



# airowear

Mix & Match Your Own Colours

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## Starting British Eventing



Throughout my childhood (*writes Amanda Toms*) I had taken part in a great deal of unaffiliated show-jumping and hunter trials which I thoroughly enjoyed. British Eventing to me was for serious riders and I always hoped that one day I would be good enough to have a go myself. By the time I was 30 I knew it was something that I wanted to try and, fortunately, I was in a position where I could search for that faithful companion to help me achieve this.

### Feeling nervous!

In September 2006 I found *Breezy Warrior*, a seven-year-old thoroughbred, ex-national hunt horse that had just started out at Intro level. Having trained throughout the winter



we entered Munstead Horse Trials. I felt very nervous, as I thought that everyone at this level would be of a truly superior standard. However, I soon discovered that I was not alone and there were many others having a go for the first time.

The dressage test was fairly simple and although we did not achieve a particularly good score I knew it could be improved on for next time. Next, the show-jumping, and we managed a clear round, then the cross-country. We set off and *Breezy* jumped round the course like it never existed and we even came home, clear and inside the time. We finished 16th, which I was extremely pleased with.

I found BE events to be very well-organised and very safety-aware, everything runs on time and because they limit the entries the classes are never too full. The quality of the jumps appears to be better and the going is looked after. Most BE events do state the type of going and how easy or difficult the course is, so you can choose a nice course for your first one.

I would recommend trying a BE Intro event even if it is your very first event.

We are now getting ready for this season and will do a few more Intros to get us started... then we will try Pre Novice!

## The Equine Pathway

The Equine Pathway is a British Eventing initiative which has earmarked 300 horses from its database of 12,000 which meet specific criteria and have possible potential to represent Great Britain in the 2012 Olympics.

At the end of the 2008 season, the horses that have failed to maintain performance will leave the list and others will join it. What is exciting is that the Equine Pathway gives everyone a chance to be noticed. Entry level on to the Pathway at Novice level requires two top three placings within a six-month period before the horse is eight-years-old. The requirement for horses competing at Intermediate level is the same, but with an age limit of nine years.

In exceptional circumstances, horses will be invited on to the Pathway without having fulfilled the above criteria.

## Lisa Pilbeam



Since gracing the cover of *Local Rider's* December issue, Lisa Pilbeam has received a letter inviting Cullawn Celtic Queen and Cullawn Holly on to the Equine Pathway for 2012.

This is very exciting news for Lisa because consistently good results in 2008 will lead to an invitation to join training sessions with Yogi Breisner.

For more information about Lisa and her current team of horses visit her website at [www.lisapilbeam.com](http://www.lisapilbeam.com)