

Equestrian life *in the county...*

Welcome to another edition of *Equestrian Life* and there are some great results for Lincolnshire riders already, proving that this county is gradually emerging as the place to be if you are into horses. We are always keen to hear of your events, results and news - as well as your photos of course. Next month will be our special County Show edition and you can be in it if you send us your information and pictures. Don't be shy, we want to hear from you.

NEWS ON THE HOOF

Congratulations to organisers of the South Wold Point-to-Point for their efforts in running the very successful event at Brocklesby Park a few weeks ago. The verdict from everyone there was - more of the same please.

A new DNA test has been discovered to help combat Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome. Both foals and adults can be tested quite simply by sending a pulled mane or tail hair sample to the Animal Health Trust along with the diagnostic test fee of £40. Testing adults is a preventative measure to avoid covering a carrier mare with a carrier stallion. More information from the Animal Health Trust on 01638 751000, email: FISTesting@aht.org.uk or www.aht.org.uk.

SPOTLIGHT ON... HORSEBALL

Now for something completely different. It is not new but while it has been around for nearly twenty years, horseball has never quite grabbed the interest it deserves. All that may change in the coming few years as the sport is gaining

more and more followers. Horseball is excitement on four legs with two teams of four players on the pitch and two reserves for each side waiting in the wings. It takes two referees to keep control, one mounted and one seated.

The riders have to score by launching a ball through a hoop but the ball has six leather handles attached and is hotly contested, especially since a rider must make three passes between different team members before being allowed to take a shot at the one metre hoop.

The British Horseball Association is now a member of the British Equestrian Federation and there is a big promotion to make it an Olympic sport.

If you would like to see horseball in frantic flesh, why not go along to Laughton Manor Equestrian Centre at Folkingham on 8th and 9th May to experience the thrills and spills of this great sport. For more details of the Laughton Manor Event telephone 01529 487410 or to find out more about horseball have a look at www.british-horseball-association.btik.com.

Dates for your diary

May	16th	Arena UK. Tel: 01476 591569	23rd	Affiliated Senior Show Jumping at White House Farm, Eagle Moor. Tel: 07778 121653
1st - Endurance GB event at	16th	Affiliated Senior Show Jumping at Horse World. Tel: 01673 849967	23rd	Affiliated and non-affiliated Dressage at Arena UK. Tel: 01588 650180
3rd Sleaford. Tel: 01472 827397	16th	Spalding Riding Club Show Jumping and Dressage at Irby Hall, Whaplode. Tel: 07905 155359	25th	Affiliated Senior Show Jumping at Arena UK. Tel: 01476 591569
2nd Affiliated Dressage at Horse World. Tel: 01673 849967	16th	Affiliated Dressage at Laughton Manor EC. Tel: 01529 487410	29th	Affiliated Junior Show Jumping at Elms Farm EC. Tel: 01630 661314
2nd Norton & District Riding Club Open Show at Swinderby. Tel: 01777 228196	16th	Show Jumping at Elms Farm. Tel: 01630 661314	29th	Affiliated Senior Show Jumping and Showing at Grimsthorpe Castle Park. Tel: 01778 560106
2nd- Affiliated Dressage at Sheepgate EC. Tel: 07748 338025	16th	National Hunt Racing at Market Rasen	30th	Affiliated Senior Show Jumping at Elms Farm EC. Tel: 01630 661314
5th Show Jumping at Horse World. Tel: 01673 849967	16th	Norton & District Riding Club Open Show at Swinderby. Tel: 01777 228196	30th	Lincolnshire All Welsh Show at Boston. Tel: 01754 820739
8th- Horseball at Laughton Manor EC. Tel: 01529 487410	19th	Show Jumping at Horse World EC. Tel: 01673 849967	30th	Show Jumping at Horse World EC. Tel: 01673 849967
8th- Newark & Nottinghamshire	19th	Affiliated Dressage at Elms Farm EC. Tel: 01630 661314	30th	Norton & District Riding Club Open Show at Swinderby. Tel: 01777 228196
9th County Show at Newark Showground. Tel: 01636 705796	22nd-	Affiliated Show Jumping		
9th Affiliated Dressage at Elms Farm EC. 01630 661314	23rd	at Laughton Manor EC. Tel: 01529 497410		
11th Affiliated Senior Show Jumping at Arena UK. Tel: 01476 591569				
15th Dressage at Laughton Manor. Tel: 01529 487410				
15th- Affiliated Show Jumping at				

