



Introducing Stuart Rendall

Stuart is originally from Selkirk, a small town in the Scottish Borders. Whilst he was growing up he helped his father, a shepherd, on local farms around his hometown. This instilled in him a love for the great outdoors and all things agricultural. After starting secondary school Stuart gained an interest in horses. This resulted in a weekend job at an equestrian centre owned by Jenny and Ian Stark, followed by many school holidays spent helping to break in young Connemara ponies near Liliesleaf. Many of these ponies have now found homes up and down the country.



On finishing secondary school Stuart began his veterinary studies at Glasgow University. He graduated in June this year and has decided to commence his career in equine practice. Stuart has joined the team at Avonvale to complete our equine internship, he is looking forward to developing his skills in all areas of general equine practice and has a particular interest in dentistry.

When in Scotland Stuart enjoyed hill walking in the Highlands and has found adjusting to the distinct lack of high peaks in the South East quite challenging! Welcome to the team Stuart.

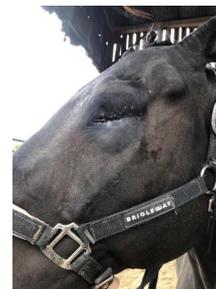
CASE STUDY - STEEL'S EYE REMOVAL

Sometimes an injury to a horse's eye or the eye disease they are suffering from is too severe for medical treatment to be successful. In many of these cases enucleation - removal of the eye - will be a very good option for the horse. Although this is a major surgery, by using advanced local anaesthetic techniques, this procedure can be performed in a straightforward and painless manner with the horse standing under sedation.



Steel presented to us having sustained a nasty penetrating injury to the cornea, presumably by rubbing against a thorn or something similar. His eye was extremely painful and the injury and degree of infection was judged too severe for even prolonged medical treatment to be a suitable course of action. Enucleation was recommended and Steel was admitted to the clinic. An intravenous catheter was placed and he was given analgesics (painkillers) and put on a sedative drip. Multiple local anaesthetic blocks were then placed around and behind the eye to desensitise the entire area. The eyelids were then sutured together (as shown) and then the site was prepared and draped for sterile surgery.

Immediately following surgery Steel was very much more comfortable around his head and he was able to go home the following day with a short course of antibiotics and painkillers. The sutures were removed two weeks after surgery as shown and we are pleased to report that Steel is doing very well.



Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm

24hr Emergency Service



Contact Us

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AVONVALE

Case Study

“HE’S JUST NOT QUITE RIGHT.....” by Vet Emily Douglas-Osborn

So often as vets we hear this said. It might be that a horse is reluctant to go forward, having difficulty accepting a contact, or showing evasive behaviour such as bucking or rearing - things that most people wouldn't think about calling a vet for. I have quite frequently been asked to examine the eyes of horses who are particularly tense and spooky on one rein versus the other, although I have yet to find an ocular abnormality in any of these horses.



Admittedly, there are some naughty, and/or lazy horses out there. But for most, especially where this behaviour is a gradual change from the norm, there is an underlying reason for it that we need to get to the bottom of.

It is normal for athletes to have low-grade “niggles” that they have to manage, and we have to think of our horses in a similar way. Horses often suffer from conditions which are bilateral in nature, for example, a condition which affects both front feet, or both hindlegs. This makes them particularly difficult to spot, or feel from the saddle.



Horses find ways to compensate for pain, which may include reluctance to accept a contact or bend, swinging the quarters or backing off the leg, instead of engaging the hind-quarters. In canter, a horse may shoot off, “bunny-hop” with his hindlegs, or prefer one lead over the other.

Sadly, horses cannot tell us where their pain is and in order to isolate it, we have to thoroughly examine the horse, on the lunge and under saddle, after which we can perform nerve or joint “blocks”. This consists of injecting local anaesthetic into a joint or next to a nerve, to remove sensation from that part of the limb. If this improves a horse's way of going, we then know this where we need to focus our imaging.

Imaging modalities such as x-rays, ultrasonography and occasionally MRI, allow us to make a firm diagnosis and tailor a treatment plan to your horse. Often these plans will involve input from your farrier or physiotherapist, to obtain the best long-term prognosis.

It is common for a horse to have more than one issue, particularly as they move into their teenage years, and these cases can be tricky to manage. It's not uncommon to see gastric ulcers contributing to these issues as well, due to the stress they can cause.

So if you have a gut feeling that your horse isn't quite right, give us a ring on 01295 670501 for a friendly chat on how we might be able to help.

Do you follow us on Facebook , Instagram or Twitter?

If you use social media, please follow us - we post the latest news from the Practice, interesting case studies as well as competitions. We also have a monthly theme; October is Castration', November is 'Lameness/Poor Performance and December is 'Dentistry'.



