

# National Equine Forum

26th Annual Meeting

Programme

Thursday 8th  
March 2018

*held at*  
The Institution of  
Mechanical Engineers  
1 Birdcage Walk,  
Westminster



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# National Equine Forum 2017





## Aim and Objectives of the National Equine Forum

### AIM:

**To host** an annual assembly of individuals who reflect every area of the equestrian industry, to hear presentations from experts on diverse and topical aspects of the industry and allow them to share their views.

### OBJECTIVES:

**To address** and debate matters that could impact on the equestrian industry, including policy changes, scientific developments and cultural initiatives and bring them to the attention of key decision makers.

**To provide** a platform for the exchange of opinions, concerns and ideas on all matters relating to the equestrian industry.

**To encourage** and assist the equestrian industry to take greater responsibility and continuously improve standards, by providing access to the latest information and research.

**To enable** members of the equestrian industry to communicate with each other and advance subjects of mutual interest.

**To promote** the Forum, in an evolutionary manner, into an international arena in order to highlight the excellence of the British equestrian industry, its market for exports and as a vehicle to enhance our influence on the world stage.

## Support to the Forum

**G K Crossman  
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### Tim Brigstocke

Tim Brigstocke has been Chairman of the NEF since taking over from Prof Sir Colin Spedding in 2012. He has spent his whole career in agriculture having worked in agribusiness, the Government's research service and run the largest cattle breed society in the world.

Since 1999 he has run his own consultancy company specialising in expert witness work. He is involved with a whole host of organisations in the land based sector including being Chairman of the Royal Agricultural University's School of Agriculture, Food and Environment Advisory Board and Chairing the UK Government's Farm Animal Genetic Resources expert advisory committee.



*Tim Brigstocke*

### Lord Gardiner

Lord Gardiner was reappointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity on 9 January 2018. Prior to this he served from July 2016 to January 2018. He is a Conservative member of the House of Lords and his lead responsibilities include animal health and welfare, biosecurity, plant and tree health, commercial projects, climate change adaptation and rural affairs, rural life opportunities, broadband and mobile.

Lord Gardiner served as Lord in Waiting from September 2012 to May 2015, and as Government Deputy Chief Whip and Captain of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard from May 2015 until July 2016. He was raised to the Peerage in 2010 and served as a party whip until being appointed to government. He served as Private Secretary to 5 successive Chairmen of the Conservative Party between 1989 and 1995.

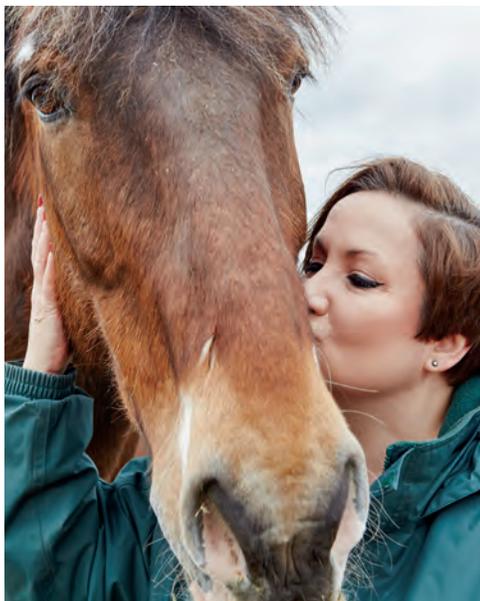


*Lord Gardiner*

## Jeanette Allen

Jeanette is a Chartered Director and Fellow of the Institute of Directors, who began her career in the commercial sector, setting up and running her own successful recruitment business. After the sale of the business she moved to the charity sector as a fundraiser for the NSPCC and later Bart's Hospital before becoming the CEO of The MedicAlert Foundation.

