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March 2011 – Issue 14

# trailblazers<sup>®</sup>

*magazine*



**COULD YOU BE A  
NATIONAL FINALIST?**

**Why Stoneleigh is so special  
Second Round dates and venues**

# Welcome to Trailblazers Magazine

**W**ith winter behind us, lighter evenings, warmer weather and the grass beginning to grow, we can all look forward to enjoying our horses and ponies this Spring. After all, we all worked hard enough over the winter!



In the old days, it was always difficult to plan your competition campaign at this time of year, with ground conditions being so variable and dependent upon the weather. Thanks to Trailblazers' insistence that its approved centres offer all-weather surfaces, that's no longer a worry at any time of year.

Well maintained artificial surfaces are also invaluable for giving young horses and ponies confidence at their first few shows – whether you're doing dressage, jumping or showing. It's nice not to have to contend with muddy boots (horse and human) either!

A big talking point around the shows this Spring is the ever increasing cost of everything,



not least diesel. Well, Trailblazers has stepped in to help by maintaining the cost of competing at the 2011 finals at 2010 prices and absorbing the VAT increase too. Find out more on page 7.

Good luck to everyone entering Second Rounds. You'll find dates and venues on page 10.

Please let us know how you get on this Spring. Tell us about your horse or pony's background, your successes (and near misses) when competing with Trailblazers – and you could feature in this magazine. Just drop us an email at [trailblazers@beta-int.com](mailto:trailblazers@beta-int.com)

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## SHARE YOUR STORY

- Are you enjoying a successful season competing with Trailblazers? Does your horse, pony, parent or friend deserve a mention for making a special effort? Have you taken part in the new Trailblazers Combined Training series? If you'd like to share your story, please contact Trailblazers magazine via email to [trailblazers@beta-int.com](mailto:trailblazers@beta-int.com) or tel 01937 582111. Feel free to send photos – but do tell us who has taken them.



# STONELEIGH: it's something special

Stoneleigh is to equestrianism what Lords is to cricket, Wimbledon is to tennis and St Andrews is to golf – an iconic sporting venue where only the best compete.

Home to the Trailblazers national finals for eleven years, Stoneleigh Park for many years hosted the Royal Show and is currently the site of the British Dressage National Championships.

At its heart is the 120m x 100m international standard, white-railed, all-weather arena. It's the arena in which John Whitaker wins grands prix and Carl Hester clinches championships.

To ride in the arena is to fulfil the dream of a lifetime; to qualify for the 2011 Trailblazers finals is how to make it happen.

The multi-discipline 2011 SPILLERS® Trailblazers Championships take place on 22 July to 7 August.

You only have to say "I've qualified for Stoneleigh" and everyone knows what you mean! Yes, qualification for the Trailblazers finals has become one of the most sought-after tickets in equestrian sport.

Here are some of the highlights in store for the 2011 Trailblazers Championships. Will you, your horse or pony, family, friends and supporters be there?

**STONELEIGH'S FACILITIES ARE SECOND TO NONE.** The stunning, landscaped showground is criss-crossed with tarmac roads, while there's plenty of hard standing for horseboxes, making this a truly all-weather facility – yet one in which there's 1,000 acres of space to enjoy the sunshine. All warm-up arenas are all-weather too!

**THE 'BIG' ATMOSPHERE** is something for which the Trailblazers finals are famous. With fluttering flags, laps of honour to music, personalities presenting at many prize-givings, ring-side hospitality, official photographer, extensive media coverage, exclusive rosettes and sashes and sponsors' backdrop for post-competition interviews and pictures, this show has a true championship feel. All finalists get to compete on at least two days, which brings us to...

**FAMILY FUN:** Easy to reach from the motorway network, Stoneleigh Park is in a most glorious part of Warwickshire. With secure stabling on site, there's plenty of parking on grass and under trees for you to pick your ideal camping spot. Finalists bring barbeques, caravans, tents, families, dogs and stay in lorries or trailers – it's all fine with Trailblazers! A warm welcome, great atmosphere and new friends are guaranteed.

**FOR JUNIOR SHOW JUMPERS,** there's a range of classes from 65cm for 12s and under to 1.05m. Senior show jumpers have the new 65cm, 1.10m and 1.15m plus the usual 75cm, 85cm, 95cm and 1.05m.

**NEW RETRAINING OF RACEHORSES (RoR)** sponsored classes will run in conjunction with the Trailblazers finals. RoR is British Horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses retired from racing. Some RoR finalists will come forward from a series of dressage qualifiers at 15 Trailblazers centres around the country. There will be an open class for 75cms show jumping and also a combined training class. Entrants do not need to pre-qualify for open classes but do need to be pre entered and horses must be registered with ROR (see website [www.trailblazerschampionships.com](http://www.trailblazerschampionships.com) for further details).

WEDNESDAY 11 – SUNDAY 15 MAY 2011  
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Royal Windsor Horse Show is a wonderful equestrian event which takes place in the private grounds of Windsor Castle. It has a unique mix of top class jumping, international driving and outstanding showing.



