



British
Horse
Foundation

*"Advancing equine breeding,
lifelong wellbeing and
performance through research,
education and collaboration"*

Better Beginnings


Better Beginnings 3:

GETTING IT RIGHT FROM CONCEPTION

13th OCTOBER 2026

KINDLY HOSTED BY:



WEATHERBYS

Welcome to BB3 from our Chairs



A message from Yogi Breisner and Jan Birch, Co-Chairs of the BHF.

Welcome to the BHF's third conference; it promises to be an inspirational day, championing 'Better Beginnings' for sustainable performance and wellbeing.

Every equestrian medal begins with a covering and a pregnant mare producing a foal. This is our focus - evidence-based best-practice for this crucial early stage for our future equestrian stars, be they Olympic gold medalists or grassroots legends.

Today's sessions will be enhanced by insights from you, our invited expert audience, before being disseminated as open-access learning materials on our new Knowledge Hub, supporting development across the industry.

This is all made possible with the generous donations from our sponsors who are also here to join the proceedings today.

Thank you all for your support!

Yogi Breisner & Jan Birch

Many thanks from the whole of the BHF to Weatherbys for their continued support.

We would like to thank Weatherbys for their generosity in hosting our conference today in these wonderful facilities, and for providing refreshments, catering, videography and printing services. As a charity we would not be able to present our conference without your support - thank you very much indeed!



WEATHERBYS

TIME	SPEAKER/s	PRESENTATION
9:30	Meet and Coffee	
10:00	Yogi Breisner MBE. & Dr Jan Birch, BHF	Welcome
10:10	SESSION 1 : The Importance of Temperament	
	Michael Bishop, RDA	Should we breed for temperament?
	Dr Amy Holtby, ARU Writtle	Commercial Genomics for temperament and performance characteristics of youngstock
	<i>Experts Insights</i>	
10:55	SESSION 2 : The Foundations of a Healthy Foal: Start well - Thrive Well	
	Dr. Jan Birch, BHF Co-Chair, Hon. Senior Fellow Liverpool Vet school	Raising a Foal Starts Before Birth
	Emma Short, Baileys Horse Feeds	Optimising Nutritional Status
	Ass. Prof. Brad Hill, Nottingham University Vet school	Optimising weaning for long term benefits for the foal
	<i>Experts Insights</i>	
11:50	SESSION 3 : Genetic Diversity and Profiling	
	Dr. Andy Dell, Nottingham Trent	Should we be worried about genetic diversity?
	Dr. Tullis Matson, Gemini Genetics	Advances in Breeding Technologies
	<i>Experts Insights</i>	
12:40	Lunch and Networking	
13:40	SESSION 4 : Spotlight on Promoting Lifelong Soundness	
	Sarah Stoneham, MRCVS Liverpool Vet school	Breeding and Managing Youngstock for soundness.
	Dr. Russell McKeachie-Guire, Centaur Biomechanics	Gait Screening of the Foal to promote Long-term Well-being.
	Ben Benson, Master Farrier	How can Early Farriery Help?
	<i>Experts Insights</i>	
14:35	SESSION 5 : Getting to the Guts of it!	
	Prof. Chris Proudman, University of Surrey School of Vet Med.	No Guts, No Glory
	Prof. Susanne Shultz, University of Manchester.	Diagnostics for Gut Inflammation in Foals and Youngsters
	Claire Shand, Westgate Labs.	Diagnostics for Re-emergence of Large Redworms
15:10	Comfort break	
15:25	SESSION 6 : Big Data and Closing Thoughts	
	Alfonso Ferrandez, Equiyd.	Big Data Collection for Life-long Wellbeing
	<i>Panel Discussion hosted by Richard Davison, Yogi Breisner and Roly Owers</i>	
16:15	Dr. Jan Birch, BHF	Thank-you's and conference close
16:20	Afternoon tea and Networking	
17:00	Event Close	

SESSION 1

The Importance of Temperament

Should we breed for Temperament?

Michael Bishop

CEO RDA

ABSTRACT

Every year, RDA brings around 37,000 disabled people together with horses. We see daily how this relationship can improve health and wellbeing, build confidence and independence, support learning, create social connections and open new opportunities. But I am often asked: "Why the horse?"