Jeanette became the CEO of the Horse Trust in 2010 where their work ranges from running their Home of Rest for retired service horses to running first responder and diploma level training programmes and being the second largest funder of equine veterinary research in the UK. She currently chairs the Equine Sector Council Steering Group, shortly to become the British Horse Council, working with Defra on key areas of concern across the equine sector. Jeanette is also a member of The Worshipful Company of Farriers.



*Jeanette Allen*

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## Lynn Petersen

Lynn's international career spans senior management with TIME Magazine Europe, Kraft General Foods Worldwide, Women's Tennis Association and Burson-Marsteller Europe. Moving into the charity sector, Lynn was a Director for The Outward Bound Trust before her appointment as CEO of The British Horse Society. In 2010 she took a sabbatical to run a school in Ethiopia for the Swiss charity Rainbows for Children.

Lynn continues to move the BHS into the future, both as an ambassador, raising awareness of the work of the charity at events and with organisations across the world; and as Chief Executive, supporting, inspiring and encouraging the BHS team and volunteers across the UK.

Lynn has been Chair of the British Horse Industry Confederation for the past year and has been working with members of the BHIC and the Equine Sector Council Steering Group to establish a single voice to speak for the equine industry.



*Lynn Petersen*

### Stewart Everett

Stewart founded Equine Register in 2012, and has led the business to not only become a leader in equine registration, identification and intelligence services, but DEFRA's partner in delivering and managing the Central Equine Database (CED).

Equine Register has been working across the industry to develop a series of bespoke digital tools that allow the secure, real-time access to data that is vital to each sector group. These tools enable compliance, promote good owner practices, improve animal welfare and help secure the human food-chain and national borders, all whilst reducing criminal activity.

Over the past 20 years, Stewart has developed a track record in taking an opportunity from inception and building the market share and critical mass necessary to deliver success. He has founded and established several businesses, in sectors such as IT, FMCG and entertainment, that have delivered award-winning technology and products with global reach.



*Stewart Everett*

### John Bourne

John trained as a veterinary surgeon and worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1988 to 2000. He was desk officer for Agriculture and Foreign Policy in the European Secretariat in the Cabinet Office from 2000 to 2003 and represented the Coalition Provisional Authority in Dhi Qar province in southern Iraq in 2003-04.

Heading up the Animal Welfare Division in Defra from 2004-2006, John ran David Miliband's office and undertook a project on sustainable government procurement. From 2007-10 he ran the Livestock and Livestock Products Hub that leads in Defra on a variety of livestock issues including market management regimes, animal movement and ID policy, and TSEs. John led the Defra team responsible for working with Thames Water to deliver the £4.2bn Thames Tideway Tunnel including procuring the privately financed



*John Bourne*

infrastructure provider that is currently building the Tunnel. After a year working as the commercial lead in the High Speed Rail Group in DfT he returned to Defra to be the Director of Animal and Plant Health in February 2017.

## The Rt Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman

Caroline was educated at Herts and Essex Girls' Grammar and London University. She worked in the sugar industry for 15 years before becoming MP for Meriden in 1997 and was Chairman of the Conservative Party 2007-2009.

Caroline has been on the front bench for the majority of her time in parliament, including Shadow Secretary of State for Local, Regional and Devolved Government, and for DfID, and was Secretary of State for Defra from 2010 to 2012. Caroline is currently Second Church Estates Commissioner for the Church of England. She is married to Mark, a management consultant, and they have 3 children.

Caroline chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Horse.



*Caroline Spelman*

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## Panellist 1: Carol Andrews

Carol Andrews has owned and run Wimbledon Village Stables, a busy BHS approved Riding School and Livery Yard, for 37 years. She has 25 horses and 10 full time staff. She has competed in the show jumping and dressage arenas, although she says her days of competitive riding are behind her.

Carol is a successful businesswoman and Wimbledon Village Stables has won many prestigious business awards for customer service, hospitality and for commitment to the community. Carol is most proud of the award from the London Borough of Merton for "Going the Extra Mile"; an award that reflected her commitment to her clients as well as to her community. Dedicated to fundraising, Carol has raised nearly £1 million for local and national charities. Her biggest fund raiser is her annual sponsored ride which has taken place every October for 43 years.

