



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019



From the Chair.....

Hi All

As another year draws to a close, I have to say that I will be glad to see the back of it. I hope that we only have good times from now on. I can't believe how wet it is & it looks like more is coming our way, but we are lucky compared to some.

As you may know I & a few friends went to Andalucia on a riding holiday in Oct, we had a great time & it made me realise I wasn't ready to hang up my boots. So I have got another horse & am having a lot of fun, you will all get to meet her in time. Her name is Cerrighedd Emily Rose, Emm's for short a really nice type 14.2 sect D x. My daughter Liz has also got herself a lovely cob called Dolly & I hope she will soon be out strutting her stuff. So from having no horses & an easy life I now have 3 and am totally pooped, but happy.

I hope you have enjoyed your past year with the club & will continue to do so next year, when we hope to introduce some different things to do with your horses.

Fingers crossed the rain stops soon & we get some bright frosty days to enjoy riding out.
Happy Christmas & a Healthy Prosperous New Year

Jane and Emm's



VHPRC Dressage Series @ Woodfield, Cann Lane

If you can help, or know someone who can, please get in touch
Contact: anyone on the Committee!!! ☺

Dates are on the website

We hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month

Bitton Sports and Social club (BS30 6HX)

Opposite Fonthill Garden Centre
Bar available but only snacks

The first of the dressage series- October 20th

It didn't rain!!!! It was jolly cold though, but it didn't put off our competitors who all rode so well and provided some stiff competition. Organised by Deb Vickery, who also rode in one class (epic multi-tasker), and supported by Linda Knight, Beth Bracey, Sue Fews and me, everything went fairly smoothly and it was great to see some new faces. Thanks to judges Gaye Griffiths and Christine Guy (and their writers).

Congratulations to everyone who qualified for the finals in April ☺

VHPRC Dressage
Class 1 AEB Test INTRO C Judge GAYE GRIFFITHS

Time	Rider	Horse	M	Score	%	Position
10.05	MISHILLA	GEORGE	153.5	66.73	3rd	
10.06	MOLLIE SIRL	SUZIE	155.5	67.60	1st	
10.12	EVIE MAY MORGAN	MIKEY	147.5	66.13	4th	
10.18	MISHILLA	PADDY	155.5	67.60	2nd	
10.24	CLARE BENNETT	EMBLA MAGISTRATE	148.0	62.87	3rd	
10.30	MIA SKUSE	DIDI	156.0	67.87	1st	
10.36	SUE HUNTLEY	HARRY	139.0	60.43	4th	
10.42	ROBBIE MOON	ALFIE			W/D	
10.48	GEMMA SMART	CASSIE	144.0	62.60	2nd	

CLASS 2

Time	Rider	Horse	M	Score	%	Position
11.12	MISHILLA	GEORGE	152.5	59.65		
11.18	MIA SKUSE	DIDI	147.5	64.42	(P)	
11.24	ANGELA CARTER	JAZZ	178.0	68.66	2nd	
11.30	NICKY BURSTON	FOXY	✓ 167.5	64.42	6th (P)	
11.36	VICKI BRIDGES	APRIL	✓ 161.0	61.92		
11.42	KIRSTY EDWARDS	HERO	183.5	70.57	1st	
11.48	AMELLA SMITH	LIBERTY	173.0	60.53	5th	
11.54	TERESA GREEN	CHEEKY	166.5	63.26		
12.00	MARK CAREW	FINN	✓	W/D		
12.06	OLIVIA SWICK	TOBAGO	✓ 175.5	67.30	4th	
				67.50	3rd	

VHPRC Dressage
Class 3 Test PRELIM 14 Judge CHRISTINE GUY

Time	Rider	Horse	M	Score	%	Position
12.24	GINA HARRIS	DRUM MORE CODY	✓ 146	56.15		
12.30	KAY TAYLOR	GEORGE	?	169.5	61.94	
12.36	TERESA GREEN	CHEEKY	✓ 170.5	65.57	3rd	
12.42	SARA COOK	OLIVER	✓ 154	55.94		
12.48	POLLY FEWS	Ferdi	✓ 165	56.65	5th	
12.54	JODI TAYLOR	ELSA	✓ 167.0	66.23	4th	
1-	JON CLARE	COLIE	✓ 153	61.35		
1.06	DEB VICKERY	JOSIE	✓ 163	62.69	6th	
1.12	CAROLINE SANDERS	JACK	✓ 158	60.76		
1.18	RACHAEL CRAGG	GLENCAINFOOLSY	✓ 152	60.38		
1.24	CHLOE HAYWARD	CARAMAC RAMBLER	✓ 156.5	67.58	1st	
1.30	KIM SANDERS	DIESEL	✓ 174.5	67.4	2nd	

4 P.Y.O.

Time	Rider	Horse	M	Score	%	Position
P	GINA HARRIS	DRUM MORE	✓ 200	56.14	2nd	
P 1.42	JON CLARE	COLIE	✓ 157.5	64.66	5th	
P 1.48	TERESA GREEN	CHEEKY	✓ 187.0	64.48	6th	
P 1.54	CHARLOTTE ALFORD	JOSIE	✓ 203.5	70.17	1st	
P 2.00	MARIA CHAPMAN	APRIL BABE	✓ 162	55.83		
P 2.06	CAROLINE SANDERS	JACK	✓ 175.5	60.51		
P 2.12	PAIGE ROBERTS	BAILEY'S GREY	✓ 176.5	64.31		
N 2.18	RACHAEL CRAGG	GLENCAINFOOLSY	✓ 166.5	59.46		
N 2.24	PAIGE ROBERTS	BAILEY'S GREY	✓ 164	58.57		
N 2.30	POLLY FEWS	DIGBY	✓ 184.5	65.87	4th	
E 2.42	RACHAEL FROST	MIA MARIA	✓ 195	67.24	3rd	
P 2.48	CHARLOTTE ALFORD	ROCKY	✓ 195	67.24	3rd	

Why did I not think of displaying results like this before???????



