

# Equine Science

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## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2010

**IBERS** Institute of Biological,  
Environmental and Rural Sciences

### Success for University Horses

Three of the University horses have had notable successes in the last few months:

**Haeron Antonio** – Hannah Titley, qualified Antonio at the University run Lluest medium dressage competition on the 17th April, for the finals at the Welsh Dressage Festival on 4th June. Antonio's success did not stop there as Paula Clarke also qualified her for the para Hickstead National Dressage Championships the day later, so a choice had to be made and Hickstead won. This was a good choice as she went on to come second in the KBIS para qualifier, hopefully that will be good enough to go through to the British Para Dressage Championships at Stoneleigh in September – congratulations to both Paula and Antonio, and fingers crossed for Stoneleigh. Paula has also been invited to ride at the International Championships at Hartpury in July 2010 as an individual for Great Britain.



Paula Clarke riding Antonio at the para Hickstead National Dressage Championships where she came second in the KBIS para qualifier

**Cwmbanal Hope** – the University's bargain buy as a 3 year old from a local sale, has since been brought on and produced by University students and staff and was qualified, by Hannah Titley, for Welsh Festival of Dressage prelim section. This was her first competition away from home and she was awarded 65% in both her tests – very well done to Hannah and Hope.



Cwmbanal Hope being ridden by Hannah Titley in preparation for the Welsh Festival of Dressage

**Lluest Foxy's Affair** – bred by the University, out of one of our own mares Foxridge Foxy Lady by the coloured sports horse stallion Lostock King of the Hill, is now 2 years old and competed at her first show at Cardigan Bay in May. This was first time off the property and she was a dream, loaded and travelled really well and was rewarded with a 2nd place in a class of 9 coloured horses. Her next event is Aberystwyth Country show where she will be shown by Shelley Buffery - we wish them well and have high hopes for Foxy's Affair in the future



Lluest Foxy's Affair at her first show where she came second in a class of nine.

### List of Courses

#### MSc

Equine Science (D391)

#### PG Diploma

Equine Science

#### PG Certificate

Equine Nutrition

Equine Reproduction and Stud Management

#### BSc Honours

Equine Science (D322)

Equine Studies – 1-year top-up (D325)

Equine and Human Sports Science (CD64)

#### Foundation Degree

Equine Studies (D324)

#### Higher National Diploma

Equine Studies (423D)

Equine and Business Studies (1HND)

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### New Arrival to Lluest Equine Unit

A big welcome to Lluest Solo Venture who was born at the Equine Unit on Thursday 27th May, at 3.30 p.m. when there were lots of spectators to witness the event, the arrival of a healthy foal makes all the sitting up at night worthwhile!!! Solo's mum, Amber Alert, is registered in the General Thoroughbred Stud Book and is by the Oldenburg stallion, Abraham; Solo's sire is the registered Welsh Cob section D Sea Adventure. Amber has gone back to Sea Adventure in hopes of another great foal next year.



Lluest Solo Venture Lluest's newest arrival!!!

# Lluest Equine Unit News

## Competitions:

The Equine Centre as ever has been busy with a series of affiliated dressage competitions, and unaffiliated jumping shows. These competitions were run by the Event Management team who are second year FDSc and HND students who have chosen the Event Management module. These shows allow students to gain valuable experience in event management while supervised by Dr Carol Green (Equine Centre Manager) and Hannah Titley (Practical Instructor).

Two Para Equestrian Competitions and the Welsh Camp were run at Lluest Equine Centre with riders coming from all over the UK including International riders Natalie Povey, Ricky Balshaw (gold medal winner European Championships 2009) and our own Paula Clarke who competes as an individual for GB riding Haeron Antonio.



Paula Clarke riding Antonio at the British Dressage camp held at Lluest on 14-16th April where she won the trophy for best Para rider Wales.

## Visiting Clinicians

Mrs. Jane Goldsmith FBHS and International Dressage judge, held bi-monthly training sessions for able body riders and Para riders, giving a great opportunity for students and staff to gain valuable training under her watchful eye. Jane also held a workshop on riding better tests and looking at horses work through the judge's eyes. Jane is quite a regular visitor to the Unit and is next with us on August 16th.

## Student exam success

Ten FDSc and HND Equine Studies were recently awarded their BHS Riding and Road Safety certificates (100% success rate!!) and 18 FDSc and HND students have passed their BHS Stage 1 – well done to all.

## Equine publications

The following are a flavour of the kinds of peer reviewed papers staff (highlighted in black) have produced, often with students (highlighted in red) in the last 6 months or so:

**Canisso IF**, Carvalho GR, **Morel MC**, Guimaraes JD and McDonnell SM. (2010) Sexual behaviour and ejaculate characteristics in Pêga donkeys (*Equus asinus*) mounting estrous horse mares (*Equus caballus*). *Theriogenology* 73(1):56-63.

