

IN BRIEF

OLYMPIA HONOURS FOR STOCKDALE

THE Tim Stockdale Foundation is to be the official charity of Olympia, the London International Horse Show this year.

The foundation, which was launched at the show in 2018, aims to raise money to support young people making their way in the three sports Tim was passionate about; riding, golf and cricket.

An Olympia spokesman said the show is "honoured" to be supporting the charity at this year's event.

The 2019 show takes place from 16-22 December.

RACING WELFARE REWARDS STAFF

RACING Staff Week has returned, with all 41 courses hosting fixtures this week (29 June-6 July) supporting Racing Welfare's initiative.

The campaign champions those working in the industry with events and activities.

The Racehorse Owners Association is sponsoring 30 yard barbecues, Careersinracing hid 15 £100 vouchers at locations across the country and the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association is hosting a photography competition with cash prizes.

The highlights are the racedays at Doncaster and Newton Abbot on 5 July, where racing staff have the chance to ride in the seven-furlong Betfair Clock Tower Cup and Betfair Racing Staff Week Cup respectively.

FEMALE JOCKEYS UNDERESTIMATED

PUNTERS consistently underestimate female jump jockeys, although facts show they are a good bet, research has indicated.

The study found a horse ridden by a woman at odds of 9/1 had the same chance of winning as one ridden by a man at 8/1.

The study, by University of Liverpool PhD student Vanessa Cashmore, involved analysing 1.6 million rides over 18 years.

At the 2019 Cheltenham Festival, 14.3% of wins came from female riders despite having only 9.2% of the available rides.

Bikers call for motorcycles and horses to share space

Working together will benefit all vulnerable user groups, whether this is on the road or on the trails we share

By CHRIS WHEAL

COUNTRYSIDE users must work together, embrace each other's needs and share our green and pleasant land, is the message from the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF).

There are about 100,000 miles of public rights of way in England and Wales alone. Walkers can use them all, riders about 20,000 miles and trail riders 6,000 miles. Instead of seeing more trails closed to motor vehicles, countryside motorcycle group the TRF wants to repair relations with fellow users, and the tracks.

TRF chair Mario Costa-Sa is also London regional access and bridleways officer for the British Horse Society (BHS) and his wife is a Pony Club district commissioner. He sees parallels between the erosion of rights for horse riders and motorcyclists.

"Horse riders need to share surfaced roads with motorised traffic to get from A to B and bikes need to share green surfaced roads with horses," he told *H&H*.

The green lanes horse and motorbike riders share are byways open to all traffic, and unclassified country roads. Mr Costa-Sa says bikers need to put horses first.

"While horses and motorbikes can both throw riders, only horses are likely to do it at the sight or sound of a motorcycle," he said.

The TRF's code of conduct is specific: "On narrow black roads or green roads, stop and switch off engines when sharing the road with ridden horses."

But the TRF goes into detail

for new members. "Slow down. If the horses are coming towards you, pull over and stop, giving them easy room to pass. Turn off your engine. Wait until they are safely past before starting your engine and moving on, being considerate with noise." When motoring behind horses, the TRF tells bikers to wait until the rider waves them through.

TRF bikers also raise cash for and put work into repairing and resurfacing green lanes. Filling potholes, draining muddy puddles and levelling ruts help all countryside users.

TRF riders also volunteer at events and hunter trials to collect judges' score sheets and photographers' memory cards.

BHS director of safety Alan Hiscox agreed riders should be able to co-exist safely with all other users of the countryside, and this can "easily be achieved by showing courtesy, patience and respect to one another".

"The BHS promotes its Dead Slow behavioural change messages to drivers not only to protect the safety of the horse and the rider but also to protect those in the vehicle," he said. "Motorcyclists are a vulnerable user group and the same safety messages apply to them, on and off the road. By slowing to a maximum of 15mph, being patient, passing wide and slow and driving slowly away, you're not only protecting the safety of others, but also your own. If all groups adhere to this, they can all safely enjoy the countryside."



Trail riders are urged to treat horses with respect

New eventing venue to replace Belton

BRITISH EVENTING (BE) is "delighted" an alternative has been found for Belton International.

Thoresby Park, Notts, is to run the March fixture from next year, with Belton organisers Bede Events at the helm.

Seven venues had applied to host the replacement, after Belton landowner the National Trust said it would not host the horse trials after this year (news, 9 May).

Bicton Arena, Frickley Park, Weston Park and Thoresby were shortlisted.

BE CEO Jude Matthews said it was a hard decision, adding: "The key focus has been to ensure the sport selected the best possible venue to deliver such an important early season international.

"All the final four could have delivered this, but we are delighted to award this fixture to Thoresby Park and the Bede team.

"We fully appreciate Bicton, Weston Park and Frickley Park will be disappointed. We and our members are incredibly lucky to

have such fabulous venues that host affiliated competition and I'd like to thank all the organisers who applied."

Thoresby Park outdoor events manager Helen Eshelby said the team was delighted to have been successful, while Bede director Stuart Buntine said: "We are thrilled to have 'Belton' back and look forward to taking it to further heights at Thoresby. We thank BE for their confidence in the Bede team and are well into planning for this great new venue." EJ