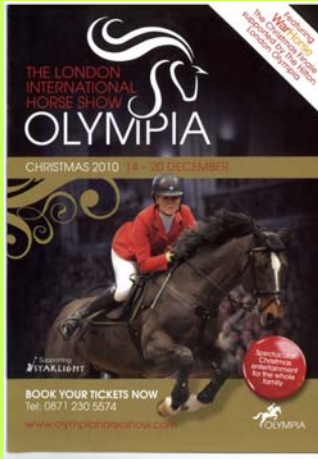


Swallowfield Equestrian Club

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Olympia - 2010

It was virtually unanimous!

Thank you to all of you who made suggestions for the SEC outing. Almost everyone who replied voted for re-visiting Olympia and the final of the Grand Prix Dressage.

Last year the Kur was amazing, not just because of Edward Gal and Moorlands Totilas achieved their world record score, but also because British Dressage was re-establishing itself as a major force within the sport and we watched with pride as our home competitors challenged for the higher placings. We celebrate their continued success through the year, their team and individual success in the World Equestrian Games, and we look forward to supporting our riders at Olympia this year.

We have secured a block booking for the evening performance on Wednesday 15th December. But as it seems that the rest of the world has cottoned on to the amazing spectacle of a Kur of this international level, we were unable to book the type of seats we had last year – sorry. This year, including a group discount, the tickets are £27 each and we are anticipating being in area 18, either the H or F corner, depending how they position the arena, and the seats spread between rows P, Q and R.

The tickets will be available on a first come – first served basis. Including transport, we are anticipating a combined cost of £40 – 50.

Last year was fabulous fun! Assuming we follow a similar pattern, the coach will collect us from Swallowfield at about 12pm. On arrival at Olympia, after a short (window?) shopping circuit of the halls, we will meet up in the bar for a token coffee/tea/water/juice, followed by other more grown up beverages! Last year, Pizza Express was ideal for an early dinner, but we could not book for a large group and we did have to queue for a very long time, so if anyone knows of a close restaurant where we can book a large table prior to the evening show, we are open to suggestions. The actual evening show starts at 5.15pm with other performances prior to the Freestyle.

We hope you can join us again.

Please let Jo or Lucy know if you would like a ticket. Call the office on 01564 784475 or email club@swallowfield.net or jo.swain@gmail.com

Numbers are limited so we will need a deposit covering the cost of the ticket (£27) to confirm your booking, with the coach fee payable on the day. The actual transport cost will depend on the final passenger numbers, we will give you an estimate closer to the date and we do not expect to be outside our original estimate, but please forgive the lack of precision at this time.

This is a slightly shortened newsletter as we will save the results and member's news for the Christmas edition, however we wanted to let you know about Olympia as it is only a few weeks away.

New Sponsor, Arden Equine Pool



Everyone who is a regular at Swallowfield knows Jo's top dressage horse Bilbo, aka Lord of the Rings, not only because of his longevity at Swallowfield, Jo bought him when he was a three year old; but also because of their successful competition record together, from Prelim to PSG. His larger than life personality is impossible to ignore and he knows he rules the roost!

Unfortunately recently Bilbo suffered a leg injury while turned out and he is facing an extended period out of work. As an alternative to traditional box rest and walking in hand, Rob Walsh from Cornerhouse Equine Clinic recommended a stay at Arden Park Stables to use their Equine Pool.

**ARDEN EQUINE
POOL**



Horses benefit from swimming for the same reasons we do. The low impact exercise takes the strain off the joints and injured soft tissue, while the low resistance of the water provides an excellent cardio-vascular workout. There is little more depressing than watching an athletic competition horse "melt" while on box rest and to watch all your combined hard work dissipate before your eyes. When swimming is introduced as an alternative form of exercise, the horse's fitness is naturally maintained, and when you have the vet's go-ahead to introduce schooling work, you can be back on track much sooner than normally anticipated.