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## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS



**YOU COULD MAKE HISTORY** and compete in the first ever Trailblazers combined training finals! With classes for ponies and horses, and a range of classes based on different show jumping heights and dressage levels, combined training is designed to work for all competitors wishing to test their skills yet stay within their comfort zones.

**THREE DAYS OF DRESSAGE:** A new innovation will be a warm-up day for dressage competitors. As has proved so popular with the show jumpers, warm-up competitions will take place in the fully dressed arena, providing an ideal schooling opportunity without counting towards the championship results.

**THE ROYAL SHOW GRASS ARENA** is the setting for the now well-established working hunter finals – and what a thrill to gallop on that turf! Back in the all-weather arena, there's a full complement of showing finals for in-hand and ridden horses and ponies too.

**NON RIDERS CAN GO SIGHT-SEEING** because within eight to ten miles, there are the delights of Warwick, Stratford and Kenilworth with their historic castles and lots of lovely touristy things to do. This gorgeous rural area is also popular for cycling, so don't forget to bring a bike. ps, the country pubs take some beating...

**TOP SIX TO QUALIFY.** Competing at the Trailblazers finals is more achievable than ever this year with the top six from every Second Round in all disciplines earning the right to ride (or show) at Stoneleigh.

# Point Two



Clause A.3.6 of European Standard EN 13158:2009 reports that only 4% of 1000 riders admitted to a group of UK hospitals were wearing a body protector at the time they were thrown or fell from their horse

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# MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

## – PRICES FROZEN FOR 2011

**A**head of its 2011 finals, Trailblazers has frozen its prices and pledged to absorb the extra VAT competitors would otherwise have had to pay.

“Our suppliers have done their best to avoid increasing their prices or increased them only by a minimal amount,” said Trailblazers chairman Norman Bargh.

“Furthermore, Trailblazers is absorbing the VAT increase. Providing good value for money is important to us, so apart from a little extra on your travelling expenses, thanks to diesel prices, it won't cost you a penny more to come to Stoneleigh this year than it did last year.”

Trailblazers also operates a “no hidden extras” policy with every charge, cost and fee outlined in its schedule in plain English.



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## CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS

# You could join them in 2011...

Here's what some 2010 competitors said about their Stoneleigh experiences:

*“I had a wonderful time and came home with two sashes and a rug. It was beyond anything I ever expected.”*

*“I was so thrilled; I watch the video over and over again. The whole event was so professional yet friendly.”*

*“We performed a lap of honour accompanied by Tina Turner's Simply the Best.”*

*“If you want to go to the Trailblazers finals, like I did, get out there and go for it!”*

*“A fantastic experience; the highlight of the year.”*

### For more details...

For complete competition specifications, qualifying criteria, dates and venues of Second Rounds – your route to the championships – please visit [www.trailblazerschampionships.com](http://www.trailblazerschampionships.com)

## NEWS

# Supplements Competition Winner



Norfolk rider Deb Hardy scooped £150 worth of Horse First supplements via a competition in a recent Trailblazers magazine (issue 13).

Deb, from Woodrising, competes in Trailblazers dressage with Murphy, a 16.1hh, part-bred Irish Draught who she co-owns with Julie Patrick. Deb and Julie's other horses includes Mac, a 16.1hh chestnut of Welsh/Thoroughbred who regularly contests Trailblazers show jumping, and Obi who's enjoying his retirement.

“I was delighted to win the Horse First prize,” said Deb. “Julie and I look after four horses and all will benefit from different supplements in the range. They are excellent products.”

Pictured is Deb, Murphy and their haul of prizes.

## KERATEX

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NEW & EXCLUSIVE FROM KERATEX

## 2nd ROUND COMPETITION DATES

### MARCH

13th	Inglewood EC, Penrith	Working Hunter
13th	Overa Farm Stud, Thetford, Norfolk	Showjumping
13th	Saltburn RS, Cleveland	Dressage
19th	Northallerton EC, Yafforth, N Yorks	Dressage
19th	Osbaldeston RC, Blackburn, Lancs	Showjumping Juniors
20th	Alsager EC, Alsager, Cheshire	Dressage
20th	Osbaldeston RC, Blackburn, Lancs	Showjumping Seniors
20th	Saltburn RS, Cleveland	Showjumping
20th	Westfield Park, Silkstone Common, Barnsley	Dressage
26th	Milton Keynes EC, Hanslope, Bucks	Showjumping
26th	The College, Keysoe, Beds	Dressage
27th	Alsager EC, Alsager, Cheshire	Showjumping
27th	Malthouse EC, Steventon, Oxon	Showjumping
27th	Overa Farm Stud, Thetford, Norfolk	Dressage
27th	Prescott EC, Baschurch, Shropshire	Showjumping
27th	Sheepgate Equestrian, Boston, Lincs	Dressage
27th	The College, Keysoe, Beds	Showjumping
27th	Westfield Park, Silkstone Common, Barnsley	Showjumping