Our experience gives us a powerful answer. Horses don't judge or define us. They see us for who we are, helping us see ourselves in the same way. The social value of horses reaches far beyond traditional sport and should make us consider how our sector remains relevant to a changing society.

RDA offers a particular perspective on what makes a great horse. Conformation, movement and temperament matter, but tolerance, confidence and adaptability enable horses to work with diverse people and enjoy long, useful careers. Leisure, grassroots and equine-assisted activities such as RDA are a huge part of equestrianism. They deserve well-bred horses suited to their purpose, not a 'second-hand' market. We should breed horses that can adapt throughout their careers. Perhaps we should think about our horses in the same way.



SPEAKER BIO



Michael joined RDA as Chief Executive in 2024, bringing experience across the private, voluntary and public sectors. His passion for horses began in childhood in London, where he helped at local stables in exchange for rides. This sparked his understanding of horses' positive impact on wellbeing, health and confidence. At RDA, he works to widen access, particularly for people with diverse needs and fewer opportunities. An amateur event rider, Michael previously led strategy at Historic England and now holds trustee and leadership roles across youth, racing and equine-assisted services.



SESSION 1

The Importance of Temperament

How can commercial genomics help identify likely temperament and performance of young-stock and improve their lifelong well-being?

Dr Amy Holtby

ARU WRITTLE

SPEAKER BIO

Dr Amy Holtby is a Senior Lecturer and equine research scientist at ARU, specialising in genomics, performance, health and welfare. Following her PhD from University College Dublin in 2021, she has worked across academic and commercial research, including genomic investigations, digital product development and laboratory innovation. Her research explores genetic influences on equine behaviour and welfare. In 2023, her paper investigating stress responses in Thoroughbred yearlings ranked among the top 10 most-viewed papers in Animal Genetics.



What is Equiyd?

Equiyd is a smart ecosystem combining horse management, records, intelligent phone sensors and telemetry. Using machine learning, it learns your horse's normal movement baseline to help you understand your horse more, and in the wider context of the rest of your horse's record.

SESSION 2

*The Foundation of a Healthy Foal:
Start well -Thrive well*

Raising a Foal Starts Before Birth:

How maternal stress and management impacts the foal.

Dr. Jan Birch

*BHF, Hon. Senior Fellow, Liverpool
Vet School*

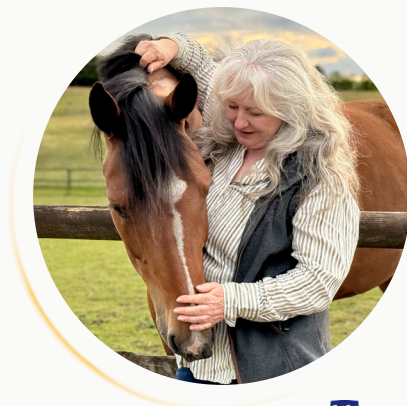
ABSTRACT

The broodmare influences her foal beyond her genetic contribution, with maternal management affecting birthweight, temperament, metabolism, immune function and athletic ability.

During conception, pregnancy and the neonatal period, factors including maternal nutrition, stress, uterine environment, exercise and environmental temperature can influence long-term health and wellbeing. This developmental programming, or DOHaD, describes persistent changes in organ and tissue function caused by conditions experienced during sensitive developmental stages. These factors affect foetal growth not by changing DNA, but by altering how genes are regulated.

The uterine environment influences development through physical size and placental efficiency, while maternal nutrition affects nutrient availability. Maternal stress is also important: elevated cortisol can alter glucose and lipid metabolism, dysregulate the foal's stress response, increase fear and reduce exploration, potentially affecting temperament. Stress may also reduce colostrum production and alter maternal behaviour, with consequences for immunity and long-term behaviour.

Understanding these influences highlights the importance of appropriate maternal management in supporting healthy development and lifelong foal wellbeing.



SPEAKER BIO

Dr. Jan Birch holds a PhD in Veterinary Physiology, graduating from the University of Cambridge as an Animal Health Trust scholar, with research focused on reproduction, lactation, metabolic stress and growth.