And refreshments were provided by Jayne Arnold in her fabulous Caravan!

<https://www.facebook.com/doristhevintagecafecaravan/>

Worming- Time It Right

In November our speaker was Mark Baker from Zoetis, talking about worming. He covered both redworm and tapeworm, the symptoms, and how to ensure horses are covered correctly to avoid having worm burdens.

What are encysted small redworm?

Small redworm larvae can encyst within the horse's gut wall throughout the year – especially in autumn and winter. Typically, sudden mass emergence of larvae will occur in spring, damaging the gut, which can cause diarrhoea and colic. This condition is known as larval cyathostomiasis and has a mortality rate of up to 50%. Hidden within the gut wall, encysted small redworm larvae can account for up to 90% of the redworm burden in a horse.

Control needs to be focused on all stages of the parasite's lifecycle, with specific attention paid to the encysted larvae.

Testing for encysted small redworm

Although faecal worm egg counts (FWEC) are an excellent tool to monitor worm burdens during the spring through to autumn, they will not detect encysted small redworm. This is because the encysted larvae do not produce eggs.

Encysted small redworm is the most potentially harmful stage of the redworm parasite. Horses can harbour several million encysted larvae, yet show a negative or low (< 250 epg) FWEC.

Worming to clear the challenge of encysted small redworm

It is important you consider the seasonal worming challenges when formulating your worm control plan. Every horse should be treated for encysted small redworm in late autumn or winter.

Make sure you time it right!



Select the right wormer

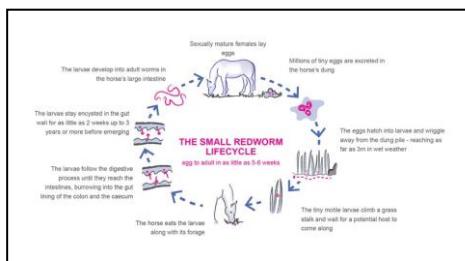
Remember to select the most appropriate wormer for the parasites you are targeting. Currently, only two active ingredients specifically target encysted small redworm – ask your Vet or SQP how to treat encysted small redworm.

Horse weight

Use a weigh tape or weigh scales to determine the weight of your horse. Horses should be dosed accurately, according to their weight. This is important because under-dosing can increase the risk of resistance development.

You can never be sure of a new horse's worm burden

If their history is unknown they should be quarantined, FWEC tested on arrival at the yard and treated for encysted small redworm and tapeworm. They should then be stabled for at least 48 hours to avoid bringing resistant worms onto your premises.



IN OTHER NEWS.....

On 13th October Rachel (Marina Rose Hawkins) and I (Linda Knight) had a fantastic day out supporting our Arena Eventing riders. Our slightly depleted team of Sarah Green, Jodi Taylor and Lorraine Jayne all rode well finishing with a team 5th in the 70cm with Sarah getting individual 4th. Teresa Creese Green rode great in the 80cm with just one small blip and Olly Stafford on Felix came an amazing 2nd in the junior 90cm.



At Area Dressage, West Wilts, on 3rd November, our riders were: Polly Fews, Tess Bryer, Rachel Frost and Kim Saunders in one team. Rachel had 3rd in her section and Kim 2nd in her section. The other team was Teresa Bowler, Gina Harris and Jodi Taylor who did her first ever Novice test (and got an 8) and Mark Carew rode as an individual.



Teresa Bowler

See full report from
Linda Knight further
down!!!!

And some of our members: Jane Jones, Elizabeth Abbott, Sue Fews and Gill Hutchings, went on a fabulous trekking experience in Andalusia....they will be talking about this at the AGM, so no spoilers, for now just a few pics of the pink ladies!



COUGHS AND SNEEZES SPREAD DISEASES

Blog by JOHN M KILLINGBECK, BSC, BVM&S, CERT EP, MRCVS

<https://equifeast-shop.com/>

Everyone is aware of the extensive media coverage generated by the recent and ongoing outbreak of equine influenza. When “horse flu” makes it to the main BBC news bulletin it must be serious. Over 40 premises across the whole country have been found to have infected horses and racing was brought to a standstill nationally. Outbreaks have also occurred in several countries in mainland Europe.

Many people are asking if horse flu is serious enough to cause such widespread concern and I think the answer must be yes. Influenza viruses are highly contagious and are spread very easily from horse to horse and by casual contact with grooms, riders etc. But “I get flu every winter and I get over it quickly” I hear many say but in fact we rarely get true influenza, what we all call “flu” is a mild and transient respiratory virus infection of which there are many. True influenza is far more serious and in the early 20th century there was a global outbreak of human influenza which killed between 40 and 50 million people worldwide. In horses, the disease can be quite debilitating for several days or even weeks depending upon the individual’s immune status and its vaccination history. In large communities of horses which travel the country such as race horses, eventers and show jumpers many thousands of horses can be put at risk within days of an infected horse spreading the disease to the other competitors at a race meeting or a show. The health risks are obvious but the financial implications can also be monumental. If the outbreak in the racing world had been treated causally, as many have suggested it should, our own local Cheltenham Festival would have been at risk of cancellation and the costs to date of preparations for the meeting already run into tens of millions of pounds.

What are the facts?

What does all this mean for the average horse owner? A few simple facts might be helpful and will hopefully answer many of the questions and dispel some of the myths circulating the horse world.

- Both vaccinated and unvaccinated horses have been affected but the vaccinated horses have been much less seriously affected.
- No vaccine of any type can be guaranteed to provide 100% protection against any disease in either man or animals but they do reduce the risk and the severity of any infection.
- Horses which have been vaccinated within the 6 months leading up to the outbreak have shown significantly greater resistance to the disease than those vaccinated more than 6 months before.
- The three currently available leading vaccines all contain the strain of virus identified in the recent outbreak.
- The majority of horses in the UK are NOT vaccinated and this is a potential source of the infection recurring as it spreads out of the unvaccinated population.

