



To: BHS Trustees, President, Vice Presidents, Regional & County Chairmen, Chairmen of Advisory Committees, BRC Executive Committee, all BHS staff.

February 2015

Monthly Report - February

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Please circulate this Monthly Report to your Committee Members

Chief Executive's Report

Queen's Award

The selection panel for the Queen's Award for Equestrianism met to put forward three nominations to the BHS Board for their final decision of who should receive the 2015 award. The nominations this year were brilliant which made the selection panel's decision of which three to put forward incredibly difficult and even more difficult for the Board to make a final decision.

The award will be presented later this year and the nominations and winner are kept under wraps until they have been confirmed by HRH The Queen. So watch this space and keep your eye on British Horse later in the year for the announcement of the very deserving winner.

Caroline Spelman MP

Lynn continued to forge relationships within Government meeting with Caroline Spelman MP to discuss the Manifesto for The Horse created by the British Horse Industry Confederation and the Equine Sector Council as well other issues affecting the industry.

Manifesto for The Horse

The Manifesto for The Horse was circulated to British Horse Society members using a variety of different online communication channels together with a message asking them to get in touch with their MPs to raise the profile of the issues affecting the equestrian industry.

We received some very positive responses. Thank you very much to all those members who have already got in touch with their MPs. Please do encourage your committee members to keep sending the letters to their MPs the more the better!

Royal Windsor Horse Show

Planning continues apace for our attendance at Royal Windsor Horse Show. Royal Windsor have kindly offered us a partner ticket offer this year with BHS members getting free entry on Thursday, 14 May. To make the most of this day for our members and volunteers we will be running a number of events and book signings throughout the day in the BHS marquee – so hope to see you there. Please do get in touch with your Development Officer regarding this as several committees are hoping to organise coaches to attend. There will also be a special membership offer for any of your friends who decide to come with you, with a gift for you too!

If you aren't able to attend on the Thursday, then don't worry Royal Windsor are also offering BHS members discounted tickets on the other days of the Show and we will be running afternoon events on Friday and Saturday. Please keep your eye on your email and British Horse for more details.

1. Access and Rights of Way – Heather Clatworthy

Volunteers and Equestrian Access Groups

We have had two new volunteers successfully appointed as Bridleway Officers. This brings our total headcount of Bridleway Officers to 239 and Equestrian Access Groups to 120 throughout the United Kingdom.

Training

We have held two successful training days so far this year. A level 3 in Carmarthenshire on 24th Jan and a level two in Yorkshire on 28th Feb. Both days received excellent feedback from the delegates.

These days are only £5 to attend for BHS members or members of Equestrian Access Groups, and include refreshments and lunch. To learn more about the training and find a date near you for 2015 visit bhs.org.uk

Access Week 2015

Access week, this year takes place 23 – 31 May 2015. It is our chance to raise national awareness of the problems equestrians face and our work to improve safe off road equestrian access. It is also a chance to raise vital funds for our charity, and to have fun in doing so by holding many fundraising events. Please put the date in your diaries and start thinking about how you can help support BHS Access throughout the UK during this week. Email amy.tuck@bhs.org.uk for more details.

Deregulation Bill

11 February saw the third and final day of the Report stage in the House of Lords. The third Reading in the House of Lords has been set for the 4th of March.

Equestrian Access Groups - Facebook page

We now have over 1680 followers and are reaching an average total weekly reach of an estimated 2000 people. It is in use daily by equestrians and our most popular post reached 14,000 people. We have been featuring technical problems in recent weeks, with great responses, followed by meeting members of the Access team. Please promote this as much as possible for us. Search for "BHS Equestrian Access Groups" on Facebook or Email amy.tuck@bhs.org.uk for details.

ARoW Update – do you get it?

Our monthly National Access specific enews presently has 1642 subscribers and is growing daily. If you would like to sign up or get involved in the content of this communications stream please email a.tuck@bhs.org.uk.

Meetings

2 February Mark Weston met with Natural England, Askam Bryan College and other stakeholders to discuss the self closing gate trial that is due to take place at Askam Bryan College in September.

25 February Heather Clatworthy attended the Canal and River Trust (CRT) National User Forum. Our working relationship with CRT has improved considerably over the past seven years and is proving to be very fruitful, enabling us to pilot equestrian access on three key sections of canal towpath.

26 February Mark Weston met with Gillian Williams, Chairman of Powys Committee, other Powys Committee members, the landowner and developer of the Bryn Blaen Wind Farm to discuss improvements that could be made to the bridleway that crosses the application site.

2. Approvals - Chris Doran

New Centres:

Jacqueline Hindley
Petersham Farm Stables
Petersham Road
Richmond
Surrey, TW10 7AA
0208 9484 429
www.petershamfarmstables.co.uk

L

Val Fowler
Wellow Equestrian
Scotts Farm
Rufford Lane
Wellow, Newark
Notts, NG22 0EQ
07804 234923
www.wellowequestrian.co.uk

L

Sandra Haddon
Nuneaton & North Warwickshire Equestrian
Centre & RDA
Valley Road
Galley Common
Nuneaton
Warks, CV10 9NJ
02476 392397
www.nnwec.org.uk
RS

Coding

F	Facility
HW	Horses Welcome
L	Livery
RH	Riding Holidays
RS	Riding School
S	Showing

Withdrawn Centres:

Croft Riding Centre
Cheshire
RS

Equus Riding Centre
Surrey
L

Withdrawn by the BHS

Withdrawn by the BHS

Pennybridge Riding School
Isle of Man
RS

Withdrawn by the Proprietor

3. British Riding Clubs, BHS Competitions & Tourism – Laura Sanger

Final plans for our first Championship of the season, the KBIS Novice Winter Championships at Hartpury College, are now well under way. We are delighted to have launched a brand new online stabling booking system for our Championships, and this is now live and is a great additional resource for our Clubs.