Her academic career has spanned 40 years including teaching, supervision, industry-linked research and knowledge transfer dissemination in animal and equine sciences.

Jan also has extensive experience in the charities sector having held senior management and consultant posts with responsibilities for partnership building, project development, grant writing and funding strategies for numerous collaborations between industry, the charitable sector and academia.



SESSION 2 KINDLY
SPONSORED BY:

SESSION 2

*The Foundation of a Healthy Foal:
Start well -Thrive well*



How to optimise nutritional status during pregnancy, lactation and for the foal.

Emma Short

Baileys Horse Feeds

SPEAKER BIO

Emma graduated from Writtle College in 2002 with a BSc (Hons) in Equine Science. With over 23 years' experience in equine nutrition, she provides tailored dietary advice to riders, performance yards, breeders and veterinary practices.

Her expertise includes clinical cases and large establishments.

Emma contributes to equine publications, supports industry teams and delivers training, webinars and lectures to professionals and horse owners.



SPECIALIST STUD FEED SOLUTIONS

Friendly, practical nutrition advice

Tel: 01371 850 247 nutrition@baileyshorsefeeds.co.uk



SESSION 2

*The Foundation of a Healthy Foal:
Start well - Thrive well*

SESSION 2 KINDLY
SPONSORED BY:



How to optimise weaning for long-term benefits for the foal.

Ass. Prof. Brad Hill

Nottingham University Vet School



SPEAKER BIO

Brad is an equine vet who has spent most of his career in first opinion practice before joining the equine teaching team at Nottingham Vet School. During his time in practice, he realised the importance of mental flexibility and developed an interest in equine behaviour coupled with horse handling and restraint. In addition, he has mentored many new graduates and this

interest in preparing the next generation of vet students for modern day

equine practice is a passion of his. As the LGBTQIA + Champion for the Vet School as part of a social minority group, I wish to explore further the stereotypical identity vets, endeavouring to keep the profession inclusive and diverse.

News:

A Brief Update from the BHF

01 Our New Website

We are delighted to announce that the BHF have just launched our new website. It has been designed to enhance access to our learning materials for multiple audiences and to allow us to have a powerful platform to share our research-led and evidence-based best practice.

We are especially grateful to the Elise Pilkington Trust who have made this possible with their generous educational grant funding to the BHF. This grant will allow us to disseminate our learning materials across wide audiences for many years to come.

**Elise Pilkington
Charitable Trust**

02 The BHF Knowledge Hub

This new website platform has allowed us to develop our new BHF Knowledge Hub which is designed to host numerous disseminations, live webinars and podcasts and provide powerful topic, speaker and event search capabilities geared to meet the needs of our specific audiences and membership groups.

We are grateful for the Sport England funding we have received via the BEF to help fund the set-up, BEF member body dissemination and evaluation of the Knowledge Hub. It is really important to us that these crucial early years' messages are shared across all disciplines and the support from the BEF has been instrumental in facilitating this objective.



KONEKTT

We are also enormously proud to announce our partnership with KONEKTT which will provide the BHF with ongoing support for our 'Knowledge Hub', helping bring research-led, evidence-based welfare and management advice to yards across the UK. KONEKTT is a data-driven platform built to raise standards in equine care, who, like the BHF, believe good decisions start with good evidence. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to putting that evidence directly into the hands of the people caring for horses every day.

SESSION 3

Genetic Diversity and Profiling

Should we be worried about genetic diversity?

Dr. Andy Dell

Nottingham Trent University

ABSTRACT

Genetic diversity is essential to equine welfare, fertility, performance and breed sustainability. Allelic diversity supports adaptation, health and protection from inherited disorders. Once rare alleles disappear, they cannot be recovered.

Genetic drift, homozygosity and inbreeding erode diversity, eliminating rare variants. Closed studbooks, limited founder populations and popular-sire effects intensify these pressures, creating bottlenecks and increasing kinship. Evidence from rare breeds, Thoroughbreds and sport horses shows rising inbreeding, low effective population sizes and inherited disorders. The OMIA database lists 287 equine inherited traits, including 142 single-gene conditions and 59 with known causal mutations, most deleterious.