Rule changes

The regulating authorities for all equestrian sports are currently reviewing their influenza vaccination regulations and their advice to horse owners. Unfortunately not all authorities offer the same advice and some are difficult to understand because they contradict common sense.

Based on information derived from the outbreak, the best protection is provided by giving a horse a flu booster every 6 months after the primary course of two vaccinations.

Protection is provided by the individual’s immune response to vaccination rather than by the vaccine itself and it takes the body a few days to respond to vaccination. This response often causes the individual to be slightly under the weather for a few days (this also applies to ourselves) and many show an increased temperature for 24 to 48 hours. It is sensible therefore to give your horse a few quiet days after vaccination before competing again or even working hard at home. Advice regarding this “stand down” period varies between authorities but science suggests it should be at least 5 and preferably 7 days. Not only will this avoid competing a horse which is slightly under the weather but it is necessary to allow the vaccine time to have an effect and to generate an increase in protective immunity.

Many competition venues will now only admit horses which comply with the suggestions outlined above. In the point to point world horses are not even allowed to unload until the passport is checked and the owner has presented a signed declaration of health which includes a record of the horse’s temperature taken on the morning of the race. Unlicensed trainers running horses in Hunter Chase races must also provide a negative flu swab result taken within the 72 hours prior to the race. These are quite onerous requirements but clearly indicate that the racing world is doing its very best to prevent any spread of flu within the racing world.

Have the authorities gone overboard?

I don’t think so but this is a fair question. You would be very disappointed if your horse came home sick after competing alongside an infected horse at a local show jumping or dressage event. Your next planned competition might have to be cancelled and you might incur unnecessary vet’s fees.

What should I do as an owner?

- Make sure your horse’s vaccinations are up to date.
- Give a flu booster if it is more than 6 months since the last vaccination.
- Limit contact with other horses, particularly unvaccinated horses until the outbreak is over.
- Consult your vet if there is any sign that your horse is abnormally quiet or has any form of unusual nasal discharge.
- Check the rectal temperature daily if you have any concern regarding your horse’s health or the health of others on the same yard.

(Above all.....if competing, check before you travel to avoid disappointment!!!! Ros)

Championship Show 2019

Junior Veteran In Hand – 15 to 19 years

- 1st C Handley Scooby Doo
- 2nd C Handley Spinway Token
- 3rd Teresa Rees Blackhill Gemstone
- 4th Jess Baldwin Tom
- 5th Harriet Cox Uppacott Mondau
- 6th = Christine Saunders Greylands Alleycat
- 6th = Chris Payne Cefn Gelli Pablo
- 6th = Martin Jenkins Anyone Can Whistle

Senior Veteran In Hand – 20 to 24 years

- 1st Caroline Taylor George
- 2nd Laura Hayden Brianna Firefly
- 3rd Christine Mason Laugherne Pixie
- 4th Jill Perrior Pirums Amazing Grace
- 5th Isabel Reeves Maryleigh Easter Promise



Alice Reeves' daughter & 23 year old Maryleigh Easter Promise qualified for 2020



Caroline Taylor & George won both the in hand and ridden classes for the 20-24 age group and 3rd and 6th for the mature rider and handler classes.



Judge Gwyneth Edgar



Caroline Campbell Hill and her new boy Pucklechurch the Warrior, aka Buster, qualified for 2020.

Junior Veteran Ridden – 15 to 19 years

- 1st Harriet Cox Uppacott Mondavi
- 2nd C Handley Spinway Token
- 3rd Jessica Baldwin Tom

Senior Veteran Ridden - 20 to 24 years

- 1st Caroline Taylor George

Golden Veteran Ridden – 25 years and over

- 1st Holly Bevan River Owl
- 2nd Helan Gidley Harvey Moon
- 3rd Dylan Norman Carling
- 4th Linzi Wiseman Candy
- 5th Wendy Evans Jabali
- 6th Rachel McIlroy Jackson

Best Turned out In Championships

C Handley on Spinway Token

Golden Veteran In Hand – 25 years and over

- 1st Mervyn Whittle Pontsarn Flyer
- 2nd Alicia Mayhew Cavilla Waulkmill Cock Robin
- 3rd Michelle Cook Meadow Wood Taliesin

Supreme In Hand Championship

- Supreme Champion – Mervyn Whittle with Pontsarn Flyer
Reserve Champion - C Handley with Scooby Doo

Oldest In Hand Veteran in Championships

Rachel McIlroy with Jackson

Mature Handler Championships

- 1st Ros Steward with Blenheim Truffle
- 2nd Chris Payne with Cefn Gelli Pablo
- 3rd Teresa Rees with Blackhill Gemstone
- 4th Helen Kennett with Dezina Special Edition
- 5th Michelle Cook with Caved Dion
- 6th = Caroline Taylor with George
- 6th = Mandy Betts with Jendai Bailey



Christine Mason & Pixie qualified for 2020



Ros Steward & Truffle winning mature handler & qualifying for 2020



Janet & Roger Cater's Ponstarm Flyer & Mervyn Whittle taking veteran in-hand champion & veteran supreme at 27 years old.