The February edition of Rider magazine was published which has some great features including a Quadrille Championship review, myth busting facts about horse's personalities and a cross-country master class with Pippa Funnell.

The annual training weekend for BRC Official Stewards took place, and saw 50 delegates spend the weekend learning about H&S, BRC rules and organising events. It was a fantastic opportunity to catch up with some current stewards and refresh their training, as well as meeting some new volunteers to the role.

Our final Area visits for this year were completed, which were more great opportunities for HQ staff to meet and listen to our members' views.

The BRC Competitions Committee held their first meeting of 2015, and discussions from this will now be fed into the full National Executive Committee meeting in March.

4. Communications - Dave Prince

BHS in the Press in February 2015

Number of Press Releases Sent: 4

Number of Press Mentions: 355 (A good high number thanks to Martin Clunes being cited as our President in an article circulated by the Press Association about his role in the new drama on ITV, Arthur and George).

Top Press Releases picked up: The unveiling of the BHS Fellows Board and several local bridleway successes.

Topics including the BHS in press clippings were: Dog attacks, road safety, BHS providing road safety training for police volunteers, emergency services budget cuts.

Website

Month	Visits	Users	Average Pages	Average time spent
Feb 15	103,719	73,240	3.80	03:15
Feb 14	93,690	66,602	4.25	03:35

Month	Facebook fans	Twitter followers
Feb 15	56,768	26,160
Jan 15	55,637	25,639

5. Education - Linda Haworth

Fellowship 2015

The Fellowship exam will take place at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire on 27th and 28th October 2015. Potential candidates should submit their resumes by 1 April 2015 with a fee of £286.00. The full application form and further fee of £897.00 should be submitted to the BHS Education Department no later than 1 July 2015

The exam is limited to a maximum 6 candidates. Applications will be accepted on a first come basis.

The Register of Instructors

We currently have 2044 Registered Instructors.

We recently sent out a survey to all Registered Instructors asking their opinions on the current benefits to their membership, what they do and do not like and what they would like us to offer. So far the results have been encouraging with plenty of responses coming in and some good feedback and suggestions.

The National Convention with Tim Stockdale was held on the 2nd March at Hartpury College and was sold out at 600 places. The majority of attendees were Registered Instructors and the feedback has been excellent.

First Aid and Safeguarding Courses

We held 7 safeguarding courses with 129 delegates attending.

We held three first aid 2-day initial courses with 38 delegates attending.

We held 8 first aid 1-day refresher courses with 92 delegates attending.

BHSAI

6 candidates were awarded the BHSAI Certificate during the month of February

Distinction Certificates

These certificates are awarded to candidates who, at their first attempt, achieve all the units required to complete a BHS Qualification. This month we awarded:

BHS Stage 1 Care	134
BHS Stage 1 Riding	127
BHS Riding & Road Safety	139
BHS Stage 2 Care	7
BHS Stage 2 Riding	8
BHS Preliminary Teaching Test	3

The table below provides an overview of the registrations and % pass rates for assessments of BHS Exams for January 2015

<i>Qualification Title</i>	<i>Cands</i>	<i>Pass rates</i>
EQL Level 1 Certificate in BHS Horse Knowledge and Care	155	91.61
EQL Level 1 Certificate in BHS Riding Horses	150	88
EQL Level 2 Diploma in BHS Horse Knowledge and Care	13	69.23
EQL Level 2 Certificate in Horse Care	13	69.23
EQL Level 2 Award in The Principles of Horse Care	9	88.89
EQL Level 2 Diploma in BHS Riding Horses	9	88.89
EQL Level 2 Certificate in Riding Horses on the Flat	9	88.89
EQL Level 2 Award in BHS Riding Horses Safely on the Public Highway	211	69.19
EQL Level 3 Certificate in BHS Preliminary Teaching of Horse Riding	11	63.64

6. **Merchandising - Jan Gigli**

Have sourced all new equestrian titles that are due in the next month or so and will be adding appropriate titles to the Recommended Reading List. Look out for all these titles on the bookshop website www.britishhorse.com. You will find them in the new section if you scroll down the front page.

Our Amazon and EBay sites are now live again and we are in the process of refreshing stock and levels.

Shows

Together with our fundraising department, membership and product manager we are in the process of redesigning the stands to emphasis BHS charitable activities and fundraising. Our larger stand will be present at Chatsworth, Royal Cornwall, Bramham, Great Yorkshire, Blenheim, Blair Athol, Bolesworth, Royal Welsh, New Forest and Hants, and Royal Norfolk. These shows are in addition to Badminton, Royal Windsor, Royal International, Burghley, Horse of the Year Show and Your Horse Live.

We have agreed a contra deal with Your Horse to have a Riding and Road Safety display at their new Show at Ardingly – Total Confidence Live and the presence of our show stand.

7. Membership – Emma Day

The following table indicates membership statistics for the 28 February 2015

Membership February 2015	
Founder	109
Life	1,792
Gold	81,405
Silver	994
Bronze	567
Overseas Full	53
Overseas E-membership	27
TOTAL	84,947

The net membership growth from the previous month is 757. The total growth for the year is 970 members.

8. Safety - Sheila Hardy

This month has seen the MOD Low Flying units taking a keen interest in again working closely with the Society. Senior Executive Safety attended a meeting with RAF Shawbury who were looking at providing fluorescent/reflective garments for the riders in their dedicated low flying area and also at reprinting the low flying advice leaflet to make it more specific for their particular needs. A new leaflet will be available shortly and work is underway to assist with their hi-viz campaign.

