

Draft Meeting Notes of the meeting held on 13 June 2018

Defra, Nobel House, London

Attendees

Chairman – Animal Health & Welfare Board for England	Michael Seals
The Horse Trust	Jeanette Allen
The Horse Trust	Jan Rogers
The Horse Trust	Carolyn Madgwick
Animal Health & Welfare Board for England	Tim Morris
ABTC	Donna Skinsley
Animal Welfare Foundation	Ben Mayes
826 Equine Studbooks Association	Celia Clarke
826 Equine Studbooks Association	Natalie Meredith
BEF	Nick Fellows
BETA	Claire Williams
BEVA	David Mountford
BHA	David Sykes
BHA	Amanda Piggot
BHS	Emmeline Hannelly
Blue Cross	Rosie Mogford
Bodmin Moorland Pony Rehabilitation	Shelley Oldfield
British Dressage	Di Harvey
Bransby Horses	Emma Carter
Bransby Horses	Ryan Rouse
BTRC	Gillian Carlisle
BTRC	Gordon Sidlow
Caspian Horse Society	Ruth Staines
Defra	Simon Waterfield
Defra	Tristan Crago
Defra	Martin Jenkins
Defra	Eleanor Glendenning
Donkey Sanctuary	Dr Joe Collins
Equine Register	Stewart Everett
Equine Register	Mark Ellison
Exmoor Pony Society	Sandra Mansell
Farriers Registration Council	David Greenwood
Horse Welfare Collaborative	Andrea Florey
Horse Welfare Collaborative	Kathy Anderson
NEWC Secretariat	Wendy Minor
Pet Connection	Donna Skinsley
Retraining of Racehorses	Brig Paul Jepson
RSPCA	Mark Kennedy

Society of Master Saddlers	Chris Taylor
Thoroughbred Breeders Association	Claire Sheppard
Thoroughbred Breeders Association	Caroline Turnbull
Weatherbys	Simon Cooper
We Hear the Horses Whisper	Julie Miles
We Hear the Horses Whisper	Helen Soame
World Horse Welfare	Roly Owers
World Horse Welfare	Jessica Stark
World Horse Welfare	Kim Ayling
Apologies	
BHS (Scotland)	Helene Mauchlen
Donkey Breed Society	Carol Morse
Defra	Rebeca Garcia
Defra	Alastair George
Highland Pony Society	Susie Robertson
Hurlingham Polo Assoc.	David Morley
Kent Police	Dave Smith
Talland School of Equitation	Brian Hutton
RSPCA	David Bowles
Hanoverian Horse Society	Kate Eaton
ABRS	Brian Robinson

1 Chairman’s Welcome and Introductions

Interim Chairman Michael Seals welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Defra for hosting.

2 Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by all present with no matters arising.

3 British Horse Council Update (Slide Presentation Annex 1)

JA introduced everyone present to the first full meeting of the BHC and explained who on the Council covered the sub sectors:-

- David Sykes – Racing
- Claire Sheppard – Breeding
- Jeanette Allen – Research
- Claire Williams – Trade
- Roly Owers – Welfare
- David Mountford – Veterinary
- Lynn Petersen – Riding and Education
- Jan Rogers - Sport
- Vacancy - Enforcement

JA outlined the purpose and aims of the group:-

- Consensus within the group in order to present to the Government. If there is no agreement then there is no whole-sector view.
- Exist to find solutions to challenges
- A grouping of organisations seeking to achieve collective solutions rather than promote individual campaigns

DM thanked JA for all her input with this.

DM explained that, thus far, all the legal, administrative, and meeting costs had been split between the organisations which employ the Board members of the BHC. He asked whether any parties were opposed, in principle, to sharing future BHC costs more widely across the industry representatives. The principle was accepted with the proviso that contributions would reflect the size of each organisation.

JA added that participating organisations are supporting their representatives to attend the BHC meetings.

Consultations (RO):

- Growing number of consultations and calls for evidence from government – only likely to increase with EU Exit and devolved administrations each consulting on same issues (e.g. Equine ID).
- Recent/on-going consultations/calls for evidence include CCTV in Scottish slaughterhouses consultation, Welsh Equine ID consultation, Call for Evidence on controls for live animal export for slaughter and consultation on the powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments.
- Please notify NEWC if you become aware of any relevant consultations and let us know if you would like to lead and/or take part in the drafting of a consultation response. As with the whole aim of the British Horse Council, individual organisations are always free to respond to any consultation, but wherever possible we will seek to generate greater impact through speaking with one voice.

GDPR (JR) – BHC has produced a data privacy policy which sets out that it will keep names, emails, company names and phone numbers only and how we will look after this data and the rights of the data subject. It will only be used to communicate with people on BHC business and that BHC has a close working relationship with NEWC over administration of the meetings. The privacy policy will be on our website when we have one, or available on request. Everyone was asked to opt in to the retention of their data on this basis and all those present consented.