Carol is a firm believer that all riders benefit from a fit, flexible body. She set up Equicise, a business that runs alongside the stables and focusses on rider fitness with the use of a horse simulator and an exercise gym.



*Carol Andrews*

### Panelist 2: Nick Gauntlett

A Fellow of the British Horse Society, a British Eventing Master Coach and a UKCC level 3 coach in Show Jumping and Eventing, Nick has produced a number of event horses to 4\* level.

His many students compete from Grassroots to International Championship level and Nick is a passionate supporter of the British breeding industry which has led him to breed the Sports Horse (GB) Champion stallion Party Trick (by Chilli Morning) who is standing at stud alongside his competition career.



*Nick Gauntlett*

### Panelist 3: Victoria Highfield

Victoria's background has been strongly influenced by the horse world, having ridden from a young age, her passion for equestrianism has flourished. Initially, Victoria studied for a career in veterinary medicine but after achieving an FCert, Victoria changed career paths, undertaking a BSc in Equine Sports Science achieving a first class with honours.

Victoria used the industry experience and knowledge from her degree to launch Online for Equine in 2011 with the aim of providing riders with an educative retail platform which she felt was lacking. The initial business concept was solely online, but geographical positioning meant that a strong local market allowed for the development of a store to service retail customers. Victoria has recently implemented plans to secure Online for Equine's position in the global market and to launch sister brands within the next 18 months.



*Victoria Highfield*

## Panelist 4: Emma Williams

Emma has worked in the charity sector for 14 years across all areas of fundraising and has extensive experience of working closely with volunteers and fundraising groups. As the Director of Fundraising at World Horse Welfare, Emma is responsible for fundraising compliance and most recently has been working with other equestrian charities and organisations to help find a compliant and practical approach to the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulation.

Emma has been lucky enough to have been around horses all her life and enjoys spending time with the two ponies she has rehomed from equine charities.



*Emma Williams*

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## Nick Rust

Nick Rust has been Chief Executive of the British Horseracing Authority, the regulatory and governing body for horseracing in Great Britain, since January 2015. The Authority is responsible for organising and regulating horseracing, with specific additional responsibility for human and equine welfare, Government liaison, and coordinating strategy for the sport. During his time in the role, Nick and his team played a key part in convincing Government to change the existing legislation on the central funding of the sport from the betting industry, meaning a significantly better funding situation is in place from 2017. He has also overseen the reform of the sport's judicial panels and overhauled the BHA's integrity functions.

Nick previously worked in the betting and gaming industry for over 25 years, holding senior executive or Board level positions at Ladbrokes, Gala Coral and BSkyB. He is a racehorse owner, a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board and a non-Executive Director at York Theatre Royal.



*Nick Rust*

0915

Registration and Coffee

## OPENING OF THE 26TH NATIONAL EQUINE FORUM

1000

**Chairman's Opening**

**Tim Brigstocke MBE**

## THE HORSE INDUSTRY IN A CHANGING WORLD

1005

**The Defra View**

**Lord Gardiner**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, Defra

1015

Questions

1020

**The Equestrian Sector: speaking with one voice**

**Jeanette Allen**

Chair, UK Equine Sector Council Steering Group; Chief Executive, The Horse Trust

**Lynn Petersen**

Chair, British Horse Industry Confederation; Chief Executive, The British Horse Society

