

**Rishi Persad
Broadcaster**



Rishi is now one of the senior and most recognised sports broadcasters in the UK with more than two decades of experience, presenting and reporting at some of the most high-profile sporting events in the world.

Despite attaining an honours degree and a Masters in Law from Kings' College in London, his passion for sport meant it was inevitable that he would spurn a legal career.

His first break in television came courtesy of Attheraces when the channel originally launched in May 2002, and having secured a role as one of the lead presenters, Rishi quickly became one of the most sought-after broadcasters in the industry. Recruited by Channel 4 Racing just six months after he first appeared on television, he was then head-hunted by the BBC, who found his easy-going, knowledgeable, and warm manner appealing.

The BBC wasted little time in promoting Rishi through their ranks, entrusting him with high-profile appearances at major international events. Indeed, Rishi made his Olympic presenting debut in Athens in 2004 and has operated in a similar capacity for the BBC in Beijing, London, Rio De Janeiro, and Tokyo.

His ability to learn quickly, adapt to any situation, and his versatility has seen Rishi playing a leading role on a number of different sports including tennis, golf, cricket, snooker, and bowls in addition to major events such as the Olympics, Paralympics, and Commonwealth Games.

Rishi's professional yet friendly approach has meant he has been chosen to interview many of the world's leading sportswomen and men including Serena and Venus Williams, Roger Federer, Andy Murray, Tiger Woods, and Rory McIlroy, and he is widely respected across all sports.

Rishi has proven his ability to work hard and immerse himself in any project he is a part of, and his natural passion for sport means that, while some may consider this a job, he considers it a calling.

Di Arbuthnot
Chief Executive, Retraining of Racehorses; Chair, IFAR



Di is the Chief Executive of Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), British Horseracing's official charity of the welfare of retired racehorses. She has been directing the charity's progress since 2002. She is a former leading lady rider, a member of the board of the Amateur Jockeys Association and a director of Sandown Racecourse Committee. Arbuthnot's role at RoR involves liaising closely with the charity's chairman and trustees in planning RoR strategy and leading the executive team in the implementation of a wide range of RoR activities and second career events.

As well as communicating with the various racing and equine bodies and contacts, key to the role is promoting the highest standards of equine welfare and providing evidence to support the racing industry message that it cares about what happens to horses after their racing careers have ended. Di is the chair of the IFAR steering group and has been instrumental in the formation of the forum in order to share best practice globally.

**Annamarie Phelps
Chair
British Horseracing Authority**



Annamarie Phelps, vice-chair of the British Olympic Association and a former Olympic rower, was appointed as the chair of the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) in June 2019.

Annamarie is an experienced senior figure in British sport. She has worked for a variety of governing bodies dealing with complex political and regulatory issues and was the chair of British Rowing. She chaired the independent review into British Cycling in 2017.

Annamarie competed for Britain at the Atlanta Games in 1996 in the women's eight rowing event and was a world champion in 1993. She was awarded a CBE for services to rowing in 2016.

Dr. Meredith Flash
Lead Researcher
Australian Thoroughbred Wellbeing Project



After graduating from the University of Melbourne, Meredith Flash worked in equine racing and performance practice. She developed an interest in where horses went after retiring from racing through her work. This has shaped her research focus as the lead researcher for The Australian Thoroughbred Wellbeing Project, which investigates barriers to entering training and drivers of retirement for Thoroughbreds in Australia.

Jock Hutchison
Founder
Horseback UK



Born in Dunfermline Scotland in 1962, Jock's schooling at Dollar Academy was unremarkable except for his love of horses and a year's exchange to North Carolina at the age of 16, through the Rotary club of Dunfermline. This experience introduced Jock to western riding and working horses, which profoundly affected the way he has worked with horses ever since.

After school and a travelling break (of a couple of years) Jock joined the Royal Marines as a Commando and a Commissioned Officer.

Jock served in the Royal Marines for nine years and after an initial five years qualified as a pilot and flew helicopters for the Royal Marines, Army, and Navy.

Post military career, Jock qualified and flew as a commercial pilot for a short time before setting up his own business, a strategic security company called SES Strategies.

In 2007 Jock met with a friend who had returned from serving with the Royal Marines in Afghanistan and immediately saw a need to provide purpose for severely injured servicemen post clinical care. Jock sold SES Strategies and set up HorseBack UK. Over a two-year period the embryonic charity managed to secure official registration with OSCR, rebuild a training centre, recruit and train a team, liaise with existing help for injured servicemen and women and host a large number of attendees. Since 2009 HBUK has helped over 1,500 service personnel regain the confidence and self-belief to reconnect with others and the world.

Six years ago the charity diversified and developed courses to run alongside our military courses. They were designed to help children disconnected from the educational process. More than 1000 young people have benefited from said courses.

Since the outbreak of COVID, the charity has developed well-being programs, which have rolled out to the medical fraternity in Grampian and Highland. The Care community, NHS staff, and GPs in the area attend online well-being courses where horse behaviour helps stressed individuals. Again, this initiative uses horse behaviour to help attendees understand themselves and stress better. At the heart of this major new initiative is the Thoroughbred horse.

Jeffrey T. Berk, VMD, MRCVS



Dr. Berk began his veterinary career as a racetrack practitioner, and subsequently started a practice in Ocala, Florida, specializing in young horses in training and Thoroughbred sales work. A past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), he has also served as AAEP treasurer, board member, and chair of the AAEP Foundation Advisory Council. Dr. Berk has recently become a board member of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Berk was previously a partner at Ocala Equine Hospital, and is currently residing and practicing in Lexington, Kentucky, with Equine Medical Associates. His primary practice focus is international Thoroughbred sales work as well as work with New Vocations, the largest Thoroughbred aftercare facility in North America.

**Angela Schuster
Managing Director
Schuster Consulting Group**



Angela has been instrumental in the development, management and implementation of a number of large-scale projects across Australia's agricultural industries. In particular, these projects have related to strategic planning, compliance programs, standards, risk and governance across areas such as traceability, animal welfare, sustainability, product and production claims, technology and practice change.

Prior to co-founding Schuster Consulting Group in 2004, Angela managed the international marketing for ASX listed software company Integrated Research. There, Angela was responsible for the development and implementation of marketing and communication strategies in Australia, North America, United Kingdom and Germany.

Angela is a Non-executive Director of the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) and the Central West Leadership Academy, is the Australian Representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Strategic Advisory Group on Smart Farming (SAG-SF), co-chairs the SAG's Crop Production Subgroup (SG1) and is a technical member of the Livestock Subgroup (SG2). Angela is also a member of Standards Australia's Technical Committees on ITC Governance and Management (IT-030) and Electronic Animal Identification and Data Capture Systems (IT-028).

Her qualifications include a Master of Business (Marketing), Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration and a Diploma in Governance.