Supreme Ridden Championship

- Supreme Champion – Holly Bevan on River Owl
Reserve Champion - Harriet Cox on Uppacott Mondavi

Oldest Veteran In Ridden Championships

Dylan Norman on Carling

Mature Rider Championship – Rider 35 to 49 Years

- 1st Rachel Cook on Cefn Gelli Pablo
- 2nd Caroline Wilson on Pumpkin Pie
- 3rd Caroline Taylor on George

Mature Rider Championship – Rider 50 Years and over

- 1st Helan Gidley on Harvey Moon
- 2nd Lisa Fowler on Rio

Area 9 - Arena Eventing

A rainy Sunday morning on 13th October saw Rachel and I heading out very early to West Wilts Equestrian Centre to support our Arena Eventing team and individuals. We left at 8.10am and were very pleased on our arrival at West Wilts to see that Lorraine Jayne with Daisy and Jodi Taylor with Elsa were already there. Sarah Green was taking a very casual approach to the day as she had not even loaded Misty when Rachel and I left the yard and her time was just after 9.30am! The 3 ladies on the 3 mares made up our 70cm girl power team as we had unfortunately lost one member earlier in the morning due to unforeseen circumstances. Course walk done by Jodi and Lorraine and Sarah arrived in a bit of a rush. We did manage to get Sarah sorted and on board for a quick warm up and our team were ready to go. Jodi and Lorraine rode their young inexperienced mares (Daisy having never been in an indoor arena before) extremely well and both completed the course with just refusals. Sarah with the more experienced Misty came a magnificent 4th riding a clear round and with all 3 completing the course the team finished in 5th position which we were so pleased about.

Next up was Teresa on Cheeky who wanted to push herself out of her comfort zone a little so she decided to ride as an 80cm individual. Cheeky was taking everything in his stride and clearing that height with ease and all was going well until the sharp turn to the skinny! He hesitated then jumped as Teresa pushed him on then lived up to his name and had a little cheeky moment taking advantage of a longer rein and racing towards the next fence. I think Teresa was a little surprised but gathered her reins, jumped the next fence clear but then had an unfortunate refusal. However, Teresa jumped very well and proved that she and Cheeky are very capable of jumping at the height. Well done Teresa.

Finally, we had Olly Stafford riding Vivid up B (Felix) jumping in the 90cm as a Junior Individual. Olly rode so well giving us only one slightly hairy moment at the same skinny where Felix almost came to a standstill, but Olly kicked on and Felix jumped it clear and finished with a clear round in a very respectable time. After a long wait with Olly in first place for most of the class he finally finished in an amazing second place. We are still waiting to hear from BRC as he may possibly qualify to jump at the finals. Well done Olly and Felix. Rachel and I were so proud of our riders who represented the club so admirably. We were slightly soggy from the rain but there was coffee and cake to keep us going and we had a lovely day supporting our amazing members. (PS – Olly has qualified for the Championships)

Area 9 – Area Senior Novice Dressage

Sunday 3rd of November saw Rachel and I once again heading to West Wilts for another early start to support our dressage riders but thankfully the day remained mainly dry as this event was in the outdoor arenas. We unfortunately lost one member from one of the teams so had a team of 3 (Teresa Bowler, Gina Harris and Jodi Taylor) and a team of 4 (Kim Saunders, Rachel Frost, Tess Bryer and Polly Fews) and Mark Carew riding as an individual. First up was Teresa riding her lovely Tonto who was looking very fit and well and Teresa rode a lovely test to start our teams off finishing 8th in her section. We had some good results over the day with Rachel Frost finishing 3rd in her section and 5th overall in the P7 group. Kim rode Diesel beautifully to finish 2nd overall in her section and P12 group. Special mention must go to Jodi Taylor riding Elsa who we threw totally in at the deep end - we were short of Novice test riders - and she agreed to give Novice 30 a go having only done a handful of Prelim tests previously. Jodi and Elsa did some amazing canter work and had some good marks and lovely comments on her score sheet.

Overall Rachel and I spent another lovely day supporting our members who once again turned out to ride for the club and represented us very well. We are proud of you all.

The next area events are as follows:

Sunday 4th January – Combined Training at Hartpury

Sunday 12th January – Winter Novice Show Jumping at West Wilts (70cm and 80cm)

Saturday 29th February – Senior Intermediate Dressage at Leyland Court

If anybody is interested in riding in any of the above, please do let either myself or Rachel Hawkins know. Come along and be part of our lovely friendly teams and have a go.

Linda Knight

DIARY DATES

Dec - AGM (information to follow)
Jan - Mini Quiz/Auction and Nibbles
Feb - Nicky Burston - Equine Massage
Mar - TBC

If anyone has some ideas for speakers at our meetings, do please contact **Beth Bracey** with details.

If anyone would like to compete for the club (dressage, show jumping, cross country etc) please contact **Rachel Hawkins 07814 561106** She would be delighted to hear from anyone, at any level!!

Sunday 4th January - Combined Training at Hartpury

Sunday 12th January - Winter Novice Show Jumping at West Wilts (70cm and 80cm)

Saturday 29th February - Senior Intermediate Dressage at Leyland Court

QUALIFIER SHOW DATES: For this season.....

2020 Qualifiers:

If you hear of a show that would hold qualifiers at no cost to them, please contact Teresa Green

Dressage Series Dates



February 23rd

March 22nd

Championships April 19th

Please keep checking the website for up-to-date news regarding speakers and rallies – www.vhprc.co.uk

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

Cricklands Camp

Camp was a huge success in October- Beth Bracey sent this account and we have had some pictures too (some stolen from FB). Hopefully this will become a regular event- well done to the organisers ☺

Official photos: <https://www.jess-photography.co.uk/f451773799>

Arriving on Saturday with torrential rain, we had a lovely lunch then Donna and Rachel Frost bravely tacked up and rode in the heavy rain in their lesson with Anthony. The snowflakes of us decided it was too wet and retired to sit in the dry until the rain stopped at 5pm. A few of us had a lovely hack around the fields and a bit of schooling in the arena at sunset before it got dark. Lovely Curry in the pavilion and some socialising on Saturday night then Sunday dawned - a lovely day and we all got tacked up and started our lessons. We had a lovely time with Anna and Anthony getting us jumping and playing around the Derby arena - with only one involuntary dismount we all had a great time. It all ended too soon and we started departing for home. Sunday evening after a difficult loader, Teresa Green showed just how amazing this club is by driving back over to help, and with David Broome watching on, the last few of us left in convoy and headed back over the bridge.