- 4 Central Equine Database:** SE reported that on 8 March CED went live and with 1.2 million records. There are 81 PIO's registered with 68 active online – 3 PIOs have still not submitted their data to be entered on the database. 32% of the records are signed out of the food chain and many contain inaccurate or out of date information. 47% of records are microchipped and many chip numbers have not been reported to the relevant PIO. 50,000 are recorded as dead. Currently there are hundreds of searches each day. Many PIO's are not GDPR compliant. If any member requires any additions, please let CED know as not all of this functionality has been promoted yet. JM from We Hear the Horses Whisper added that no PIO has been asked to contact all their passport holders to update their details. MJ replied that Defra need to know this.

5 Equine ID/Code of Practice:

TC Head of Equine reported on The Equine Identification (England) Regulations 2018

This SI is in the final drafting stage and will come into force 1st October 2018. There will be a period of grace for two years for retrospective microchipping. Consultation response has been good with 230 responses and all views have been listened to and many suggestions incorporated. The key point to note is the inclusion of civil sanctions for local authorities and ability for them to recover their costs associated with this :-

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/761/contents/made>

NDB added that change of ownership needs to be made easier along with informing the PIO of death and microchip updates. Equines in derogated areas are currently not on the CED. MJ confirmed that Defra are working on the details with Equine Register.

RO highlighted the importance of undertaking a sector wide campaign to promote the importance of an effective equine ID system and the benefits of equine passports to horse owners (e.g. wider availability of medicines, repatriating a lost equine etc.)

JA thanked TC for getting this through the Treasury. TC thanked those on the Council for their input and help.

6 Behavioural Insights and Biosecurity (RO)

- **Disease Coalition Survey**

Following on from the update to the December meeting, the Equine Disease Coalition have continued to work with the Behavioural Insights (BI) team (who partner with the Cabinet Office) and a workshop was held in Scotland in May (similar to the workshop in London in September).

Currently undertaking a baseline survey, under the guidance of the BI team, exploring barriers to behaviour change.

Next step is to hold Focus Groups led by the BI team (Redwings, BHS and World Horse Welfare kindly providing funding) – from which a pilot study will be run trialling a specific behaviour change.

NEWC office to recirculate survey.

- **Stamp out Strangles (LC)**

Redwings will be preparing an online Strangles Hub as the next part of their Campaign. This will include practical advice such as an Isolation Notice, check list and video of 'How To ...', as well as a Yard Agreement for screening and outbreak management template. The Campaign is to not only raise awareness but encourage openness and mobilise horse owners to work together. A Yard Manager and private owner pledge stamp is being developed and most importantly the Strangles Information Pack is being peer reviewed. LC thanked all those who have already reviewed. Livery List has joined Redwings in support and look forward to being ready in time for this next stage this Autumn.

7 BEVA Update (DM)

- **Vaccine Initiative**

DM described the benefits to the national herd of wide adoption of equine influenza vaccination. He commended the Pony Club for their new initiative which will ensure vaccination amongst its members' horses and ponies.

DM also noted a joint initiative with the Animal Health Trust to attempt to harmonize the rules surrounding equine influenza vaccination protocols.

- **Retrospective Microchipping – how vet practices will support owners**

DM explained that the equine identification legislation requiring "universal microchipping" would be introduced over a two year period (2018-2020) to allow the procedure to be undertaken as part of a routine annual vaccination veterinary visit. He indicated that BEVA would be encouraging vets to arrange "microchipping events" at equine premises to allow the visit costs to be spread between owners.

8 Trade Update (CW) There is a move away from health to broader trade and issues impacting on horse care and feeding.

Hat and BP – Hat standard EN1384 still in limbo awaiting harmonisation. No progress.

BP, now published as EN13158 with harmonisation expected in the autumn. 2009 version will

continue to be accepted for at least another 5 years with production ceasing by April 2019. New garments expected in the autumn though same in performance terms.

Bedding price rises due to raw material increases expected- demand exceeds supply in the timber market so this will lead to price increases across the board. All bedding will however likely see an increase due to the long hard winter impacting on crop plantings and yields which are expected to be lower this year. Increased competition from Bio mass plants will also see an increased demand on timber sources.

Feed too is likely to see pricing increases.

This reflects pressure on raw material supplies on several fronts.

Wheat and oat straw as fibre sources are under pressure both in terms of supply due to poor growing conditions at the start of the season and delays in planting, as well as the bio mass plant demand impacting here too.

In addition key vitamins have seen substantial price increases as a result of a fire at BASF in Germany late last year. BASF produces vitamins and carotenoids. **Citral**, the key output from that facility, is a precursor for a number of products including vitamins A and E. The scale of the impact is unprecedented as around 40-45% of the global vitamin A feed grade market uses Citral from this plant. While the plant is back in production the shortages this has created for these vitamins has driven up prices with vitamin A and E prices up over 12- and 5- fold respectively since last year.

At the same time China currently produces more than 70% of the world's vitamin supplies and is facing changes in its environmental regulations. The Chinese government has published annual emission reduction targets of 20%. Enforced through strict legislation, and with high costs of compliance, this has led to many factory shut-downs, affecting the supply of vitamins from this region.