Three other low flying airbases have been in touch with variations on this theme which is encouraging for all horse riders. It cannot be stressed enough that wearing hi-viz at all times of the day and year, regardless of the prevailing weather conditions, will assist others in seeing you sooner and giving them the opportunity to take avoidance action. With low flying, however, it is important to understand that although in ideal conditions, the pilot will see you up to half a mile sooner and take avoidance action – we have some great stories of where this has happened – there are occasions he may still not see you, particularly if you are in the shelter of trees, against building walls or in the shadow of buildings. In these circumstances his action to avoid you might lead to a noisier situation than a direct overflight. If this situation occurs, he may return to make sure that his actions have not caused an incident.

A further meeting to discuss the withdrawal of EN1384 from the European Journal of Standards (OJ) was called by BSI where the options for change were debated to enable those who represent the UK to the EU, to be absolutely clear on the response they had to give.

Senior Executive Safety was also a visitor to BETA (British Equestrian Trade Association) where there were a number of trade stands promoting safety garments and other products. Incidents continue to be reported on www.horseaccidents.org.uk to assist with our campaigns to support the various issues that many riders face. We really do need everyone to buy into this process which is easy to achieve. If difficulties are experienced, please do not hesitate to call the Safety Department through the main switchboard number 02476 840500. Without these statistics we cannot help you when you need it most. Compared with incidents which are reported on Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the BHS statistics are still only capturing 10% of all road incidents where horses are involved. Please, help us to help you by reporting on www.horseaccidents.org.uk

Statistics received to 28.2.15 are as follows:

Incident	Total since launch	31.01 - 28.02
Dog attack	825	14
Road accident	1776	26
Fireworks	77	0
Low flying	209	6
Slippery roads	132	4
Gates	74	0
Windfarm	9	0
Cycles	91	2
Transport	12	1
Chinese Lanterns	16	1
Bird Scarers	31	0

9. Welfare – Gemma Stanford

Challenge Rides

In February, two separate Challenge Rides took place back-to-back in the Patagonian Andes in Chile. The rides went from Chile to Argentina and the 18 riders between them raised a fantastic £13,000 for BHS Welfare. The horses were described as ‘so willing and sure footed, carrying us across rivers and up mountains’ and some riders described it as ‘the best trip [they] have been on!’. The next Challenge Ride takes place in Alpajurra, Spain from 30 May to 7 June. There are still places available so please do get in touch with Wendy Minor on wendy.minor@bhs.org.uk or 02476 840572.

Meetings Attended

Lee Hackett and Emmeline Hannelly attended a further meeting with Defra about the progress being made on the Ragwort Toolkit. Defra were delighted with the progress and work continues on getting the toolkit ready for launch in the spring. Gemma Stanford attended Reaseheath College in Cheshire to present a talk to FE & HE students on Equine Welfare in the UK today. The talk was well received and promoted a lot of discussion on welfare issues. Emmeline Hannelly, along with many Veterinary Surgeons, attended the second Colic Symposium research workshop held at the University of Nottingham. Research is ongoing and BHS have offered further assistance if required.

Lee Hackett attended a meeting of the Animal Welfare Network Wales Protect Your Pet working party. It is likely that a number of equine specific events will be taking place in Wales throughout 2015. Lee also attended a number of meetings pertaining to the Control of Horses (England) Bill. The Bill’s second reading in the House of Lords took place on February 27th and took place without incident. This is excellent news as with such a short time until the General Election any delays could completely ruin the Bill’s chances of success. The final reading in the Lords takes place on February 13th.

Welfare Literature

Emmeline Hannelly has produced and an up-dated version of the Tetanus and Equine Influenza Vaccination leaflet. It is available online via the BHS website but if you would like hard copies Emmeline can send these in the post to you if required. The advice is also available to download from the website.

CEVA (Animal Health) Awards

We are delighted to hear that Lisa Draper, our wonderful West Midlands Regional Welfare Officer has made it to down to the last three finalists for the Volunteer of the Year Award. The awards are not equine specific and each category received hundreds of nominations.

The award ceremony is held in April and we are keeping everything crossed. We are so pleased for Lisa as she is incredibly dedicated to her voluntary role and is very passionate about improving the welfare of horses. Lisa demonstrates great commitment and enthusiasm and is a great ambassador for the BHS. Lisa is also a very valued 'Friend' in our Friends At The End scheme.

Welfare Officer Ongoing Learning (CPD)

Following on from the launch of this new initiative, encouragingly we have already started to receive CPD forms in from our Welfare Officers after events have been attended. Events have included the National Pony Society AGM where Dr Knottenbelt was giving a talk on Equine Metabolic Syndrome to another event where a lecture/demonstration was given on equine behaviour. We made our Welfare Officers aware of an online course offered free of charge Hosted by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise. The course covered some of the internal systems of the horse and also covered parasite management, which is a particularly relevant area for us. We are pleased that many Welfare Officers were able to take advantage of this opportunity and enrolled.

Welfare Concerns Received

2014	
November	75
December	70
2015	
January	86
February	102

Passport Applications Received

2014	
October	258
November	171
December	90
2015	
January	192
February	77

10. Fundraising – Laura Pepper

2015 is gearing up to be a very busy year for the Fundraising Department. Working on the success of the department's first year in 2014 we now need to grow each of the income streams. To encourage and inspire individual giving and to carry on from the success of our Faith, Hope and Charity Appeal we are launching our Castration Clinic Appeal in April. Our mission this year is to prevent future suffering and castrate 240 horses across the UK saving the potential lives of over 17,000 foals over two the next two generations. Our first major prize draw for the last few years will also be launched to support this Appeal in April. Donating on the web and over the phones has also become more accessible. We are hoping this Appeal will also be supported by the Charitable Trust work we are doing.