Acute Liver Failure

At the end of October, I became concerned about one of my ponies, Willow- he is now 17 and although having had crippling laminitis a few years ago after contracting EMS, he has since been hale and hearty. He seemed listless and depressed- which initially I attributed to losing his companion Zebedee in the Spring. However, when he refused to eat his feed and even pony nuts, I knew something was radically wrong. At the back of my mind I suspected it might be liver, and started him on liquid milk thistle, but also called my vet for a health check. Rebecca was equally concerned upon seeing him, and gave him a blood test. When she phoned a couple of days later my fears were confirmed- but the diagnosis was a shocker. The upper limit of toxicity enzymes is 100- he was 500 plus, and when she arranged further tests for liver damage (beyond the highest limit the liver will not repair) he was 5 times that limit too. She was amazed he was still standing and gave a poor prognosis which was devastating.

We immediately decided to bombard him with meds: a liver fluke drench (more on fluke later), 7 days of antibiotics and a 5 day Panacur. He remained on milk thistle (by syringe as he wouldn't eat anything bar nibbling hay) as it couldn't do any harm and indeed might do him some good.

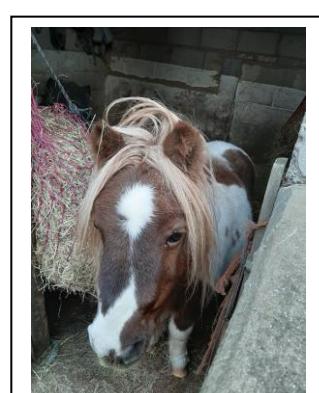
What was interesting was his foraging behaviour- I continued to take him for walks in the hope he would start becoming interested in eating again, but he totally ignored most on offer- except for dandelions and the new sprouts of cow parsley, which he was completely focused on. After 3 days of this (and having started on his meds) he then ignored these and started picking out some yellow thistle type plants which were growing round the yard: I googled these and they were apparently sow thistle and are used homeopathically for (amongst other things) liver complaints! <http://natureconservation.in/medicinal-uses-of-common-sowthistle-sonchus-oleraceus/>

After posting on Facebook, many people recommended a treatment called L94 which had to be purchased from a company called Trinity Consultants. I emailed them and had a very prompt response giving me details of this product and advising dosage etc. Having finished his conventional meds, and with essentially nothing to lose (and having discussed it with Rebecca), I ordered a litre and it arrived within 2 days- Willow has 20mls twice a day and it clearly is palatable as he doesn't try to spit it out. Once he finishes this bottle, the recommendation is that he starts having a maintenance product Rexflo.

Simon from Trinity stated: 'We would certainly recommend feeding L94 to rejuvenate liver function, boost metabolism and raise immunity levels, whilst helping cleanse and clear any synthetic or toxic residue which maybe compromising the liver. If liver enzymes are elevated as the blood tests probably highlighted that would suggest liver damage has taken place. L94 fed for a month would be very beneficial in regenerating the liver and normalising enzyme levels. For a 150kg pony we would suggest feeding 20ml twice daily. Longer term if we were to look at how we can support a pony with EMS as well as guard against the spectre of laminitis so associated with such metabolically challenged horses we would suggest following on with Rexflo. Looking after the liver on a daily basis ensures the metabolism is maintained to a healthy working level which again in turn boosts the immunity system allowing the horse to help itself.' 01243 551766 simon@trinity-consultants.com www.trinity-consultants.com

It's been 2 weeks as I write this (9/11/19), and he is still on L94 and milk thistle, and over the last 5 days he now eats grass like it's going out of fashion! And all his hard feed, though still only picking at pony nuts. Rebecca came out and was quite amazed at the transformation in his behaviour- he's bright and alert, keen to walk out and eating well. He has had a second test- the results were quite dramatic: the 500+ has reduced to 382, and the function is nearly back to normal at 10.9! He's not out of the woods yet by any means, as my vet reminds me, but someone has been smiling on us so far. ☺

It's been a worrying few weeks- hopefully however we have turned a corner and Willow will be returning to the showring next year as an 18 year old!



Liver fluke: One of my major concerns was about liver fluke- how had Willow contracted it? Is there any protection from it? So I did some research.

The liver fluke, (*or Fasciola Hepatica*), a flatworm with suckers, is found in the bile ducts of the liver. It is flat, leaf-shaped and a pale brown colour, with tiny sharp spines that irritate the bile ducts and can cause damage to the liver tissue. The adult, which is usually about 2cm to 3cm long, lays its eggs in the bile ducts. The eggs pass into the intestine and are excreted via the dung. If the eggs enter water, they hatch into small larvae known as miracidia. These swim around until they find a small water snail. After entering the snail they encyst (enclose themselves in a sac) and become dormant. After about six weeks they hatch into tiny tadpole-shaped cercariae. These attach themselves to water plants, usually grass, as metacercariae. When the plant is eaten by the animal the metacercariae penetrate the intestinal wall, enter the abdominal cavity and start eating their way into the liver. After another six weeks or so, they make their way to a bile duct to reproduce.

With the wet weather we have had for the last 2 years liver fluke has become a serious problem for many sheep and cattle, particularly those grazed in marshy or boggy fields. Very little is known about liver fluke in horses, however they appear to be more resistant to fluke than cattle and sheep. The most common sign is chronic anaemia of non-specific origin. There may also be soft dung and a tendency to a dry coat and weight loss. Mild jaundice can also be a feature.

