

EQUINE

Autumn 2008

Student Research projects

Final year students have now finished their research dissertations and it is the turn of the second year students to start on theirs. There have been some great ideas this year resulting in 4 dissertations being selected as possible candidates for the Equivalan Thesis of the year competition – a competition run across all the Universities/Colleges running equine courses in UK

One of the most exciting projects was run by Lizzie Rapkin who worked in collaboration with Russell Guire of Centaur Biomechanics to investigate the effects of fatigue on jump stride during a cross country course. Lizzie's idea was driven by the recent change in 3 day events from a long (including roads, tracks and steeplechase) a short format (excluding a roads, tracks and steeplechase) due to competitors concerns over the effects of fatigue on horse performance and safety. Lizzie videoed 10 horses on 2 occasions, either with or without, them having just completed a ridden section over roads, tracks and a steeplechase, to simulate the old long and new short



One of Lizzie's horses marked up and being videoed by Russell Guire of Centaur Biomechanics for future analysis with Equinalysis software.

format events. The horses were marked up with skin markers placed above specific limb joints and Equinalysis software was used to digitize the moving image of the hind limb enabling the hock angle to be measured. Using changes in the hock angle as an indication of fatigue Lizzie's results certainly indicate that the move from old to short format 3 day events was warranted.

Another successful Equine Tour to Newmarket.

The 2000 Guineas and the hospitality at Sheik Mohammed's Dalham Hall Stud were again the highlights of the equine tour this year.

The tour also spent time watching the 2 year olds breezing up for the sale on the Rowley mile and out on the gallops with Declan Daly, they also visited Tremlows Stud and AI centre, Horse Forensic labs, Plantation Stud, Horse Racing Museum, Tattersalls tour and Sales (including a very nice afternoon tea) and the National Stud. It was certainly a jam packed 4 days, but thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A group photo at the mare unloading bays at Darley Stud where we were also provided with a fantastic lunch!

List of Courses

MSc

Equine Science (D391)

PG Diploma

Equine Science

PG Cert

Equine Nutrition

Equine Reproduction & Stud Management

BSc Honours

Equine Science (D322)

Equine Studies - 1-yr top-up (D325)

Equine & Human Sports Science (CD64)

Foundation Degree

Equine Studies (D324)

HND

Equine Studies (423D)

Equine and Business Studies (1HND)

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Some lovely mares and foals were seen when the equine study tour visited Plantation Stud, Newmarket – despite frequent requests we could not bring one home in the back of the minibus!

Outstanding success for Aberystwyth Riding Teams

Aberystwyth Riding Team celebrated an extremely successful year which included wins for the A and B teams at Huntley, Cimla (Swansea) and Argae House (Cardiff).

As a result both teams qualified for regional rounds in Liverpool. The B team was victorious and retained their unbeaten record to go through to the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) National championships where they were awarded Bronze medals – well done. The A team's luck ran out at the regionals, coming second by 1 point. However, Jess Haffner qualified as an individual and subsequently came 15th in the Nationals and Bea Meitner returned home to a letter inviting her to the next stage of the selection process for the World University Equestrian

Championships (WUEC) which are due to be held in Algeria in October, only 3 riders will be selected and Bea has got down

to the last 12. All 12 UK potentials will be monitored over the summer competitions and training events and the best 3 riders will be selected to represent UK. Bea got off to an amazing start at the first of these events, the Student Riding Nations Cup (SRNC) in Munster, Germany where the UK team was awarded team gold and Bea got the overall individual gold medal.



The victors – the UK gold winning team at the SRNC championships in Germany. Bea Meitner, an MSc Equine Science student here at Aberystwyth, is pictured far right



Victorious Aberystwyth University A Team - from the left Rachel Sturges, Jess Haffner, Bea Meitner (captain) and Monika Lauber.

Fantastic achievement - Bea Meitner in action winning the Gold Medal at the SRNC championships in Germany



Exciting new research developments

Dr Mina Davies Morel was recently invited to attend the Grand Opening of the German National Stud at Neustadt Dosse, near Berlin – which was a most grand affair in beautiful surroundings and glorious weather. At the same time discussions took place with the Veterinary School in Vienna, the German National Stud, the Veterinary School in Lyon, the Veterinary School in Berlin, Equine Science Institute Neustadt Dosse and the French National Studs where it was decided to put forward a bid for several million pounds to the EU to fund the development of a research network specializing in Equine Reproduction. If we are successful this will provide a fantastic opportunity for student exchange between all the institutes involved at many levels up to PhD.

The German National Stud at Neustadt Dosse



Lluest Equine Centre busy and successful as ever

Lluest Equine Centre has continued to run the usual show jumping and dressage competitions over the winter, all of which have been organized and run by the HND and Foundation degree students doing their Event Management module. These were really successful and the students did very well with their organization getting some excellent marks – well done.

Lluest also was the venue for the Welsh para winter dressage training and championship which was won by Paula Clark riding Spock, one of the University's horses, and the runner up was Amanda Say riding Seamus another university horse – Well done to both. Paula has been training hard at Lluest Equine centre for the last 3 years and on the strength of Paula's performance in the Welsh Championships this year she has been selected to compete at the Hartpury CCI*** event in July – well done Paula and good luck.

As well as competitions Lluest has run its usual series of training events, the highlights being a demonstration and lessons by Spencer Wilton – always very popular. Jan Goldsmith FBHS also ran a Para training workshop open to judges, trainers and riders and Lluest was the venue for Welsh Instructors training session run by Patrick Print, Chair of the BHS. It is great to have such well known and experienced trainers regularly using Lluest and is a great that they are all so keen that students be involved, either in the sessions or just by watching or helping out.



Paula Clark riding the University horse Spock - winner of the Welsh para winter dressage championship