1030

Questions

1035

**What can owners expect from the Central Equine Database?**

**Stewart Everett**

Chief Executive, Equine Register

1045

**Livestock Traceability**

**John Bourne**

Director of Animal and Plant Health, Defra

1055

Questions

1100

**Panel Discussion: Potential solutions to the challenges facing small equestrian businesses**

**Chair: Rt Hon Dame Caroline Spelman MP**, Chair, APPG for the Horse

**Carol Andrews**, Owner, Wimbledon Village Stables; Owner, Equicise

**Nick Gauntlett**, Director, Chescombe Farm & Stud

**Victoria Highfield**, Director, Online for Equine Ltd

**Emma Williams**, Director of Fundraising, World Horse Welfare

## RACING

1200

**The vital role of equine welfare and its perception within British Racing**

**Nick Rust**

Chief Executive, British Horseracing Authority

1215

Questions

1220

Lunch

1330 **Opening of afternoon session**

## EQUESTRIAN SAFETY

1335 **Please don't say you're sorry – influencing driver behaviour when passing horses on the road** **Alan Hiscox**  
Director of Safety, British Horse Society

1350 **Current R&D in helmet design and testing: dealing with rotational impact** **Prof Michael Gilchrist**  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University College Dublin

1405 **The use of data to manage risk in equestrianism** **Sam Watson**  
Founder, EquiRatings

1420 **Safety in Eventing** **Jonathon Clissold**  
National Safety Officer, British Eventing

1435 Questions

1450 Break

## TOPICAL SLOTS

1515 **Rural crime** **Chief Constable Dave Jones**  
Rural Crime Lead, National Police Chiefs' Council; Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police

1520 **Heavy Horses: Use Us or Lose Us** **Nigel Oakley**  
Heavy Horse Ambassador, Rare Breeds Survival Trust

## RESEARCH

1525 **The influence of rider to horse bodyweight ratios on equine gait and behaviour: a pilot study** **Dr Sue Dyson**  
Head of Clinical Orthopaedics, Centre for Equine Studies, Animal Health Trust

1545 Questions

## MEMORIAL LECTURE

1550 **Equine Emergency Rescue; Managing Risk - Meeting Societal Needs** **Jim Green**  
Animal Rescue Tactical Advisor, Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service; Director & co-founder, British Animal Rescue & Trauma Care Association

1605 Questions

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS & SIR COLIN SPEDDING AWARD

1610 **President's Remarks and Presentation** **HRH The Princess Royal**

**Closing of the 26th National Equine Forum**

1625 **Chairman's Closing** **Tim Brigstocke MBE**

1630 Tea and depart

### Alan Hiscox

Alan is the strategic lead of the implementation and management of the British Horse Society's charitable objectives regarding the safety of horses and riders. He is also responsible for assessing current and potential opportunities to develop all aspects of safety within equestrian sector. Alan served 26 years in Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch, and 14 years as the Chief Equitation Officer at the Metropolitan Police Training School.



Alan Hiscox

### Prof Michael Gilchrist

Michael Gilchrist, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, is Head of the School of Mechanical & Materials Engineering at University College Dublin, Ireland. He is a Visiting Professor of Biomechanics at the University of Ottawa, Canada. His research concerns the dynamic mechanical behaviour of non-linear materials including polymers and biological tissue. His current projects on impact biomechanics are aimed at understanding the dynamic response of skin, bone and neural tissue, reconstructing accidents associated with head trauma, and the development of novel helmet designs.

Michael is Lead PI on a European collaborative project (Marie Curie ITN; [www.HEADS-ITN.eu](http://www.HEADS-ITN.eu)) for 13 PhD students who are working at KTH Stockholm, KU Leuven and University College Dublin, and involving helmet manufacturers Charles Owen, Lazer Sport and AGV. He has published 150 papers and supervised 30 PhD and research Masters students.



Prof Michael Gilchrist

## Sam Watson

Sam is an Irish International Event Rider and also holds a first-class honours degree in Management Science and Information Systems from Trinity College Dublin. Sam has competed at numerous 4\* events, including Badminton and Burghley and has represented Ireland from Young Rider level through to multiple Senior World Games and European Championships. After 6 years recording eventing data and creating algorithms to improve his own performance, Sam founded EquiRatings with former commercial lawyer, Diarmuid Byrne.

