

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS.

Horses came from near and far to Badminton for the outstanding equestrian gathering of the year, the British Horse Society's three-day Badminton Horse Trials. It began on the Queen's 34th Birthday and for the Royal Family, especially the Queen herself, it was an ideal way of spending the auspicious anniversary. The Queen is patron of the British Horse Society; Badminton is the Gloucestershire seat of the Duke of Beaufort (who escorted the Royal party) and he is Master of the Horse.

The trials were even more important than usual, as this year the seven riders of the British Olympic Games team took part. The Dressage test was the big event of opening day.

The Dressage Test is designed to show whether the horses have reached the "requisite standard of training and obedience". That's how it's put in the British Horse Society's programme. Needless to say, the "requisite standard" at Badminton is very high. In fact some authorities present said it was, if anything, too high.

A jumping competition and Olympic Training Practice were noted by many experts, with critical interest. From the Queen Mother downwards all who watched perhaps felt confident that in the equestrian events Britain will give a good account of herself in Rome.