



News Bulletin – Christmas Round-Up 2011



Welcome to the 2nd Edition of the British Horse Industry Confederation (BHIC) bulletin which contains news updates from across the sector.

We hope this provides an insight into our activities since September. Please do feel free to use this copy of our bulletin for your own magazines, newsletters and websites. More information can be found on the BHIC's website here: www.bhic.co.uk.

With 2012 fast approaching the Olympics is on all of our minds and we are already looking forward to the fabulous equestrian events that will take place at Greenwich Park.

Please contact us if you have any queries or questions.

Best wishes,
Jan Rogers, Chair

BHIC News:

BHIC Meeting

BHIC members recently met at the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association in Newmarket, Suffolk. The meeting focused on the transport of animals and considered the European Commission's report ([Regulation \(EC\) No. 1/2005](#)) which concluded that protection during transportation has improved but more still needs to be done.

A review and update of the BHIC Strategy for the Horse Industry (2005) will be carried out in conjunction with appropriate bodies and in line with information communicated from the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England.

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE)

In October, Agriculture Minister Jim Paice, announced the formation of the new Animal Health and Welfare Board for England. The Board will work with Defra and other Departments when necessary, to develop the Government's strategic Animal Health and Welfare policy in England.

We are thrilled that ex-BHIC Chair, Tim Morris was chosen to sit on the AHWBE (Board members are listed here <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/10/28/animal-health-and-welfare-board-members/>)

The Groups first meeting was held on the 8th November 2011. Issues discussed included how the Board would tackle the development of an Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for England. It was apparent that early engagement with stakeholders would be critical in preparing this strategy. A link to the minutes of the meeting can be found here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahwbe/files/ahwbe-note-111108.pdf>

The British Horseracing Authority review

As you will be aware the British Horseracing Authority's review into the use of the whip created controversy. The Rules are now working which means the industry can refocus on building a strong sector moving forward.

Defra Appoints New Minister Lord Taylor of Holbeach

Lord Taylor of Holbeach has been appointed Minister with Responsibility for Welfare Issues at Defra. Since 2010 Lord Taylor has been Government spokesperson for several Departments including Energy and Climate Change, Cabinet Office, and Work and Pensions. Pre-election he was the Defra Spokesperson in the Lords for two years. He is well acquainted with the sector, running his family farm in Holbeach.

He was Chairman of the National Conservative Convention from 2000 to 2003, and in 1992 was created a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for political service.

New BHIC Website

We are currently working on getting the BHIC website redesigned. The new site will improve communications across the equine community, raise the profile of the industry, and provide a means for people to get in touch with the BHIC directly.

The new website will be easier to update and will provide a speedy interface with social networking opportunities through Facebook and Twitter. It will be a key means of communicating information from the BHIC and the newly established Animal Health and Welfare Board for England.

Follow us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/British-Horse-Industry-Confederation/124125734298643> and Twitter @BHICinfo

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the Horse

The APPG for the Horse meeting on the 5th December 2011 the following items were discussed 1) Whip Rules 2) Olympic Legacy 3) Tim Morris' appointment to the Animal Health and Welfare Board 4) The World Horse Welfare Conference.

1. Whip Rules

Tim Morris outlined the Whip Review and the results which have been achieved since the implementation of new Rules.

- The new Rules have signalled a 'significant and continual fall' in penalties
- Cases which illustrated excessive use have fallen by half
- There have been no 'combined' penalties which Tim believed to illustrate a much more measured and considered use of the whip by jockeys
- Excessive usage is declining which is prompted by the beginning of a 'cultural change' that the BHA hopes the new restrictions will bring

2. The Equestrian Events of the London 2012 Olympics

Tim Hadaway is The London 2012 Organising Committee's Sport Competition Manager for equestrian events at the Olympics and Paralympic Games. Tim outlined his vision for the equestrian events during the games and also of the progress which had made.

There had been some concern from locals in terms of how much of Greenwich Park would no longer be accessible due to the games, especially around the cross-country event. However, Mr Hadaway informed the APPG that the majority of the park would be open six days after the events had finished.

Due to the archaeological importance of the site it was not possible to dig to level it out. This had meant that an innovative approach had to be used – this came in the form of putting the arena 'on stilts'. This 2.5m platform had to be approved by authorities as it had to be deemed safe to compete on.

During the test event there had been some concern over the surface used as it was said to 'run too loose'. This was put down to the fact that it was only 'made-up' six days before the test event took place. Later, Mr Hadaway admitted that this had been a matter of some concern to him. However, they have taken steps to remedy it and are expecting it to be signed off by the end of the year.

Mr Hadway outlined that the 200 temporary stables which would be constructed would be done so in an 'American barn system'. This was due to their temporary nature which meant that they would not be state-of-the-art. This new system would be a mix of a traditional eventing set-up, and that of a more permanent nature. The stables are being developed by a UK company.

In the case of an injury to a horse, the officials would use the Royal Veterinary College and also the Newmarket Equine Hospital, which was regarded as one of the best, if not the best, in the world.

Mr Hadaway then reverted to the debate over using areas such as Windsor. To strengthen his argument he cited the ability to use existing facilities, like Queens House, which would play a significant role in housing the media during the event. Other facilities like Devonport House would provide plush accommodation to over 200 grooms. This accommodation would also fulfil the requirement of being only 300m from the stables.

3. Tim Morris' appointment (AHWBE) please see above

4. World Horse Welfare Conference

Director of Communications at World Horse Welfare, Jessica Stark gave a brief outline of the recent conference. The general consensus of the conference was that the state of horse welfare is currently good. However there will always be a focus on the negative.

The conference was deemed a success and Jessica made specific reference to efforts made by Enos Mafokate, the first South African black show jumper, who outlined his struggle in apartheid South Africa. Since then there have been initiatives to bring show jumping to 700 disabled and able-bodied children in Soweto.

The next meetings of the APPG for the horse will be held on:

- 6th March 2012
- 26th June 2012
- 4th December 2012

Contact the BHIC:

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