This session offers strategies: widening sire lines, managing inbreeding, avoiding over-used stallions and using Mean Kinship to prioritise valuable horses. Tools such as SPARKS support decisions while keeping breeders in control. Proactive management supports healthier, more resilient horses for future generations.



SPEAKER BIO



Dr Andy Dell is a conservation biologist from Kendal, Cumbria, a lifelong horseman and Cleveland Bay breeder. A former Council Member, Trustee and Honorary Life Member of the Cleveland Bay Horse Society, he has played a significant role in safeguarding the breed's future. Andy developed SPARKS, a pioneering breed-management system adapted from zoo conservation science to reduce inbreeding and protect genetic diversity. Now serving on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's Expert Advisory Panel, he has received national recognition for his conservation work. He completed his doctorate on Cleveland Bay genetics at the University of Lincoln in 2010 and is a Visiting Fellow at Nottingham Trent University. His current research includes collaboration with the TBA and Weatherbys on Thoroughbred inbreeding, alongside several peer-reviewed publications.



GEMINIGENETICS

SESSION 3

Genetic Diversity and Profiling

Advances in Breeding Technologies - the potential and ethics of genetic profiling.

Dr Tullis Matson

Gemini Genetics

SPEAKER BIO

For over 30 years, Tullis has specialised in stallion reproductive technologies and semen freezing. He founded Stallion AI Services in 2000, Gemini Genetics in 2018 and Elite Kennel Fertility in 2019. In 2020, he established Nature's SAFE, a living biobank preserving cells from endangered species. This innovation earned Stallion AI Services the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2022. In recognition of his considerable contributions to the field, Tullis has recently been awarded an honorary doctorate. Outside of work Tullis is an avid skydiver having completed over 2000 skydives!



TRY A HORSE

Pre-purchase equine assessments, saving buyers hours and miles.

Finding Your Perfect Horse Professionally

“ I think 'Try a Horse' is a great idea. There is nothing worse than driving hours to see a completely unsuitable horse or pony. Knowing an expert has assessed it first will give buyers the confidence to know the journey is more likely to be worthwhile. ”

Pippa Funnell

Three time Olympic medallist, double European champion and the first rider to win the Rolex Grand Slam of Eventing



TRANSFORMING HORSE SALES

EFFICIENT | IMPARTIAL | NATIONWIDE

WWW.TRYAHORSE.CO.UK



SESSION 4

Spotlight on Promoting Lifelong Soundness

How can we plan for best practice?

Breeding and management to optimise healthy musculoskeletal development and sustainable soundness - applying the latest research findings

Sarah Stoneham MRCVS

Liverpool Vet School

ABSTRACT

Recent research highlights how environmental and management factors influence foal musculoskeletal development, future performance, and the risk of injury and disease. Applying these findings to youngstock management can help improve welfare and long-term soundness.

Early assessment and monitoring of limb conformation during rapid growth allows timely identification and management of congenital and acquired flexural and angular limb deformities. Understanding key musculoskeletal developmental milestones, combined with collaboration between vets and farriers, maximises opportunities for successful correction and supports healthy development.

Management strategies should also consider the importance of turnout, movement and play during critical windows of developmental plasticity. Appropriate, age-related exercise during these periods can help strengthen and condition the musculoskeletal system, preparing young horses for future athletic performance. Understanding how environment, exercise and management interact during growth provides an important opportunity to support welfare, reduce injury risk and promote lifelong soundness.



SPEAKER BIO



Sarah began her career in ambulatory equine practice before joining Rosdadales, where over 20 years she developed expertise in foal medicine, perinatology and preventive stud-farm care. She established the hospital's Foal Care Unit and subsequently worked in Thoroughbred and sport-horse stud practice, followed by four years as a veterinary nutritionist at TopSpec Equine. Now a consultant and academic at the University of Liverpool, Sarah teaches postgraduate equine veterinary programmes. Her clinical research and publications focus on foal health, neonatal care, broodmare nutrition and colic.