Liver fluke can be treated in horses with a wormer containing triclabendazole given orally. (Please note that there are currently no such products licensed for use in horses). Drugs used to treat fluke in cattle and sheep can be toxic for horses.
(From Clyde Veterinary Group website.)

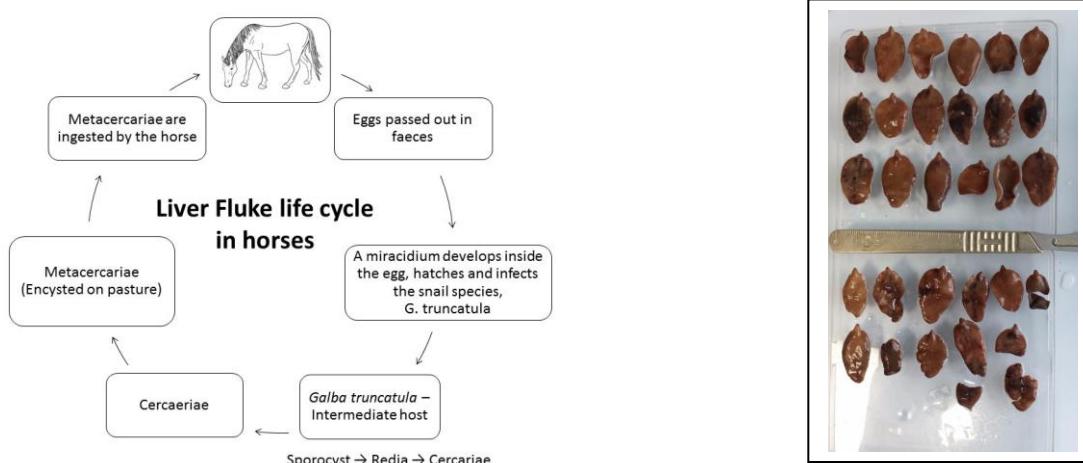
This was corroborated by Wesgate Labs to whom I spoke at Your Horse Live, who suggested that perhaps it would be worth drenching the other ponies just in case (as they have all been on the same pasture) and blood test them in the Spring- I haven't decided whether to go ahead with this as they currently seem to be healthy.

There appears to be some current research into liver fluke in horses:

www.liverpool.ac.uk/infection-and-global-health/research/liver-fluke-horses/

"Equine Fasciolosis is a condition caused by the parasitic trematode, *Fasciola hepatica*, otherwise known as liver fluke. It is a common cause of disease in grazing ruminants and is widespread throughout the UK. Liver fluke can also infect other grazing animals, including horses, donkeys, deer and rabbits.

Disease results from damage to liver parenchyma caused by the migration of a large number of immature fluke, or from the presence of adult fluke in the bile ducts, or both.



Horses and donkeys with liver fluke burdens are frequently asymptomatic. However, reported clinical signs include:

- Weight loss
- Jaundice
- Poor performance
- Lethargy
- Anaemia
- Diarrhoea
- Raised liver enzymes, including GGT

Liver fluke appears to commonly affect horses in that are in moderate to good body condition and older horses are frequently infected."

Faecal sedimentation assays are commonly used to detect the presence of liver fluke eggs. This test is not reliable in horses and donkeys due to the sporadic shedding of eggs and not all infections appear to reach patency.

Antibody detection enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is more sensitive than faecal assays. This test is suitable for horses, not donkeys, and indicates a current or recent infection.

ELISA and faecal testing are available from Liverpool Veterinary Parasitology Diagnostics. www.liverpool.ac.uk/lvpd

Are You Rich? A thought for Christmas.

How a horsewoman knows she is rich:

I am rich. I have £15 in my bank account and a golden mare in the barn.

I am rich. I have a car that mostly works and enough fuel to get to the barn every day this week..

I am rich. I have boxes of pasta and sauce in my pantry and enough hay to feed my horse through the winter.

I am rich. I have enough old coats and sweaters to layer up and stay warm while I do barn chores.

I am rich. I holiday by camping with my horses and going to cheer on my horse riding friends at horse shows.

Sometimes I even play too, and spend £10 to bring home a fifty pence ribbon that I will treasure more than a photo in front of the Eiffel Tower.

I am rich. I have tools: duct tape and baling twine and the know how to fix just about anything with these tools.

I am rich. I find joy in making my own things, making do, and making right. I have a 30 year old saddle, a 50 year old body, and the wonder and joy of a 6 year old child learning that a horse can give her wings.

I am rich.

My wealth is not measured in pound signs but in horsey snorts and nickers. My riches aren't spent on electronics and fancy clothes but are shared with my human and four footed friends.

Next time someone finds out that I have a horse and says, "You must be rich to afford that" I will smile, and agree.



Let's just put it this way: They didn't start calling him "Jolly" Old St. Nicholas until after he got the reindeer.

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the stable,
Poor Santa was fretting if his horses were able.
The toys were all ready
But the horses were not.

With his sleigh pullers ailing,
Santa was quite distraught.
All the IVs were hung
on the stall fronts with care,
some legs had been cold-hosed
'til the vet could get there.

Poor Bella had rainrot
And Gordo had thrush
Jellybean pulled a muscle
When he spooked at a brush
Though sometimes dear Rhoda
Could be very sweet,
Christmas Eve she decided to go into heat.

Old Roger was moonblind,
So Santa sat moaning,
He looked out on the snow.
And saw eight wild reindeer,
With nowhere to go.

"It just might be crazy,"
Said St. Nick, full of bliss
"But eight crazy reindeer
Would be better than THIS!"

So that's how the reindeer
Came to be Santa's hitch,
And there's never a colic
Nor a last minute glitch.

The horses retired
But they still hear the bells,
And each Christmas Eve
all their knees start to swell.

Merry Christmas!

