



**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**27 October 2016**

**Nominations Open for the Prestigious Meritoire Award**

The annual Meritoire award is presented to the person who, in the opinion of the Awards Committee has made an outstanding lifetime contribution to the performance sport horse and pony breeding industry.

Previous winners have been the Louella Stud for their contribution to sport horse breeding; Johanna Vardon, founder of the National Foaling Bank, for her contribution to the health and wellbeing of orphaned foals; Archie Smith Maxwell, breeder of Jumbo, one of the highest ranking event sires of all time; Professor Graham Suggett in recognition for a lifetime's contribution to breeding through encouraging British studbooks to work together and his Chairmanship of the former National Equine Database. In 2015, the Award was made posthumously to Richard Meade OBE, as it was in 2016 when the award was made to Richard Matson, who had very sadly passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Richard had been instrumental in driving forward many initiatives in the sport horse-breeding world and was the first member of Supporters of British Breeding set up by Desi Dillingham and which established these Awards and he was a Council member of the British Horse Foundation and Vice Chair of the National Equine Forum.

If there is someone you believe has made, or is making a valuable contribution to this sector of the British breeding industry and would be a worthy recipient of this esteemed award, click on the link to download a nomination form. **Nominations close on 2 December 2016.**

Link: <http://www.bef.co.uk/Detail.aspx?page=Breeders-Awards-Dinner>

The award will be presented at the annual British Breeders' Awards Dinner, hosted and organised by the British Horse Foundation in London on 14 January 2017.

## **Information**

Breeders Awards Dinner Sat 14 Jan 2017, Grange City Hotel, London EC3N 2BQ

For details of this and other awards being presented and to buy your ticket

<http://www.bef.co.uk/Detail.aspx?page=Breeders-Awards-Dinner>

To liaise with a member of the team, please email [rebecca.rawson@wallacepr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.rawson@wallacepr.co.uk)