SESSION 4 KINDLY
SPONSORED BY:

SESSION 4 KINDLY
SPONSORED BY:



SPEAKER BIO

Russell MacKechnie-Guire holds a PhD in Equine Biomechanics from the Royal Veterinary College and is Associate Professor in Equine Biomechanics at Hartpury University. Founder of Centaur Biomechanics, he researches horse-saddle-rider interaction, spinal kinematics, rider asymmetry and rehabilitation. Russell advises Team GBR's World Class programme and Scientific Advisory Group, and contributes to international research and equestrian welfare initiatives. A BHSI coach and Pilates instructor, he also competes in dressage and show jumping.



SESSION 4

Spotlight on Promoting Lifelong Soundness

Can gait screening of the foal help promote long-term wellbeing?

Dr. Russell MacKechnie-Guire

CENTAUR BIOMECHANICS

ABSTRACT

This presentation explores the development of asymmetry and movement in foals, and how early gait screening may help identify factors that could influence long-term wellbeing.

The talk will consider the potential relationship between birth trauma and asymmetry, alongside the development of laterality through natural behaviours such as grazing. It will explore how motor control develops during the early stages of life and how these patterns of movement and asymmetry may change as the foal matures.

Finally, the presentation will consider the potential for tracking asymmetry from foalhood through to adulthood, and whether early identification of movement patterns could provide useful opportunities to support long-term musculoskeletal health and performance.

SESSION 4

Spotlight on Promoting Lifelong Soundness



How can early farriery help?

Ben Benson

Master Farrier

SPEAKER BIO

Ben began his farriery apprenticeship in 1999 and qualified in 2003, developing a specialism in remedial and performance shoeing. He has supported horses at Olympic, World, European and Asian Games level, including the London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympics, and was Team Farrier for Sweden at Paris 2024. An AWCF and former Master Farrier, Ben also delivers farriery education internationally.



SESSION 5

Getting to the Guts of it!

No Guts, No Glory: How gut bacteria might influence racehorse success

SPEAKER BIO

Chris Proudman has worked in equine veterinary science for 38 years. Formerly Head of the new Vet School at the University of Surrey, he currently leads the Horse Microbiome Research Group which is delivering a portfolio of racehorse and equine health research projects. His current research focus is understanding the role of the microbiome in racehorse health and disease. Chris has worked extensively with the UK racing industry as a racecourse veterinary surgeon and a former member of the HBLB Veterinary Advisory Committee. He is currently a member of the Aintree Racecourse Committee and Jockey Club Racecourses' Horse Welfare Group.

Prof. Chris Proudman

University of Surrey School of Veterinary Medicine

ABSTRACT

There is growing evidence that early-life gut bacteria influence future health and disease resistance. This presentation explores faecal bacterial communities in foals bred for racing, examining associations between early-life microbial profiles, later health outcomes and athletic performance.

We used gene sequencing to profile faecal bacteria in 52 foals during their first year, alongside weekly health monitoring. Lower bacterial diversity at 28 days was significantly associated with increased risk of respiratory disease later in life. Specific bacterial families during the first month were also associated with subsequent respiratory and soft-tissue disease. Greater microbial diversity at one month was positively associated with measures of athletic performance. Antimicrobial treatment during the first month was associated with increased respiratory disease risk and poorer racing performance.

Conclusion: Our findings highlight the potential importance of early-life gut microbial communities in predicting future health and racing performance. Although the study cannot establish causality, these associations support further investigation into how early-life gut health may influence lifelong outcomes.



Lifetime cover that moves with your horse - even when they change homes.

- ✓ No upper age limit
- ✓ Free vet video calls
- ✓ Up to £10,000 towards vet bills every year*



*Up to £10,000 of cover available with our Equine Lifetime Plus policy. Vet fees cover is reinstated each year, providing you renew your policy each year without a break in cover. Policy transferable provided there is no break in cover. Agria will re-quote for the policy based on the new owner's details. Territorial limits apply. Trustpilot rating correct at time of print. Terms, conditions and excesses apply. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Please visit agriapet.co.uk for more details.



SESSION 5

Getting to the Guts of it!