The purpose built 140ft straight pool has rubberized non-slip ramp entry and a filtration system to maintain water quality. Steve Barraclough and his staff are highly experienced at introducing even difficult clients to the benefits of swimming and have "swum" some very famous names in the equestrian world

On very rare occasions, a horse will not enjoy the experience, however in the majority of cases they love it! The swimming action is natural to horses and they do not need to be taught. Over a few sessions, the number of lengths a horse swims is built up as their confidence and fitness improves. After the swim, a session under the solarium increases circulation and dries them off for the journey home.

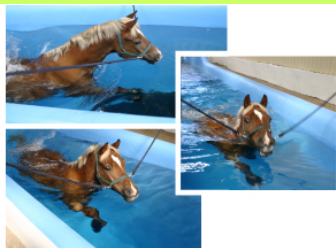
Obviously, not all injuries are suitable for swimming therapy. Please refer to Cornerhouse or your own vet for suitability advice. Many insurance companies will cover swimming as part of an injury claim.

Swimming is not just for the injured, but can be included to build fitness as part of a training regime and also to offer a welcome change to normal schooling. A session in the pool is surprisingly inexpensive, starting at £20 for single visit with £2.50 for the solarium.

Arden Park Stables also have a solarium to help the horses dry after their swim and a horse-walker that can be included in a rehabilitation schedule.

Bilbo is not the only Swallowfield resident to benefit from the facilities at Arden Park Stables, and he will not be the last! So we are delighted to welcome Arden Equine Pool as new sponsors for the SEC. For further information, please visit their web site www.ardenequinepool.co.uk or contact Steven Barraclough on 01564 792653 to discuss your horse's requirements and to book a session.

Bilbo is now back home, looking incredibly fit and has well and truly earned his water wings!



www.ardenequinepool.co.uk

Membership Renewals



Thank you to all the members who have renewed their subscription to the SEC following our last newsletter. Your continued support of Swallowfield is very much appreciated.

To prevent any confusion, we will re-issue membership cards to those who have renewed. Please pick up your new card from the office when you next visit, or we will send it to you if you sent us a s.a.e. The new membership cards will have new numbers, please make sure you quote your new number on all entries.

To ensure fairness, entries sent with expired SEC membership numbers will be subject to full entry fee charges and any accidental oversights must be settled on or before the day of competition and naturally we will not be able to include any points earned in our league tables.

As an adendum to this notice, **PLEASE REMEMBER** to note your SEC membership number on all entries, a note in the corner is fine! We try to identify members when processing times and results, but it is becoming an almost impossible task as our membership numbers increase. We can no longer expect Lucy to remember all the members as she is processing the entires, so must therefore say that only entries that include the memerbship number will benefit from class discounts or be included in the league tables.

We hope you will all understand the necessity for this extra level bureaucracy as our club continues to grow.

We have several email requests for a copy of the renewal form, so a re-inclusion seemed sensible!

Yes I would like to renew my membership!

Rider Name _____ Address _____
Name of horse _____
Email Address _____
Telephone No _____

Please remember to enclose a stamped address envelope and a cheque for £50, made payable to Swallowfield Equestrian Ltd, and send them to Swallowfield Equestrian, Rising Lane, Lapworth, B94 6JD.

If you have any questions, please call the office on 01564 784475 during office hours or email club@swallowfield.net

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you at Swallowfield.

Fractures in horses are often treatable these days

by Angela Walsh BVMS MRCVS

Historically a horse with a fracture was without question humanely destroyed. However with advances in veterinary medicine many fractures can now be repaired.

Fractures occur commonly in horses for many reasons; they are large and heavy yet have relatively spindly limbs but we expect them to perform at speed; a galloping race horse exerts 7 tonnes of weight through a single limb.



A catastrophic fracture of the cannon bone which caused this particular racehorse to be immediately euthanased. The horse was presented as a cellulitis with severe swelling and lameness.

They also have a habit of kicking one another and won't rest a limb for the 8 weeks it takes for fracture healing to occur. The type of fracture and how it is treated immediately after the fracture occurring will determine whether ultimately the fracture will lead to that horse's demise.

