

June 2011

# Competition season is in full swing

## In this Issue:

- Inaugural Ethical Equine Extravaganza
- Welfare issue—excessive use of whip in racing
- What's KC been up to?
- Pegasus measures show jumping rider
- Saddle Research Trust
- Upcoming Events

We may still not have a British Wimbledon champion, but on the equestrian front there is plenty to shout about.

Massive congratulations to Tina Fletcher and Promised Land, winners of the 2011 Hickstead Carpetright Derby, and the first lady rider to win the class for 38 years!

Royal Ascot upheld its 300 year traditions of pageantry and style. The high fashion of the event this year even extended to an £8,000 hat being specially commissioned for racehorse Ambers, owned by Fox's

Biscuits,. Watch out for the adverts for their Ambers biscuits to be broadcast this summer!

One notable presentation made by the Queen at Royal Ascot was to Clyde, a 21-year-old Thames Valley Police horse. Clyde, a TBxClydesdale bay gelding was awarded the Chief Constable's commendation award, for being the longest-serving operational police horse in England and Wales. Amongst his usual duties he has worked at Royal Ascot for the past 18 years. Well done Clyde!

And our eventers have done well in the 2\* Olympic test event at Greenwich Park, announcing to the world our intentions for 2012! Well done Piggy French (holding top spot from dressage day) Pippa Funnell (3rd) and William Fox-Pitt (10th)

Whatever competitions you might be entering, may we wish you and your equine partners the best of luck , loads of fun and great weather. And if you are not competing, then enjoy whatever you are doing with your horses.

## Ethical Equine Extravaganza—Norfolk

Hats off to Chris Chapman and his team for brilliantly organising and running the first Ethical Equine Extravaganza. World Horse Welfare's Hall Farm in Norfolk was an inspired venue, totally

compatible with the ethos of the exhibitors. A weekend packed with a complete spectrum of horsey demos, lectures, debates and trade stands. Amazing value for money—It

was very tempting to abandon Diana and our Pegasus demo to go and watch everything else that was happening! But then I would have missed our lovely demo horses and riders. Chris had arranged our weekend well for us—first a practical demo in the outdoor arena, then two feedback sessions where we debated the results from our demo—lots to talk about as, for the first time, we were measuring the rider as well as the horse! Pegasus moves on!

On the first day Lucinda and her

TBxCriollo mare, Coco , proved to be perfect demo material, not least because of Lucinda's enthusiasm for what we are doing. We put sensors on Coco and on Lucinda's thighs and



measured Coco unriden and then ridden. And then, unexpectedly, Coco's second rider, Steph, appeared so we measured her riding Coco too. The results were fascinating—what a

difference a rider can make to a horse Well, we knew that already, didn't we, but now we can tell you exactly how the horse's movement changes. Something that has not been quantifiable before, and it isn't always what you would expect!

Thank you Coco, Lucinda and Steph—you were all great, and your feedback has been

invaluable.

On the second day our demo rider, Sue, a saddler by trade, was interested to find out what difference her two saddles made to her horse, Jake. Anything to oblige is our motto at Pegasus, and an interesting slant to our demo we thought., and we were proved right. Diana was not told which of the saddles was the better fit but with Pegasus she was able to show Sue how the two saddles affected not only the horse, but her position and movement too.

Thank you too, Sue and Jake - you have given us lots of food for thought. I know this was your first outing for a long time,



so well done both of you. For those of you who didn't make it to this event, I am hoping that Chris is already planning next year's event and I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in the welfare of their horses.



## KC's Progress

We are pleased to report that in the month since KC La Piere, of Applied Equine Podiatry, started using Pegasus he has kept Diana busy with lots of questions and queries about Pegasus. Pleased because its good to know that KC is getting to grips with the power of Pegasus, and that he is already including Pegasus in his training and demos. Here's a brief summary of what he and his team are getting up to:

### Applied Podiatry Courses:

- ◊ July 23-27 St Andre de Boege, France, including evening Pegasus demo on July 26.
- ◊ July 30 - Aug. 3 Cheshire, UK , including evening lecture entitled "Exercising to a Healthy Hoof" where Pegasus will be used to facilitate a more precise exercise program. For details email [karenabeaumont@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:karenabeaumont@yahoo.co.uk)
- ◊ August 27-31 Woodstock, Illinois, USA, including evening demo on 27th
- ◊ September 10-14 Ely, Nevada, USA, including open evening demos on 10th

### Clinics:

- ◊ September 3-4 Equine Bio-Mechanics and Gait Analysis Clinic in South Lyons, Michigan , USA offering insight into equine biomechanics applied to riding, training, management, and rehabilitation and including discussions on conformation, postural conformation, strength, and suppleness. It will explore the biomechanical effect of the asymmetrical rider on both postural conformation, and the foot

For further information on any of the above call 1-800-351-2714 or email [Pegasus@equinepodiatry.net](mailto:Pegasus@equinepodiatry.net)

Watch this space next month for news on the studies the Institute is embarking upon with the aid of Pegasus

## Welfare issue

There is currently much debate, and censure, regarding the use, or misuse, of the whip in horse racing. This has been highlighted recently with highly publicised incidents at the Grand National, Cheltenham and Royal Ascot meetings. It seems that even the most high profile jockeys repeated infringe the whip rules.

