



Comment Paul Tapner

'SOMETHING HAS GONE WITH EVENTING'S BUSINESS'

With prize-money the sport's current hot topic, PAUL TAPNER cautions that winners don't actually end up as loss makers

THE first half of 2013 has been a seriously exciting time for eventing with amazing battles between the top riders – Jung, Nicholson, Fox-Pitt – and new names – Jock Paget, Bill Levett and Tim Price. Between them these riders have dominated the international three- and four-star circuits.

Other than who is winning, the next hot topic is all about money – prize-money and the huge cost of participating in the sport.

British Eventing has recognised the ever-increasing costs with publicised efforts to limit any increases in entry, start and membership fees. Diesel costs never go down, though, and events on the outer edges of the country have suffered as a result. Burgie

privileged to be able to make a business out of eventing.

I like to call myself a professional event rider but the reality is that no one is a professional event rider. Not a single event rider in the world can possibly win enough prize-money or gain enough sponsorship to finance the whole of their operation for the number of years it takes to be successful.

The so-called pros are either horse dealers and/or trainers to owners who want their horses trained to compete in eventing. Now I'm not being greedy by putting up my hand and stating that I would like more prize-money made available across the levels but I am embarrassed that our sport relies so

