

NEWSLETTER

THE INSPECTORATE OF RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Issue 7 – January 2010

As well as turkey and plum duff, Christmas can also be about ghosts. Before you bin this newsletter think of The Christmas Carol, and while our Chairman, David McDowell, is recovering after having his heart drilled out by the latest offering from Makita Tools, it falls to me as the Committee's Jacob Marley to point out to you the following. The Inspectorate may seem to be a very small pimple in the veterinary world, but we have developed something that no other part of our profession was bothered about. We are a continually developing, self-regulating body devoted to equine welfare and one that is used by the public.

With the new Animal Welfare Act it is important that we are the "firstest with the mostest", to quote Nathan Bedford Forest. There will continue to be discussions about the inspection of livery stables and when it comes in we will rightfully be in pole position to do the job.

Old Whingers like me, who qualified far too many years ago, may think that going to a compulsory course is the pits. I think it is better than that. Equine matters are continually changing and also you have every opportunity to complain and make suggestions. We take these to heart hence the specialist eye sessions in the 2009 courses. These will be repeated in 2010 and added to with recordings of significant heart sounds.

Best wishes for 2010

Bertie Ellis

My thanks to Bertie for his assistance. I am glad to report that the coronary artery grafts seems to be working well, that I am encouraging this with measured doses of red wine (oops -I mean anti-oxidant medicine) and that I hope to return to normal activities shortly.

David McDowell

DVD of a Riding Establishment Inspection.

The committee has decided to have a DVD made to provide guidelines for members of the panel. It will be made by Inclusive Digital TV who has made DVDs for BEVA and the "starring roles" will be taken by the younger committee members, Ben Mayes and Rebecca Hamilton Fletcher. It is expected to be filmed in the spring of this year and when completed a copy will be sent to all panel members.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the BEVA Trust which has agreed to give a considerable grant towards the production costs of the DVD and also to

both The Donkey Sanctuary and KBIS, a leading equestrian insurance company, who have promised financial support for the project.

INSPECTORATE LIST 2010

Members are reminded that the 2010 Riding Establishments Inspectorate List is only available on the RCVS website at www.rcvs.org.uk/ridingestablishments . A visible link from the main RCVS website to the Riding Establishments website has now been established.

Although local authorities should now be aware of this change, the secretary has received a number of calls from local authorities requesting an up-to-date List. Some appear to be still using out of date printed lists. Members are, therefore, requested to notify any authorities for whom they carry out inspections that there have been changes to the list and that the Las should protect themselves by only using the qualified inspectors who are on the RCVS list. This should avoid the use of veterinary surgeons who are not members of the Inspectorate.

The report forms are available for downloading from the website. These report forms have now also been uploaded as Word documents and can be completed on the computer. Members are also advised to check that Local Authorities will accept on-line submission of the report forms or whether they will still require a signed copy (with a covering letter).

All members are asked to check their entry on the 2010 Inspectorate List and notify the Secretary of any amendments required.

REFRESHER/INDUCTION COURSES 2009 Innovation!

Two courses were held in 2009, at Newbury in June and Cumbernauld in July. Judging by the delegates' feedback they were both successful. Much of this was because of presentations by John Parker JP MA VetMB FRCVS, a widely acknowledged expert on the equine eye whose papers were followed by practical sessions devoted to significant eye problems for riding establishment animals. His wide knowledge of legal matters made his advice to delegates doubly valuable. These talks were well supported by other speakers. Two excellent saddlers, both members of the Society of Master Saddlers, gave very valuable advice on all aspects of tack both in the lecture room and in the practical sessions on the horses themselves. Particularly interesting are the ways in which saddlery continues to develop and alter.

Following these courses there will be 16 new entrants to the list, balanced by 11 retiring members.

The Master Class 2009 £100 prizes are awarded to the delegate whose assessment of the riding establishment agrees as closely as possible with that of the Committee. This year's winner at Newbury was Michael Smalley from Sandwich, Kent and at Cumbernauld the winner was, for the first time, new applicant Peter Mason from Stowmarket, Suffolk.

REFRESHER/INDUCTION COURSES 2010

Two courses have been organised for this year. The first course will be on Wednesday 23 June 2010 at Newbury Racecourse. Details of local overnight accommodation will be

supplied to delegates. The second course will be on Wednesday 14 July 2010 at The Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, Scotland. Overnight accommodation is available and early booking is advised.

We are very fortunate that Mr John Parker will again give presentations on eye lesions and their significance in riding establishment horses at both courses. There will also be a short presentation with sound recordings on significant abnormal heart sounds.

All members who are due to attend a refresher in 2010 will be notified at the end of February 2010. Please make a note of these dates in your diary, as failure to attend the course will result in your name being removed from the Inspectorate List.

All new applicants wishing to apply for admission to the Inspectorate are advised to complete and return their application forms as soon as possible.

INTERNAL AUDIT OF INSPECTOR'S REPORT FORMS

This audit is to enable the Committee to exercise some 'quality control' over the standard of the inspections carried out by members of the Riding Establishment Inspectorate. It is not intended in anyway to undermine the authority of the inspectors. Whilst any inspector is quite within his/her rights to refuse permission for the Committee to see the report forms submitted to the local authorities, it is hoped that all members will see the overall benefit of such scrutiny.

SIX SCORE YEARS AND TEN!

Members are reminded that on reaching the age of 70, a certificate of medical fitness should be submitted to the Committee. However, the Committee have taken the decision that a form of self-certification is all that is required in future. This should take the form of a brief letter stating that the member concerned is in good health and fit and able to carry out the inspections. Details of health problems need not be included.

CONTACTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

There may be occasion when members of the Inspectorate would like to contact members of the Riding Establishments Committee direct. To this end, please find below a list of the names and emails address of current committee members.

David McDowell BrantwoodConsult@aol.com

Roger Green rgmrcvs@bigfoot.com

Bertie Ellis bertie@rnwellis.co.uk

John Owen: owen.john@talktalk.net

Chris House: chouse1054@aol.com

Ben Mayes: ben.mayes@equinevetpractice.co.uk

Rebecca Hamilton Fletcher mail@endellequinehospital.co.uk

Ben Mayes and Rebecca Hamilton Fletcher have joined the committee and bring 'new blood' and some very good new ideas. John Owen will be retiring from the committee at the end of 2010 and so leaves the way open for a new Course Director. Any takers for this position?

CONTACTING THE SECRETARY

Please do not hesitate to contact Diana with any queries. However, please be advised that the office is not always manned during normal office hours. Members wishing to

contact the Secretary by telephone are asked to leave a message on the answerphone (tel 01380 871289), and their call will be returned as soon as possible. Alternatively, please send an email to dianaevans647@btinternet.com