This year see's the launch of the 'Paths for Communities' fund which supports the day to day work of the Access Team. We are supporting this fund with activities in Access Week and the pursuing of some major grants to help propel this work stream. 2015 see's the launch of the fundraising range of products to buy in the shop and on our major show stands. Working together with our colleagues across the department we have nearly finalised the new fundraising packs which will be available soon. Ahead of us we look forward to being the Equestrian Charity of the Year at Bolesworth International and also our new Major Donor Programme 'The BHS Guardianship Programme' which launches later this year. We continue to support the BHS Approved Centres with their grant

applications and look forward repeating the success of last year's £35k+ achievement of investment into our centres through this income stream.

11. Equality and Child Protection - Ellie Vajčovec & Helen Brown

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

12. East of England - Janet Pamment

Meeting & Events

- Hert's held three of its 'Park and Ride's these are hugely successful and run every month. They enable people to park safely and explore the local bridleways at their leisure.
- I paid visits to four of our approved yards this month, Hall Farm, Sedgeway, Witcham & Fennland. I also called in on a new livery yard in response to a face book request.
- Attended Norfolk, Herts, Cambs and Regional Meetings
- Attended RVC lecture, Herts. This event was well supported, with over 100 people attending.
- The quiz night held by Bedfordshire committee was well received and enjoyed by all who attended.
- The Horse Agility training and competition was fully booked and everyone enjoyed their day, feedback on face book included "what a great confidence giving experience to both young and old horses" Debbie Hawthorne.
- A Teacher Training Day with Cora Roberts BHSITT, was held by Tessa Frost of the Cambs committee.

Forthcoming Meetings & Events

- 1 March: Braughing Park and Ride, Between 10:30am – 4:00pm. Quinbury Farm, Hay Street, near Braughing, Herts SG11 2RE. Park up, take a map, and ride routes that vary between 10-16 miles. £5 per for parking. To make sure there are not more people than parking, please contact Dawn Grocock to book by Wednesday before the ride date, email:dawn.grocock@hertfordshire.gov.uk or Tel: 01992 555235. More details on BHS Herts pages of website.
- 8 March: Wheathampstead Park and Ride, Between 10:30am – 2pm. West End Farm, Nomansland, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8EG Park up, take a map and follow either the 8 mile or 15 mile routes through the new Hartwood Forest to Harpenden Common. £5 per for parking. To make sure there are not more people than parking, please contact Dawn Grocock to book by Wednesday before the ride date, email:dawn.grocock@hertfordshire.gov.uk or Tel: 01992 555235. More details on BHS Herts pages of website.
- 8 March: Guided Ride from the Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine, MK43 0PR. 10 mile led ride, mostly in walk and trot. Start at 10am prompt. Free Event – returnable deposit of £15 to secure place. Spaces are very limited. Entry form on www.bhs.org.uk/east or contact Rosalyn Whisker 01582 661405 or
- 9 March: Teacher Training Day with Cora Roberts BHSITT, at Hall Farm Stables, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, CB25 9NJ. Start 9.30 & finish 1pm. Contact Tessa Frost on 07740 438353. More details on BHS Cambs pages of website
- 9 March: PTT Training Day, with Carole Broad, 9:30am until 4pm. At the College of West Anglia, Milton Campus, Landbeach Road, Cambridgeshire, CB24 6DB. More details contact Janet

- 10 March: Intermediate Teaching Training Day, with Carol Broad FBHS, 9:30am until 4pm, At Newton Hall EC, Swilland, Suffolk, IP6 9LT. More details contact Janet
- 11 March: Intermediate Teaching Training Day, with Carol Broad FBHS, 9:30am until 4pm, At Newton Hall EC, Swilland, Suffolk, IP6 9LT. More details contact Janet
- 15 March: Lilley Park and Ride, Between 10:30am – 2pm. Putteridge Bury Bed & Breakfast, Dog Kennel Farm, Lilley, nr Luton, Herts LU2 8LQ. To make sure there are not more people than parking, please contact Dawn Grocock to book by Wednesday before the ride date, email: dawn.grocock@hertfordshire.gov.uk or Tel: 01992 555235. More details on BHS Herts pages of website
- 18 March, Development Meeting with Alan
- 21 March: Improve your Trailer Reversing Skills at G&M Growers, Upper Caldecote, nr Biggleswade, SG18 9BU. 20 minute slots from 10am until 3pm. Come along with your trailer and get expert advice on manoeuvring from specialist instructors. £10 per driver. Call Debbie on 07891 320544 to book.
- 21 March: Career with Animals Open Day, Huntingdon.
- 23 March: Norfolk Committee meeting
- 24 March: Careers fair at COWA.
- 25 March: Stage Four Care & Ridden Training Day, with Sabrina Jones FBHS, At Writtle College Cow Watering Campus, Writtle, Chelmsford CM1 3RR 9.30-4pm. More details contact Janet
- 30 March: Regional Meeting, COWA

More details on the website: www.bhs.org.uk/bhs-in-your-area/east , or contact Janet Pamment m: 07808 141076; e: janet.pamment@bhs.org.uk

