

# Equine Science

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## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009

### Equine Tour

On the 29th April, 26 BSc, HND and FdSc students set off on a 5 day action packed tour of Newmarket including visits to: Twemlows Hall AI Centre; Plantation Stud; Dalham Hall Stud, owned by Sheik Mohammed and who gave us a wonderful lunch!; Tattersalls Breeze Up Sales (thanks for the lovely afternoon tea!); The Horse Forensic Labs; The National Stud; and out for an early morning visit to the gallops with Declan Daly. The trip was topped off by a day at the races – the 2000 Guineas. It is amazing how different we all looked in our smart dresses!! A great time was had by all and I have to keep reminding everyone that it was work not a holiday!! and that we could not fit a foal into the back of the minibus!!!



Early morning out on the Warren Hill gallops

### Congratulations and Good Luck to all those graduating this year

Good luck to all our student's graduating this year, many have jobs to go to and many are going on to post graduate study, including several going on to our MSc Equine Science – Good luck to you all and do keep in touch.



Feeding polos to Amberley House at the National Stud



All dressed up for the 2000 Guineas

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

### 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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### MSc Colloquium in Equine Science at Gregynog

The MSc enjoyed another brain taxing session at the University's study Centre, Gregynog. These biannual colloquium are really popular with students and also allow them to meet leading experts in the equine science field and lecturers at other College's/ University's, often our own graduates and so develop contacts for their future careers. This time the speakers included: Dr Robert Eustace (Laminitis Clinic); Prof Duncan Hannant (an Honourary Professor of Aberystwyth University as well as links with Nottingham Vet School and the Animal Health Trust); Dr John Newcombe (Specialist reproduction and stud vet); Ann Bondi (Managing Director, Solution Saddles Ltd) and Kate Comer (owner of Horse Check, parasite monitoring)



A luxury venue for the MSc Equine Science Colloquium

## Advances in Equine Science

Lots of our students have either just finished or are just embarking upon their 3rd Honours dissertation, not only the biggest single piece of work for their degree but also an opportunity to specialise in an area that really excites them. Students always come up with some brilliant ideas but 2 noteworthy ones from this year are:

Catherine Egan's dissertation which identified that ciliates are present in the foal's gut much earlier than previously reported. Ciliates are part of the micro-organisms within the equine gut which are essential for digesting fibre. The time at which these ciliates can be identified in the foal's gut tells us a lot about how and when the foal's gut is able to begin to cope with hard feed rather than just milk. Catherine's work is being written up as a paper for a peer reviewed scientific publication – Well Done Catherine



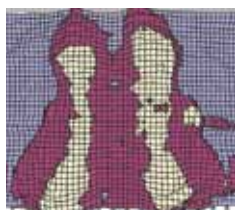
Photograph of *Blepharocorys* sp., typical of the type of ciliate found in the foal's gut

Alice Dickeson's dissertation which investigated the pressure put on the horse's back by the saddle and rider and how different types of saddle cloths affect this. This dissertation was so successful that the University is purchasing a top of the range pressure sensor mat which will be available for future student dissertations. Alice very much hopes to continue her research as a PhD at Aberystwyth University and the pressure sensor mat will be a vital component of her project – well done and Good luck Alice.

A.



B.



Identification of pressure peaks across the back, using a pressure sensor mat. Pressure peaks are identified in the order light blue (high intensity); yellow, maroon, dark blue (low intensity). In a horse ridden with no saddle (A) areas of very high pressure can be seen (light blue), together with an area of high pressure (yellow). With a saddle, pressure is more evenly distributed (B).



Downloading on to the computer the recording of the relative pressures placed on the horse's back by the rider and saddle, the pressure pad can be seen as the green mat under the back horse's saddle cloth

## Paula Clarke's continued success

Paula continues to train at Lluest Equine Centre for her ever successful career as a Grade 2 Para rider. Paula started her success by riding the University's 45ox, a Welsh Cob Section D, who was broken and produced by students at the Lluest Equine Centre. However, she has now become so successful that she is riding the University's Haeron Antonio, 17 hh Warmblood trained to advanced level. Both horses are regularly ridden by equine students on HND and FdSc courses.

Paula currently comes from Llandovery but is moving to Ceredigion so that she can continue to train with Dr Carol Green and the equine instructors at Lluest. Paula has a hyperflexibility problem which prevents her muscles and ligaments from supporting her skeletal frame, she is a cancer survivor having had tumour's from her thigh removed. Paula is extremely positive, a wheelchair user but manages to lead an independent life. An inspiration to us all and grateful for the support that the University has provided.

The next step for Paula is Hickstead International June 23rd - 27th June and Hartpury International July 15th - 18th both of which she has been invited to compete at on the basis of her recent success – Good Luck Paula and who knows Paralympics 2012?



Paula in Action at the Lluest Equine Centre

## Activity Lluest Equine Centre

The Lluest Equine Centre has been busy again this season, the following are examples of some of the activities that have been going on and enjoyed by all:

In January International Dressage Judge Mr Andrew Gardner gave private clinics to equine staff and students. Foundation Degree, HND and Equine Science students had the opportunity to watch Mr Gardner work horses from Novice level through to Advanced. He was very clear and systematic in his thoughts, which was well received by everyone who attended and it was a great learning experience for all.

In March Mrs. Jane Goldsmith, FBHS list 1 Dressage Judge and Trainer, gave a masterclass in teaching physically challenged riders as well as the able bodied. Mrs Goldsmith is a British Horse Society trainer and examiner who has a special interest in Para Riders. Everyone, participants and audience found the sessions really interesting. Mrs Goldsmith was encouraging, but at the same time demanding, so both able bodied riders and those physically challenged found they benefited and improved. This day was especially useful for potential instructors who gained by observing her teaching technique.

April 15th - 18th saw the British Dressage Adult camp, with visiting dressage trainers, and sports psychologist, all working to improve the rider and in particular their competition success.

In February Paddy Davies, Equine Chiropractor and McTimmony Practitioner, gave a lecture to all the equine students, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Paddy is a great communicator and allowed the students to 'have a go', as a result a couple of them are now wishing to train in alternative therapy after they leave Aberystwyth.

In addition to these special events there were the usual weekend show- jumping and dressage competitions throughout the winter, all of which were well supported as ever.



Students riding in outdoor arena ready for dressage competition