



NEWSLETTER

October 2015

From the Chair.....

Hello all,

Welcome to winter...the dark evenings are here and soon the mornings will follow suit ☺
Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all those volunteers who helped with the show, putting up on the Saturday and those who ran the show on the Sunday - sorting the parking in difficult conditions, ensuring Health and Safety was carried out successfully, taking entries in the bus, co-ordinating the rings, stewarding and catering, amongst many other jobs that need to be done to ensure the show runs smoothly. Despite lower entries than usual, we received some positive feedback and are hoping to continue running the show next year....however this has to be conditional on maintaining support- both in obtaining the sponsorship upon which we rely and also to ensure we do not continually rely on the same people every year. There will be changes to the format next year- if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

On the same note, could I also respectfully remind all members of the constitution of the Club, particularly where it speaks of 'demonstrating respect to all members'- this applies whenever the Club holds meetings, events and also on social media sites. The Committee wish to uphold the principles of the constitution at all times and urge all our members to do likewise.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Committee: Jackie Muggleton and Lee Brain, both of whom have been co-opted. I'm sure they will bring some fresh ideas to the club. However, as always we also welcome ideas from our membership- if you have any suggestions for visits, rallies or speakers, please let any of the Committee know- we will do our best to accommodate you!

So, despite the encroaching dark and cold, I wish you all a happy couple of months until Christmas....don't forget our Quiz and nibbles at our December meeting- the more the merrier! Ho, ho, ho ☺

Ros & the little people

VHPRC
Winter Dressage Series
Woodfield Stables

WE ARE SEEKING HELPERS

If you can help, or know someone who can, please get in touch
Contact: Laura Hayden

We hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month

FABULOUS FOOD!

Rose & Crown,

68 Parkfield Road, Pucklechurch, Bristol, BS16 9PS

Meet the Firemen 😊

Our speaker in October was Sean from the Avon and Somerset Fire Service, who came to talk about rescuing large animals including horses, and the hazards that be presented in different situations. He explained that the Fire Service traditionally had no training or equipment for rescuing animals and training has only been developed over the last few years. In 2008 Hampshire FRS hosted an annual rescue conference which was followed by the Avon FRS. In 2009 a national standard was agreed via the CFOA practitioners forum and in 2010 the AFRS purchased some equipment and began training at the Bath station. £15,000 was invested initially but they now rely on sponsorship and donations. The BVA (British Veterinary Association) have sanctioned all the equipment that is used.

Their brief is “the removal of an animal from a place of danger to a place of safety by the most humane method”. Large animals are considered to be: horses, cattle, deer, large dogs and zoo animals. Their over-riding regard is for the safety and welfare of themselves and members of the public.

A rescue can: pose an immediate threat to life, cause serious injury, compromise a means of escape and cause a counter-productive reaction by the animal – the arrival of the FRS often doesn’t calm a large animal!

A horse is considered similar to hazardous material as it can give an unpredictable reaction and is deemed more dangerous than toxic chemicals! We watched some slides that showed untrained responses and how fast a horse’s reaction can be- the vet that was branding a horse actually died from his injuries, caused by a single kick!

Sean explained “Team Typing”- which is actually the training (confusing!):

AR Level 1 which is a 2 hour safety presentation on awareness safety to general staff.

AR Level 2 is held at Bath. The animal rescue team receive training in animal behaviour and psychology, and nationally agreed animal rescue training, including time at an agricultural college.

AR level 3 is for the animal rescue specialist (currently 7 at Bath). They have an enhanced knowledge including marine mammals, exotics and dangerous wild animals. They also have advanced veterinary knowledge: physiology, triage and chemical restraint.

Call handlers need to ascertain the nature of the incident, the precise location, whether humans are trapped, if the animal is in water, whether the owner is present (50% are not), if the owners vet has been called and if the incident is accessible by road. They can call a vet from the BEVA emergency list, but the owner will be responsible for payment, unless they cannot be traced.

The first attending crew’s actions are to liaise with the owner/ caller, ensure a vet is called, secure the scene from the public and make an initial Risk Assessment. Generally 9 crew are needed: 3 in the inner cordon, a safety observer, an incident commander, a vet/RSPCA inspector, a specialist RS technician and crew with equipment in the outer cordon.

