

‘You Said We Did’

The BSPS is committed to making changes where it is practical to do so to enhance the offer to all our members.

Some of the requests that are made cannot be done without consultation with our key partners, HOYS, RIHS, LIHS and Burghley. The majority of the requests are not in the gift of the BSPS; however, we will always ensure these are passed on to key partners with a rationale as to why these changes have been recommended. We are very grateful to all our key partners for all the help and support they give to us. This page sets out the changes that the Society has made over the past few years the majority generated by members requests.

‘You Said’ - Can we put some restrictions around who can compete in the tiny tots classes at the championship show?

We have amended the criteria for some of these classes at the Summer Championship show from 2025.

‘You Said’ – Can we have a Desert Orchid M&M classes at the Summer Championship Show?

This was implemented at the 2025 championship show.

‘You Said’ – Could we reduce the age for lead rein riders for the Burghley and LIHS lead rein and sports pony class.

Now the class is more established the BSPS have decided to reduce the age by one year for competitors competing in these classes from 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we have a first season Show Hunter / Show Pony Class at the Summer Championship Show?

This was introduced at the Summer Championship Show in 2025.

‘You Said’ – Could we have a 4, 5 and 6 yr old young mixed lead rein class at the Summer Championship Show?

This was introduced at the Summer Championship Show in 2025.

‘You Said’ – Could the age of the Nursery Stakes riders go up by a year to align it with LIHS?

This has been implemented for 2026.

‘You Said’- Could we ask HOYS not to require animals to be measured if there was no upper height limit for the class?

We are grateful for HOYS for listening and implementing this change from 2025.

‘You Said’ – Could we improve our communication with members and our content on social media?

This remains ‘work in progress’ but we have significantly increased our members newsletters, social media content and members Zoom meetings.

‘You Said’ – Could we align the Cradle Stake age to the 123cm Show Hunter Pony and the 122cm M&M Working Hunter Pony?

This has been implemented for 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could the height of some of the 122cm classes be increased to 123cm?

In consultation with HOYS and RIHS the height for the show pony first ridden and the 122cm show hunter pony class have gone up to 123cm as has the cradle stakes.

‘You Said’ – Following the success of the M&M lead rein or M&M type sports pony class at LIHS could a first ridden class be introduced?

This was introduced in 2024.

‘You Said’ – Would it be possible to have a major indoor final for Cradle and Nursery stakes competitors?

This was introduced at LIHS in 2023.

‘You Said’ – Could a Cradle Stakes class be introduced at RIHS?

This will be implemented in 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we introduce a First Pony of Show Hunter Type at the RIHS?

This will be implemented in 2026.

‘You Said’ (most letters we have received) – Could the riders age for the 153cm WHP class be increased to 25yrs age?

This will be implemented for 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we introduce a class for the less experienced rider to compete at RIHS?

We introduced the Young Dragonara class at the RIHS in 2025.

‘You Said’ – Could we amend the ‘Challenge’ rules to make them clearer and appropriately restricted?

New rules will be implemented for 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we review the Pretty Polly rules (home produced) as they were too restrictive?

In partnership with RIHS these rules were amended for 2025 and have been well received.

‘You Said’ – Would it be possible for Intermediates to compete at Burghley Sports Pony final?

The classes have been changed to enable this to happen from 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we have a Gold Cup Nursery Stakes class at the Summer and Winter Championships to prepare the children for when they can qualify for Burghley?

Due to the changes that have been made to the Burghley classes, this will be possible and will be implemented in 2026.

‘You Said’ – That the courses for the plaited WHP were inconsistent and there was too big a gap in height between some classes particularly Cradle Stakes to Nursery Stakes?

A new set of height fences has been introduced for 2026 with 90% of fences to be at a set height.

‘You Said’ – Could you compete more than one pony in a RIHS WHP qualifying class?

From 2026 competitors will be able to compete on two ponies in the 133cm, 143cm, 153cm Intermediate WHP classes.

‘You Said’ – Could we do more to promote the correct training and welfare of horses and ponies?

In partnership with the British Horse Foundation, we introduced Trainers Excellence Awards at the 2025 Summer Championship Show.

‘You Said’ – Following the success of the LIHS First Ridden class could we amend the age and the height of the ponies upwards for the first of the performance classes?

This will be implemented for 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we change the date of the Heritage Championship Show and bring it forward?

This was implemented for 2025 and proved very popular and successful.

‘You Said’ – Could we take a range of ideas about changing the age of the riders to the HOYS?

We did this and they agreed to increase the age of the rider for the 148cm show ponies for 2025 however, they then said they would review this for 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we create more ‘Performance’ classes?

We have implemented a number of Performance classes at LIHS from 2023.

‘You Said’ – Could we speak to RIHS regarding some timetable changes to move the SHP lead rein class from Sunday to a different day to avoid the plaited lead rein show pony and first ridden being on the same day and the

Anglo and Part Bred Arabs from Sunday to a different day to avoid clashing with the Hacks and the Intermediates?

We are grateful for the RIHS for amending their timetable for 2026.

‘You Said’ – Could we have more classes at London International Horse Show?

We have added two extra classes for 2026, the Working Sports Pony Performance classes.