How new diagnostics can identify gut inflammation and risk in young foals and youngsters?

Prof. Susanne Shultz

University of Manchester

SPEAKER BIO



Susanne is Professor at the University of Manchester, following a Royal Society Fellowship at Oxford and a PhD from Liverpool. Her research explores how animals respond to environmental and social challenges, including through biomarkers developed by university spin-out AlvuSana. She has published over 120 papers across more than 20 species and works with the IUCN Equid Specialist Group. Her passion for equine gut health stems from her competitive equestrian background.



Using diagnostics to identify the potential re-emergence of large redworms and managing risk in the age of resistance.

Claire Shand

Westgate Labs

SPEAKER BIO



Claire Shand is Marketing Director and SQP at Westgate Labs, an award-winning veterinary laboratory specialising in equine parasite control. Since 1999, Westgate has supported horse owners, vets and professionals to use diagnostic testing for targeted worming and to slow resistance to medicines. In 2025, it became the UK's first laboratory to offer large redworm

culturing commercially. Claire bridges science and practice, translating complex information into practical guidance. Passionate about sustainability, she leads CANTER's Communications Subgroup, serves on its Steering Group and was named Equine SQP of the Year in 2023.



SESSION 6

Big Data and Closing Thoughts



How big data collection can improve life-long well-being and performance?

Prof. Alfonso Ferrandez

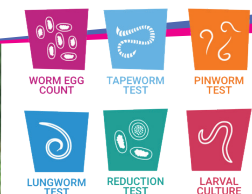
EQUIYD

SPEAKER BIO

Dr Alfonso Ferrandez is co-founder and CTO of EquiYD, combining wearable sensors, movement analysis and machine learning to advance equine welfare and performance. Formerly the first CTO in Formula 1, he has held senior technical roles across multiple sectors and advises organisations internationally on AI adoption. A non-rider who came to horses through his daughter, Alfonso founded EquiYD to bring F1-level data and analytical rigour to the horse-and-rider partnership.


Westgate Laboratories
 POSTAL WORM COUNTS & TESTS

 tests you can trust to
 target parasite control

 Award winning
 support & advice

 Worm egg counts, EquiSal
 tapeworm tests, pinworm,
 lungworm and reduction tests,
 large strongyle larval culturing.

 Season packs, subscriptions,
 discounts for multiple horses,
 commercial rates for yards of
 +10 and +30 horses.

Worm egg count every 8-12 weeks, tapeworm test every 6 months, larval culture annually.

01670 791994 | info@westgatelabs.co.uk | www.westgatelabs.co.uk

Better Beginnings 3:

Getting it Right from Conception

Conference host

Richard Davison

Richard is a four-time Olympian and a World and European team medallist. He is a former British World Class Dressage Performance Manager and for more than fifteen years was a coach to UK Sport's World Class Development Show Jumping Program.

He has been a member of numerous FEI and national governing body working groups and is a trustee of World Horse Welfare. He is a Fellow of the British Horse Society, a Fellow of the International Dressage Trainers Club and was awarded a Doctorate of Science (Hons) from Nottingham Trent University.

He runs a dressage and show jumping stable together with his family and has produced home bred horses to international standard in both disciplines although as Richard points out 'only on a very small scale'.



Expert Panel hosts



Pippa Funnell

Pippa Funnell MBE is a three-time Olympic medallist and one of eventing's most accomplished riders. She was the first to win the Rolex Grand Slam and is a multiple European champion, renowned for producing young horses and promoting equestrian sport.



Yogi Breisner

Yogi Breisner MBE FBHS is an Olympic coach and former British Eventing World Class Performance Manager. He has led British teams to Olympic and European medals and now supports Sweden's elite equestrian performance programme.



Roly Owens

Roly Owens is Chief Executive of World Horse Welfare and a qualified veterinary surgeon. He leads the charity's work to improve equine welfare worldwide and chairs the Equine Disease Coalition. He was awarded an OBE in 2023 for services to equine welfare.