13. **East Midlands - Sally Andrews**

Meetings & Events

- A Laminitis & Equine Weight Management talk by Scarsdale Equine Vets was held at Derby College Equestrian Centre.
- James Arkley Dental Services BEVA/BAEDT delivered a very well attended Equine Dentistry talk to BHS members and members of the BHS Affiliated South Lincolnshire Riding Club at Hubberts Bridge in South Lincolnshire. The DO took a BHS information stand to this event and recruited three new BHS members.
- February's educational evening talks in Leicestershire and Rutland were given by Matt Bocock Dip WCF (Hons) who delivered a farriery talk and a Pasture Management and Worm Management talk was delivered by Mole Valley Country Stores. These took place at Sysonby Acres Leisure Park in Melton Mowbray.
- In North Lincolnshire a talk entitled 'Farriery – Identifying the Needs of your Horse' was delivered by Mark Trussler AWCF at Middle Rasen Church Hall.
- A very successful CPD training day entitled 'Fantastic Jumping' was delivered by Sarah MacDonald, BHSI at Moulton College in Northamptonshire with 38 attendees.
- Caroline Peatfield BHSI continued her monthly Flatwork with Poles clinics at Riseholme College in North Lincolnshire.
- BHS Northamptonshire held a trailer reversing training morning near Northampton.
- BHS Northamptonshire and South Lincolnshire held committee meetings and were also pleased to welcome new volunteers. The main focus of the meetings was planning events for the year ahead.
- BHS Stage 2, Stage 3 and PTT training courses have been running at Brooksby Melton College at Melton Mowbray.

Forthcoming Meetings & Events

- Leicestershire & Rutland, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and North Lincolnshire will be holding BHS county committee meetings during March.
- BHS Leicestershire & Rutland Lungeing Demonstration by Peter Hales, BHSI at Brooksby Equestrian Centre, Brooksby, Melton Mowbray LE14 2LJ.
- 'Thermal Imaging for Horses and Humans' talk with Faye Hayward of Visible Equine at Middle Rasen Church Hall, Middle Rasen LN8 3LD at 7.30pm.
- Trailer Towing training will take place at Heath Farm, Ponton Heath, Grantham NG3
- Caroline Peatfield BHSI will be continuing her monthly Flatwork with Poles clinics at Riseholme College in North Lincolnshire
- 'Competing at your Best in 2015' with Matthew Unwin Performance Psychology will take place at Brooksby Hall (main building, not Equestrian Centre) Brooksby Melton College, Brooksby LE14 2LJ.
- Show preparation and ring craft demonstration with Ann and Alwin Barly at Brackenhurst Equestrian Centre, Nottingham Trent University, Southwell.

More details on the website: www.bhs.org.uk/bhs-in-your-area/east-midlands , or contact Sally Andrews t: 02476 840735; e: sally.andrews@bhs.org.uk

14. Ireland - Susan Irwin

Meetings & Events

- Two further excellent Educational Talks with Eric Smiley FBHS took place in Hillsborough Community Centre. The topics were "Fittening and feeding" and "Improve your cross country riding and training."
- The series of four Indoor Cross-Country Lessons with Eric Smiley FBHS continued on 4 February and 11 February at Laurel View Equestrian Centre. Eric as usual inspires and provides sound education for the betterment of both horse and rider.
- A BHS Refresher First Aid Course and a Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport course was held at Laurel View Equestrian Centre. **BHS Ireland Camp** 6 to 8 February and Ball (7 Feb) at Castle Leslie Estate, Co Monaghan.
- The Director represented the British Horse Society at a Careers Day at Enniskillen Campus, Co Fermanagh on 11 February.
- Alan Hiscox, national Development Director, visited Ireland from 2 to 4 February.
- Lisa Cowley, Volunteer Manager, visited Ireland and met the BHS NI Committee on 18 and 19 February.
- BHS NI Committee on 18 February.
- Renewal evening for the BHS Ireland Greyabbey Toll Ride took place on 25 February.
- Much planning for 2015 took place.

Forthcoming Events

Lessons & Exam Training

6 & 7 March, 27 & 28 March, 1 & 2 May: BHS Stages Exam Training/Lessons/Portfolio Assessment with Jo Winfield FBHS at Laurel View Equestrian Centre, Templepatrick, Co Antrim, BT39 0BX

BHS First Aid Courses

24 and 25 March 2015: Two Day Starter Laurel View Equestrian Centre, Templepatrick, Co Antrim, BT29 0BX

23 March 2015: Refresher Laurel View

3 March 2015: Refresher Thornton Park Equestrian Centre, Thornton, Kilsallaghan, Swords, Co Dublin

16 March: An Evening with Jeanette Brakewell

Venue: McCanns Coffee Shop at Balloo, Killinchy, Co Down

Arrive from 6pm – A hot Supper served on arrival

Talk starts at 7.15pm finishes by 9pm

17 March: A Master Class of Lessons with Jeanette Brakewell

Venue: Gransha Equestrian Centre, Co Down

Continual Professional Development Days

30 March: **"Sitting for Success"** with Carol Broad FBHS at Cavallo Farm, Crawfordsburn, Co Down.

14 September: **"Funtastic Jumping"** with Carol Broad FBHS at Calliaghstown Equestrian Centre, Co Dublin

2 November: **"Sitting for Success"** with Carol Broad FBHS in Limerick area possibly Clonshire Equestrian Centre, Co Limerick

31 March: PTT Training Day at Calliaghstown Equestrian Centre, Co Dublin with Grainne Sugars BHSI and Jillie Rogers BHSI

BHS Ireland Camps dates

1 to 4 June, 4 to 7 June, 18 to 21 June, 22 to 25 June, 25 to 28 June: Enniskillen Campus, Co Fermanagh

11 to 14 June: Coolmine Equestrian Centre, Co Dublin

15. London and South East - Claire McCaffery-Clarke

Activity from January and February

All six county committees have held meetings to catch up with developments in their areas and plan activities for 2015.

The South East Regional Committee met to discuss plan for 2015 and we were pleased to welcome the new Chair for Surrey, Dudley Price.

