



# Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2010

## **Welfare Report Ruth Court, Regional Welfare Officer**

*Drawing the Line on Indiscriminate Breeding campaign:* The BHS has launched a long-term campaign to encourage horse owners to 'Think Before You Breed' through increased awareness and castration programmes. The aim is to ensure that fewer poor quality foals are born and subjected to an uncertain and often unpleasant future.

Over the last year celebrities have been asked to draw a picture, or donate an item to be auctioned on 13th October at Cheffins of Cambridge, to raise funds for this important campaign. There is now a fantastic selection of donations from celebrities such as Alan Titchmarsh, Sir Paul McCartney and Martin Clunes to hand over to the highest bidders. For more information on how you can look at donations and make a bid look on the BHS website.

*Ragwort Awareness week:* Throughout the week, 12-18 July 2010, BHS welfare were appealing to everyone with an interest in horses to take time to help complete a "snapshot survey". The aim was to record the extent and location of ragwort spotted during the Awareness Week. Mapping software was used to highlight the areas where ragwort is most prevalent and the number of animals grazing in ragwort infested fields will be calculated. The results to this survey will be available soon.

There seems to have been an increase in the amount of Ragwort this year and a number of horses grazing on ragwort covered fields have been brought to my attention. The Weeds Act 1959 enables action to be taken to prevent the spread of Common Ragwort. If you are concerned about ragwort you can contact myself or visit the DEFRA or Natural England websites. The DEFRA website states that: Anyone concerned about the spread of Common Ragwort should get in touch with the landowner or manager of the land on which the weed is growing and ask them to take action to control it. If the problem persists, a complaint can be made to Natural England which will investigate it where there is a risk to animal welfare.

*Horse Talks Group:* After a break for the summer I hope to hold some more group discussions over the winter. If anyone has any welfare or horse care related topics they would like to be discussed at the meetings, please let me know.

## **Training by Sean Maxwell BHSI**

We are looking to expand on the success of the limited number of events we run each year and to appeal to a wider range of riders and enthusiasts in Northamptonshire (and beyond).

We are still looking for ideas for training events and/or trainers who have a specialism who would like to deliver training for our members. Funds raised by the committee can/will be used to help offset the cost of delivering the training.

If you have ideas for training/trainers (flat, jump, cross country, horse ball, polo, theory lectures, practical hands on lectures), lecture demonstrations, or visits we can organise, or if you are a trainer with a specialism who could inspire our members with your skills and enthusiasm, please do not hesitate to contact me on sean.maxwell@moulton.ac.uk or 01604 491131 (If relevant we can/will pay your fees).

Never been to one of our events? Why not come along as a spectator and get the feel for the event, before you have a go! You should find them friendly, well organised and pitched at the correct level for the riders taking part.

**If you are one of the many core supporters of our events thank you for supporting our fund raising efforts.**

Hi Everyone,

Sadly, this will be my last Autumn newsletter. I originally started as Vice Chairman during 2007 before taking on the full Chairman's roll following the Autumn meeting, and have had the honour of acting as your local Chairman for four years. Now it's time for 'new blood & ideas' to kick-start our very special Northamptonshire Area!!!

I would also like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a wonderful group of people that form our Committee, and the majority of these people have been giving their support now for at least four years – and in some cases even longer!!! These Committee members give up so much of their time due to the passion we all share – horses. My heartfelt thanks are extended to each and every one of them for their support. Maybe some of you would also like to be 'Helpers' or join in at Committee Meetings to keep our Northamptonshire branch thriving, or perhaps help at events. Your help in any way at all would be very welcome and we would love to hear from you; if you're interested, just drop me a line at [sue@wardleandkeach.co.uk](mailto:sue@wardleandkeach.co.uk). I would also like to say thank you to the following people for this year's events: Grid Work at Moulton College with thanks to Sean Maxwell at Moulton College, Hills & Thrills in Bozeat with thanks to Claire Holt, Non-Stressage Dressage at Glebe Farm Equestrian Centre, Bozeat with thanks to Julie Robinson & Richard O'Neil and by the kind permission of Heather Reeves. Finally, a special THANK YOU to Swanspool Veterinary Centre for kindly being our 'Vets On Call' for the Dressage. We are pleased to report however that their attendance was not required! Also a HUGE THANK YOU to all Volunteers their family and friends for helping at these events

**Communication** – This year, PLEASE could all of you with internet facilities please help us to support you by providing your email address for correspondence. Firstly it's a far quicker means of communication to keep participants informed (especially if events are threatened by adverse weather conditions – which we are all experiencing). Secondly it reduces costs and as the BHS is a charity this can only be a very large plus! Finally, it is environmentally friendly by the reduction of paper involved. (Please save our trees!!!!!!). If you do not have internet/email, please reply by post, stating which events interest you, enclosing a S.A.E., providing a mobile number, if you have one, to the contact name supplied with each event throughout the year.

As Chairman I would also like to especially pay tribute to Julie Robinson who has been our Treasurer for four years and is now stepping down to hand over this task to another member of our Committee. She has done an absolutely super job over the years and I am sure you would all like to join in with me in thanking her for all her hard work and cheerful attitude throughout those years.

Thank you all again and may you continue to enjoy your horses in whatever is your chosen discipline.

Regards – Sue Henry

## Diary Dates 2011

January- Saturday 29th at The Royal Oak in Walgrave. Teams of 4 to compete in an equine/general knowledge quiz, in aid of BHS Welfare and the Warwickshire and Northants Air Ambulance. 7.30 start, food available. Contact Ruth Court on 07771 861188 or Kay Driver on 07982 721645/clipstonmill@hotmail.com

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February- Salcey Forest Ride. Beat the winter blues with a ride in the beautiful Salcey Forest. Food and hot drinks available. Limited availability, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Sue on 07971 231119 or sue@wardleandkeach.co.uk.

March- Horsematch Demonstration. Tack marking and information talk by Northamptonshire Police. Date and venue tbc, contact Lyn Price on 01604 862557 or lp.childs@bursam.plus.com for further information.

April- Jump training with Sean Maxwell. Details tbc.

May-Access talk. Details tbc.

June- Boughton House Ride. Details tbc.

Annual Meeting, Tuesday 19th October at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. To be held at Holcot Riding School.

### **A light hearted look at the life of a polo player and film extra with David Birkbeck.**

David Birkbeck is the proprietor of Holcot Riding School. He plays polo at Kirtlington Park Polo Club and has been a film and TV extra in productions such as The Duchess, The Other Boleyn Girl and Little Dorrit.

The evening will provide the opportunity to get involved with some basic stick and ball techniques, followed by an insight into the world of being a film extra. David says 'there's a whole lot more to horses than hacking and schooling.....'

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### **FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

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