Expert Insights

Panel members

"The Importance of Temperament"

SESSION 1



Mick Fitzgerald
BHF Patron



Dr. Ben Mayes
MRCVS ABRS+ Trustee



Charlotte Verdon
Try a Horse

"The Foundations of a Healthy Foal: Start Well - Thrive Well"

SESSION 2



James Crowhurst
MRCVS Vet Advisor TBA



Rebecca Keating
MRCVS BHF Trustee



Rebecca Mouncey
MRCVS

"Genetic Diversity and Profiling"

SESSION 3



William Fox-Pitt
MBE



Lydia Hislop
Journalist and Racing Broadcaster



William Funnell
BHF Patron

"Promoting Lifelong Soundness"

SESSION 4



Pippa Funnell
MBE, BHF Patron



Dr Amy Holtby
Senior Lecturer, Writtle



Alexandra Gilliam
Agria Equine

"Closing Thoughts"

SESSION 6

Michael Bishop

Rebecca Mouncey

Dr Andy Dell

Sarah Stoneham

Prof. Chris Proudman

Prof. Alfonso Ferrandez

Dr. Russell McKechnie-Guire

Emma Short

Dr. Amy Holtby

Dr. Ben Mayes

Claire Shand

Ass. Prof. Brad Hill

Charlotte Verdon

British Horse Foundation

Meet the Team

PRESIDENT

Dr Jane Hastie MRCVS

Dr Jane V. M. Hastie nee Nixon, BSc, MA, VetMB, MRCVS, is an experienced equine veterinary surgeon with a longstanding commitment to horse welfare, breeding and showing. As President, she champions collaboration, sound horsemanship, and the British Horse Foundation's mission.