Likely responders might include: the public, farmers or equine staff, emergency services, a vet, other agencies eg RSPCA and the Highways Agency. The horse owner can be a liability, possibly treating the horse as a child, act irrationally, put themselves at risk or try to direct the RS to put themselves at risk. They often suffer from feelings of guilt, fear and anger. The RS need to keep the numbers of people in the central zone to a minimum to reduce the risk of injury to animals and people.

Even other responders can be a problem: farmers can be a hindrance rather a help as they are not often team workers and tend to be blasé as animals are their livelihood, but they can be useful in providing lifting equipment. Vets may dread animal incidents if they have no formal rescue knowledge or experience but their presence is crucial for medical diagnosis, sedation and euthanasia. The RS is responsible for the vet’s safety when in the inner cordon.

At this point we watched some videos, including one of 2 horses trapped on a bridge, their legs through the floor, and what happened when the owner panicked. Just a change in the tone of voice was enough to make the first horse panic, followed by the other (owners screaming by then!) and both horses ending up in the river. Happily, neither horse was hurt.

Ros

Dengie

Our September speaker was Bryoni Stephenson from Dengie who came to talk about equine nutrition, the digestive system and the effect of feeding regimes upon it. She started by discussing the origins of the horse, its natural environment, what the intestinal system is designed to process and how the modern practice of stabling, ruggering, clipping etc, usually timed to fit around the owners work patterns, have impacted upon the health of many horses. In the wild, horses are trickle feeders; they do not fast for 3-4 hours as they do when stabled. There is therefore the need to develop dietary management. She compared the digestive system of the horse to that of the cow and dog. Interestingly, a horse has a smaller stomach than either.

She then demonstrated the passage of feed through the horse's system starting at the **mouth**: the upper lip guides food into the mouth- mature horses have 40 teeth (incisors and molars)- and the saliva in the mouth is produced by 3 sets of glands which reduces acidity. As wetting feed reduces saliva, she suggested that feed should be fed dry.

The **oesophagus** uses peristalsis to move the food down. It is 1.5 m long and horses have a one way valve, hence they cannot be sick.

The **stomach** is the size of a rugby ball and is split into 2 halves: the bottom half produces acid. It is rigid as they are trickle feeders. She pointed out that large feeds are wasted - food stays in the stomach for 20-30 minutes, anything more passes through undigested. She was asked about the advisability of feeding horses before riding- she advised that fibre reduces acid production which in turn reduces the possibility of ulcers forming. EGUS (equine gastric ulcer syndrome) research has shown that 90% of racehorses have ulcers, compared to 65% of competition horses and 40-50% of leisure horses. Symptoms can be grumpiness, tiredness, dull coat, lack of appetite and pain. It can be graded by a gastroscopy.

The **small intestine** is 20-25 m in length (the length of 2 double decker buses) and holds 40-50 litres of digested food. When a horse goes for long periods of time unfed or is fed incorrect food, it becomes unfilled and can twist. In the small intestine, food is broken down into proteins, fats and minerals.

Horses are not adapted to high starch diets therefore the absorption capacity is reduced. Smaller feed sizes are recommended.

The **caecum (large intestine)** is home to micro-organisms which break down fibre by fermentation. This produces warmth, gas (wind) and biotin as by-products. Starch and sugars overflow into the large intestine and this can produce digestive disturbances eg laminitis, colic, loose droppings etc.

The **large colon** is 3.5 m long and its main role is absorbing water from the fermenting food.

The **small colon** (also 3.5 m long) has a smaller diameter and its purpose is to form the droppings.

The **rectum** (apparently a delicacy in Argentina!!) pushes the droppings out.

The time taken for food to pass through the entire system takes 72 hours. Worm damage can affect the digestive system.

Bryoni then went on to talk about dietary management for all types and ages of horses. For laminitics cereals should be eliminated, hay soaked (16 hours reduces sugar by 25%, 20 mins = 5%). Although box rest can be used alongside a low starch/ sugar free diet, she stressed that starvation actually increases the chance of **hyperlipidaemia**. To reduce the risk, regular exercise, grazing muzzles, strip grazing, night turn out, reducing/ eliminating grass altogether and choosing feed approved by the Laminitis Trust were all recommended.