I attended a site visit with Mark Weston (tied in with a meeting about lack of Access volunteers in areas of the South East and a discussion about my suggestion of utilising interns for 2026 research). The site visit was incredibly interesting and helped my understanding of Access work when looking at routes and planning improvements for current RoW.

I also delivered my annual lecture to Year 2 degree students at Hadlow College which focuses on the welfare work of the BHS.

I arranged a meeting with my counterparts at BD and BSJA where we discussed opportunities of working together at a local level. We discussed UKCC3, Teamquest, training days and jointly organised 'demystifying the sport' evenings - it's early days but I am hopeful that we will be able to work together on some future events.

Meetings and Events

14th March Collaborative Spring Ball (BHS, BD, BSJA, BE), Maidstone, Kent

16th March Mini DO Meeting, Portsmouth 30th March - 10th April Annual Leave

16. North of England - Wendy Suddes

Meetings & Events held over the Last Month: February

- Planning spring event dates and venues.
- Fly Grazing issues on the radar in Durham this month – Durham Constabulary very proactive following loose horses involved in rail collision near Darlington and horses grazing on poorly fenced land adjacent to main A68 trunk road.
- Passport, Microchip and Castrate sessions in West Auckland, Co Durham

- North East Equine Group meeting in Gateshead – more than twenty present to discuss and resolve current equine impoundment and welfare issues across Northumberland, Cleveland and Durham. Redcar and Cleveland Council have recently employed a specialist Horse Warden as a result of ongoing problems.
- Meeting with RSPCA North Region Manager.
- BHS Cumbria meeting at Shap and BHS Durham meeting at Beamish
- Employment Appraisal for the DO with Alan Hiscox
- The first of three Horseman's evenings in Durham in collaboration with the County Council in a bid to address Fly grazing, Indiscriminate Breeding, Worm Control and Road Safety issues, took place at Bishop Auckland Fire Station on Feb 11. Attendance was good – and the debates were both lively and proactive.
- Introduction to Dressage Part 2 session at Tunstall in Cleveland, delivered by Education Officer Elly Thomson BHSII, was very well received by a large and enthusiastic crowd.
- BHS Northumberland Lecture evening at Kirkley Hall Feb 10 with Gemma Pearson MRCVS – more than fifty people attended and praised the session highly.
- BHS Northumberland Horse Health and First Aid session at Kirkley Hall, Feb 28 – a small group, keen to attend the follow up on March 21 at the same venue.
- BHS Stage 2 Training course at Farnley Farm, Durham Feb 26 – started with five attendees.
- The launch of a new monthly feature on the North Region Facebook page entitled 'From the Horses' Mouth', certainly made its mark. The first article provided useful advice on choosing the right rug and remarkably almost 8,000 Facebook users were reached – we think perhaps the photo of Mac in his fireside rug did much to attract such wide attention!
- The County, Regional and Area 2 committees took delivery of their Hi-Viz orders. The BHS-branded vests, (ordered as part of a proactive regional initiative following several road traffic collisions involving horses), will be carried by committee members who plan to stop riders on the highway without Hi-viz and promote the importance of being seen to be safe.

Forthcoming Events

- Passport, Microchip and Castrate sessions in Prestwick and Newbiggin in Northumberland and Horden in Durham.
- Horseman's evenings in Durham in collaboration with the County Council in a bid to address Fly grazing, Indiscriminate Breeding, Worm Control and Road Safety issues, take place at Annfield Plain on March 18 and Wingate on Mar 25.
- Approved Centre visits
- BHS Northumberland Evening Lecture – Intro to Endurance at Kirkley Hall, Mar 26
- Rig castration Day Mar 26 in Cleveland
- Work on the Mapping project in Cumbria
- North of England DO Meeting at Wet herby Mar 19.

17. Yorkshire - Amy Clements

Meetings & Events

- CRB check
- Welfare re-visits, South Yorkshire
- North West Yorkshire Committee Meeting
- East Yorkshire Committee Meeting
- West Yorkshire Committee Meeting
- South Yorkshire Committee event – a very successful evening with Tim Downs on the Scale of Training. Over 70 people in attendance with great feedback.
- Level 2 Access Training

Forthcoming Meetings & Events

- Benefits of Dentistry evening, South Yorkshire
- Ascham Bryan Horse Trials
- North East Yorkshire Committee Meeting
- Visit to North Region DO
- Yorkshire Regional Meeting
- Laminitis and EMS evening, South Yorkshire
- Q&T Meeting
- North Region DO Meeting, Walsh ford
- South Yorkshire Committee Meeting
- Yorkshire Welfare Officer training, North Yorkshire

More details on the website: www.bhs.org.uk/yorkshire, or contact Amy Clements t: 02476 840721; m: 07808 141074; e: amy.clements@bhs.org.uk

18. North West - Karen Lewty

Meetings & Events

- BHS Isle of Man, Merseyside and Wirral held committee meetings during the month of February.
- A BHS Stage 1 Preparation Day was held at Celestin Equestrian Centre in Lancashire.
- Croft Riding Centre hosted one of the NW qualifiers for the National Riding School Competition in Cheshire.
- BHS Merseyside presented their second talk to introduce the Mersey Route Pilots.
- Looking at Modern Feeding – a talk by Baileys Horse Feeds, was held at Guys Thatched Hamlet, organised by BHS Lancashire.
- The BHS Isle of Man flatwork & jumping clinic with Jo Winfield, FBHS was cancelled.
- The Valentines Riding Wear Fashion Show at The Country life Boutique, Wrightington. This event was postponed until later in the year, due to a bereavement.
- In Greater Manchester, an initial two day First Aid course was held at Ryders Farm Equestrian Centre and a Safeguarding & Protecting Children Course was held at Croft End Equestrian Centre.