STAFF FOCUS - FIONA WATT, NURSING ASSISTANT

Fiona joined Avonvale in November 2019 and works as a nursing assistant alongside Lucy (head nurse) and Kat (student nurse).

Fiona grew up riding out on her parents' racing yard in Great Alne, Alcester and competed in all pony club activities and disciplines including Tetrathlon. She has achieved the Pony Club A test and in 2016 completed for the England Tetrathlon team, a real highlight.

Fiona has a passion for show jumping and polo. Prior to joining Avonvale, Fiona spent many years working with polo horses, allowing her to travel around the world and gain experiences from competing young show jump horses in New Zealand and Europe, to grooming for professional polo players in Australia, Europe and here in England.



Looking forward, Fiona plans to play more polo this coming winter season and also join her local riding club to continue to compete, when she finds her new forever partner in crime. She lives locally in Gaydon, with boyfriend Alex who is a solicitor and also has a passion for polo.

Fiona's aim for next year is to start studying for her level 3 diploma in veterinary nursing.



SPONSORING CROWN RC's STRESSLESS DRESSAGE

At Avonvale Equine, we pride ourselves in supporting local riding clubs and sponsoring events such as Mollington point to point, Brailes show etc. Our sponsorship tent and banners can be seen at events all around the local area although sadly this year, our wings have been slightly clipped.

This year, despite delays due to the lockdown, we were absolutely delighted to support CROWN Riding Club with their Stressless Dressage Competition. Taking place over three separate events, from August to October, it allows riders of all abilities to participate where every member of the club are encouraged to 'have a go'. At the time of going to print, two of the three events have taken place; the first in early August at Westfields Stables and the second in early September at Swalcliffe Equestrian. October's event is due to be held at Bletchington.



Congratulations to the winners of the Avonvale Intro class and recipients of an Avonvale branded saddle cloth. They are: Clair Juler and Chris Burgoyne. October's winner will be announced on our Facebook page.

Photo courtesy of Chris Gallon.

CROWN

SPONSORED RIDER UPDATE

Poppy Scott

Over the past six months I have had a very challenging time but my love of horses has seen me through. In the spring my GCSE exams were cancelled which was a huge disappointment. After giving my future some consideration, I have decided to stay on at school and start A Levels in September.

For May half term and the summer holidays I headed down to Sir Mark Prescott's famous Heath House stables and enjoyed putting the horses through their paces. I have worked with some amazing ponies, in particular Revolver, a three year old colt (picture right). Revolver has won six races in a row throughout the summer, a rare achievement these days! The picture below shows me riding three year old Ano Lucis on the Newmarket gallops.



The summer holidays did, however, prove very challenging as after two weeks at Heath House, I went down with glandular fever followed by tonsillitis. Sadly, this meant I was only able to spend the final week of the holidays at Newmarket but still managed to ride some special horses on the gallops.

I've now started sixth form and my goal is to head to Hartpury College to do an Equestrian Degree. I will also be working to secure my Amateur Jockeys Flat License soon and enjoy some flat racing. In October I'll be riding out for Alex Hales at Edgecote as well as returning to Newmarket.

Sara Chittleburgh - Kingsbridge Equestrian

The 2020 eventing season has commenced and the weather was holding out for good ground and sunshine at Lincolnshire horse trials, our first event of the season. Tilly produced a beautiful score of 24 in the dressage to take the lead and breezed round the cross country inside the time but a rider error in the showjumping caused two poles to roll and dropped us to 5th, a bitter sweet result but a confidence boost early in the season. Two weeks later lockdown ground all competing to a halt, but I viewed this enforced time as an opportunity to concentrate on training at home.



Competing recommenced In July and we put our training into practice with a few combined training shows whilst we waited for one of my entries not to be balloted. Wellington International 2* finally arrived and off we went to tackle the stunning track with no national run, nothing like the deep end of a 2* to blow away the cobwebs! Tilly produced a nice test, a super clear round the bold showjumping and grew in confidence across the substantial cross country track to finish home with only a few time penalties.

Continued over.....

SPONSORED RIDER UPDATES Continued

Sara Chittleburgh Continued.....

As ever with horses the results on paper don't always ring out the success you feel personally but for me it's about competing against yourself and the circumstances you're surrounded by; so for my team and I Tilly, at only 7years old, was a star!

With Keysoe International 2* in our sights the final training sessions have been top notch and confirmed with a winning score of 77% at Elementary! Fingers crossed we haven't peaked a week too soon along with the weather!!



Amy Pugh—Lynwood Stud

Lock down has been a very interesting and unusual time and of course quite stressful for many as well. For me personally it gave me time to slow down and enjoy being at home with the horses and not rushing around out in the lorry. We are lucky to have a farm to walk the dogs on and it really made us appreciate what we have and be grateful for all the little things you can so easily take for granted when you are always on the go.

