



# OFF THE HOOF

“It is better to be late in this world than early in the next”

*Anon*

Yes I know I missed the last edition of the “Gander” and in truth, I nearly missed this one. I was surprised at the number of people who have commented on it’s absence. Life was just so hectic I forgot... Anyway – I’m here now – late as usual with the sun beckoning me outside to do the jobs I should have done yesterday. I usually have a backlog and end up taking a days annual leave to catch up so if anyone out there is into poo picking, fence mending and painting, driving a tractor or general tidying up please give me a call!

I mentioned in the Spring edition I had a pony on loan called Rosie. She is partly why more of my time has been taken up because I wanted to bring her on slowly. I must say she is a little treasure although we seemed to hit a blank when it came to steering, rounding down and she refused to canter. This is not normal. It would have been easy to follow advice of other horse owners to put side reins on or “whack” her to make her canter but thank goodness I didn’t. At this time Jean Fowler came to fit a show saddle. What a sales woman! I ended up with a beautiful “general purpose” but it fits both Rosie and myself perfectly. My six-year-old great niece is comfortable on it too.. Still no show saddle!

It was Jean who confirmed Rosie’s back and shoulder were “not right” and recommended Barbara Hughes who is an Equine Therapist.

Barbara duly came out and was appalled at Rosie’s condition. I must say at this point it was nothing that I had done as we had had her October/November time and gave her time to build up and only started on her at Easter very slowly. I know who had her as a yearling and they later put her in foal. The people I have her from have done nothing at all with her so it is the period in between when she had some form of breaking in when the damage was done. She had been broken in very badly.

Barbara left me with some massaging to do on Rosie and I will call her back possibly once a month until she is back on track. Meanwhile she cannot be ridden. If anyone needs an Equine Therapist please contact me and it would make her visit worthwhile and help keep costs down.

I hope this information will make people more aware that if there is a problem in training it is worth getting the horse checked over. They cannot tell us if they are in pain and sometimes they are physically incapable of doing what is asked of them and they are not just being naughty.

It does not matter if an equine is a miniature, a thoroughbred or a heavy horse they can all have problems from falling in the field, being badly broken or just from the type of work they have done particularly in the case of ex racehorses. The first thing I will do from now on if I get a new horse is to get it checked out. Had I done this when I first acquired Rosie I could have saved the first six months being wasted as she would have been right by now. She has done one show where she was a respectable 5<sup>th</sup>, two Pony Club rallies and Pony Club camp. She was taken on a year loan agreement so for what we have done with her plus the new saddle and various rugs and bits and pieces it has been an expensive exercise. Will I renew the loan? Of course I will she is a lovely pony. Next I will have her and my others teeth done so if anyone is in need of a Qualified Horse Dental Technician please let me know.

Worming is next on the agenda for all my girls and Fort Dodge Animal Health are offering a quick easy guide in the form of a jigsaw puzzle (4 pieces!) featuring Equest and Equest Paramox wormers and there is also a free wall chart to help keep track of a worming programme. For more information [www.wormingyourhorse.info](http://www.wormingyourhorse.info) or call 01489 774232 for your freebies.

Another wormer on the market comes in a palatable apple flavour tablet called Equimax. This sounds nice and easy but I am not sure which worms it targets, so may have to be considered as part of a worming regime. More information 01359 243243 or [enquiries@virbac.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@virbac.co.uk)

Our local equine artist Diane Hennchen continues to keep busy at all the major shows. Her paintings keep popping up from decorating hair slides an trinket boxes in Robinson’s catalogue and now South Essex Insurance brokers, who specialise in insuring horses, horse boxes and much more. On requesting a quote you receive a print of one of Diane’s paintings but should you take out a policy you would receive a set of four prints. To gain one of these masterpieces call 0845 4500654 or [www.seib.co.uk](http://www.seib.co.uk).

*Continued overleaf*