EquiRatings is an equestrian data and technology company working with major federations around the world on risk management, content and high-performance analysis using data. EquiRatings gained global attention with the launch of their ERQI (EquiRatings Quality Index) service which uses predictive analysis to assess risk in the cross country phase. The service is now being used in Ireland, Britain, US, Australia and by the FEI. Sam lives in Carlow, Ireland with his wife Sparkles and their two children.



*Sam Watson*

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## Jonathan Clissold

Jonathan is British Eventing's National Safety Officer, Technical Adviser, Course Designer and Course Builder, having notably led the cross country course building team for the London 2012 Olympic Games. An experienced course builder, Jonathan will be the Technical Delegate (TD) at Jersey Fresh in America, Strzegom (Poland) and Barbury as well as 15 or so national events from Penrith to Brighton in 2018 alone.

As National Safety Officer Jonathan is involved in all things safety, including projects with EquiRatings and Prof Michael Gilchrist, as well as Heather Cameron-Whytock's PhD which considers the key risk factors for horse falls in the cross country phase of eventing. His other loves include National Hunt Racing and point-to-pointing. He is a point-to-point steward, and also prepares fences for Pytchley point-to-point.



*Jonathan Clissold*

### Chief Constable Dave Jones

In 2016 North Yorkshire Police Chief Constable Dave Jones took responsibility for the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) portfolio for Wildlife Crime and Rural Affairs. In development at this time is the first ever national policing strategy to tackle rural crime. This strategy has been shaped by a number of large stakeholder engagement sessions to understand what is most important to rural communities.



Chief Constable Dave Jones

### Nigel Oakley

Married with two sons and a daughter, Nigel ran his own Civil Engineering Geotechnical Company for forty years, both in the United Kingdom and abroad. He has always had an interest in the Suffolk horse, so much so that he started his own stud 35 years ago. He has been a trustee of the Suffolk Horse Society for all this time and has been a past President as well as serving on several committees.

Nigel has bred 34 foals and keeps eight Suffolks which work on the farm, from ploughing through to cutting the corn with the binder. The stud offers training days for the Suffolk Horse Society at home and provides equine driving training to both urban and rural certification standard, both pairs and singles. The stud has featured on Countryfile on numerous occasions and the horses have been used regularly for other films and country show displays. The Suffolk horse is a Category One rare breed and Nigel's absolute passion.



Nigel Oakley

*Today's proceedings will be recorded and live streamed. Recordings (both audio and live streaming video) may be released following the event. If you ask a question and do not wish to be included in any subsequently released recording please email [info@nationalequineforum.com](mailto:info@nationalequineforum.com) by Monday 12th March 2018.*

## Dr Sue Dyson

Sue Dyson qualified from the University of Cambridge in 1980. After two years working in the USA, Sue returned to UK to take a position in clinical orthopaedics in the Centre for Equine Studies of the Animal Health Trust, Newmarket. Sue is currently Head of Equine Clinical Orthopaedics, running a clinical referral service for lameness and poor performance. A Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), Sue holds the RCVS Diploma in Equine Orthopaedics and is recognised as a 'Specialist in Equine Orthopaedics' by the RCVS. She is also an Associate of the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging.

Sue is co-editor of *Diagnosis and Management of Lameness in the Horse* and co-author of *Clinical Radiology of the Horse and Equine Scintigraphy*. She has published more than 270 papers in peer reviewed journals concerning lameness and diagnostic imaging and has lectured worldwide. Sue is a former President of the British Equine Veterinary Association. Also a rider, Sue has produced horses to top national level in both eventing and show jumping, is a British Horse Society Instructor and veterinary advisor to the Saddle Research Trust.