### APRIL

1st	SNEC, Oatridge, West Lothian	Dressage
2nd	Humberstone Farm EC, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk	Dressage
2nd	Moor Farm EC, Haverfordwest, Pems	Dressage
3rd	Barton EC, Bilsborrow, Lancashire	Showjumping Juniors
3rd	Humberstone Farm EC, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk	Showjumping
3rd	Horse World EC, Market Rasen, Lincs	Showjumping
3rd	Lordsbridge Arena, Barton, Cambs	Showjumping Juniors
3rd	Milton Keynes EC, Hanslope, Bucks	Dressage
9th	Bold Heath EC, Widnes, Cheshire	Combined Training
9th	Forest Edge Arena, Swaffham, Norfolk	Dressage
9th	Horse World EC, Market Rasen, Lincs	Dressage
9th	Laughton Manor EC, Folkingham, Lincs	Showjumping
9th	Longwood EC, Basildon, Essex	Dressage
9th	Moor Farm EC, Haverfordwest, Pems	Showjumping
9th	Moorhouse EC, Doncaster, S Yorks	Dressage
9th	Osbaldeston RC, Blackburn, Lancs	Dressage

9th	REC Events @ Richmond EC, Yorks	Showjumping
9th	REC Events @ Richmond EC, Yorks	Combined Training
9th	Vale View EC, Old Dalby, Leics	Dressage
10th	Bold Heath EC, Widnes, Cheshire	Dressage
10th	Duckhurst Farm, Staplehurst, Kent	Showjumping
10th	Forest Edge Arena, Swaffham, Norfolk	Showjumping
10th	Longwood EC, Basildon, Essex	Dressage
10th	Middleton RS, Darlington, Co Durham	Showjumping
10th	Moorhouse EC, Doncaster, S Yorks	Dressage
11th	Heart of Wales, Peny Bont, Powys	Showjumping
16th	Barton EC, Bilsborrow, Lancashire	Dressage
16th	Golden Cross EC, Hailsham, E Sussex	Dressage
16th	Laughton Manor EC, Folkingham, Lincs	Dressage
16th	Longwood EC, Basildon, Essex	Showjumping
16th	Northallerton EC, Yafforth, N Yorks	Showjumping
16th	West Wilts EC, Holt Trowbridge, Wilts	Showjumping
17th	Barton EC, Bilsborrow, Lancashire	Showjumping Seniors
17th	Field House EC, Marchington, Staffs	Dressage
17th	Longwood EC, Basildon, Essex	Showjumping
17th	Lordsbridge Arena, Barton, Cambs	Showjumping Seniors
17th	REC Events @ Richmond EC, Yorks	Dressage
17th	Trentvalley EC, Fiskerton, Notts	Showjumping
17th	West Wilts EC, Holt Trowbridge, Wilts	Dressage
22nd	Foxes Riding School, Ledsham, S Wirral	Dressage
23rd	Swallowfield EC, Lapworth, Warks	Dressage
23rd	Vale View EC, Old Dalby, Leics	Showjumping
24th	Bold Heath EC, Widnes, Cheshire	Showjumping
24th	Kingswood EC, Albrighton, W/Hampton	Dressage
24th	Moorhouse EC, Doncaster, S Yorks	Showjumping
24th	Sunnybank EC, Rudry, Caerphilly	Showjumping
24th	Trentvalley EC, Fiskerton, Notts	Dressage
28th	Arena UK, Grantham, Lincs	Dressage
30th	Conrhenny Farm, Isle of Man	Showjumping
30th	Conrhenny Farm, Isle of Man	Combined Training SJ
30th	Field House EC, Marchington, Staffs	Showjumping
30th	Field House EC, Marchington, Staffs	Combined Training
30th	Sunnybank EC, Rudry, Caerphilly	Dressage
30th	Sykehouse Arena, Doncaster, S Yorks	Showjumping Juniors

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### MAY

1st	Celaeron EC, Neuaddlwyd, Ceredigion	Showjumping
1st	Conrhenny Far, Isle of Man	Dressage
1st	Conrhenny Far, Isle of Man	Combined Training Dressage
1st	Inglewood EC, Penrith	Dressage
1st	Laughton Manor EC, Folkingham, Lincs	Showing
1st	Lordsbridge Arena, Barton, Cambs	Dressage
1st	Moorhouse EC, Doncaster, S Yorks	Working Hunter
1st	Sykehouse Arena, Doncaster, S Yorks	Showjumping Seniors
1st	The Seagold Centurian, Co Durham	Showjumping Juniors
2nd	High Cross EC, Nr Lutterworth, Leics	Dressage
7th	Abbey Dressage, Tewkesbury, Glos	Dressage
7th	Brook Farm TC, Stapleford Abbots, Essex	Dressage
8th	Arena UK, Grantham, Lincs	Showjumping
8th	Brook Farm TC, Stapleford Abbots, Essex	Dressage
8th	Celaeron EC, Neuaddlwyd, Ceredigion	Dressage
8th	Harrogate RS, Burnbridge, Yorkshire	Showjumping
8th	Heart of England EC, Nr Stone, Staffs	Dressage
8th	High Cross EC, Nr Lutterworth, Leics	Showjumping
8th	Laughton Manor EC, Folkingham, Lincs	Working Hunter
8th	Norton Heath EC, Blackmore, Essex	Showjumping
8th	Sykehouse Arena, Doncaster, S Yorks	Dressage
14th	Brook Farm TC, Stapleford Abbots, Essex	Showjumping
14th	Foxes Riding School, Ledsham, S Wirral	Showjumping
14th	Tall Trees Arena, Davidstow, Cornwall	Combined Training
15th	Elms Farm EC, Caythorpe, Lincs	Dressage
15th	Foxes Riding School, Ledsham, S Wirral	Combined Training
15th	Harrogate RS, Burnbridge, Yorkshire	Dressage
15th	Heart of England EC, Nr Stone, Staffs	Showing
15th	Trentvalley EC, Fiskerton, Notts	Showing
21st	Barton EC, Bilsborrow, Lancashire	Working Hunter