Sharma S, **Davies Morel M**, Dhaliwal G, Dadarwal D. 2010 The pattern of embryonic fixation and its relationship to pregnancy loss in Thoroughbred mares. *Reprod Domest Anim*. [Epub ahead of print]

Sharma, S. **Davies Morel, MCG**. and Dhaliwal, GS. (2010) Factors affecting the incidence of postpartum oestrus, ovarian activity and reproductive performance in Thoroughbred mares bred at foal heat under Indian subtropical conditions. *Theriogenology* 74, 90-99.

**Davies Morel MC**, Newcombe JR and **Hinchliffe J**. (2009) The relationship between consecutive pregnancies in Thoroughbred mares. Does the location of one pregnancy affect the location of the next, is this affected by mare age and foal heat to conception interval or related to pregnancy success. *Theriogenology* 15;71(7):1072-8

**Egan, C.E., Snelling, T.J.** and **McEwan, N.R.** (2010) The Onset of Ciliate Populations in Newborn Foals. *Acta Protozool.* (2010) 49: 145-147

**Billington, H.E.** and **McEwan, N.R.** (2009) The relationship between parental coat colour and prize-winning palominos. *Journal of Equine Science* 20, 4, 73-77

**Nash DM**, Sheldon IM, Herath S and Lane EA (2010) Markers of the uterine innate immune response of the mare. *Animal Reproduction Science*. 119:31-39



Rounding up the Carneddau Welsh ponies from Snowdon for sampling, as part of Clare's PhD

## New PhD project for Clare Alison

A big welcome to Clare who has just started her PhD with us. Clare is no stranger to Aberystwyth as she did her BSc and MSc Equine Science degrees with us. For her MSc dissertation she worked at Nottingham Vet School on Equine Herpes Virus with Dr Julia Kydd (also an ex MSc Equine Science graduate of Aber) and loved research so much that she decided a PhD was the way forward. Clare did very well and was awarded one of the Institute's PhD studentships to study at the University's state of the art genomics lab to analyse genetic relationships between native pony breeds of the UK using molecular genetic techniques - Good luck Clare, with such a fascinating subject.

## The University Riding Club

More success this year for Aberystwyth Riding Teams. A team (Ellen Brower, Claire Law, Ayesha Banks and Rachel Williams) competed against yearly rivals Cardiff, Swansea and Gloucestershire Universities and got off to a flying start at the Aberystwyth competition, winning by an astonishing 21 penalty points, with Ellen Brower taking the individual first. Things did not go so well in the next 2 competitions but the final event at Swansea saw an Aberystwyth comeback, with a win by 12 penalty points, very much helped by Angharad (reserve) and Claire's winning show jumping rounds. Despite this the team failed to qualify for the regional rounds, although Ellen was successful and individually qualified to go on to Avon Riding Centre, Bristol on the 31st March 2010 where she came 2nd and qualified for the Nationals – well done Ellen



The A Team and their trainer, Shelley. Left to Right: Rachel Williams, Ayesha Banks, Angharad James, Lina Brazauskaitė, Shelley Buffery

The B team (Alex Thomas, Tom Cowburn, Helen Parish and Caroline Duffin) had an even better season, starting with a 2nd place against Harper-Adams, Keele and Birmingham Universities. Success continued at Birmingham and Keele with first place in both competitions, again it was superb performances in the show jumping that made the difference. Keele was a particularly successful event for Tom who took 1st in the individual placings. This success was rewarded by a place in the regional rounds at Brooksby College, Leicester on April 7th 2010, where the team came 2nd and Alex came 4th as an individual, which though a great performance was not quite good enough to qualify for the nationals – well done to all.



The B Team after a most successful day at the Keele Competition. Left to Right: Alex Thomas, Caroline Duffin, Helen Parish, Tom Cowburn

The Riding teams get great support from the Equine Unit in particular Dr. Carol Green and Shelley Buffery (practical instructor) and all the horses!!!

## Equine Study Tour

The equine tour was another success this year with a change of venue to North Wales. The tour was based at Tanrallt Lllangian Pwllheli, Gwynedd with accommodation in a bunk house in wonderful surroundings – just right for a BBQ!!! Time was spent at Penllyn Lusitano stud where the students had lectures and demonstrations on the Lusitano breed, high school dressage and stud management, this was topped off by a real treat of an opportunity to ride these beautiful horses. Students also visited Twemlows Hall AI centre (where they saw semen collection and evaluation), Taylored Equestrian Rehabilitation Therapy Centre (a superb 5\* hotel for rehabilitating horses) and finally Prescott Equestrian Centre (for lectures on the pitfalls of setting up a business)