*Dr Sue Dyson*

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## Jim Green

Jim and his team respond daily to lead large animal rescue operations, resolve small animal situations and provide advice at other fire and rescue incidents where animals are involved. Following a successful outreach conference in 2008, the Chief Fire Officers Association developed the National Animal Rescue Practitioners Forum which by 2010 delivered UK standards for fire and rescue services. Jim played a key role in creating and embedding these and to date 90% of UK fire and rescue services have animal rescue provision, with common approach and equipment. An international speaker, Jim is co-founder of the British Animal Rescue and Trauma Care Association, which promotes best practice amongst agencies and stakeholders that have to prepare for and deal with incidents involving animals. Recent training created for Highways England Traffic Officers will assist them to deal with 4000 animal incidents each year, including many horses, loose, trapped or injured. Jim is also passionate about developing veterinary response training. BARTA's Veterinary Large



*Jim Green*

Animal Rescue First Responder course is delivered in partnership with the British Veterinary Association and both cattle and equine species divisions (BCVA and BEVA)

## SIR COLIN SPEDDING AWARD

### Roll of Honour

**2013**

**Alexander Martin Clunes**

in recognition of the collective work of UK Equine Welfare Charities during the winter of 2012.

**2014**

**Dr Andrew Waller**

in recognition of the collective work of the Animal Health Trust's Infectious Disease Group to help protect the nation's equines.

**2015**

**Paul Richard Greeves**

in recognition of the guiding influence he has provided to Thoroughbred racing and breeding during the past 40 years and his devotion to maintaining the integrity of the breed internationally by embracing scientific developments.

**2016**

**Sue Martin**

in recognition of her contribution to the development of equine apprenticeships, leadership of the Equestrian Trailblazer Steering Group and continuing support for riding schools.

**2017**

**Jim Green**

in recognition of his dedication to the development of large animal rescue methodology, training and equipment that is now standard throughout the UK Fire and Rescue Service and being rolled out worldwide.



*Sir Colin Spedding Award 2017 - Bonny Millar (finalist), Prof Josh Slater, representing Jim Green (winner), Maureen James (finalist)*



*Prof Josh Slater, representing Jim Green (winner)*

## Sir Colin Spedding Award Finalists 2018

Sir Colin Spedding was the founding Chairman of the National Equine Forum in 1992, and then chaired it for 20 years until shortly before his death in 2012.

He ensured that representatives of all areas of the equine sphere were made welcome, and that topics of general interest and concern could be discussed openly and without rancour. His aim was to allow the equine world to consider and then speak with a coordinated voice on matters of the moment. The award is presented in his memory.

The Sir Colin Spedding Award will be presented annually, but only when there is a candidate of sufficient merit, to an individual or an organisation that has made an exceptional contribution to the world of horses, ponies or donkeys. This contribution may be in connection with one or more specific projects, or may be over an extended period of time.

In 2018 we are delighted to have shortlisted two candidates of great merit as finalists for the Sir Colin Spedding Award. Both have made significant contributions to the equine industry and we look forward to recognising this today.

Dr Simon John Curtis has been nominated in recognition of his work in the development of corrective farriery and his long and ongoing service to equine science and welfare.

The British Grooms Association has been nominated in recognition of its pioneering work to raise the status of the groom in the equine sector, including professional development, relationships with employers, peer support, and assistance for equestrian employers.

If you have been inspired to nominate someone who you consider to have made an exceptional contribution to the world of horses, ponies or donkeys for the 2018 Sir Colin Spedding Award, please complete the back of the feedback form with their details or email [info@nationalequineforum.com](mailto:info@nationalequineforum.com).

Nominations for the 2019 Sir Colin Spedding Award must be received no later than 31st July 2018.



Organising  
Committee  
2017

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Rare Breeds Survival Trust  
The Society of Master Saddlers  
Gordon Wesley  
West Kington Stud  
Worshipful Company of Farriers

# National Equine Forum

## PRESIDENT

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal



## CHAIRMAN

Tim Brigstocke MBE

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Tim Brigstocke MBE (Chairman)

Prof Pat Harris (Vice Chairman)

Dr Georgina Crossman (Administrator)

Sarah Shephard (Hon. Publicity Officer)

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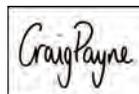


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The 2019 National Equine Forum will be held on Thursday 7th March 2019 at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