21st	Moorhouse EC, Doncaster, S Yorks	Showing
21st	SNEC, Oatridge, West Lothian	Showjumping
22nd	Barton EC, Bilsborrow, Lancashire	Showing In hand + Ridden
22nd	Elms Farm EC, Caythorpe, Lincs	Showjumping
22nd	Elms Farm EC, Caythorpe, Lincs	Combined Training
22nd	Hargate Arena, Hilton, Derbys	Dressage
22nd	Hargate Arena, Hilton, Derbys	Showjumping
22nd	Malthouse EC, Steventon, Oxon	Dressage
22nd	Malthouse EC, Steventon, Oxon	Combined Training
22nd	Moorhouse EC, Doncaster, S Yorks	Combined Training
22nd	Norton Heath EC, Blackmore, Essex	Dressage
26th	St Leonards EC, Launceston, Cornwall	Dressage
28th	Osbaldeston RC, Blackburn, Lancs	Combined Training
29th	Topthorn EC, Stowmarket, Suffolk	Showjumping

### JUNE

4th	Moor Farm EC, Haverfordwest, Pems	Showing
4th	Osbaldeston RC, Blackburn, Lancs	Showing
4th	Osbaldeston RC, Blackburn, Lancs	Working Hunter
5th	Arena UK, Grantham, Lincs	Showing
5th	Malthouse EC, Steventon, Oxon	Showing
5th	Malthouse EC, Steventon, Oxon	Working Hunter
5th	The Seagold Centurian, Bishop Auckland	Showjumping Seniors
5th	Hargate Arena, Hilton, Derbys	Combined Training
11th	Abbey Dressage, Tewkesbury, Glos	Showing
18th	Brook Farm, Stapleford Abbots, Essex	Showing
19th	Foxes RS, Ledsham, S Wirral	Showing
25th	Northallerton EC, Yafforth, N Yorks	Showing
26th	Inglewood EC, Penrith	Showing
26th	Norton Heath EC, Blackmore, Essex	Showing

# Jump? Dressage? Now you can do both!

No wonder combined training is so popular. It challenges horse and rider, while promoting confidence. It's good value too – and makes for a super day out with your horse or pony.

**T**aking part in show jumping and dressage at one show is a fabulous opportunity. And of course, this being Trailblazers, you'll ride your test in a proper arena and jump a professionally built course.

Trailblazers introduced combined training last year, with the first finals taking place at Stoneleigh Park this summer. Meanwhile, First and Second Rounds are taking place at Trailblazers centres all over the country (see list across).

Trailblazers combined training is sponsored by SPILLERS® and is the fourth discipline in Trailblazers national series sponsored by South Essex Insurance Brokers (SEIB).

Combined training is judged on accumulated scores from a dressage test plus a show jumping round. There are classes for ponies 148cms and under and horses over 148cms.

At each Trailblazers combined training show, a selection of the following classes will be offered:

Preliminary dressage test with show jumping up to 65cms.

A different Preliminary dressage test with show jumping up to 75cms.

Novice dressage test with show jumping up to 75cms.

'Open' class at Novice level dressage and show jumping up to 75cms.

A different Novice dressage test with show jumping up to 85cms.

Elementary dressage test with show jumping up to 85cms.

'Open' combined Training classes have no restrictions on British Dressage (BD) points or British Showjumping (BS) horse grade (including Grade A and B horses).

