



trailblazers

SPILLERS® TRAILBLAZERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012



This year's SPILLERS Trailblazers Championships will be held at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire on 20th July – 29th July. Trailblazers offer competitors a rare opportunity to compete at one of the country's most beautiful and best equipped equestrian venues. Thanks to its outstanding facilities, Stoneleigh Park is also the choice of British Dressage for its National Championships.

This year's championships have been reduced in length to make for a more compact show. The revised format also gives competitors the opportunity to compete in more disciplines and make the championships a holiday with friends and family.

And there's more good news for competitors who qualify for the championships. Bucking the trend of raising costs nearly everywhere else, the cost of competing at the Trailblazers Championships will remain the same as it has been for the last two years.

Please visit the Trailblazers website regularly for first and second round dates in order to qualify for the Spillers® 2012 Trailblazers Championships.

**COUNTDOWN FOR
THE SPILLERS®
TRAILBLAZERS
CHAMPIONSHIPS
2012**

171 Days to go !!!

SPILLERS® TRAILBLAZERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012.

**Senior Showjumping 20th July to
22nd July, 2012.**

**Combined Training Horses
(Over 148cms) 20th to 22nd July, 2012.**

Showing 21st & 22nd July, 2012.

Dressage 24th to 26th July, 2012.

**Junior Showjumping 27th July to
29th July, 2012.**

**Combined Training Ponies (148cms
& under) 27th to 29th July, 2012.**



SOUTH ESSEX INSURANCE BROKERS

A Better Way To Insure

SECOND ROUNDS

South Essex Insurance Brokers are the series sponsors for first and second round Trailblazers competitions. Each Trailblazers centre holds a South Essex Insurance Brokers second round for each discipline it runs during the year, enabling competitors to try to qualify for the SPILLERS® Trailblazers Championships. Second rounds are held at centres throughout the country from March through to June. The dates can be found on the Trailblazers website.

Trailblazers and Trailblazers centres continually co-operate to ensure that date clashes are avoided as much as possible. This careful allocation of dates allows competitors to compete at several venues in order to gain qualification for the SPILLERS® Trailblazers Championships.

SECOND ROUND DATE AMMENDMENT.

Overa Farm Stud,
Norfolk will be
holding their
Trailblazers second
round competitions
for Dressage and
Showjumping on
**Sunday 22nd April
2012.**

NEWS...

New Centres

Two new centres have joined Trailblazers and will be hosting a number of first round and second round Showjumping, Dressage, Showing and Combined Training. For further details about dates and events for these centres, visit

www.trailblazerschampionships.com

Tushingam Arena - Tushingam, Nr
Whitchurch, Cheshire

Port Royal Equestrian & Exhibition Centre
- Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire

UPDATES...

Rule Amendment.

AGE CHANGE FOR JUNIORS RIDING HORSES IN THE PFIZER EQUEST® & EQUEST PRAMOX® SHOWJUMPING CLASSES.

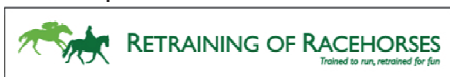
The age limit for riding a horse which would be competed in the senior competitions of Trailblazers is being reduced to 12 years and over on the first day of the championships.



For up to date information about discipline information, membership, rules, first round and second round dates go to the Trailblazers website on www.trailblazerschampionship.com

RETRAINING OF RACEHORSES (RoR)

Trailblazers, in conjunction with RoR, are running direct qualifiers to the championships in Dressage, Showjumping and Combined Training. Many Trailblazers centres around the country run RoR Preliminary Dressage qualifiers. The qualification for showjumping will be incorporated into the Senior 75cms classes which run at most Trailblazers centres. Qualification for the RoR 75cms Showjumping, requires a double clear round in a first round Senior 75cms Showjumping class. If you achieve this, you will receive the usual Trailblazers congratulations letter for the Trailblazers 75cms second round - and you should also ask the centre for the RoR qualification pack. When it comes to qualifying for the Preliminary dressage and 65cms RoR Combined Training class, the top five RoR members will directly qualify, irrespective of being among the top six placings in the class. Upon qualifying for the RoR Combined Training class, competitors need to ask the centre for their RoR qualification pack.



For more information about RoR competitions within the Trailblazers competition structure or dates for the Dressage qualifiers, please go to the RoR section of the Trailblazers website.



2011
75cms RoR
Showjumping
Champion
Hazel Noble
riding
Morandi



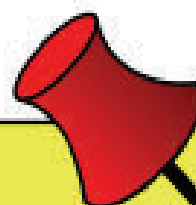
DRESSAGE RIDING HATS

At the Spiller® Trailblazers Championships 2012, dressage riders will be required to wear hats with a harness to BD specifications.