Consequently, prices for vitamin D have increased 5 fold; and B vitamins 3 fold. Prices for Vitamins K, pantothenic acid, choline and biotin have more than doubled.

There is no doubt that manufacturers using these ingredients are working hard to identify ways to mitigate the price increases and to ensure continuity of supply. However, the size of the increase is likely to mean that manufacturers will have to pass some of it on to the customer and increase prices to some extent.

National equestrian survey – the major report undertaken every 4 – 5years is in initial stages of preparation. The substantive research will start in the Autumn in a 3 stage process with members being sought for the online research panel which will be used in stages 2 and 3. This delivers us key figures used in lobbying government including the number of riders (and horses) with the checking point being the CED and the value of the industry to the national economy.

Unapproved additive use –

BETA works on keeping members up to date with changes in Legislation or enforcement body priorities, as well as working alongside both legislators and enforcement bodies when it appears products are being placed onto the market which does not follow the requirements current legislation demands.

Areas for attention recently:

FSA National Enforcement Policies 2018-19 for England and Wales. One priority is Verification of the presence and accuracy of feed labelling particulars, which have the potential to compromise human and/or animal health.

Within this they are paying particular attention to feed business operators selling feed and supplements by distance selling. Looking at ensuring companies are appropriately registered and/or approved and are providing mandatory labelling particulars as required by Article 11(3)

of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 on the placing on the market and use of feeds; Also checking claims are accurate, instructions for use are appropriate and that the labelling doesn't mislead the user.

Use of non-approved additives in equine feed: Other parts of the policies that set the agenda for enforcement priorities have shone a light on the use of unapproved additives. All additives used in animal feed must be authorised for use in each species in line with Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition. Several years ago we highlighted to members that L-Glutamine, used by some companies, was not an approved additive.

Currently we have an issue in the market with un-approved live bacterial preparations being marketed as probiotics within some horse feeds. We are working with the FSA and enforcement bodies and are making members aware of this, although fortunately in this instance few if any BETA members are actually making use of these.

An additive is a substance, micro-organism or preparation, other than feed material and premixes, which are intentionally added to feed or water in order to perform, in particular, one or more of the functions mentioned in Article 5 of the Additives Regulations (R. 1831). Feed additives are classified for labelling purposes into the following categories:

- Technological additives (e.g. preservatives, antioxidants, emulsifiers, stabilising agents, acidity regulators, silage additives)
- Sensory additives (e.g. flavours, colourants)
- Nutritional additives (e.g. vitamins, minerals, amino-acids, trace elements)
- Zoo technical additives (e.g. digestibility enhancers, gut flora stabilizers)
- Coccidiostats and histomonostats

9 National Equine Health Survey Summary (RM)

Fewer returns this year, we lost over 15% at the GDPR pages stage.

Total of 5526 people completed the survey with 13636 horses per reported condition; The stats are coming up as approximately:-

Lameness (Foot and Non Foot) ~3,500

Skin Conditions ~3300

Respiratory Problems ~900

Eye Problems ~800

External Parasites 770

The data has been cleansed and has now gone to RVC for verification. The final authorised information will be published by October, so these numbers are a guide only and not for publishing. Horse Trust will be taking this on for 2019 and will keep the group informed of the proposed developments.

10 Racing Update (DS)

- **The Cheltenham Festival review.** The BHA with outside expertise from RSPCA, World Horse Welfare have been looking at the circumstances surrounding fatalities at both the 2018 Festival meeting and compared it with previous festival meetings and Cheltenham race meetings. This report is due out late July.
- **A whip assessment** was also mentioned as part of that review, including the determination of appropriate penalties and deterrence for major race meetings and festival activities.
- **HBLB funding for research,** education and disease surveillance was discussed, in

particular a working veterinary group has been set up through the Racing Authority to prioritise operational structures and the selection processes for these research activities that benefit all equine disciplines.

11 EU Exit Focus

High Health Horse Status Proposal (CS)

Europe's Thoroughbred breeding and racing industries and equestrian sports sector have been working in cooperation to find a solution to ensure the continued movement of these horses with a proven high health status, once the UK leaves the EU and the current Tripartite Agreement, which has underpinned these movements for the last 40+ years, will no longer apply.

We are currently finalising a submission to the European Commission for the next meeting of its expert group in early July, which is complementary to the existing EU Tripartite Agreement and the International Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) High Health, High Performance (HHP) status. This aims to establish a third category of High Health Horse (HHH) status in the EU Animal Health Law, which comes into effect in April 2021 and is currently being drafted.

The proposed HHH status would be available both within the EU and between third countries to ensure trade, breeding and competition, and would be open to any such categories of breeding and competition horse that demonstrably meet the higher standards of health and welfare that allow expedited movement.

It would involve Official Veterinarian and Official Control oversight of this sector of horses, and disease surveillance, as it does now, to meet national Competent Authority's requirements and for the EU more widely.

This proposal is in the final stages of drafting, and is being endorsed by the European and International Thoroughbred and Equestrian sporting sectors.

TM added that Defra's work on EU Exit in relation to equines is to focus on ensuring that all scenarios are understood and there are contingency plans to address all of these, especially around equine movement.