



SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COMMITTEE

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Access Telford & Wrekin	Mrs M. Pietroni	01952 501933
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Welfare	Mrs J Brightman	01694 751293
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District Representative Wrekin	Mrs M Pietroni	01952 501933



THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

Reg. Charity No. 210504

**SHROPSHIRE COUNTY
NEWSLETTER 2008**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008

How quickly the year has gone but as you will read in the reports a lot has been happening.
 Last November I went to London to collect my 25 years service award from Saddlers Hall, it was a wonderful day and an honour to be there. As always the staff were friendly and welcoming and the surroundings were spectacular, in all the whole day a was a very special occasion
 Andrea Jackman took over from Amanda Watson as Development Officer in the spring. We were pleased to welcome Andrea to our April committee meeting.
 We had hoped to run a Trailer Towing day but it was difficult to get the necessary transport therefore we were not able to put it on.
 This is the last report I shall write as I have decided to retire at the AGM in October. I have been on the committee 26 years, the last eight as Chairman, and Secretary before that. I have seen many changes over the 25 years with possibly the breakaway of BHS Dressage & BHS Eventing being the biggest. This was not an easy time for the Society. After a lot of hard work from many people the Society has come through and looks ahead to a good future. Membership has risen considerably and we, in Shropshire, have helped to achieve this. There are over 800 members in the county.

Access, Welfare, Riding & Road Safety are strongly represented in the County . Not only committee members but others give much time in helping particularly with Access, which has great support from the Riding Clubs to individuals.

For the last time I would like to thank all the committee for their support, help and expertise, they are all busy people in their own lives but manage to find the time to attend meetings and help when required. I wish all the members good fortune in the future.

Diana Russell—Chairman

AGM details page 5

Riding & Road Safety By Sue Lee

Happily, Shropshire continues to be a popular place for Riding and Road Safety courses and exams, with candidates coming from all over Britain and even from abroad. In the past 12 months Shropshire R&RS organisers have arranged 9 tests, totalling about 98 candidates with 93 passes. As well as using the excellent exam centres at Freshfields, Oakage and Berriewood, I am pleased that courses are once again being held at Oswestry and Walcot. Also we had a special request to hold a course and exam just over the border at Abbots Bromley School.

At the moment, there are still places available at Walcot (Lydbury North) in July, and on the August and October courses at Berriewood – anyone interested should contact me on the numbers shown below. Remember also that we can arrange special one-off courses for Pony Clubs and Riding Clubs or indeed any group with a minimum of 8 possible candidates, using existing exam centres or new facilities if suitable.

Once again, I am pleased to find many young candidates taking the test (12 years and over), helping youngsters to be so aware of the dangers on today's busy roads as well as providing one of the much needed Pony Club and BHS qualifications.

We have continued the very beneficial

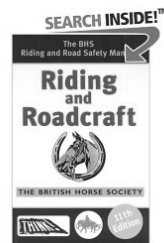
liaison with our neighbouring counties, with Shropshire examiners attending tests in Wales, Staffordshire and Herefordshire and examiners from these counties doing likewise for us in Shropshire.

Local trainers and examiners continue to attend the statutory BHS update days on a two-yearly basis but in addition to this we have all been required to attend QCA accreditation days, which introduces changes to our current examination system to bring it more in line with other exams. The new system came into effect in June and we will be interested to see whether this enhances our existing system.

It is so rewarding to report yet another successful year, thanks to the efforts and hard work of all involved - our trainers, examiners, helpers, exam centre staff, Stoneleigh Safety Department, the candidates themselves and, of course, not forgetting the horses. Many, thanks to all of you for making the whole thing possible.

For more information contact Sue Lee (Shropshire County Rep).

Tel: 01743 791621 or 07855 891936
(please leave a message if no reply)



Care of the Laminitic Horse/ Pony During & After Recovery

In many respects the care of the laminitic horse/pony after onset will depend upon the level of trauma that has occurred to the feet.

For those that are fortunate enough to have been caught very early, all that will be required will be box rest, followed by a careful return to work and tighter management of diet along with any other alterations to management that resulted in the onset in the first place i.e. removal of stress, proper support of limbs if the horse is injured etc.

For those that were less fortunate then a period of total rehabilitation will be necessary and must be done in accordance with the instructions of both Vet AND Farrier.

There will also be many factors that could affect the recovery of the animal during the recovery period, especially if the use of anti-inflammatories is over a prolonged period. The risk of ulcers developing, the risk of colic, the risk of abscesses and the trauma to the hoof being made even more severe by incorrect management.

