



Perthshire riding instructor honoured with national award

Scotland

The British Horse Society honoured the individuals and organisations who have supported the leading equestrian charity's work at an awards ceremony at Saddlers Hall in the City of London recently.

Mary MacFarlane, from Perthshire, Scotland, received a prestigious BHS award for the person who has made an outstanding contribution to equestrian training. The award was presented by the Society's President Martin Clunes.

Mary, who is a BHSAI, has also got considerable top flight competition experience – 4 star eventing and Prix St George dressage – and the BHS are fortunate that she shares this wealth of accumulated experience and knowledge with British Riding Clubs (BRC).

Mary's generosity is such that she has even lent her own event horse, Macallan, to two junior riders where, with her training, they have competed for their country.

As well as her commitment to BRC, Mary has taken on responsibility for training the British Young Rider Dressage Squad in Scotland. With her coaching, the Scots are coming fast to the top, especially Carmen Gammie who is proving that you can compete with the big boys – even on a pony bought from Aberdeen Market for the princely sum of £75 – but only when you have a trainer of Mary's caliber!

Mary's great gift is being able to enthuse and inspire at every level. She shares her time and abilities generously and will always help those having problems wherever that may be

Speaking at the event, Mary said: "I am thrilled to bits to have received this award. Looking back at the previous winners, including those who I have been trained by, I just hope that perhaps someone I train will get an award in a few years time."

For more information and pictures, please contact Alison Coleman, 02476 840463 or a.coleman@bhs.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Previous winners of the award include Clare Sansom FBHS, Chris Bartle BHSAI, Yogi Breisner FBHS, Kenneth Clawson BHSAI, Lucinda Green MBE and Jennie Loriston-Clarke MBE FBHS.