



On the Hoof by Charlotte Baker

LOCAL rider and dressage judge **Charlotte Baker** takes a monthly look at the New Forest equestrian scene

Pilley performance horse back on top after eye removal

A PERFORMANCE horse has shown there is life after uveitis, despite losing an eye to the devastating condition. Lusitano gelding Tetua has performed with Pilley-based owner Patrick Kempe for years, taking the lead in the London New Year's Day parade and numerous other performances. The 18-year-old gelding is still active and features in liberty performances; however what started as a weeping eye soon developed into a more serious condition. Patrick said: "We took him

to Seadown Vets in Hythe and uveitis was diagnosed. The necessary drops to treat it were impossible to deliver accurately into the damaged eye, so he had to have a lavage tube. "The treatment seemed successful at first, but after two months the same situation re-occurred. "We were told by eye specialist Kate McMorris that the lavage was unlikely to provide permanent relief and we advised the damaged left eye should be removed."

He continued: "I was shocked and devastated, but understood it was the most sensible solution. Kate carried out the operation and did it so neatly. "Since recovery, he has adapted amazingly well - I have been the more nervous! Riding out on the Forest has been no problem, over time he's enjoyed a little jumping and since his op he has continued to give displays and has enjoyed life to the full. "The only risk factor is that if I am on his blind side and he turns his head to look at me, I



Patrick and Tetua with Seadown head nurse Ali Church

have to duck to get out of the way!" Seadown partner Kate McMorris said: "Removal of an eye is always a last resort but in a blind and painful eye it is often the best option for the horse. "It now rarely involves a full general anaesthetic, so is a much safer procedure than it used to be, and most horses go back to their previous working life."

EVENTS DIARY

- Sunday 22nd July:** Dressage competition, Intro-Elem - Woodington Training Centre, East Wellow; email heather.ashley@woodingtontrainingcentre.co.uk
- Saturday 28th July:** Fleetwater Stud Cross-Country Schooling Day - Minstead, nr Lyndhurst; call 023 8081 2534.
- Sunday 5th August:** Lionhearts Show - New Park, Brockenhurst; email andreadymott@hotmail.com
- Sunday 5th August:** Cadnam Show - Ringwood Road, Bartley; email hazel@cadnamshow.co.uk
- Saturday 11th August:** Ellingham and Ringwood Show - Somerley Park; go to www.ellinghamshow.co.uk
- Sunday 12th August:** Dressage competition, Intro-Elem - Woodington Training Centre, East Wellow; email heather.ashley@woodingtontrainingcentre.co.uk
- Sunday 19th August:** Sandylock Show - Southampton Road, Fordingbridge; email rowan.lockyer63@btinternet.com
- Sunday 19th August:** Cadnam Show - Ringwood Road, Bartley; email hazel@cadnamshow.co.uk
- Friday 24th August:** Homestead showjumping - Longdown; email becksheen@hotmail.com
- Saturday 25th August, Monday 27th August:** New Forest Pony Annual Breed Show - New Park, Brockenhurst; email hilary.palmer@gmail.com



Tetua performing in a demonstration

Equifun team back with new event

THE organisers of a charity equine obstacle competition that has raised thousands over the years are back with a new event for 2018. Equifun's 'Night at the Circus' event will be held on Saturday 15th September, featuring local band Kings of the Weekend, circus cuisine and a late-night DJ. The new addition to the Equifun team's fundraising schedule comes after organisers decided to host the equine obstacle competition every other year. Organiser Faine Jordan said: "The Equifun horse event will

be back in 2019, but we still wanted to keep fundraising for Oakhaven Hospice. "We'd love it if our wonderful supporters could join us for this new event - a night of fun and frolics at our pre-1930s circus-themed extravaganza." The event will be held at Marlwood House in Sway and early bird tickets are available at a price of £35 before 31st July, and £40 thereafter. For more details, search for 'Equifun's Night at the Circus' on Facebook or email equifun2015@outlook.com

Two new books for local equine author

CHILDREN'S fiction writer Monica Fulford has brought out two new books in her 'Forest Adventures' series. *Forest Summer* focuses on three sisters who spend their holidays with ponies in the Forest and prepare to compete in the local gymkhana. *Forest Festivities* is set at Christmas and all the adventures in the winter - it even features the Boxing Day point-to-point.

Both books are prequels to Monica's previous first publication *Forest Rustlers*, and are aimed at children aged eight to 12. All three titles can be bought via her Facebook page 'Mica Ford - Forest Adventures' or at the Handmade New Forest shops, Setley Ridge Farm Shop and Foxlease Girlguiding Centre.

Victory for NF juniors

NEW Forest Riding Club's junior 70cm team took the top spot in the British Riding Clubs area showjumping qualifier. On a hot day at Moreton Equestrian Centre, Rosie Lennox, Lana Holmes, Molly Hutton and Isabel Aldred (pictured) rode consistently well to win the class, while their 90cm counterparts took 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Individual Kerry Tyrrell won the style jumping competition and also came 2nd in the 90cm class.



New Forest Riding Club's junior 70cm team.

PROFILE

THIS month we speak to Kimberley from Equihub, a bespoke equine services business covering the New Forest and Dorset. Tell us about the background of your business I've always had a love for horses, and coming from a strong management background, I am used to being organised and having structure. I thought there was a bit of a missing niche for someone who could do the horse jobs that people don't always want to or have time to do, like mucking out or poo-picking. I started thinking about it when I booked a holiday and wondered who I would leave my horse with. There are lots of people out there who will ride your horse, but not so many providing the full range of services. What do you offer? What is unique about your business? We pride ourselves on the flexibility of our service - we can look after your horse when you're on holiday, if you're ill or simply running late. We always try to accommodate clients in an emergency

and will do all equine-related tasks, such as mucking out, rug changes, field checks and ragwort pulling. We will even accompany clients on foot when they go hacking, perhaps if the horse is nervous or green. Our service is bespoke to the clients' needs and we cover a wide geographical area including the New Forest, Ringwood, Southampton and surrounding areas. We've been going for three years and there are four people in the team.

Do you have any upcoming plans or developments? We are looking to expand geographically and ultimately it would be great to develop an app for the business. But really I want to maintain a good standard and get our brand better established and well-known. Once you give a client confidence that you will care for their horse as if it were your own, they will pay for that service. Contact details Search 'Equihub' on Facebook and message the team.

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