FRACTURES OF THE LARGER LONG BONES...

...these have a worse prognosis. By long bone we mean for example a fractured tibia or radius. These fractures are difficult to treat and mostly require the animal to be immediately destroyed. For humane reasons it would be very cruel to transport an animal in this condition, as nothing you could do would immobilise the limb for the journey. Having said that, there are cases of expensive breeding stallions having the lower limb amputated and a prosthesis fitted going on to work for another 2 seasons. These cases though, are unusual, and one has to wonder if it is fair to the horse.



This fracture of the pedal bone was on a hind leg and healed without surgery, unusually, since it involved a joint



FRACTURED PELVIS: these often occur in racehorses in training and are regarded as 'stress' fractures, ie, they have been building up for months and one day just literally crack. They can also occur in other accidents such as bad falls. These on the whole are treatable with box rest. The horse presents with a sudden onset severe hind limb lameness with no visible damage externally. Vets often do a rectal examination to palpate the internal anatomy of the pelvis to detect instability in its structure indicating a fracture.

FRACTURED PEDAL BONE: this is a fracture of the main bone in the foot often caused by kicking out at a wall or galloping over uneven ground. In the forelimb these carry a worse prognosis and often have to be operated on to insert a screw to stabilise the fracture fragments. Those in the hind foot can often only require box rest for a full recovery with the aid of a hoof cast or bar shoe. Any fracture involving the coffin joint would require surgery and can result in arthritis.



FRACTURED PASTERN or FETLOCK These injuries again are often related to the 'stress' of repeated training. Fractures of the long or short pastern bones and of the sesamoids (back of the fetlock) or condyles' (knuckles at the bottom) of the fetlock can be fixed now surgically.



There is a fine fracture line running across the condyle (knuckle) of the fetlock. The horse was non-weight bearing lame even when sedated so the limb had to be x-rayed at an angle.



This fracture was repaired surgically last May and this horse is now sound and back in training.

It is really important that these limbs are immobilised completely prior to travelling to the clinic with a bandage or cast by a vet and special care is taken when knocking them out and recovering them.

At our clinic we use a rope assisted recovery system to cut down on the chances of horses re fracturing the leg upon recovery which is common.....when the horse comes round it is disorientated and one leg is often in a cast, therefore it can stagger around and fall awkwardly again. This horse had a fractured fetlock which had a screw inserted earlier in the year at our clinic and is now back in full training.



CHIP FRACTURES:

these can occur within joints and can be removed arthroscopically, this occurs commonly in the knees of racehorses. Small fractures can occur after a kick to one of the long bones ,ie cannon bone. Pictured right is an xray of a horse who was kicked and subsequently went very lame. There was a small piece of bone (sequestrae) isolated from the parent bone and separated from its blood supply lying under the skin, and in effect, rotting. This was removed with the horse heavily sedated and standing in stocks. The horse is now about to go into training.



COMPOUND FRACTURES ie those which are open to the air often with sharp bits of bone sticking out have a very poor prognosis due to the fact they often occur in the larger long bones anyway but also due to the risk of infection. However they can now sometimes be treated with surgery and aggressive antibiotic therapy.

Lastly there are a whole category of other fractures which can heal with time, such as fractures to the head, ribs and even tail. Rest must only be done under strict veterinary supervision to ensure all is going well, shockwave therapy can help with stress fracture healing.

COMPLICATIONS

The downside of treating fractures in horses. There is a high risk of laminitis in horses who have one limb surgically 'fixed' as the extra weight on the opposite limb combined with any stress that horse may be under can cause laminitis, secondly the cost can be prohibitive unless the horse is insured .

On a positive note many more horses are going on to lead a useful life or even in the case of the horses above going back onto the racetrack which might once have been euthanased , advances in medical science are being made all the time and in the future more and more fractures will be treatable.

If you would like any further information on Cornerhouse Equine Clinic services please call them on 01564 743033, via their web site www.cornerhousevets.com or email them at info@cornerhousevets.com