Poem by Lorraine Jackson



HOW TO BEST CARE FOR YOUR HORSE OVER WINTER

Blog by [JOHN M KILLINGBECK, BSC, BVM&S, CERT EP, MRCVS](#)

<https://equifeast-shop.com/>

Now that the winter weather is taking a more frequent grip on the temperature it is a good time to consider how we can best care for our horses.

A seasonal drink.

Everyone knows that dehydration is real risk in hot weather but how many consider dehydration in cold weather? All bodily functions and processes take place in a water medium so water intake is always important. We all know it is difficult to drink any volume of very cold water and so it is for your horse. The water in his water bucket will be very cold at this time of year which can discourage him from drinking as much as he might. On very cold days it is a good idea to add some hot water to his bucket each morning to raise the temperature to a more palatable level. You might be very surprised how much this encourages your horse to drink.

Keeping warm.

The majority of a horse's digestive system, approximately 65%, functions by a process of bacterial digestion, much like a cow's rumen or even a septic tank! This process generates heat and more heat is generated in the process of digesting fibre than when digesting concentrates. To encourage this internal source of heat always make sure your horse has plenty of hay overnight. Even though horses have this in built central heating system they still need rugs and if not adequately rugged at night this heat will be wasted. An inexpensive duvet under a top rug is an excellent way to insure your horse stays warm but do not forget his neck. This is a large area of muscle through which he can lose heat so a neck cover greatly enhances his comfort. Because we are not experiencing prolonged periods of cold weather you may find your horse is too warm during if he wears a duvet and a neck cover during the day. Always check his temperature by sliding your hand under the rugs and be prepared to change rugs if necessary. What is a good temperature for your horse? His back, under his rug, should feel as warm to your hand as your own stomach does to you, but warm your hand first before sliding it under your own shirt!

Beat the worms.

Internal parasites are an ever increasing problem and every year we see young horses severely debilitated or even killed by high parasite burdens. The main reason is the over use of deworming drugs, often purchased from non-veterinary sources, which has led to widespread resistance which means the drugs become less and less effective every year and unfortunately there are no new drugs on the horizon.

Normally, I recommend that horses are only treated for internal parasites after a faecal egg count has been performed to determine that the horse does actually need de-worming. However, at this time of year it is reasonable to make an exception because exposure to infestation is reduced as the lifecycle of the parasites slows down and grazing time is reduced. Horses only pick up the parasites while grazing. The best product to use at this time of year is a combination of moxidectin and praziquantel but please do seek advice from your own veterinary surgeon before administering any treatment.

Beat the mud.

Although we are experiencing a prolonged period of dry weather mud fever is an ever present risk during the winter months. Mud fever is often very painful and a surprisingly small area of infection can cause quite severe lameness. Infection occurs primarily in the pastern area and follows prolonged wetting of the skin and abrasion by soil particles. This allows soil borne bacteria and fungal spores to penetrate the skin and establish infection. Prolonged periods of turnout into muddy fields and hunting are the most common risk factors to acquiring infection. Clipping the legs and excess washing rather than traditional grooming also increases the risk. Treatment requires expensive drugs and your horse may be out of action for several days. Prevention is, as always, a better option and good stable management is key. Ensuring muddy legs are thoroughly dried before removing mud is good practice. Absorbent leg wraps are helpful and strips of old towels are ideal and these can be placed over muddy legs. If washing is unavoidable all mud must be removed completely with plenty of clean water. Thorough drying after washing is critical and a hair drier can be used to good effect. Absorbent bandages should be used to complete the drying process but these must be replaced with further dry bandages when they become damp. It is difficult to apply an effective protective barrier but baby oil and pig oil are the most commonly used but neither last very long if conditions are very muddy.

A Heart-warming Story from Rowena Moulding: Purdy

Our horses had been out at night and I went to the paddock to get Purdy, who is 22, in and she was laid down with her new paddock buddy. When I approached the paddock she did not get up until I walked over and put her head collar on. I walked her to the stable and she went in and laid down again which was unusual. I got her up and took her in the school where she promptly laid down again. I got her to her feet and phoned the vet suspecting colic. The vet arrived after an hour and examined her internally and told me there was a mass in her large colon which she suspected was a tumour.

With the help of Tess Bryer transported her to Langford and after an examination they said they would keep her in overnight for observation. They scanned her and xrayed and as her vital signs were now good and no sign of discomfort like earlier we left. At 8pm I had a phone call to say she had gone downhill and they needed to operate on her. At 1am I got a phone call to say she had come through surgery and was on her feet, wearing a girdle to keep everything in its place. They found a mass of hair twigs and faecal matter the size of a football which they removed in an hour operation.

After a week of recuperation I was due to go on holiday and Langford agreed to keep her there on convalescence and gave me daily bulletins of her progress via text. When we returned and were due to pick her up I was told that she had a bout of laminitis, probably due to the stress of the operation and they kept her for X rays on her feet before releasing her. As there was no rotation a few days later she was allowed home. She was on box rest for 5 weeks and after regular vet visits she was eventually allowed limited grazing.

In the coming weeks with the help of Georgette Baker and her girls we have brought her back into work and have been doing yoga type exercises to strengthen her back and hacking out to bring up her fitness. Now getting stronger last week I took her to Mendip Plains for our first outing since June. We entered a walk trot test and won the class. She is not strong enough yet to maintain canter for too long so prelims will be later on. I feel we have been given a second chance together thanks to the care of the vets at Stables and Langford and intend to make the most of these years, hopefully, we have together.

And I'm sure everyone in VHPRC wish Rowena and Purdy many more happy years together!



The good old days....can you relate to any of these??

All kids rode in a snaffle because usually that is what your parent [mother] had in their day and they had survived so you had to - D ring, eggbutt, or loose ring. If your pony was a **** and you had a kind parent or one with money, you might be allowed a kimblewick or pelham. Double bits were for adults out hunting or show ponies only.