Forthcoming Events

- BHS Stage IV and ITT Training commences this month at Bold Heath Equestrian Centre, presented by Sue Pimbley BHSI. One day every fortnight, the training will combine intermediate teaching and Stage 4 training including riding, lungeing and horse care, theory and practical.
- A UKCC Level 2 training day has been organised and will be held at Eccleston Equestrian Centre in Lancashire. This two-day course is open to all instructors with their AI or PTT. Both days are a combination of classroom-based learning and practical coaching, with an assessment on the second day
- BHS Lancashire will be holding an Equestrian Table Top Tack Sale at The Farmers Arms, Bispham L40 3SL.
- A training day (half-day) for BHS NW volunteers has been arranged for our local committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers and will be hosted by the BHS Volunteer Manager, Lisa Cowley. In the evening, a social event for all our NW volunteers will be held at the Novotel, Worsley. Our great team of volunteers

are looking forward to the presentation by our CEO, Lynn Peterson alongside details of how volunteering is developing by our Volunteer Manager, Lisa Cowley.

- A BHS PTT preparation day will be held at Eccleston Equestrian Centre, PR26 8LT.
- A UKCC Level 2 Training Day will also be held at Eccleston Equestrian Centre. This is a two-day course and open to all instructors with their AI or PTT.
- The BHS Merseyside committee has organised a 13 mile ride around the Rainford Loop, a talk on obesity, laminitis and equine well-being, with Equine Vet Jenny Crook, and a talk about Careers and the BHS Examination Structure with Sue Pimbley BHSI.
- A two day initial First Aid Course and a one day follow-up course will be held at Cheshire Riding School later and they will also be continuing their BHS Stage 1, 2, 3 and PTT Training. The training is held on one day each week on an ongoing basis throughout the year. They also have a Riding and Road Safety course in March with the exam date on 22 April.
- The Development Officer has a meeting with the National Development Director and will also be attending the Development Officers meeting later in the month.
- BHS Cheshire and Greater Manchester Committees have meetings organised for March 2015.

For more information contact Karen Lewty on 07720-404398 or email karen.lewty@bhs.org.uk

19. Scotland - Helene Mauchlen

Meetings & Events

- **2 Feb: UKCC Update Day** – Helene attended this nation-wide update day on behalf of BHS
- **4 Feb: BHS Lothian Meeting** – Sophie attended on behalf of BHS
- **11 Feb: Scottish Equine Breeders Association** – meeting attended by Helene
- **11 Feb: BHS Highland South Meeting** – Helene and Chair Derek Knottenbelt attended and delivered presentations
- **20 Feb: SRDP Information Day** - presented by BHS Scotland (this day had to be postponed due to severe weather). BHSS run a very successful and well-attended information day on funding available to Equestrian Business. Follow-up events on business planning are being scheduled.
- **20 Feb: D&G Volunteer of the Year Award presentation** – Helene presented D&G Education Officer and former Chair Justine Hunter with the BHSS Scotland Volunteer of the Year trophy
- **21 Feb: National Pony Society AGM** – Helene hosted a table top stand to increase membership and rise BHS profile
- **24 Feb: BHS Scotland Equestrian Access Presentation to Clackmannanshire Access Forum** – Helene delivered an Equestrian Access presentation to the forum
- **25 Feb: Royal Northern Stallion Show** – Helene and BHSS volunteers attended as part of our membership drive
- **26 Feb: Safeguarding and Protecting Children Course** – organised by BHSS
- **27 Feb: horsescotland Award Dinner** – Helene and Sophie attended to represent the BHS

Forthcoming Events

- **6 Mar:** Access Information Day East Lothian
- **8 Mar:** Safety Committee Meeting
- **9 Mar:** Training Committee Meeting
- **12 Mar:** New approved yard visit and access consultation Edinburgh
- **14 Mar:** Table Top stand at National Stud Show

- **16 Mar:** BHS Scotland committee meeting
- **17 Mar:** CPD 'Funtastic Jumping' with Nick Turner FBHS at Ian Stark EC
- **18 Mar:** CPD 'Funtastic Jumping' with Nick Turner FBHS at Ingliston
- **26 Mar:** Safeguarding and Protecting Children Course
- **27 Mar:** Access Advisory Group Meeting

Other Comments

Table Top stands

As per the 2015 objectives, BHS Scotland is planning to attend a number of smaller shows and suitable events with the BHS table top stand to aid the membership drive and raise the Charity's profile in Scotland. The first one of the year was at the National Pony Society AGM and Conference in Edinburgh and was very successful. Our regions are also planning table top stands at their regional shows.

Horsescotland Award Dinner

The BHSS team attended the national horsescotland award dinner as representatives of The Society, at which stalwart BHS supporter and volunteer Jane Cepok BHSI was honoured with a lifetime achievement award. Jane had been nominated for the award by BHSS.