## You'll find combined training shows at the following centres:

Barton EC [www.bartonec.co.uk](http://www.bartonec.co.uk)

Bold Heath EC [www.boldheath.com](http://www.boldheath.com)

Conrhenny EC (no website, tel 01624 676133)

Elms Farm Equestrian  
[www.elmsfarmequestrian.com](http://www.elmsfarmequestrian.com)

Field House EC  
[www.fieldhousemarchington.co.uk](http://www.fieldhousemarchington.co.uk)

Foxes Farm & RS [www.foxesridingschool.co.uk](http://www.foxesridingschool.co.uk)

Hargate Arena [www.hargateequestrian.co.uk](http://www.hargateequestrian.co.uk)

Longwood EC [www.longwoodec.com](http://www.longwoodec.com)

Lordsbridge Arena [www.lordsbridgearena.co.uk](http://www.lordsbridgearena.co.uk)

Malthouse EC [www.malthousecentre.co.uk](http://www.malthousecentre.co.uk)

Moorhouse EC  
[www.moorhouse-equestrian.co.uk](http://www.moorhouse-equestrian.co.uk)

Osbaldeston RC [www.osbaldestonrc.co.uk](http://www.osbaldestonrc.co.uk)

Richmond EC [www.richmondec.co.uk](http://www.richmondec.co.uk)

Sykehouse Arena [www.sykehousearena.co.uk](http://www.sykehousearena.co.uk)

The College EC [www.thecollegeec.com](http://www.thecollegeec.com)

Vale View EC [www.valeviewequestrian.co.uk](http://www.valeviewequestrian.co.uk)

Tall Trees Arena [www.tall-trees.com](http://www.tall-trees.com)

West Wilts EC [www.westwilts.com](http://www.westwilts.com)

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**Centre and location:** Swallowfield Equestrian Centre, Rising Lane, Lapworth, Warwickshire, B94 6JD. Tel 01564 784475.  
Website [www.swallowfield.net](http://www.swallowfield.net)

**Who runs it?** This is a family-run business, established in 1995 and headed by managing director Jo Swain who holds an honours degree in equine studies. Jo has been involved with top level dressage for more than 20 years and has produced and competed horses up to prix st georges. She is also a renowned trainer. Swallowfield is a British Horse Society (BHS) approved livery yard, one of very few in its locality, as well as a busy and successful competition and training centre.

We take you behind the scenes at some of the 65 plus Trailblazers approved centres across the UK.

**Trailblazers for 2011:** Junior and senior dressage shows including Trailblazers Second Rounds.

**What facilities are on offer?** The wonderful indoor arena is 60m x 20m (international sized) with a Martin Collins 'Rubbertrack' surface plus full mirrors. There's an enclosed spectators' viewing gallery too. The outdoor arena is a generous 65m by 25m, while there's also a new (in 2009) Leisureride 'Trainer Pro' warm-up arena. Competitors may also use the Monarch lunge arena with Leisureride Gel surface.

**Creature comforts:** Competitors are welcome to use the centre's club house which is always warm on chilly days and has toilets and showers. This is also where scores are displayed, so it's a friendly hub of activity. An adjacent 'chuck wagon' provides hot and cold refreshments all day.

**Getting there:** Swallowfield Equestrian Centre is centrally located in the heart of England near Warwick and easily reached from the A46, M40 and M42 motorways.

**Best things about this centre:** Consistently good surfaces on which to ride, especially with the arrival of the stunning new warm-up arena. This centre also offers day stabling, handy if you don't wish to leave a horse on the lorry or trailer between classes. It also runs a really good, up-to-date website with latest news and results.

**Watch out for:** Trailblazers shows take place about once a fortnight, offering plenty of chances to qualify for Second Rounds. As this centre also offers training to all levels of horse and rider, Swallowfield competitors can make rapid progress and have lots of fun in the process.

## Jump for joy

**Centre and location:** Duckhurst Farm Show Centre, Clapper Lane, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0JW. Tel 01580 891057.  
Website [www.duckhurst.com](http://www.duckhurst.com)

**Who runs it?** Dave Jones and Sue Walker. Dave was one of the original team that launched Trailblazers and is a well-known show jumping course-designer. If you telephone Duckhurst, Julia Palmer's is the voice you will usually hear. As well as running the office, Julia is a British Showjumping (BS) judge.



**Trailblazers for 2011:** Show jumping shows are run fortnightly with the full complement of height classes for juniors and seniors. Second Rounds are on 10 April.

**What facilities are on offer?** Duckhurst has two indoor arenas, one being 80ft x 240ft and the other 75ft x 140ft. The 'smaller' arena is used as a warm-up, ensuring all shows here are completely weather-proof. There's also a livery yard and tack shop on site.

**Creature comforts:** There's a big, warm cafe that runs the entire width of the main arena with viewing possible while sitting down at the tables. A wide choice of hot and cold food and drinks are served.

**Getting there:** Duckhurst is just ten minutes from the M20, so easy to reach from the M25, M2 and across the south-east.

**Best things about this centre:** This is a very well-established centre run by a highly experienced team. Thanks to the excellent, self-contained facilities, it's also very sociable and the ideal place for a day out with your horse or pony.

**Watch out for:** Duckhurst runs 'own a pony' weeks for children with beach rides among the highlights. The centre also has a selection of graded to novice horses and ponies for sale.

## Rosettes Direct continues support



**R**osettes Direct is to continue its sponsorship of Trailblazers Showing First and Second Rounds during the 2011 competition series, backed overall by SEIB.