The recommended BSI Kitemarks are;- PAS 015, EN1384, BSEN1384, ASTM F1163 (2004) with SEI mark, SNELL E2001, Australian & New Zealand All AS/NZS 3838 1998 or any new standard that meets or exceeds those stated.

This rule is not currently enforced at any other Trailblazers Dressage competitions. However the wearing of up-to-standard safety headwear will be at the discretion of the Trailblazers centres.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

Qu. A regularly asked question about Trailblazers Showing is "What bits am I allowed to use?"

A. *The only restriction that Trailblazers has is that Lead Rein & First Ridden must be ridden in a snaffle bridle.*

All other classes can use any suitable bridle.

MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW.

Trailblazers' sponsors not only support your sport – they can help you keep your horse or pony in great condition too. Here are some top tips from SPILLERS, Pfizer and South Essex Insurance Brokers (SEIB) as we look forward to the new season.

KEEP A SPRING IN THEIR STEP.

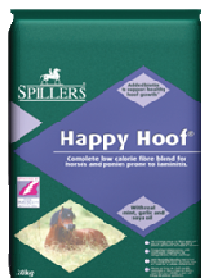
The good news is that spring is in the air - but the bad news is that it comes hand in hand with an increased risk of laminitis.

Although overweight horse or ponies tend to be more at risk from this serious and debilitating condition, laminitis can attack any horse or pony at any time. Nutrition plays an important role in its management.

Clare Barfoot RNutr and the research and development manager at SPILLERS® advises: "Look for low starch, high fibre feeds such as chopped fibre feeds approved by The Laminitis Trust or feed a low calorie balancer that will balance the nutrients in a forage-based diet without providing high levels of energy or starch. It's also crucial to restrict access to grass and, if you can, to provide regular exercise."

SPILLERS HAPPY HOOF®

is a blended short-chop forage which can be used as a complete feed. It is designed to extend eating time and was the first complete chopped fibre feed to be approved by the Laminitis Trust.



For friendly advice on how to feed your laminitis-prone horse or pony safely telephone the SPILLERS® Care-Line on + 44 (0)1908 226626, send an email to careline@spillers-feeds.com or visit the SPILLERS® website at www.spillers-feeds.com

PERFECT PASTURES FOR WORM CONTROL.

The careful management of your horse or pony's grazing will help to reduce the number of worms on the pasture and will help to keep the re-infection challenge to a minimum.



This in turn reduces our reliance on wormers, hopefully slowing the development of resistance to them. Pfizer vet Ben Gaskell provides some top tips for good pasture management:

- Remove droppings, ideally at least twice a week
- Rest the pasture for at least three months a year to reduce the worm challenge. Sunlight and hard frost should help reduce the larval numbers so, if you can, choose the time of year carefully.
- Combine harrowing with resting. Harrowing dirty pasture can just spread the worm eggs and larvae over the field, but if combined with pasture resting it can be of benefit.
- Cross grazing the pasture with cattle or sheep will help reduce the worm challenge to the horses. They will 'Hoover-up' the worms without being affected as the worms are host-specific.
- Don't over-stock paddocks as the quality of grazing will suffer.
- Reduce paddock size so that you can alternately rest and graze your fields.

Pfizer Animal Health's Manage, Test, Plan, Dose campaign provides an outstanding range of information to help horse owners make the right decisions about worming. Talk to your vet or SQP retailer or find out more by visiting www.wormingyourhorse.info



A Better Way To Insure

WHAT PRICE IS MY HORSE?

South Essex Insurance Brokers (SEIB) solves a Trailblazers competitor's insurance query.

Q. I've just acquired a new horse. His previous owner is no longer able to ride, so she gifted him to me. Obviously I need to insure him, but I have no idea what value I should insure him for. He is a 16.1hh, eleven year old gelding and we hope to do Trailblazers show jumping and dressage together. How can I assess his value and is this necessarily the value I should insure him for?

A. Good luck with your new horse. It can be difficult to value a horse that you have not paid for as this usually depends on his or her age and talents. One way to gauge his value is to look at advertisements for other similar horses for sale.

When it comes to insuring him, you need to purchase mortality cover before you can add on extras like veterinary fees, tack and liability insurance. So you might want to insure him for a nominal value, for example £500.

However, if you under-insure in order to reduce the premium and need to replace him with a 'like for like' horse, there could be a significant shortfall if you only insure him for a few hundred pounds instead of his true value. Do not over insure the horse as, sadly, if the horse dies, you will only be paid market value.