For these animals it is vital that they are monitored very carefully throughout this period, the feet given the best possible chance to heal (which could take up to 12 months) and the return to exercise and then light work carefully structured. This is particularly important to those animals that have been on long-term box rest.

Once recovered, it is vital for the management of the animal to be changed

in accordance with its new needs. For those that were diet induced this is a relatively easy task. Both Vets and Equine Nutritionists can advise on a suitable diet, and management of intake by the means of strip grazing, restricted grazing or the use of a grazing muzzle.

For others, such as Cushingoid animals, the task is a little bit more complex so will need the involvement of the Vet to discuss the options relating to that particular animal.

Another aspect of management that will need to be reviewed will be that of foot care. Even if the external appearance of the hoof suggests recovery, it can take much longer than this for the interior tissues and structures to return to a truly healthy condition. Careful and knowledgeable attention from the Farrier on a very regular basis is essential. The animal may need special shoes (such as heart bar shoes) fitted in order to restore correct balance and alignment of the foot/feet involved and to ensure that any abscesses that may form are correctly drained and dead tissue cleaned away.

Once fully recovered, many animals return to a full and active life with very few consequences. However, the work that the individual is expected to do should be discussed in full with both Vet AND Farrier as for some animals there may be certain activities such as jumping that may be best avoided.

Perhaps the most important thing of all to remember is that each animal is an individual, so what may have worked for a "friends" horse/pony may not necessarily work or apply for your own animal

Do feed a broad spectrum mineral supplement such as "Farrier's Formula", "Nu-foot", "Naf Hoof and Hide" or similar. It has been proven that in order for the animals body to overcome the toxins released into its system and repair the damaged tissues it needs a carefully balanced diet that can provide all the necessary micronutrients. These include Biotin, Methionine, Proline, Zinc, Copper, Iodine, Glycine, Tyrosine, Lecithin and Vitamin C as the primary elements. The use of just one or two of these components on their own is not enough. A combination is required in order to allow the animal to absorb them into its system.

Avoid the use of Bran unless needed as a laxative as instructed by your Vet. It is high in Phosphorous and blocks absorption of Calcium in the small intestine. This in turn creates a systemic calcium deficiency which is detrimental to hoof health.

Avoid all cereal and pulse products. They are high in Carbohydrates. Keep to high fibre forage products such as previous years hay, wheat straw, alfalfa and un-molassed sugar beet pulp.

Do try to provide a stable or turn-out area (with shelter) large enough and deeply bedded enough for the animal to turn around easily - a depth of 18" minimum should be used, with very deep beds of peat or shavings being the best medium. Turning in a confined space and/or walking on a hard surface will be painful and in some cases impossible for the animal involved.

Do provide access to salt in either block form or fed loose and an iodised min-

eral block whilst the horse is confined. Watch the horse closely for signs of colic. Stress, sudden change of management, inability to reach food or water sources at low level and long term/high dosage use of anti-inflammatories can cause this to occur.

Watch for signs of sores developing in animals that lie down for long periods of time - at the elbows and hocks in particular.

Keep checking all of the horse's feet, not just those diagnosed, for signs of increased digital pulse. Laminitis can affect more than one foot and the increased pressure being placed on the other feet could cause trauma induced laminitis to occur in these too.

Don't prescribe or alter the level of anti-inflammatories such as Bute without seeking Veterinary advice first.



Don't mix other drugs or herbal remedies with prescribed drugs without seeking Veterinary advice first.

Don't use corticosteroids or any item containing them such as sweet itch products. They could kill the horse.

Don't force walk the animal. This may cause the already compromised laminae to tear further, resulting in founder and sinking.

Don't allow the animal access to grazing until instructed to do so by your Vet.

Riding on the Road – some facts:

All too frequently people tell me horror stories about scary antics of horses and their riders on the road and unfortunately about too many idiots driving on the road today. Thankfully many of these incidents escape serious injury and are therefore not reported. Putting it into perspective:

- There are over 3 million riders in Britain compared with over 25 million licensed vehicles on the road
- There are, on average, 8 reported horse related accidents every day
- Approximately 16 people are killed in horse-related accidents each year (I don't have current figures for horse deaths)
- Over half of road accidents involving horses happen on minor roads
- Not all horse riders are aware of the dangers of riding on the roads themselves and they can unwittingly do some dangerous things
- A motorist will spot somebody in a fluorescent about 50 metres sooner than somebody in dull clothes, giving more precious time to react.



And for those of you who've not yet taken your Riding and Road Safety Test, can you answer these questions:

- What is the difference between reflective and fluorescent?
- What shape and colour is a Stop Sign?
- If you have to lead a horse, to which side of the road should you keep?
- What is the maximum number of riders recommended to form a group on the road?
- When leading a horse on the road which side of the horse should you be on?
- What is the ABC of Emergency Aid?
- What shape are signs giving orders?
- Starting with red on its own, what is the sequence of standard traffic lights?
- Where should you position your horse when about to turn right from a major road to a minor road?
- In which hand should you carry your stick when riding on the road?

