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# NEF NEWS

The Newsletter of the  
National Equine Forum

Autumn 2010

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Questions from the floor  
– March 2010

## Message from the Chairman

By all accounts the 2010 National Equine Forum was one of the best yet, with topics for almost everyone and plenty of lively debate. The comments in the discussion period at the end indicated that both the content and the format of what we are providing suits most of you. One concern has been that in order to cover topics of relevance to the diverse range of interests represented on the day, we must keep the time devoted to each topic relatively short. For the 2011 programme we have allowed three of the topics some extra time, and we will see how this goes. As always there will be plenty of time for questions, as we feel the chance for you to ask questions or to put an alternative viewpoint is an essential part of the Forum.

We were delighted that our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, was able to join us for the 2010 Forum, and provide her own personal and challenging views on matters equestrian. We were also pleased that Her Royal Highness Princess Haya took the time to record a personal message for the Forum. Finally, we were most grateful to our various speakers for their contributions in producing so many excellent presentations.

I warned in my newsletter last year that unless we were able to find more sponsors or Friends, or sell more commercial tickets, we were in danger of making a loss. We did manage to gain some more sponsors and a few more Friends, to whom many thanks, but we sold considerably fewer commercial tickets than we had hoped. As a result of this and the increase in prices due to inflation, we made a loss on the 2010 Forum. Our reserves enabled us to absorb this as a one-off, but we cannot continue to operate at a loss, and must attempt to restore our balances to at least the pre-2010 level. We have made some substantial reductions in the costs of room hire by reducing the time allowed for setting up, and the Organising Committee has made a number of suggestions for possible additional sponsors which the Forum Administrator will follow up. However, the total cost of the Forum is about £18,000 each year or £90 a head, of which the lunch alone costs £40 a head. We have discussed the possibility of charging guests for their lunch, but the Organising Committee would like to maintain the concept of free attendance. However, we are sure that many of our guests would

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be prepared to make some contribution as a way of ensuring that the Forum can continue to exist. You will, therefore, find enclosed with this newsletter an appeal to guests who are not already sponsors or Friends to become Friends. We suggest that a contribution of £30 from individuals who are not representing any association, £100 from small or medium sized associations, and £200 from large associations or colleges would be appropriate. Last year we threatened not to serve wine as a cost saving measure, but I am delighted to report that at least one guest was so dismayed by this that they offered a contribution that enabled us to offer delegates a glass at lunchtime. I know that a lot of you greatly appreciated this. Lastly, as soon as you have your 2011 diary, please put down the date of the next Forum – **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** at the Royal Society in London. Note that this is a change from the date of 3<sup>rd</sup> March that was previously announced.

**Colin Spedding**

## Record of 2010 Forum

The proceedings of the 2010 National Equine Forum, including a record of the questions and answers, are available on the British Equestrian Federation's website at [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk) and follow the links.

## Looking Forward to 2011

As usual, the 2011 Forum will take place at the Royal Society in London in early March (Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>). 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.

After last year's experiment we will keep the lunch break at an hour and a quarter to allow more time for networking, one of the great assets of the Forum. We will also introduce a short leg stretch and comfort break into the morning, as 3 hours without a break can be a bit daunting.

We hope that our President Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal will be able to join us on the day. We also hope to have either the President or a Vice President of the FEI to talk about Clean Sport, and the Minister of State, James Paice MP, to update us on

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what he has been able to achieve since he spoke to us last year. All three of these are dependent on diary commitments and will not be confirmed until closer to the time.

In the political slot we will have an update on what the British Horse Industry Confederation has been up to, with particular reference to the Equine Health and Welfare Strategy, and a presentation contrasting how the organisation of the horse industry relates to Government in the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Next comes a more commercial theme with presentations on bedding materials and their disposal, how to run a successful business in a recession and new opportunities for riding centres.

Following this, we will hear from BHS Undergraduate Thesis which is the winner of the Eqvalan Duo Thesis of The Year, and from Emile Faurie about his foundation and its work encouraging the disadvantaged through riding. We will then break for a well-earned lunch and the chance to talk to others.

After lunch we start with presentations by Alice Plunkett and Lucy Higginson on equitation and the media. We then move to our veterinary topics with presentations on maintenance of the equine gene pool, clean sport and finally homeopathy, which should provoke some lively debate from those on either side of the fence.

We then have a couple of short topical spots dealing with the National Equine Crime Database, and the availability and price of Olympic and Paralympic tickets.

We will wind up with concluding remarks from our President, if she is able to attend, and our Chairman, before breaking for tea and a final chance to network. Invitations for the 2011 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, or to nominate a replacement if you have moved on, please inform the Honorary Secretary, Tracy Allen at [TEALLEN@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:TEALLEN@warkscol.ac.uk)

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## Become a Friend of the National Equine Forum

For some years, the National Equine Forum has had a scheme whereby guests may choose to become Friends of the Forum. This is entirely voluntary and will continue to be so. Friends undertake to make a financial contribution towards the costs of running the Forum each year, in return for which they are acknowledged on the programme and receive priority, along with sponsors, for events such as private tours of the Greenwich Olympic equestrian site. Becoming a Friend is not a short cut to getting an invitation, nor is it a way round paying the going rate for commercial tickets. Friends choose how much to contribute, and although we suggest a typical contribution, the decision on whether and how much to give is a purely personal matter.

As the Chairman has explained in his message, the Forum urgently needs to increase its income for 2011 and subsequent years. We will be approaching a few selected potential additional sponsors, but we very much hope that a number of those who currently attend as free guests will choose to become a Friend, or if already a Friend may opt to increase their contribution.

If you or your nominating body would like to become a Friend, we suggest the following rates:

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Individuals                      | £30  |
| Small organisations              | £100 |
| Large organisations and colleges | £200 |

If you would like to become a Friend, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Tracy Allen, by email at [teallen@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:teallen@warkscol.ac.uk) or Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL with your name, contact details, organisation and the amount you would like to give.

This note is being sent out to everyone on the mailing list, but if you normally attend as a paying guest, or if your company already provides sponsorship, it clearly does not apply to you.

Please give this request serious consideration and help to keep the Forum going.

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## Forum Sponsors

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following generous sponsors:

**Association of British Riding Schools**  
**Bedmax**  
**Blue Cross**  
**British Equestrian Federation**  
**British Equestrian Trade Association**  
**British Horse Society**  
**British Horseracing Authority**  
**Darby's Solicitors**  
**Dodson and Horrell**  
**Donkey Sanctuary**  
**Equine Products UK**  
**Fort Dodge**  
**Horse Trust**  
**Jeffress Scholarship Trust**  
**Lippizaner Society**  
**NFU Mutual Insurance**  
**South Essex Insurance Brokers**  
**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 National Farriery Training Agency.

## Contacts

Honorary Secretary:  
Tracy Allen, Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell,  
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