This welfare issue of the racehorse quite rightly is being vigorously discussed, but it is such an emotive issue with hugely differing opinions between the racing fraternity and the welfare lobby.

And as usual with all things equine, most of the

"facts" that will be debated will be based upon long held, subjective views and feelings, and not on any quantifiable data on how a horse performs with or without a whip.

Perfect time for a Pegasus trial perhaps? If we could demonstrate how a horse runs with and without the "encouragement" of a whip it might go some way towards showing the racing world how to get the best out of their investments. The results could be far reaching, as it is not just in the racing world that you can see the whip being overused. Anyone out there interested in taking on the challenge?

## Pegasus providing data for scientific studies



We are proud and excited to announce that this year no less than four abstracts from Willem Back's students at Utrecht University using Pegasus have been accepted by the prestigious ISES (International Society for Equitation Science) Scientific Committee. These abstracts will be presented at their 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference to be held in the Netherlands on 26-29 October.

Watch this space for details of the abstracts once they have been presented at the conference, but for now we can just give you their titles:

- I. Objective detection of locomotion asymmetry using a 3D inertial sensor gait analyses-system in sound horses.
- II. The difference between minimal and maximal riding influence on limb phasing symmetry in the sporthorse
- III. Modern analysis of carpal joint movement at different walking gaits using a new inertial sensor modality
- IV. The use of objective evaluation of the locomotor performance of Friesian horses

It is wonderful to see universities and research establishments discovering the power of Pegasus.

## Measuring rider's effect on jumping horse

While we were at the Ethical Equine Extravaganza we were approached by Hayley Ward, an eventer who had just stepped up to Intermediate level and thought her riding position had started to adversely affect her horse in the show jumping phase. Another interesting case for Pegasus we thought!

So armed with sensors for both horse and rider we arrived at Hayley's yard to measure her and her lovely mare, Secret, while they popped over some jumps. This time we not only measured the rider's thigh position, we also put sensors on her lower leg. Starting with a simple crosspole, we progressed in height and width to a

substantial 1.20m oxer., which Secret flew with ease, and ever increasing enthusiasm!

Also attending the trial was Marta Contini, an equine McTimony therapist, who wanted to see Pegasus in action. As ever the ease of use of the Pegasus kit and its versatility was apparent. Hayley's jumps were utilised just as they stood in

her field—we had no need to move them to get our data. We measured her warm up and then every jumping

effort, whether she cleared it or not., every stride was recorded. Then while Marta and Hayley were

discussing the length of Hayley's stirrups Diana had already downloaded the data from the trial and we had some initial findings to share immediately. Interestingly Marta had wondered if Hayley's stirrup



leathers were uneven, and her keen eyesight was correct—a 2cm difference!

We will shortly be getting together for a full review of the trial once Diana has made an in depth analysis of the data. Watch this space for results.

As a footnote we are pleased to report that just from the initial results we discussed with Hayley, she adjusted her riding to good effect having just one fence down in her latest competition. Well done Hayley!

## Saddle Research Trust

Pegasus continues to support the Saddle Research Trust in their quest of improving the welfare and performance of horses in relation to saddle fit.

Pegasus data from the latest study day held at Brackenhurst College has been analysed, reviewed and passed on to the SRT team.

### Upcoming Events:

European Technology for  
Business Ltd.  
Codicote Innovation Centre  
St. Albans Road, Codicote  
Hertfordshire  
SG4 8WH

Jo Green  
Equine Sales Manager  
+44 (0) 1438 822822  
JoG@etb.co.uk

[www.pegasus.uk.com](http://www.pegasus.uk.com)

- ACPTR Conference July 23, UK
- BEVA Congress September 7th—9th, Liverpool UK, stand 126
- ISES Conference October 26th—29th , Netherlands

*As usual, we will keep you updated as we book more events for 2011. So keep an eye on this space!*

*If you know of an event where you would like to see Pegasus or feature a lecture or demonstration from us, give us a call!!*

*Don't forget  
to....*



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