurer. I was delighted and believed he was just the person for the position. I was looking forward to Tim taking some of the pressure from the office staff, sad that he did not remain. We were very fortunate to have Kath Bowdler, hugely qualified, to look after the associations finances thank you, Kath, for stepping into the breach.

To be asked to judge a great honour, but you can never be sure what will happen! On one occasion, judging the heavyweight hunters at Melplash Show, one horse was looking, particularly strong I said to my co-judges 'I am going to ride that one first, while I still have plenty of strength!', with my co-judge who set off just in front of me, I thought 'it's going to pull even more' with just the one in front, so I decided to take a turn, just when the horse locked onto a decent parallel which we cleared in great style. My co-judge then went up to John, and said 'what a good job it wasn't the Puisseance course!'. On another occasion, John was a ride judge. He was legged up by a well-known Professional, just as John was about to put his seat in the saddle the Professional put a wet sponge on the saddle. I will leave it to your imagination what John's response was! That Professional was Mr David Tatlow, also a previous BSHA President! Don't let us forget, shows are supposed to be fun!

I know that from time to time competitors are asking if they can compete in ridden classes with horses barefoot, probably not a problem when riding on some surfaces, but on hard ground with a heavy dew, horses can slip quite badly and end up on the floor. In my opinion horses should always be shod if competing in classes where there is a right judge. I hear the talk about judges being faced out, so let's take care before this happens.

I have tried hard to keep up to date with the BSHA, with regular contact since moving house at the end of May. Moving everything to a smaller place has been quite challenging. I'm still looking for things in boxes and I have lots of showing items, so anything you might need call me and I'll do my best to find it.

I would like to thank all board members past present for the kindness and support and I wish the BSHA and your new President, Mrs Lucy Killingbeck continued success and goodwill.

Mrs Susan Rawding