

NATIONAL EQUINE FORUM NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2009



A message from the Chairman

The feedback from the 2009 National Equine Forum was that it was another successful event with topics for everyone, and healthy debate in the question periods. We were delighted that Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal had agreed to become our President, and only sorry that on this occasion she was unable to be with us as she was overseas on an official visit.

We are very grateful to our Sponsors and to the Friends of the Forum, as without their contributions the Forum would not be possible. The Organising Committee and the speakers provide their support for free, and we try to minimise costs where we can do so without reducing standards, but we still only just managed to break even in 2009 and will make a loss in 2010 unless we can identify more Sponsors or Friends, or sell more commercial tickets.

One of the largest expenses is the cost of providing lunch, so if you find out at the last minute that you will not be able to attend, despite having accepted the invitation, please let the Honorary Secretary, Tracy Lepkowska, know at TLEPKOWSKA@warkscol.ac.uk. It is for the same cost-controlling reason that we have decided not to serve wine at the lunch. I know from the questionnaires that a number of you would prefer to have a glass of wine to help the networking, but I am sure that you would prefer a dry lunch to no Forum at all. If in the future we find ourselves embarrassed with an excess of funding, we will happily reintroduce wine.

If any of you know any companies or individuals who might be interested in supporting the Forum financially please tell the Administrator, Miles Williamson-Noble, at equineforum@btinternet.com. Likewise do please encourage anyone whom you know who might be interested in attending the Forum but who does not get a personal invitation to apply to the Honorary Secretary to purchase a ticket (cost £100).

We were grateful for the feedback from delegates on the 2009 topics and the suggestions for the 2010 topics. Where possible these have been taken into account in putting together next year's programme, but with only a limited time on the day not all suggestions can be fitted in. Ideas not taken up this year will be held on record for future years.

Lastly, as soon as you have your 2010 diary, please make a note in it of the date for the next Forum – Thursday 4 March at the Royal Society in London.

Colin Spedding

Record of 2009 Forum

If you have not already had a look at the proceedings of the 2009 National Equine Forum, including a record of the questions and answers, log on to the British Equestrian Federation's website at www.bef.co.uk and follow the links. This is also an excellent way of getting early notice of and staying up to date with the programme for 2010.

Looking Forward to 2010

As mentioned by the Chairman, the 2010 Forum will take place at the Royal Society in London on Thursday 4 March 2010. 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. At the request of delegates, the period allocated for lunch is being increased from an hour to an hour and a quarter to allow more time for networking, one of the great assets of the Forum.



We hope that our President Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal will be able to join us on the day, but we have to await her official diary meeting before we know if this will be possible. We also hope to have a video message to delegates from Her Royal Highness, Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, President of the FEI.

With the General Election expected shortly after the Forum, we have invited both the Minister for Food, Farming and Environment and the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs to give their views on such controversial topics as HGV driving hours for full-time workers, the horse tax suggested as a means of part-funding the Animal Health Agency, and the Hunting Act.

We will then move to reports on the proposals for the licensing of horse establishments, including sanctuaries and studs, and a report on a study into the role of the horse in Europe.

Next comes a veterinary theme with presentations on endoscopy galloping horses, nutrition and gastric ulcers, and worming and wormers. We will then have the British Horse Society sponsored Undergraduate Thesis, and a presentation on the legalities, logistics and welfare issues of the various methods of identifying horses, before we break for lunch.

We will start after lunch with a new topic on horses in art. The first presentation will be about plans for a Museum of the Horse, and we will then have an expert from the auctioneers Christies give a presentation on horses in painting.

Next will be what is involved in training for top-level paralympic competition, before turning to topical issues on the control of exotic diseases and equine flu, as well as the training and regulation of parapprofessionals.

There will be ample time for questions throughout the programme. An additional period for more general questions and topical issues from the floor will come at the

end of the day. We hope to be able to conclude the proceedings with a personal message from Her Royal Highness, possibly concentrating on standards in training, before breaking for a cup of tea and a final chance to network.

Invitations for the 2010 Forum will be sent out towards the end of the year, and to ensure you get yours, if any of your details have changed since the last Forum, please inform the Honorary Secretary, Tracy Lepkowska at TLEPKOWSKA@warkscol.ac.uk

Forum Sponsors

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following generous sponsors:

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World Horse Welfare



Support to the Forum

In addition to its financial contribution, the British Equestrian Federation very kindly provides supporting services to the Forum, as do Bright Bay PR, Warwickshire College and the Farriery Training Agency.

Contacts

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