

NATIONAL EQUINE FORUM NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012



NATIONAL EQUINE FORUM (NEF)



Message from the Chairman



Chairman: Professor Sir Colin Spedding addresses the audience at the National Equine Forum 2011

From the feedback we received, it seems that you were happy with the programme we laid on in 2011. As always, some thought it was the best yet, and others wanted a bit more of this and a bit less of the other. Particularly well received was the debate on homeopathy, and we will consider including other controversial topics from time to time in the future. I do not think we have

given enough time to racing or welfare in recent years, and we hope to rectify that in 2012. Your suggestions for topics are always very helpful, but if we included them all, we would have to run the Forum over two days, which I think you would agree would not be a good idea.

We were delighted that our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, was able to join us for the 2011 Forum, and once again provide her own personal and challenging views on matters equestrian.

As I mentioned at the 2011 Forum, we made a financial loss on the 2010 Forum. However, I am delighted to report that with some additional sponsors and with a magnificent response to my plea for more of you to become

Friends of the Forum, we were able to reverse this in 2011. I hope that all our sponsors will be able to maintain their support in these difficult financial times, and that those of you who have signed up as Friends will continue to contribute.

Now that you all have your 2012 diaries, please put down the date of the next Forum – **Thursday 8th March**. Don't forget that it will be at a new location at the **Institution of Mechanical Engineers**, One Birdcage Walk, just off Parliament Square. There is tiered seating there, something which many of you said you would like, and we hope it will ensure that you all have an excellent view of the proceedings.

Colin Spedding

Why go to NEF?

- YOUR CHOICES OF TOPIC WITH YOUR CHOICES OF SPEAKER
- KEY MESSAGES FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS
- UP TO THE MINUTE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- LIVELY DEBATES AND EXTENDED SESSIONS
- YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE YOUR SAY
- INVALUABLE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
- NEW LOCATION, TIERED SEATING

The proceedings of the 2011 National Equine Forum are available at www.bef.co.uk, click on "National Equine Forum".

Looking Forward to NEF 2012—New Year, New Location

Although we will be at a new location, the timings for the 2012 Forum will be as normal. That is registration and coffee will be from 0845 to 0930, and the day's proceedings will finish at 1600 when tea will be available for those who do not have to rush away. The longer lunch interval and

the morning comfort break worked well in 2011, and will be continued in 2012. Although a number of you have suggested tea and coffee mid-morning and mid-afternoon, the Organising Committee has decided that this would take up too much time, and that the emphasis should be on maximising

the programme content.

We hope that our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal will be able to join us on the day, but we will not know for sure until after her programme meeting later in the year. Unfortunately, Jim Paice MP will not be with us this year, but we have an excellent range

NEF thanks Bright Bay PR, the British Equestrian Federation and Warwickshire College for the considerable administrative support they provide. NEF also thanks Craig Payne, official photographer



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Lucy Higginson 2011



Prof Josh Slater 2011

WE FIND OUT
ABOUT "THE
RELATIVE
MERITS OF
COURTS OR
CONCILIATION IN
SOLVING
DISPUTES"



Looking Forward to NEF 2012

of speakers and topics designed to give everyone something of interest.

We start with an update on passports and the National Equine Database, something which has come up in the margins of many recent topics on disease control, but which we have not had sufficient time to discuss fully. We will then consider the hotly debated issues of protection of native breeds against overbreeding. Following this we will look at the problems of future access for riders, a topic of concern to many of us, before hearing about the role of arena surfaces in increasing or decreasing injury, something which has received a lot of attention in relation to the 2012 Olympic Games.

We hope to prompt some lively discussion with presentations on the value of equine degrees, an old chestnut, and the relative merits of courts or conciliation in solving disputes, something which possibly deserves more consideration than has usually been given

to it. We then hear from the international equine welfare organisations on their attempts to encourage behaviour change in developing nations on the handling and use of horses and donkeys. The BHS sponsored Eqvalan equine thesis winner this year will be talking about obesity in horses, a topic on which there is much fact and fiction, and some strongly entrenched views. We will then break for a well-earned lunch and the chance to talk to others.

After lunch we start with a presentation on how the Scottish SPCA has been able to work with the British Horseracing Authority on improving welfare in racing, a subject which has received plenty of publicity in 2011. After this we turn to doping, concentrating on everyday competitions, rather than racing or top level FEI events, and to the debate on welfare versus performance.

Next we have a specially extended slot by Professor Knottenbelt which should

interest you all on two of his areas of particular interest, namely sarcoids and headshaking. Following this, we have topical spots on the new Animal Health and Welfare Board, and equine health security at the Olympic Games.

Assuming that the Chairman has been able to keep speakers to time, we then have 10 minutes for an open forum and any final questions before turning to our President and our Chairman to wind up proceedings.

Those who do not have to rush to catch a train then have a chance for a cup of tea and some last minute networking.

Contact us:

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Join us at NEF!

Invitations for the 2012 Forum will be sent out very soon, and to ensure you get yours, if any of your details have changed since the last Forum, or to nominate a replacement if you have moved on, please inform the Honorary Secretary, Tracy Allen at

TEALLEN@warkscol.ac.uk

Applications to purchase additional tickets should also be addressed to Tracy Allen.

Our Generous Sponsors 2011

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We look forward to your continued support this year