(Answers on page 4)

This is just a taster - how did you do? Want to test yourself more, then take your Riding and Road Safety test; it could save your life.

Contact Sue on 01743 791621.

Training

There have been a number of Equine Specific First aid courses held in the area. The courses are well subscribed and get booked early.

The next course closest to Shropshire is to be held at The Heart of England Equestrian centre on 18 and 19 August.

There continues to be a number of BHS exams in the area. The next BHS Stage 3 is to be held at Berriewood on 19 September. There are regular exams at Berriewood throughout the year.

Details of training and examinations can be found on the BHS West Midlands website at www.bhswm.org.uk, the National website at www.bhs.org.uk or telephone the training department on 01926 707822



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CAUTION



HORSES
IN TRANSIT

Welfare By Jan Ashford

It has been a quiet year in Shropshire which must bode well generally for the equine population as there has only been one welfare concern reported. This was of a miniature pony mare in Wem who was reported as being 'on the floor & distressed' in a field. When visited, the pony's owner was attempting to get the pony in who was walking very gingerly and in obvious pain.

Closer inspection revealed an obvious and severe laminitis with the pony having a raised digital pulse, extremely warm feet, signs of previous Laminitic damage to her soles along with the adoption of the classic laminitic stance and obvious distress. The owner was happy for the help offered and it was clear that this was more a case of ignorance (as is often the case) rather than deliberate neglect.

The vet was summoned and the pony treated.

However, days later, the pony was again reported as being 'down & distressed' in the same field. It seemed that due to the owners work commitments, it wasn't convenient to keep the pony stabled as recommended so consequently the pony had been turned back out.

Contact was made with World Horse Welfare (formerly the ILPH) who promptly sent their chief field inspector to investigate. Advice on care and management has been given along with expectations for the future care of the pony (who is a chronic laminitic)

The National Laminitis Trust gives comprehensive information for the care, feeding and management of laminitis on their website (www.laminitis.org.)

There is also a new telephone helpline for worried horse owners from The Laminitis Trust.

09051 051051

The new help line is open Monday to Friday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm when a veterinary expert will be available to discuss problems relating to laminitis.

Calls will be charged at the rate of £1 per minute, which will greatly help the Laminitis Trust's fund-raising drive for further research into the disease.



I would like to take this opportunity for the continued help and support of Paul Teasdale, Chief Field Officer, World Horse Welfare.

Care of the Laminitic Horse/ Pony After Onset

Keep feeding a minimum of 2 ½% bodyweight, even if the horse is obese and dieting recommended. Starvation diets are detrimental to the welfare of the horse. Such drastic dieting can lead to the stored fat reserves of the animal being broken down and released into the blood stream as liquid fat. When this happens it is often fatal.

Local changes of personnel in Telford and Wrekin have enhanced the resources available for reviewing and developing bridleway access and new circuits. This is to be welcomed as substantial improvements are needed. Efforts are currently being made by T&WC to establish a Local Users' Access Forum. although this is unlikely to be in place much before Christmas due to a lack of interest on the part of local landowners who must be represented before the Forum can be convened.

The future use of and access to the Wrekin is also under review by a separate body composed of the many user interest groups, landowners and local funding bodies and led by a Development Officer. Horse riding is not well-represented in the official reports from this body as yet, although useful discussions have taken place.

Useful Web Sites

For the Countryside Access Team Annual Report 2007– 2008 <http://>

www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf click on annual-report-2007-08.pdf

Shropshire permissive bridleway routes <http://countrywalks.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx>

For Shropshire Riding routes <http://www..shropshireriding.co.uk> For the Jack Mytton Way double click the Featured Route "Jack Mytton" For the ride Shropshire routes - in Quick Route Search enter "Ride Shropshire"

Angela Williams
Shropshire Bridleway Representative
Tel 01691 622523
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Marilyn Pietroni
Telford and Wrekin Bridleway Representative
Tel 01952 501933
Email marilyn.pietroni@wanadoo.fr



Visit www.bhswm.org.uk
For your local
British Horse Society
News and Events



- Answers to the Riding and Road Safety Quiz on page 7
1. reflective reflects light; fluorescent is brightly coloured
 2. stop sign is octagonal; red background with white wording
 3. left hand side of road
 4. eight
 5. horse's right so you are between him and the traffic
 6. Airway, Breathing, Cardiac Compression
 7. Circular
 8. red, red/amber, green, amber, red
 9. on the left, opposite your intended route
 10. the right hand - to control your horse's hindquarters if necessary



The British Horse Society
THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY
Reg. Charity No. 210504
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY

Annual General Meeting

**Berriwood Farm, Condover
Near Shrewsbury**

7.30pm

Tuesday 21 October 2008

**Guest Speaker
Leslie Hackett—BHS Welfare**

Officers' reports will be taken as read from this newsletter

Refreshments available



Bridleways By Angela Williams

The County Council is very supportive in its role to open up the network to provide access in Shropshire. The following is a summary of the achievements gained for the ridden and driven horse during the last year.

