

British Showjumping's exciting new partnership with the accredited work-based training provider Haddon Training will support members in their career development, help unlock their talents and develop their aspirations while they are in work-based training programmes and apprenticeships.

"We're thrilled to be rolling out the educational arm for British Showjumping," said Chris Hewlett of Haddon Training.

"These work-based training programmes and apprenticeships are the flip-side of going to college and are government funded subject to eligibility. Our aim is to link employers, employees and young people to build up a talented and skilled workforce.

"Being born out of the equine industry we fully understand the specific needs required to deliver a portfolio of relevant qualifications. We'll be targeting employers in our mission to support the next generation and offer BS members the opportunity to develop recognised skills with real wages."

Children, junior and young rider chef d'equipe Corinne Bracken said: "The vocational route provides something incredibly valuable to a young person because it equips them with the skills they need to succeed in the workplace."

Learning job-specific skills from people in the equine industry is an official form of education and the apprenticeship is equivalent to five GCSEs at A-C level while the advanced level is equal to two A-levels.

Targa Hammond has first-hand knowledge of the benefits and the vital support offered by Haddon Training.

"I've been associated with Haddon since 2006 when I went through my NVQ Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in horse care and riding," said Targa, who successfully completed BS's bronze, silver and gold training scheme and furthered her skills as part of the Young Rider and the BEF World Class training squad.

"I came out of Young Riders and wanted to develop my career from home," she said. "The route I took was greatly influenced by Corinne and I passed out at NVQ Level 3 and UKCC Level 2.

"She advised me to train for the NVQ Level 3 through Haddon to expand my management skills on the yard. It gave me a greater understanding of how to expand my skills not only on the horse but on the ground. It educated me in health and safety and developed my teaching and all-round skills."

Haddon Training has played a crucial role in guiding Targa through her qualifications.

"Haddon provides the syllabus, the funding, and other support such as helping with key skills in maths and English," she explained. "With the help of Haddon I've now got my assessor qualification (TAQA – formerly known as A1/A2) which has led to my role as a consultant with them.

"They're also encouraging me to take further qualifications which they provide. The whole process has helped me broaden my horizons. You reach a crossroads when you come out of Young Riders and training in the workplace has allowed me to diversify. It's made me realise how I love teaching and implanting knowledge while gaining qualifications. I've also been able to continue competing and enjoying the sport."

Seventeen-year-old Pippa Allen is a member of the Tretorn Junior International Squad and one of the first BS members to enrol with Haddon Training for the work-placed apprenticeship.

"The training is to national standards and focuses on the skills important to the equine business," said Pippa.

"You can earn while you learn, and gain recognised qualifications as you work. It will arm me with qualifications and concrete evidence that I have skills acquired through practical experience. It's a way of learning and training while riding and competing." Targa has now received approval for her yard as an employer's location and is dedicated to helping the next generation.

"It's a lot easier than it sounds to have your equestrian business approved by Haddon Training. Whatever your branch of the equestrian industry, whether a riding stable, livery yard or tack shop, they are very helpful and will guide you through the correct paperwork and funding available.

"I think that young people come out of school and go into an equine industry because they love it and Haddon Training gives them an opportunity to further their education.

"The Apprenticeship programmes allow you to earn while you learn while other qualifications mean that you can train as a 'full time student' but in the work place rather than college with an approved employer and location which means you enjoy a good standard at your workplace."

Visit the BS website for an application form or for further details and advice contact your Regional Development Officer or Academy co-ordinator or log onto www.haddontraining.co.uk