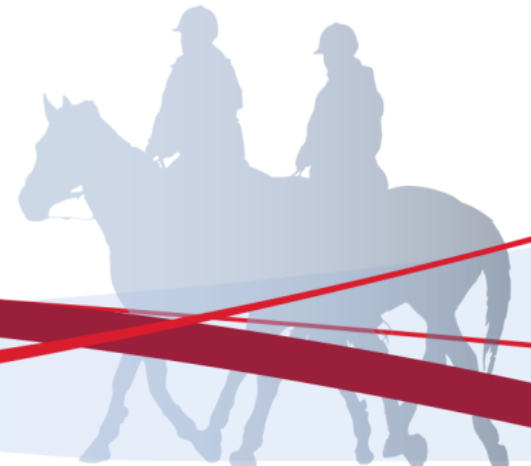


British Horse Council Meeting

Friday, 24 June 2022

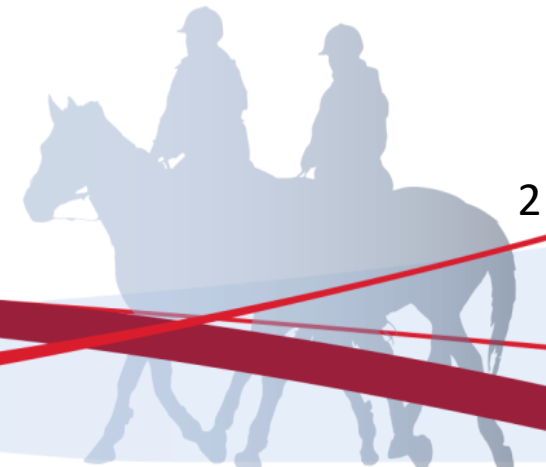
Leisure and Recreation Update



Riding Schools

Riding Schools continue to report that they remain busy with a high demand for riding lessons, with many holding a waiting list. However:

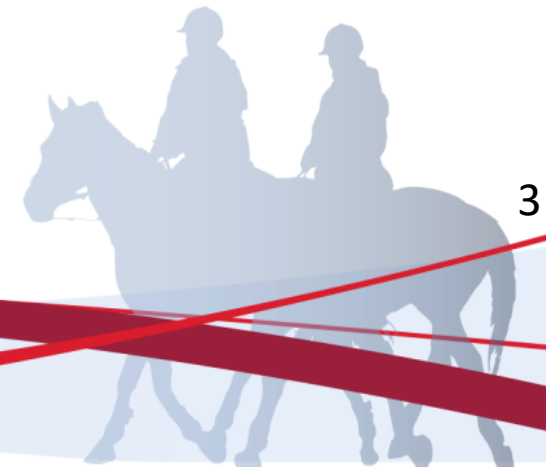
- Riding Schools are operating at 75% capacity (BEF barriers to participation survey)
 - Challenges recruiting employees with up to 53% of advertised roles remaining unfilled (BHS workforce survey)
 - Lack of qualified employees remaining within the riding school industry, particularly coaches
 - The British Horse Society Career Transition Fund - supporting the cost of training and BHS Assessments
 - Availability of horses and ponies. High purchase price and horses being purchased unseen



Shows & Events

Shows and events have returned in abundance now that Covid restrictions have been removed. However, levels of participation appear to vary greatly:

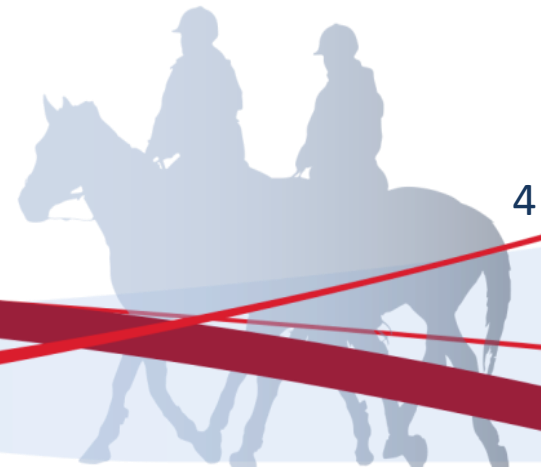
- Many shows and events have returned to the calendar however competitors are favouring the most popular leaving some undersubscribed and therefore cancelling
- Competitors stating the cost of diesel as the biggest barrier rather than cost of feed, bedding or cost of living.
 - Attending fewer events
 - Travelling less distance and less frequently
 - Attendance at non-horse events e.g., demos and talks is strong
 - Online events remain popular during the winter months and now a regular feature



Recreational Horse Owners

Recreational horse owners are supported through a number of BHS initiatives:

- Horse Health Days focusing on equine weight management, biosecurity and horse care.
 - So far this year 937 horses and their owners have been supported through this initiative
- Stablemates, a new initiative focusing on helping owners/carers to build & maintain a strong partnership with their horse. Topics include horse behaviour, rider fitness, rider size, horse health and fitness, tack fit, rider capability and 'right horse for the job'
- Healthcare Clinics, targeted at welfare hotspots, providing support with weight management, ID, castration, dentistry and worming
 - 207 horses supported so far this year with four further clinics planned for the autumn
 - 1631 horses and ponies have attended this programme to date



Thank you!