To reduce EGUS, cereals should be eliminated, gut support additives (eg Protexin) and additional vitamins/ minerals and a low starch/ low sugar diet is recommended.

To close, Bryoni explained how Dengie are happy to visit yards and hold diet clinics, using a body score and weigh bridge, and recommending appropriate dietary regimes.

For more information: www.dengie.com , phone 08453455115 or find them on Facebook/ Twitter

While Bryoni was describing the horse's digestive system, she modelled it using a life size model....can you identify the parts from the photos??



DIARY DATES

Nov- Terri Hill (zebras)
Nov 15th (Sunday) Your Horse Live visit
Nov 22nd – dressage @ Woodfield
Dec- Quiz and nibbles
Jan- AGM and auction
Dec 13th - dressage @ Woodfield
Feb 21st - dressage @ Woodfield
Mar 20th - dressage @ Woodfield
Apr 17th – dressage Championship @ Woodfield

Dressage Riders Show Jumpers Eventers

If you would be interested in competing for the club at area competitions, please contact Laura Hayden, Team Co-ordinator.

Tack Shop Club Member Discounts

Did you know you are entitled to special discounts at local tack shops ? Think of all that money you can save ! Here is a summary of just some of the discounts available and the contact details:

Chris Puddy : <http://puddys.co.uk/saddlery/> - Discount 10%

Wadswick Countrystore:
<http://www.wadswick.co.uk/> - Discount 5%

Patrick Pinkers:
<http://www.patrickpinker.com/?id=296> – Discount 10%

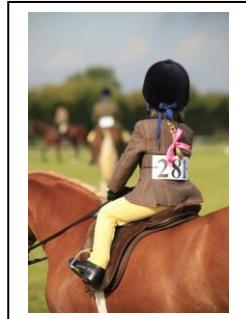
It is also worth asking if you visit other tack shops, remember always take your membership card with you ! Please note these discounts do seem to be rather selective and some items are excluded, unfortunately this includes saddles.

Please keep checking the website for up-to-date news regarding speakers and rallies –

www.vhprc.co.uk

Any articles/ photos to Ros at rossteward@hotmail.co.uk

Showing – some snaps from the VHPRC Open Show 2015



Thanks to
Tianna
MacVay for
permission
to use her
photos from
the day

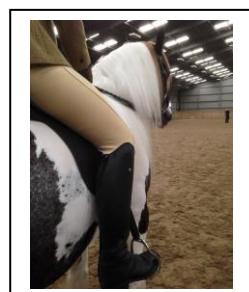
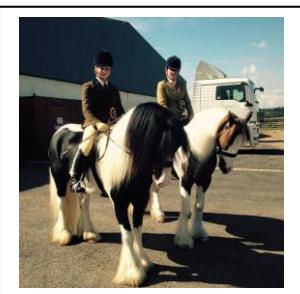
Please send your photos, whatever you do with your equines.....

Fun at TOYS (Traditional of the Year Show)

Jess Hawes and Claire Victoria Phipps, although they came to our Open Show this year, were unmounted spectators.....because they had qualified for TOYS, held at Onley, Rugby. They had travelled up on the Thursday and competed over two days, returning Sunday morning. They competed in a variety of disciplines: dressage (Claire), showing and Concours d'Elegance. Claire also had a go at horseball!!

Both did fabulously well, both Peach and McFluffy flew the jumps in the traditional riding club class, disputing the notion that cobs don't jump.....and both were well placed in their finals. The piece de resistance (had to include some French here) was the Concours d'Elegance class...despite some stress for Claire who had had issues getting her costume completed on time, both looked utterly amazing and were well placed in the class. Peach and McFluffy clearly had no qualms about the floaty dresses! Jess is on a mission now to find some more shows with Concours classes 😊

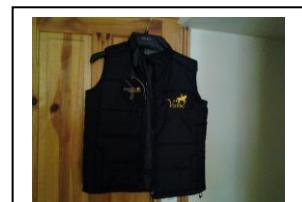
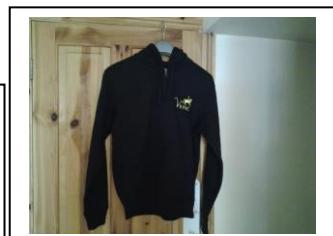
Well done to Lee Brain, who drove there and back, was official team photographer and had to be groom to both ladies and their horses.....no stress there then Lee!