Competitors placed first, second or third in Showing Second Rounds, including working hunter classes, will receive special two-tier, gold edged, commemorative rosettes, courtesy of Rosettes Direct.

Some of the biggest, brightest and best prizes on the circuit are made by Rosettes Direct. As well as crease resistant rosettes with super satin ribbons, the company supplies badges, sashes, training bibs, armbands and other show sundries.

Rosettes Direct is also the preferred rosettes supplier for Trailblazers Championships. The agreement entitles approved Trailblazers centres to preferential rates for all their rosette needs.

To find out more about Rosettes Direct, visit [www.rosettesdirect.co.uk](http://www.rosettesdirect.co.uk)

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# Pfizer to sponsor Trailblazers Show Jumping Qualifiers

Pfizer Animal Health, manufacturer of the equine wormers EQUEST® and EQUEST PRAMOX®, is proud to announce the sponsorship of the Trailblazers Show Jumping Qualifiers for the 2012 Championships.

**P**aul Blanc, Equine Brand Manager at Pfizer Animal Health said: "Our equine products help to maintain the health of a whole cross-section of the horse world. We feel privileged to support such a well-established, thriving organisation that embraces so many equestrian disciplines, from grass roots to professional riders."

Norman Bargh, Chairman of Trailblazers, continued: "We are thrilled to have Pfizer on board and to be associated with the EQUEST and EQUEST PRAMOX brands. 2012 is an exciting Olympic year for the UK and is also promising to be a very exciting year for Trailblazers."

Pfizer's sponsorship of the Trailblazers Show Jumping Qualifiers is supported by the company's new **Manage, Test, Plan, Dose** worming campaign which contains important and practical messages to help ensure horses are kept in the best of health all year round. It



explains why horse owners should practice sustainable worm control and highlights the fact that a good worming protocol is about more than just worming.

It also emphasises the importance of using wormers responsibly, explaining that if they are used too frequently or unnecessarily their effectiveness in controlling parasites could be reduced (known as resistance). Through the logical themes of **Manage, Test, Plan** and **Dose**, the campaign explains which parasites need controlling and why; how to **manage** the worm challenge on the pasture; the importance of regular **tests** to assess worm burdens; how to **plan** an optimum worm control programme by assessing your horse's history

and regime and how to **dose** with the right wormer at the right time.

To find out more pick up your free EQUEST worming guide from your SQP (Suitably Qualified Person), retailer or vet or visit [www.wormingyourhorse.info](http://www.wormingyourhorse.info).

EQUEST and EQUEST PRAMOX are registered trademarks of Pfizer Ltd. EQUEST contains moxidectin and EQUEST PRAMOX contains moxidectin and praziquantel. Advice on the use of these or alternative treatments must be sought from the medicine prescriber. Further information from Pfizer Animal Health, Pfizer Ltd, Walton Oaks, Dorking Road, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 7NS



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# Age has its benefits

Many horses and ponies are in their prime in their late teens, says Isabel Harker of SPILLERS®.



**S**ixteen used to be the age at which horses were considered to be 'old'. But recent research shows that individual horses and ponies age at different rates.

Look at last year's Burghley winner, 17-year-old Lenamore. He's one of many horses that are in their prime during their late teens. At the Trailblazers Championships last year, equine ages ranged from two to 26 years old.

It's very difficult these days to guess how old a horse is just by looking at him. Loss of muscle tone, a dipped back and loss of weight are often only apparent in those in their late twenties or retired horses and ponies with other predisposing conditions.

## Do I need to feed my veteran differently?

Just as horses age at different rates, feeding requirements vary. However horses, like humans, have specific nutritional needs as they get older to help them remain active. Knowing your individual horse and looking for subtle changes in his condition and behaviour is the best way of identifying whether he requires changes to his diet.

## Issues affecting the older horse

- **Teeth:** older horses may suffer from worn or missing teeth and so cannot chew hay or haylage properly. This can lead to weight loss despite an apparently 'good' appetite. It's at this time when most owners reach for a conditioning feed. However, it's just as important to replace the forage portion of the diet with a suitable hay replacer that your horse or pony finds easy to eat. Regular dental check-ups are vital too.
- **Joints:** stiffness when coming out of the stable combined with a lack of flexion, slight dragging of



Many horses carry on competing well into their teens and twenties.

one or more feet and a general reduction in freedom of movement is a good indication that your horse may need some help in this area. Flat paddocks and regular exercise can benefit older horses with increasing stiffness. The addition of glucosamine may also provide nutritional support.

- **Energy/condition:** some active, older horses may require an increase in their calorie provision to help them maintain condition and to give them the energy they require for their work. Check how much you are feeding; often by increasing your horse's feed intake, condition can be maintained without moving to a higher calorie/energy feed. If you are already feeding the manufacturer's recommended levels, try moving to a higher energy feed such as a competition feed, where the energy is coming from fibre and oil, to help achieve safe weight gain and controlled performance.
- For further information and help in putting together a diet for your active, older horse contact the SPILLERS® Care line on 01908 226626.