For more information contact Helene Mauchlen on 01764 656334 or email helene.mauchlen@bhs.org.uk

20. South – Hannah Marsh

Meetings & Events held over the Last Month and Outcomes

3 Feb BHS Hampshire committee meeting
 17 Feb BHS Berkshire committee meeting
 24 Feb BHS Buckinghamshire committee meeting
 27 Feb Alan Hiscox - annual PDR

Forthcoming Events

2 Mar BHS Isle of Wight committee meeting
 4 Mar Lisa Cowley re volunteering
 5 Mar Island Roads with Approvals and Allendale EC, IW, re slippery road surfaces
 Tabletop promotion at transport safety event for local vets
 9 Mar Wellington Riding re new facilities and hire options
 BHS South region committee meeting
 10 Mar BHS Hampshire committee – extra meeting re funds
 16 Mar DO meeting with Alan Hiscox, Julie Garbutt and Claire McCaffery-Clarke
 17 Mar Stage 4 Care and Stable Managers' training session
 23 Mar BHS Buckinghamshire committee meeting
 25 Mar EHKC training evening at HQ
 30&31 Mar First Aid training

For more information contact Hannah Marsh on 02476 840720 or email hannah.marsh@bhs.org.uk

21. South West - Julie Garbutt

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the passing of former South West Regional Chairman, Robert Sullivan-Tailyour (23 Feb). Those who knew Robert will remember him as a truly stalwart supporter of the Society whose interest spanned the whole of its diverse remit. Robert died peacefully at home with his family present. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Thursday 23 April 2.30pm at Sutton Veny Parish

Church near Warminster. A full obituary to Robert will appear on the regional website and in the next edition of British Horse.

The BHS Somerset Online Dressage Competition that ran during February proved to be extremely popular with lots of entries. One BHS Approved Riding Centre held a ride and film day so that their clients could enter. Others who have no transport also responded with entries. Judging is still ongoing and full results will be posted on the Somerset page of the website at www.bhs.org.uk/Somerset

Gloucestershire and Dorset committees met this month. Both of these committees are still in need of a Chairman but despite this are continuing to fulfill the remit of the Society in their respective Counties..

The DO was invited by Bridgwater College to give a presentation on careers in the Equine Industry to two groups of students. This was well received.

BHS Devon held a meeting for their Education and Events Officers. With thanks to Sarah Howard BHSI for organising this, it gave people the chance to come together to discuss this area of their roles in more depth than is managed at usual committee meetings.

A BHS Stage 4 Horse Knowledge and Care Training day was held at Bicton College. Uptake on this training was disappointing with only two external candidates coming forward but this was topped up by staff from Bicton and ran with good feedback.

BHS Somerset's Polework for the Petrified and Horse Simulator Clinic were both fully booked and enjoyed by all.

Forthcoming Meetings & Events

2 Mar – National Instructor's Convention, Hartpury College, Gloucestershire

5 Mar – Respect in the Cotswolds Safety Meeting, Gloucestershire

5 Mar – Committee Meeting, Devon

7 Mar – An Evening with Jason Webb, Bristol

14 Mar – Trailer & Lorry Healthcheck Clinic, Somerset

21 Mar – Show Jumping Training, Dorset

24 Mar – Careers Fair, Cornwall

29 Mar – Welfare Officer's Meeting, Somerset

30 Mar – Committee Meeting, Cornwall

More details on the website: www.bhs.org.uk/southwest, or contact Julie Garbutt t: 02476 840732; m: 07808 141009; e: julie.garbutt@bhs.org.uk

22. Wales and The Channel Islands Area - Jan Roche

Meetings & Events

- NE Wales Committee Meeting – future events discussed and biting talk finalised
- NW Wales Committee Meeting – Lisa Cowley BHS Volunteer Manager attended
- Training Meeting – Haddon Training and discussion about how BHS Exams work within their popular apprenticeship scheme.
- Access meeting

Forthcoming Meetings & Events

- Proprietors Funding Meeting SE Wales – further regional ones will follow during 2015
- BHS NE Wales Access Evening with Mark Weston BHS Director of Access.
- UKCC Level 3 Portfolio Building Course Coleg Gwent Usk Equine Centre
- Channel Islands Police/Safety meeting
- Channel Islands Vet Talk – Respiratory Disease with David Rendle BVSc Cert EM (Int Med) DipECEIM MRCVS from Liphook Equine Hospital.
- SE Wales Regional Committee Meeting
- SW Wales Regional Committee Meeting
- Hat Fitting Course with Champion Hats for BHS Proprietors/Staff and BHS Registered Instructors – Pembrokeshire Riding Centre. Please contact BHS Approvals to book on – tel 02476 840495
- Nations Meeting Scotland
- BHS SE Wales XC Training Day
- UKCC Level 2 Course Coleg Gwent Usk Equine Centre
- BHS Powys Committee Meeting
- Welsh National Committee Meeting
- CPD Day Pencoed College Fantastic Jumping with Lizzel Winter FBHS

More details on the website www.bhs.org.uk/bhs-in-your-area/wales or contact Jan Roche on 07767 411919 e: jan.roche@bhs.org.uk

23. West Midlands - Andrea Jackman

Meetings and Events

- 7 February – BHS Warwickshire War Horse Talk
- 10 February – Warwickshire Police & Claire Aldridge re green yards
- 12 February – Induction with Herefordshire Chairman
- 24 February – Solihull College, 'Big Conversations' Careers Event
- 26 February – Visit to Hole Farm EC
- 26 February - Appraisal

- 5 March – Visit to Truemans Heath Riding School re approvals
- 7 March – Hereford & District RC Dressage Event
- 9 March – Warwickshire Committee Meeting
- 16 March – Shropshire Committee Meeting
- 18 March – Midlands DO Meeting
- 19 March – Careers Talk, South Staffordshire College
- 24 March – Tim Taylor Finance
- 30 March – BHS Shropshire Demo with Tim Downes
- 3-13 April - Holiday

50 people attended BHS Warwickshire's evening talk commemorating the War Horse Ride 2014. Anthony Bysouth (Royal Logistic Corps) and equine vet Sally Hodgson (Hook Norton Vets) recounted their participation in the War Horse Ride 2014 a fitting tribute to the

men and horses of all the armies of 1914. A full write up of the event is on the BHS Website.

Chairman Claire Aldridge and I met with Warwickshire Police to help them develop a green yard police. They're very grateful for Claire's guidance and vast experience.

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