PATRONS



Pippa Funnell MBE

International Event Rider,
Olympic Medallist and
Winner of Rolex Grand Slam



William Funnell

Olympic coach and elite
equestrian performance
specialist



Mick Fitzgerald

Grand National-winning
jockey and respected racing
broadcaster



Prof. Sidney Ricketts FRCVS

Equine veterinary specialist
and leading researcher in
horse health

CO-CHAIRS



Dr. Jan Birch

Hon. Senior Fellow,
Liverpool University
School of Veterinary Science



Yogi Breisner

Olympic coach and elite
equestrian performance
specialist



Edward Matson

Managing Partner
Twemlows Stud Farm

VICE CHAIR



Simon Cooper

TREASURER Director, The General
Studbook



Marian Eydmann

SECRETARY



Richard Davison FBHS

Four-time Olympian



Rebecca Keating MRCVS

Resident Stud Vet
Twemlows Stud Farm



Ben Benson

Master Farrier



Alice Holborow

Equine and Partnerships Manager
Agria Pet Insurance

HONORARY OFFICERS



Amber Milliken

Hon. Website Development Officer



Evie Berg

Hon. Membership Development Officer



Dr. Emily Birch

Hon. Communications and Digital Design
Officer



Erin O'Toole

Hon. Conference and Dissemination
Officer



Sophie Oliver

Hon. Social Media Officer



Celia Clarke

Conference Advisor

ATTENDEE DIRECTORY

Nina Barbour	Managing Director, Bolesworth Estate
Donal Barnwell	Billy Stud
Fred Barrelet MRCVS	Beaufort Cottage Education Trust
Karen Bartlett	Horse Trials Support Group
Ben Benson	BHF Trustee, Master Farrier
Evie Berg	BHF, Hon. Memberships Officer
Dr Jan Birch	BHF Co-Chair, Hon. Senior Fellow Liverpool Uni School of Vet Science
Dr Emily Birch	BHF, Hon. Comms and Digital Design Officer
Michael Bishop	CEO, Riding for the Disabled Association
Victoria Borland	Hurlingham Polo Association
Rebecca Boulert	World Horse Welfare
Yogi Breisner MBE	BHF Co-Chair
Canon Dr. Lydia Brown MRCVS	Prime Warden Worshipful Company of Farriers
Jane Buchan	Baileys Horse Feeds
Sam Bullard	Darley Stallion Director
Victoria Chapple	Hurlingham Polo Association
Anne Clarke	The Association of British Riding Schools
Charlotte Colley	Agria
Simon Cooper	BHF Treasurer, Director Weatherbys
Tom Craig	Stallion AI Guest
Georgie Critchley MRCVS	Brown Moss Equine Clinic
Georgina Crossman	National Equine Forum
James Crowhurst MRCVS	Thoroughbred Breeders' Association
Richard Davison FBHS	BHF Trustee
Dr Andy Dell	Nottingham Trent University
Jane Domhill	British Equestrian Federation
Marian Eydmann	BHF Secretary
Caroline Farr	Anglia Ruskin University (Writtle)
Prof Alfonso Ferrandez	CTO, EquiYd
Mick Fitzgerald	BHF Patron
Steph Flanigan	Anglia Ruskin University (Writtle)
William Fox-Pitt	International Event Rider
William Funnell	BHF Patron, Billy Stud
Pippa Funnell MBE	BHF Patron, Billy Stud
Alexandra Gilliam	Agria
Dr Jane Hastie (Née Nixon) MRCVS	BHF President
Ass. Prof. Brad Hill MRCVS	Nottingham University School of Veterinary Medicine
Lydia Hislop	British Horseracing Authority
Kristy Hodgson	Westgate Labs
Jane Holderness-Roddam CBE	British Eventing
Katy Holder-Vale	British Hanoverian Society & WBFSH
Dr Amy Holtby	Anglia Ruskin University (Writtle)

Lucy Hyde-Thompson
Liz Inman
Dr Jess Irving
Annabel Jenks
Rebecca Keating MRCVS
Michelle Lea
David Lea
Dr Ben Mayes MRCVS
Ass. Prof. Russell McKechnie-Guire
Amber Milliken
David Montford MRCVS
Lindsay Moore
Richard Moore
Catherine Morgan
Rebecca Mouncey MRCVS
Victoria Murrell
Linda Nguyenova
Natalie O'Rourke MBE
Erin O'Toole
Sophie Oliver
Roly Owers MRCVS
David Pagden PLY
Justine Parker
Hugo Phillips
Alice Plunkett
Professor Chris Proudman MRCVS
Prof Sidney Rickets FRCVS
Jan Rogers
Claire Shand
Emma Short
Prof Susanne Shultz
Dr. Laura Skippen MRCVS
Gemma Stanford
Lauren Stanley
Sarah Stoneham MRCVS
Ruth Tarry
Emma Tomlinson MRCVS
Charlotte Verdon
Guy Verdon
Emily Willard
Prof Jane Williams
Dr Joanna Winfield FBHS

Business Integrations
Showing Council
AlvuSana
Stallion AI Guest
BHF Trustee, Senior Stud Vet, Twemlows
EquiYd
EquiYd
ABRS+ Trustee.
Ass. Prof. in Equine Biomechanics, Hartpury University
BHF Hon. Website Officer
British Equine Veterinary Association
Digital Designer, Ten Seven
Webdesigner, Ten Seven
Howden Insurance
HBLB Post-Doc Research Fellow, Royal Veterinary College
The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association
Konekt
Park Lane Stables, Riding for the Disabled Association
BHF Hon. Conference and Dissemination Officer
BHF Hon. Social Media Officer
CEO, World Horse Welfare
BEF, Participations Officer
Training Co-ordinator, The Howden Way
EquiYd
ITV Racing
University of Surrey School of Veterinary Medicine
BHF Patron
Equitraction CIC
Westgate Labs
Baileys Horse Feeds
Alvusana and University of Manchester
Global Head of Animal Health and Welfare, Brooke
British Horse Society.
Racing2Learn
Liverpool University School of Veterinary Science
Elise Pilkington Trust
Tomlinson Equine
Try a Horse
Cowdray Polo Academy
British Dressage
BE Welfare Board, Hartpury University
Director, Equine Access Ltd, and Principle Lecturer, Hartpury University



Better Beginnings

*"Advancing equine breeding and welfare through
research, education and collaboration"*



British
Horse
Foundation

The British Horse Foundation is registered in the UK, Charity number: 1003290
Address: Overton Fields, Towcester Road, Maids Moreton, BUCKINGHAM MK18 1RE
www.britishhorsefoundation.org.uk