# Can I insure my veteran horse?



Trailblazers' series sponsor South Essex Insurance Brokers (SEIB) answers readers' questions about insuring their older horses.

**Q.** This year my horse has turned 17, so is eligible for Trailblazers' in-hand and ridden showing classes. I can't wait to have a go as he looks fabulous! However, now that my horse is officially a veteran, do I need to review his insurance cover?

**A.** As your horse gets older, it's worth talking to your insurer as some policies will be more expensive now that he has reached 17. If your horse is insured and has been for a while, subject to claims history, the full cover should continue but may be slightly more expensive. Speak to your insurance broker as there may be a less expensive alternative.

**Q.** For what age/s of horse do insurance companies usually start imposing restrictions on cover? What do these entail?

**A.** Restrictions will be subject to claims history but some policies continue to offer full cover until the age of 25 and can be taken out up to the age of 20. Many policies become more expensive as the horse reaches 17 years of age but full cover should continue. As the horse becomes older, there's the option to change to an 'accident only' policy, which may be a cheaper alternative if you want to reduce premiums. Speak to

an insurance broker to choose your best option.

**Q.** I've never insured my horses. But I worry about the cost of vet's fees. Can I insure my fit, healthy 17 year old horse in the same way as I can my other horse who is six?

**A.** As your horse is now 17 and has never been insured, the insurance company may ask for a five stage veterinary certificate – although in some circumstances a veterinary history may suffice. You have the option to take out a policy that covers veterinary fees only for external accidental injury but an extension for emergency colic surgery is available and you could opt for a higher veterinary fee limit. The other option is a policy with full veterinary fee cover which is available up to the age of 20; this full veterinary fee insurance cover can continue until your horse is 25, subject to a satisfactory claims history.

**Q.** I'm trying to save money. What's the minimum, sensible level of cover for my 19 year old horse who still enjoys hacking, schooling and the occasional Trailblazers dressage competition?

**A.** Saving money by reducing your insurance is not always a prudent decision. However,

there are some things you could do. Increasing your excess to reduce the premium could be an option. By paying the first £250 or £500 of each and every veterinary fee claim the cost of the yearly premium could be reduced. Another option to reduce the cost is to agree to pay a percentage of each claim. You could opt to have veterinary fee insurance for external accidental injury only. This significantly reduces the annual premium, but if your horse becomes unwell in the future it could be a false economy. Don't insure for eventing and hunting if you are only hacking and competing in novice dressage competitions as you will be paying for cover you don't need. Check with your household insurer as your tack may be covered there.

If you are a full (Gold) member of the British Horse Society or World Horse Welfare (Champion Plus) there is no need to add liability to your horse and pony policy, you will already have the cover as part of your membership of these organisations. Terms & Conditions apply.

- For more insurance advice, contact SEIB on 0845 450 0632 [www.seib.co.uk](http://www.seib.co.uk)

# Show jumping

with Laura Renwick

As the 2011 season gets underway, Farnam sponsored Laura Renwick is second on the national rankings list and Britain's top lady rider. Here's Laura's very practical advice to help make a show day run smoothly.



- Train your horse at home. Don't go to the show to have a 'schooling round'. Go to win!
- Give your horse a Vetrolin bath and groom with Vetrolin Detangler the day before the show. Then, on the day itself, it's just a quick clean and possibly Vetrolin Green Spot Out to take off any stains. He will feel the special attention means he will be expected to try his hardest for you at the show.
- Pull your mane a week before, so your horse doesn't associate the procedure with going to a show. Not all horses like mane pulling, and the negative feelings may not work to your benefit.
- If it might rain, take a second set of clothes. Always look your best; you will feel better and

ride with more confidence.

- If it's warm, make sure you have a good fly spray handy. Tri-Tec 14, for instance, will keep your horse's mind on the job instead of being distracted by the pesky flies.
- Have leg wraps, bandages, rugs and a rain rug clean and ready to go, so you don't have to look for them on a show morning.
- Clean your tack, it's all part of good horsemanship. Leather New spray saddle soap makes the job easy. Take it with you to the show for a quick last minute shine. Take clean saddlepads and boots; never grind dirty pads or boots into your horse's skin.
- Dust off your boots before you go into the ring. Ladies, make sure your hair is neat and tidy,

either in a net or up under your hat. Don't risk your horse stepping on your hair should you come off; plus you won't be distracted by it flopping on your back. All the pros put their hair up or they cut it short.

- Make sure your hat's harness is done up tightly enough to keep it firmly on your head. A hat which tips forward can break your nose, restrict your vision and fail to perform correctly. Protect your head. LAS helmets are my choice.
- Gents, pin your tie down to your shirt. Don't take a chance with a tie-slide, inevitably they slip, and the tie is flying in your face, making you lose concentration, possibly just when you need it most.
- See you at the shows!



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# Turnout for dressage

A well presented dressage horse creates a good impression with the judges, says Absorbine sponsored Jo Bates. A former junior national dressage champion, Jo is also a top showing producer.



Well turned out: Jo Bates' daughter Holly Bates.