Parish Access Project

Launched in April 2004 this is a 5 year programme to restore access in selected parishes. Seventy two parishes have now been completed, 17 being restored during the last year in North Shropshire, Bridgnorth and South Shropshire. A total of 1571 km have been delivered.

This work is most welcome and users of the network benefit greatly. However where riders are using footpaths, kissing gates and stiles when erected in project areas will prevent future use. If there has been 20 year user (preferably with some historical evidence) these routes should be claimed.

Opening up of the network will also highlight anomalies such as dead ends ie bridleways becoming footpaths.

New Bridleways Added to the Definitive Map

The following routes are now Definitive Bridleways.

From Darville to the Ditherington Road Shrewsbury

The Dean to Caughley Road, Parish of Barrow

Two bridleway additions and 4 foot-

path upgrades now provide a through route from Restricted Byway 16 near Buildwas Bridge past the rear of the Ironbridge Power Station through Pool View Caravan Park to the County Road just south of Benthall Hall.

This forms an important link for the proposed Bishop Bennet Way to join the Jack Mytton Way.

Footpath 152 Parishes of Barrow and Broseley has been upgraded to a bridleway. Known as Fiery Fields this leads from Lodge Lane to the Bridgnorth Road in Broseley.

Creation Agreements have been made to produce the following Definitive Bridleways.

In the Parish of Sutton Maddock a Bridleway creation agreement over Sutton Common will provide an off road link for the Sabrina Way. Pound Lane to the Round House (on the Caughley Road) Parish of Broseley.

From Caughley Road to the railway barrier on the Severn Way Footpath upgrade to BW from the B4375 past site marked Opencast Workings to Barrow Lodge on the B4376

White road to BW status linking the B4373 to the B4376 past Willey Furnace Cottages.

Bridleway Maintenance

Some bridleways have been included in the Capital Programme of Improvement Works requiring specialist equipment and contract work. The following received such attention:

- BW 30 Wheathill— Surfacing and drainage

- BW 16 Wheathill - Repair to ford and other drainage and surfacing
- BW 181 Barrow - Ditching and drainage works
- BW 89A Pontesbury—Drainage works
- BW 6R—Stone for surfacing
- BW 2 Alveley - Emergency stone to track during flooding
- BW 65A Kinlet Large bridge
- BW 87 Church Stretton—Regrading of ford
- BOAT 59 Minsterley—Stone for repairs



Discovering Lost Ways

The Discovering Lost Ways Project has withdrawn from active archive research. The Countryside Access Team hope progress can be made with the research already carried out in Shropshire.

Formal Applications made in the Last Year

To upgrade FP65 and NU1 to bridleway Parish of Barrow

FP79/80 upgrade to bridleway from end of BW78 north east to the Folly Parish of Worfield.

Footpath upgrades and bridleway additions in Easthope and Shipton Parishes.

FP 95 upgrade to bridleway Ackleton to Badger

To add a bridleway past Winnington Cottage in the Parish of Westbury.

Order Decisions

Cow Lane Great Ness. Having con-

firmed as a bridleway with modifications to the order in September 2007 the Inspector did not confirm the order after a second inquiry held on 15th May 2008. This was due to new evidence of a 1 metre high stock proof fence.

BW3 (Part) Parish of Westbury. The proposed diverted section of this bridleway has been confirmed.

BOAT proposal past Vyrnwy Bank Molverley after a hearing was declared a Restricted Byway.

Wind farms

A planning application has been made for 7 wind turbines 110 metres high at Lower Farm Bearstone, Market Drayton.

Two of the proposed turbines are within the recommended distance of



200 metres from a restricted byway. A letter of objection was sent on behalf of the British Horse Society. Shropshire will no doubt see further wind farm applications in the future.

Telford and Wrekin

Telford and Wrekin Bridleway Group is currently conducting a petition of bridleway users to provide evidence of the need for improved bridleway access in the area. Much ongoing work concerns bridleway access across the borough temporarily lost due to major building works, some of which risk not being re-established.