



BEF Teams up with Society of Master Saddlers

The British Equestrian Federation's Equine Bridge Programme for four year old Futurity graduates has joined forces with the Society of Master Saddlers (SMS) to provide a saddle and bridle fitting voucher scheme.

SMS vouchers will be redeemable against saddle fitting services supplied by members of the Society of Master Saddlers. Futurity graduates eligible for the Bridge will receive vouchers for their first saddle fitting and those accepted on to the Equine Bridge will receive additional support.

Said Hazel Morley, CEO of SMS "we are delighted to be able to support both our members and young British bred horses in putting measures in place to improve the saddle and bridle fitting for young horses, which is so critical at this influential time".

Added Hazel "our sponsorship of the Futurity's live stream, offering free to view access to all the Futurity venues provided by equestrianpro.tv has meant that Futurity participants are made aware in plenty of time of the support that is available for their young horses for the first time ever".

"This pilot scheme runs for the years of 2016 and 2017 and will make a huge difference for breeders, making saddle fitting affordable, at a time when they have to make a massive investment, whilst bringing home how crucial correct saddle fit is in these formative years" said BEF's Head of Equine Development Jan Rogers.

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Information

The Society of Master Saddlers aims to ensure and achieve a high quality of workmanship through setting standards and overseeing the training of their membership's workforce to give their customers a professional and quantified service. It continues its work to carry these standards through saddle and bridle build, repair & fit, and to work towards the complete comfort and safety of horse and rider <http://www.mastersaddlers.co.uk/>

The BEF Futurity Equine Bridge Horses reviews horses which have scored at least 8.5 in their three year old Futurity assessment again as four year olds under saddle. The aim of the day is to assess the horse's ridden work includes a simple ridden assessment on the flat for dressage horses and on the

flat and over a small course of fences for showjumping and eventing candidates. Sports ponies are also included. All horses undergo a vet/farrier assessment

<http://www.bef.co.uk/Detail.aspx?page=Futurity-Equine-Bridge>