Rubber reins were coveted - hunting a pony with shaving foam sweat on his neck meant plain reins were as useful as cooked noodles. Plaited leather reins were just as bad and ripped between your fingers.

Leather girths were coveted just as much - choices were string or the white candlewick girths which would split at inappropriate moments.

Coloured browbands were naff - the plastic ones for riding schools and the velvet ones for show ponies. Brass was for heavy horses.

There were four types of rug - canvas NZ, jute, wool with a coloured edging and initials for best and a sweat rug that looked like something Rab C Nesbitt wore that you used when thatching. Then there were blankets, usually nasty and itchy unless you were rich and could afford a Witney blanket

Every NZ rug hung to one side within five minutes of your pony being turned out.

There were four types of clip - trace, blanket, hunter or full. No one asked what type of clip suited their pony, ponies were clipped to suit the level of work they were doing.

No one wanted a coloured hairy, it usually meant your parents knew nothing and had bought your pony from the local riding school and no one wanted a riding school pony.

Everyone plaited to go hunting.

The amount of fences you jumped out hunting and stayed in the saddle was far more important than if you saw a fox. Ponies lived out in just a NZ rug, even if clipped, nothing up their necks.

Feed was natural - oats, barley, wheat, sugar beet and bran then came in pony nuts which were great for rattling in the bottom of a bucket and a countrymix with yummy locust beans.

You made your own chop and warmed the molasses on the Rayburn.

You thought you were a nutritionist if you added garlic to your pony's feed.

Tesco own brand vegetable cooking oil was added to feeds to give a shine to the coat.

If you went hunting, chances are your pony had a warm mash with a bottle of Guinness and a raw egg mixed into it for a pick me up. Chances are that you had the dried up remains of whatever your family had at lunchtime.

Linseed was boiled and fed to everything to make the coat shine.

Grooming by torchlight was a skill.

Baling twine was a Godsend

Your pony probably knew all the top 20 hits.

Everyone entered the yearly WH Smith 'Win A Pony' competition.

If your pony went lame, the farrier was called before the vet and usually cured pony.

No one's pony had ulcers.

We all knew someone who knew someone whose pony had had colic but none of us actually had that pony.

Fat ponies lived on thin air and no one said how cruel because there was no grass in their paddock.

Boiled spud peelings and other veggie peelings were added to feeds as a treat.

Wormers came in powder form - most ponies knew when it was added to their feed and left the feed uneaten and themselves unwormed. It was considered the norm to mix the wormer into a paste, spread in a jam sandwich and feed it to your pony.

Bread was not considered bad for your pony or even odd to feed your pony.

Winning at your local show in front of your school friends gave you rock star status until the next show.

Hacking to a show was considered normal.

Sometimes your parents would leave a trailer at a show (if you were posh enough to have one) with your grooming kit, picnic and a picnic for your pony because your pony would not load so you hacked anyway.

You turned out your pony to the best of your abilities - always plaited with clean tack. Tack was always correct, if you used a curb chain on a pelham/double then you also had a lip strap.

Coloured nylon tack was laughed at and considered townie.

Plain leather with just a stable rubber under your saddle or a plain numnah meant you knew your stuff - coloured numnahs, reins, etc meant you were a townie or came from a riding school.

Stockholm tar was brushed into the bottom of the hoof and across the frog every night.

Everyone had gone to school with purple spray stains on their fingers.

When the white wound powder finally came in black, we got excited.

All buckets were black and ridged until the rubber allegedly indestructible feed bowls came out - also in black. A bright yellow builder's bucket meant my pony snorted and stood as far away from it as possible and meant I had to walk to the end of the field in the hissing rain to catch him.

Long leather boots were added to every Christmas list - rubber ones never shone as much.

Christmas lists always consisted of things for the pony - bridle, bit, rug, etc.

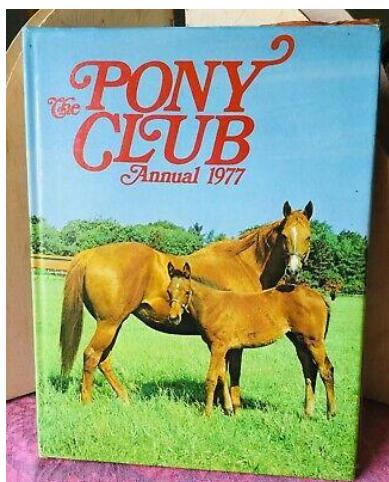
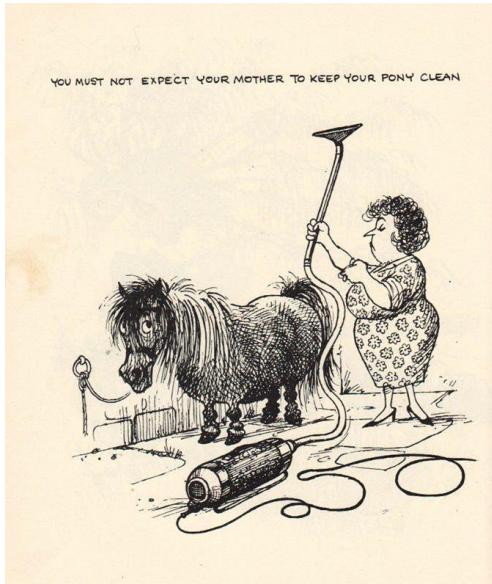
We didn't wear hats and back protectors hadn't been invented.

We went out riding without a phone and couldn't tell anyone where we were going as chances are we didn't know ourselves, we were just going out riding.

As long as we were back for meal times and before it was dark, our parents didn't worry.

Ponies knew their way home if you parted company.

Everyone had cleaned their tack while listening to Bohemian Rhapsody at number one in the charts.



It would be great if anyone has any memories of their earliest riding days for the next newsletter!!!



from all the VHPRC Committee