A bit about our current competition horses....Lynwood Connoisseur, aka Conner, has continued to be produced for the dressage arena during these past few months. He recently won his Prelim tests with whopping scores above 75% and 78%! He also spent some time jumping in June and July to help with his strength and general education. This included doing a small Eventing training competition at Dallas Burston Polo Club back in July which he loved. See photo right.



Vignoles Gambit is now quite established with

the Grand Prix level dressage movements and continues to improve every time we go out. We achieved a personal best score recently competing at Solihull in the Grand Prix class and were very chuffed to finish up in third place. We are currently putting together a Grand Prix Music Freestyle floor plan with the help of our trainer Gareth Hughes with the aim to compete in our first Freestyle competition at this level in October. Photo left is my all-time favourite of Gambit in action.

Luckily we have a course of show jumps and a good variety of cross country jumps at home so have been able to do some preparation with our two 5yo home bred event horses Lynwood Clear Cut (Rumble) and Lynwood Fine Art (Annie) They have now competed in a handful of show jumping and eventing competitions. Pictures Below: Lynwood Fine Art eventing.

With the current climate being so uncertain and with a long winter ahead we have now put our three 5yo's on the market to make room for our 4yo youngsters coming through, Lynwood Definition, bred to Event/Show jump; and Lynwood Unlimited, who Dam is half-sister to Carl Hester's Olympic Medal winning dressage horse Utopia and Lynwood Free-lance also bred to event and jump.



MEET THE VETS



Founded in 1968, Avonvale Equine Practice has over 50 years experience in the care of race horses, general riding and competition horses alike. We provide high quality, professional and compassionate care 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Our team is highly motivated and keeps up to date with all advances in diagnostic and treatment options. We have a full range of mobile and clinic based equipment enabling us to cater for all eventualities.

Our RCVS Recognised Advanced Veterinary Practitioners in both Equine Orthopaedics and Equine Medicine give us the breadth of knowledge and experience required to get the most out of each and every horse.

DIRECTORS



Naomi de Pennington

MA Vet MB CertEM(IntMed) MRCVS

Naomi is an RCVS Recognised Advanced Practitioner in Equine Medicine who leads the stud team and AI service. She has a particular interest in stud and foal medicine, gastroenterology, ophthalmology and cardiology. She routinely performs gastroscopies and is an experienced colic surgeon, also performing heart scans and electrocardiography as part of our poor performance assessments.



Claire Sawyer

BVetMed CertAVP (ESO) MRCVS

Claire is an RCVS Recognised Advanced Practitioner in Equine Orthopaedic Surgery, leading the orthopaedic and diagnostic imaging teams. She has a keen interest in lameness and poor performance investigation. She is an experienced equine vet who performs a large number Of pre-purchase examinations (vettings).

ASSISTANTS



Emily Douglas-Osborn BVSc MRCVS

Emily completed her internship at Avonvale before gaining experience in all aspects of artificial insemination at Twemlows stud, as well as working in ambulatory practice. Emily also has a keen interest in lameness and poor performance, and has recently enrolled on an orthopaedic certificate working towards additional qualifications in this area.



Laura Hart BVM&S CertAVP MRCVS

Before joining Avonvale, Laura served in the British Army with tours of Iraq and Afghanistan (RAVC) and in London (Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment). Laura's passion is dentistry and she is a BARTA instructor (British Animal Rescue & Trauma Care Association). Laura is an Advanced Veterinary Practitioner and is working towards advanced status in Equine Dentistry.



Line Kjær DVM MRCVS

After graduating from the University of Copenhagen, Line completed an internship in South Africa, joining a large hospital with mainly thoroughbred stud farms as clientele. She has also worked as a stud vet in Japan and Scotland. Line has a particular interest in foal diseases and internal medicine, alongside all aspects of routine stud work.



Mercedes Montejo MRCVS

Mercedes graduated from University of Zaragoza, Spain in 2009, prior to completing an internship in Seville. She then worked 2 foaling seasons in Ireland and Scotland before joining Avonvale. Mercedes has a particular interest in foal medicine, alongside general equine medicine and poor performance investigation.



Stuart Rendall BVMS MRCVS

Stuart graduated from University of Glasgow in June 2020 and has decided to commence his career in equine practice. He has joined the team at Avonvale to complete our equine internship. Stuart is looking forward to developing his skills in all areas of general equine practice and has a particular interest in dentistry.

Directors

Naomi de Pennington MA VetMB CertEM(IntMed) MRCVS **Claire Sawyer** BVet Med Cert AVP ESO MRCVS

Assistants

Emily Douglas-Osborn BVSc MRCVS **Laura Hart** BVM&S MRCVS **Line Kjær** DVM MRCVS **Mercedes Montejo** MRCVS **Stuart Rendall** BVSc MRCVS