Straight from the horse's mouth

TOP TIP

Take your horse's teeth seriously.

Horses' teeth grow continuously until some time between the ages of twenty-five and thirty. Grass, their natural food, contains silica which is an abrasive and which constantly wears down the horse's teeth. The fibres of heavier grasses require a bit of grinding on the part of the horse. Additionally the horse reaches down to bite off grass and then raises his head to chew which changes his jaw position constantly. A horse living on natural grass will be more likely to naturally polish off the surfaces of his molars into a level. Thus the horse's dental apparatus is pretty well adapted to his natural diet. It can go wrong though.

Your horse may be showing signs of burgeoning dental problems. Horses who become harder to keep for no apparent reason, who salivate excessively when eating, who eat slowly and with effort, who continuously drop bits of half chewed food and who show unusually coarse manure are prime candidates for a dental inspection. Other behavioural characteristics suggesting tooth problems may include unusual fussing with the bit, avoidance of bit contact, irritation when put into a dropped noseband, head tucking or head tossing, poor self carriage and not wanting to have his face and muzzle handled. In some cases a horse may have to chew unnaturally in an attempt to grind up his food. This action can often result in increased uneven wear on the teeth and in some cases generate significant excess pressure on one or more tooth which can result in serious complications including causing teeth to literally be worked loose.

Just as it is good for us to have a dental check every six months, so it is the same for our horses, ponies and donkeys. There are a number of equestrian dentists in the county but if you can't find one, have a word with your vet.

Bernard Bale



CLA joins forces

Rural watchdog, the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), recently joined forces with respected dressage coach and management consultant Julie Frizzell.

Julie, who also runs Dressage Coaching UK, specialising in training and coaching grassroots riders, lent her support to the CLA's Ride Welland project, where she held a workshop for people with an interest in the equine industry.

The mentoring included a dressage demo and how to get more from riding by combining it with music. An insight into training for para-dressage competitions was also given.

For more information on Ride Welland please visit: www.ridewelland.co.uk/index.php



New clerk of the course at lincs racecourse

Market Rasen Racecourse has a new clerk of the course. Sulekha Varma has succeeded Nick Patton who joined Jockey Club Estates in Newmarket over the winter.

Cardiff-born Sulekha, 25, spent her early years in Scotland and admitted that she caught the horse racing 'bug' quite by chance.

"I was just finishing my A levels when a friend's mother wanted someone to test out work experience at trainer Lucinda Russell's yard," she said.

She had a spell as stable secretary and then joined the British Horseracing Authority graduate scheme, spending time at the Racing Post newspaper.

But, just over two years ago, she was appointed to the staff of the body that runs Arab Racing in Britain where she was racing secretary, racing manager and, for the first time, acted as a clerk of the course.

When Market Rasen Racecourse's parent company, Jockey Club Racecourses, advertised for a trainee clerk last autumn, she successfully applied.

Sulekha, who is now also clerk of the course at Market Rasen's sister racecourse at Nottingham, said: "I am very much looking forward to the challenges of the two different courses."

PONY EXPRESS

Make haste and send us your news, photos, results and dates for the diary. Equestrian Life is interested in all things horsey so let us know what is going on whether you are a novice rider or an experienced carriage driver. Send to Lincolnshire Life, County House, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln LN6 3PW or email editorial@lincolnshirelife.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

About fifty years ago you could buy a pair of new riding boots for £1.00!