VHPRC Clothing

Are you aware of the range of clothing we sell?

Here are some of the lines. Deb Vickery will be happy to discuss your requirements at every monthly meeting (or by phone if you are unable to come). New lines always being sought.....



Veteran Championship 2015 Results

Junior Ridden Champion Chris Clark- McCoy

Senior Ridden Champion Glyn Jones- Mill Bay Sam

Golden Ridden Champion Caroline Taylor -Percy

Ridden Supreme Champion Glyn Jones on Mill Bay Sam

Junior In-hand Champion Elise Williams- Kino's Gambul

Senior In-hand Champion Georgina Zebedee- Pontsarn Flyer

Golden In-hand Champion Caroline Carter- Blowing Bubbles

In-hand Supreme Champion Georgina Zebedee with Pontsarn Flyer

Mature Rider Champion Chris Clark on McCoy

And finally....you never know when you might be called upon.....

On the 18th October, instead of helping at the dressage, I ended up in Badminton Village Hall for an Area 9 First Aid course run by Medi-K. The trainer was Sue Tate, a lifeguard in 'real life'.

We had a very intensive course, covering the legal aspects of Health & Safety, risk assessments and identifying what first aid kits should contain and where they should be located. She pointed out that many are out of date and should be updated on a regular basis. We also heard about accident logs- and the importance of RIDOR (Reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences). We were taught that in the event of attending an accident, the responder must always ask for consent (if the injured person is conscious)- if not, consent must be implied.

When phoning either 112 or 999, the following must be given: Location, Incident, Other services required, Number of injuries, Extent of the injuries and Location (repeat)....LIONEL !

We then got down to business and started to practise CPR on the various dummies (adult, child and baby). We were taught how to conduct the primary survey: DRAB (Danger- look out for any near the casualty), Response (shout for help), Airway (check it is clear), Breathing (check for 10 seconds) then commence CPR if not breathing. We were advised to use any other bystanders to call for emergency services etc. For an adult CPR starts with 30 compressions followed by 2 breaths, repeated for as long as necessary. For a child, one starts with 5 breaths, then followed by one handed compressions 30 times, repeating the pattern. A baby should be have 5 breaths over nose and mouth, followed by 2 finger compressions.

We then practised the recovery position.....much laughter ensued here! After we had heaved ourselves upright, we then used Sue's new choke vests to practise alleviating choking- it was harder than it looked, especially if one has short arms like me!

In addition to all this, we learnt how to deal with shock- the symptoms and what to do. We also looked at a variety of rather gory pictures of injuries resulting in blood loss- arterial, venous and capillary, and how to recognise each. To deal with these we followed SEEP: sit or lay the casualty down, examine the wound, elevate, apply pressure and then treat accordingly. We were also shown amputations, but fortunately didn't have to actually deal with any- although surprisingly, quite a few of us had witnessed one! We talked about bleeding from other orifices. Bandaging was very hilarious....we got in a bit of a tangle at times.

We learnt about the symptoms of concussion (something that I have personal experience of) and how to treat it, followed by epilepsy, the symptoms and treatment.

Burns followed: using SCALD to determine the severity- size, cause, age of casualty, location, depth. Then we learned the correct treatment of the different types of burns and scalds.

At the end of the course, we had to undertake a written test (we had already been observed during the practical sessions) and at the end were told whether we had passed. And were even given a rosette! It was a long day but very worthwhile.....particularly as last weekend, we had a rider come off her horse and get trampled underneath.....at least I got to practice on a human rather than administering CPR to my dog.....but that's another story!



My first casualty!!!
After being taken off in an
ambulance, she was fine
apart from concussion ☺