

the showing council 

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# The biggest threat to equestrianism in the western world; social licence to operate?

17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

# Welcome to the Showing Council webinar, 'will we be riding in 20 years-time?' Supported by SEIB Insurance Brokers.

Dr Jane Nixon MRCVS, will look at how it is so important that young horses are produced correctly from conception in order to safeguard their wellbeing throughout their lives. The presentation explores how a healthy, happy, well-educated horse helps promote equestrianism in a positive way to all concerned.

The importance of public perception of equestrian activities and the social licence to operate is a key discussion point in the future of horse riding and its socially accepted standards and norms amongst both stakeholders and the general public.

We will be conducting a simple poll asking attitudes of the webinar audience at the beginning of the event and after Dr Nixon's presentation. Following the presentation there will be a question-and-answer session with several leading industry figures.

## Timetable for The Showing Council webinar, 'will we be riding in 20 years-time' supported by SEIB Insurance Brokers.

<b>18:57</b>	The webinar will open. A welcome screen will be up for attendees once logged in.
<b>19:00</b>	Welcome and introduction from Jane Domhill, Vice Chair of The Showing Council.
<b>19:08</b>	A short presentation on webinar controls for chat, Q & A and polls by Lucy Hyde-Thomson of Business Integrations
<b>19:10</b>	Pre-presentation poll
<b>19:10</b>	Presentation by Jane Nixon
<b>19:55</b>	Thanks to Jane Nixon and post-presentation poll
<b>19:55</b>	Q&A session begins
<b>20:40</b>	Wind up and thanks

Please ensure you have completed the pre-webinar registration form to log in by clicking this link link:

[REGISTER HERE >](#)

# We welcome to the panel:



## **Kezia Allen**, Research scientist, trustee and secretary of the British Horse Foundation

Kezia is a research scientist working in a busy NHS teaching hospital, having initially gained an undergraduate degree in Equine Science at Writtle College. Being a keen equestrian, a rider, owner and breeder, Kezia has kept abreast of new research in equine husbandry, with a focus on research that is aimed at the average horse owner. Kezia bred her first foal in 2020 and this has opened up a new sphere of the equestrian industry. Kezia takes an active part in promoting and advancing the strategy of the British Horse Foundation.



## **Elizabeth Beckerlegge**, Chartered Physiotherapist at Riding for Rehab

Elizabeth is a Chartered Physiotherapist, who has worked in the NHS, the charitable sector and in private practice. Elizabeth has spent her life with horses. Elizabeth has completed medico legal training, making her the UK's only expert witness as a physiotherapist in Hippotherapy. She is currently chair of Chartered Physiotherapists in Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy (CPTRH) and has given presentations at home and abroad on the use of the horse in the lives of people with a disability.



## **Dr Jane Hastie nee Nixon**, MRCVS, MA VET MB BSc

Jane is a very experienced, dedicated equine vet with 44 years' experience. Her lifetime interest is equine development and horse welfare, with specialism in young sports horse development and performance. This path of knowledge has resulted in Jane holding chairmanships of numerous prestigious equestrian bodies and today she is Veterinary Adviser to British Breeding, Consultant Vet to the Society of Master Saddlers, Trustee and Chair of the British Horse Foundation, and is the current Chair of the Showing Council.



## **Sally Iggulden**, Chief Executive Officer at Beverley Racecourse

Sally took up the position of Chief Executive at Beverley Racecourse in 2000, having previously worked for the Racecourse Association based at Ascot Racecourse. In 2003, Sally became one of the founders and original Board members of Racing TV. Sally is also a Director of the National Horseracing College, a responsive centre of training excellence within the north, identifying, encouraging and nurturing talent, particularly within young people. Sally is also a avid showing enthusiast and former HOYS winner.



## **Roly Owers**, MA MSc VetMB MRCVS, Chief Executive of World Horse Welfare

Roly is a qualified veterinary surgeon and has been Chief Executive of the charity World Horse Welfare since 2008. He graduated from Cambridge University in 1992 and acquired his Masters degree in Nutrition from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1997. His previous veterinary roles included the Blue Cross and Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

Roly plays an active role in much of World Horse Welfare's work supporting the horse-human partnership, and as a Director of the British Horse Council he regularly liaises on policy with Defra, the devolved administrations and Ministers. He also advises the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) and the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) on horse Welfare.

Roly is currently Treasurer of the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), Chairman of the UK Equine Disease Coalition, a Director of the British Horse Council, a Board member of the European Horse Network, Chair of the International Coalition for Animal Welfare and Treasurer of the World Federation for Animals.

# A word from our sponsors



**SEIB are delighted to be able to support The Showing Council and Dr Jane Nixon with this very important webinar and open discussion.**

The results and comments from our simple poll have shown so many different views regarding the future of horse riding and I thank everyone who took the time to comment. For those of us that own and ride horses, rarely is it a hobby but a life choice that takes everything including your heart and soul! For those that are not involved with horses, it may appear an elitist sport that inflicts harm and undue pressure on a beautiful animal. This view does not take into account that horses have been domesticated for centuries to be ridden and cared for by humans and most enjoy the interaction and in fact the opportunity to get out and about with a rider. Whether that be just hacking around the countryside or Olympic sport.

Many breeds of horse NEED humans to care for them as required by most domesticated dogs. What is unacceptable and is tainting the picture is the public abuse as seen at the Olympics in the Pentathlon and various other times that unfit horses have either been ridden badly or beaten to get a result. Everyone agrees this is unacceptable but we do not believe this is everyday horse ownership. SEIB insure thousands of horses with owners that give up so much to care for their animals, who fight to keep them alive and comfortable when they are not well. Bad riding must be addressed, so those that do not understand horse ownership see riding as a positive and not a negative experience for all involved.

Dr Jane Nixon within this webinar, that SEIB are proud to support, describes in detail why correct breeding and early training of any horse or pony is a must, if horses are going to continue through life in harmony and without discomfort. If this academic advice is implemented now, there is a hope that in 20 years' time we will not still be having this debate, horses will continue to be ridden including in competition and the beauty of a well ridden and carefully produced animal is celebrated by the population and not dismissed by so many as unacceptable and harmful.

As horses are domesticated, their welfare must always be our top priority but if they are not ridden would that be to their advantage? We hope you find this webinar enlightening and that we can all work together to ensure horses have a bright future with their human partners.

**Nicolina Mackenzie**

SEIB Insurance Brokers

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Thank you Hannah Horton, SEIB Brand Ambassador for the photography

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