**G**ood preparation and a positive mental attitude are crucial to success. So, for instance, make sure your horse is used to working with other horses before you find yourself in the warm-up arena. Always pass riders coming in the opposite direction 'left hand to left hand.'

A positive, calm attitude should be the aim. Focus on the positives of the way the horse is going – not the negatives – and make sure it's your horse you're concentrating on. Don't get distracted!

## Turnout tips

The current trend in dressage is for plaits which stick up on the horse's neck. So called 'Anky-Plaits' help accentuate the front end and hopefully give the impression of a more uphill way of going.

Dressage horses' tails are often left full and long. Pulling the top

few inches for neatness is optional. Using a product such as Detangler gel helps keep the tail tangle free.

If your horse has white socks, make sure they are white! ShowClean shampoo is great for achieving this; while SuperShine hoof polish is what you need for sparkling hooves.

Use Absorbine SuperPoo and ShowSheen over the rest of the horse's body, before applying quarter marks, for an overall gleam. Avoid using ShowSheen, which leaves a slippery finish, on the saddle and girth areas or the reins.

Choose a bridle that fits correctly as well as suiting the horse's conformation. For example, a sturdy bridle looks good on a horse with a big head, while a fine one is better suited to horses with small, delicate heads.

For peace of mind, check the rule book (or ask the show

organisers) before a competition to ensure your tack is 'legal'. Bits can be a particular minefield. Avoid brightly coloured numnahs; most dressage riders prefer a white, square saddlecloth.

The rider should look clean and tidy. A well fitting jacket can really enhance a combination's appearance.

If you're lucky enough to have a helper at a show, ask him or her to bring a copy of the test, a brush and a sponge down to the warm-up arena. Your helper could even apply a little ShowSheen Moisturising Detangler gel around the horse's eyes and muzzle as a finishing touch.

First impressions of a calm, relaxed rider with a shiny, well turned out will be in the judge's mind as he or she gives the first mark.

# "I couldn't see myself without a horse"

In our regular series about Trailblazers members, we meet show jumping lawyer Jennifer Hillier.

**T**hey say horse people are dedicated, and Jennifer Hillier proves the point. After a 12-hour day, commuting into London to work as an international lawyer, Jennifer often rides her horse at 10pm.

Jennifer, from Cambridgeshire, qualified as a solicitor in 2009 after studying Law at Kings College, London. She works as a defendant product liability and health-and-safety lawyer for leading law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon Intl LLP.

"As we are an international law firm, much of our work involves travel and occasional late teleconferences. If a client has a product liability problem, such as a product recall, we have to pull out all the stops. For major consumer brands the problem can be global, so there's no such thing as a standard working day," said Jennifer.

Jennifer has ridden for most of her life and, despite her busy lifestyle, confesses: "I couldn't see myself without a horse." Currently filling that slot is 'Bailey', a five year old, grey, ID X TB Roan Warrior.

"He was a bay roan when I bought him [as a yearling] – hence the name – but is quickly going grey," she explained.

Bailey is kept at a BHS approved livery yard, Flying Cat Barns, on assisted livery during the week,



Picture courtesy of Horsepower Photography.

while Jennifer does him herself at weekends. No lie-ins for her!

"I try to ride most week-nights, then either compete or hack at the weekends for variety. I'm very lucky as my yard has a horse walker, regular turnout, indoor and outdoor schools and hosts John Adam's jumping clinics.

"I have to be organised, but I couldn't cope, compete or have a horse without these facilities or the staff," said Jennifer who also trains with John Thelwall.

Jennifer and Bailey have competed in Trailblazers competitions at The College EC, Lordsbridge Arena and Arena UK. Although show jumping is their 'thing', they started off in Trailblazers showing.

"I showed Bailey in-hand in youngstock classes. It was really useful to give him experience of the competition atmosphere and develop his manners," said Jennifer. The combination even ended up qualifying for the 2008 showing finals at Stoneleigh.

During the winter of 2009, Jennifer backed Bailey herself and was looking forward to his ridden career when disaster struck. Bailey contracted peritonitis and spent three weeks at the Fellowes Farm Equine Clinic.

"They did a fantastic job with his recovery," recalled Jennifer. "I didn't see him at all during this time as I was working and couldn't visit him; that was really hard."

Luckily Bailey bounced back and, after a few weeks working on the flat, Jennifer taught him to jump. "Because I'd enjoyed the showing series and liked the Trailblazers format, I introduced him to the ring via Trailblazers show jumping."

Jennifer and Bailey have since qualified for the 75cm Second Round and are aiming for the 2011 finals at Stoneleigh. "Now he is no longer terrified of fillers lurking beneath the jumps, I'll also tackle some bigger classes on him. Trailblazers has definitely given him a good, solid grounding."

- We'd love to hear your story. Tell us about your horse or pony and your competition successes. How did you get on at Second Rounds? Have you gone all the way and qualified for Stoneleigh? Please send your emails to trailblazers@beta-int.com Do send photos too, but please tell us who took them.

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