

We Would Like to Take This Opportunity to Wish All Our Clients a Very Successful and Happy New Year

Our New Year's resolution for 2008 is to continue to meet all your equine veterinary requirements, ranging from the most reasonably priced vaccination to complex colic surgery.

Within our practice we offer the complete range of state-of-the-art veterinary facilities and expertise, so that we can solve as many of your equine problems as possible in the New Year. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact any of the vets or our reception staff on 01622 813700.

We hope that 2008 will be a GOOD NEW YEAR for all!

BELL EQUINE VET CLINIC

Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5GS

For **hospital appointments**, please phone Linda Loines on 01622 816032 or 01622 813700

For **account queries**, please contact Pat Oram on 01622 816033 or 01622 816036

For **general enquiries** Tel: 01622 813700



From left to right: David Sinclair, Richard Jones, Julian Samuelson, Karen Coumbe and Tim Mair

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Dr Tim Mair MRCVS**, who leads the hospital service at Bell Equine and is well known to everyone - he was universally recognised as the face hiding behind the 50th birthday balloon in our last newsletter! Now Tim needs to be congratulated again on his appointment as visiting Professor at the **Royal Veterinary College (RVC)**.

This does NOT mean Tim is moving to London, but it is formal recognition of the link the practice has forged with the RVC near Hatfield, which will benefit you and your horses. We are already sharing equipment and expertise with the RVC and this will increase further in 2008, when we will have students from there staying with us on a weekly basis.



Tim Mair

Richard Jones's retirement from the partnership

Bell Equine was proud to host a wonderful evening with William Fox-Pitt in aid of the Heart of Kent Hospice. This memorable event was to mark the retirement of Richard Jones MRCVS (pictured above) from the partnership.

We are most grateful to William for bringing his horses and providing a fascinating demonstration and to the local West Kent Meopham Pony Club who also presented an excellent dressage display.



We would also like to thank everybody who came and generously donated to the hospice of which Richard Jones is now the Chairman. The evening raised in excess of £20,000 for the hospice. If any one wants to contribute further to this very worthy cause, please contact the hospice www.hokh.co.uk Tel: 01622 790195. ■

NEW BUILDING



Partners Julian Samuelson and David Sinclair at the building site

Those of you who have visited **Bell Equine** recently will have noticed the JCBs are back. We are in the process of expanding our on site accommodation and office space, plus upgrading our operating facilities to make it even better for your horses and also improving our reception area to make it more comfortable for you. Once it is all done we will hold an open day to show everyone - put 21st June 2008 in your diary.

MEETINGS

Every year we invite farriers and other vets from the area to an evening of lectures and discussion on equine foot problems. Recently we welcomed over 50 local farriers and vets to listen to Dr Parks MRCVS from the University of Georgia, USA, who gave a thought provoking presentation about the anatomy of the horse's foot using amazing computer graphics. Jim Ferrie FWCF, the farrier from Glasgow vet school, then gave a very informative talk on foot balance and much animated discussion followed. This meeting was sponsored by the Malcolm Yates memorial fund and we are very grateful to our local farriers for this generous contribution.

In November we held a similar meeting for local vets and equine dental technicians (EDTs) where up-to-date equine dentistry techniques were explained by Prof Paddy Dixon FRCVS from the University of Edinburgh. As a practice we are increasingly involved in equine dental procedures. Sometimes this includes providing sedation for horses for procedures carried out by EDTs. Vets can be put in a difficult

situation as there are currently no legal definitions of the procedures that EDTs are allowed to undertake and it is not always easy to know what is best for the horse undergoing dental treatment. Our meeting, led by a world expert on equine dentistry, allowed the vets and EDTs to discuss the best approach for you and your horses. The decision was made that sedation should be performed by our vets for properly qualified EDTs only. (See www.bellequine.co.uk for more details). Also, to improve our service to our clients, their horses and the EDTs involved, we would like to introduce a booking procedure for cases that require us to provide sedation. This allows us to make better use of our time when providing such services and therefore reduce the cost to our clients. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact our vet **Rob Pascoe MRCVS**, who is qualified both as an equine vet and an equine dental technician and is therefore well placed to advise you on equine dentistry.



Rob Pascoe

VETERAN HEALTH REVIEWS

We were thrilled to have an audience of over 100 for our autumn meeting on **Regular Veteran Reviews**. This is the **health plan** we have designed to help look after our older horse and pony patients. If you wish to enrol your veteran, please contact either of the vets running this scheme, **Jane Lindop MRCVS** and **Karen Coumbe MRCVS** for more information. The current introductory fee is £60 for a full health review, including two worm egg counts and a detailed report on your older horse.

NEXT MEETING

We will be holding an evening of lectures for yard owners by our vets at Hadlow College on 29th January 2008. The plan is to consider common veterinary problems starting with infectious diseases, such as strangles. Speakers will include **Tim Mair MRCVS** and **Edd Knowles MRCVS**. If you would like to attend this meeting or would like further information, please contact our secretaries Joy Anderson and Jan Henderson on **01622 816034**.

ACCOUNTS AND COMPUTER SYSTEM

We are delighted to report that our new computer system has been fully functional for several months now and so far, so good! It has allowed us to provide you with a better service with a computerised diary together with readily accessible records. This means we can immediately access all the information about any horse under our care, stretching back over more than ten years where relevant!

DISCOUNTS

We are also pleased to inform clients that the **prompt payment discount scheme** continues unchanged. All clients will continue to be entitled to a 10% discount, if payment is made at the point of service i.e. at the time of a visit, out-patient appointment or at the discharge of a hospital in-patient. Clients, who choose not to take this discount will be entitled to a 5% discount on the net fees, if payment is made within 15 days of receipt of the invoice. We can take payments in person or over the phone, and accept cash, cheques, credit and debit cards. Please call our accounts department direct on **01622 816033** between 9am and 4pm (Monday-Friday).

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