

# Spring (yes...it is supposed to be spring?!?) VARC Update

## Diary Dates

- 20th March; Dismounted training @ Cilcennin (7:30pm)
- 22nd March; Equipilates session @ Cilcennin (7pm)
- 31st March; SJ Clinic @ Cwmnant
- 1st April; FOTH Combined Training @ Carmarthen College
- 10th April; Dismounted training @ Cilcennin (7pm)
- 15th April; William Blane Clinic @ Lluest
- 28th May; XC & SJ Clinic @ Brynlewelyn
- 14th June - 17th June; VARC Camp
- 24th June; Horse Trials @ Llanymynech

Summer lessons: scheduled lessons will slow down over the summer months but can be arranged at the specific request of members. So if you have a competition coming up and would like a training session with our club coach please let Emma Brooke know.

## VARC Festival of the Horse

Our VARC riders and all important helpers braved the cold this weekend to represent the club at the area FOTH Challenge competition held at Beacons Equestrian.

The day started off with Amanda Jones and Ruth Isaac in the 80 cm class as individuals. It wasn't their day (probably a lot to do with the weather causing brain freeze for horses and riders! Ha-ha!) and unfortunately both riders were eliminated. Onwards and upwards though ladies!

VARC was then represented by a team of four in the 90cm class. Sophia was our first rider but unfortunately was eliminated one fence from the finish, very frustrating for Sophia but the course was very imposing especially on such a cold wintery day—where has spring gone?!?

Next was Siwan who rode a lovely clear round with



Sophia and Stan enjoying their round.

no time penalties finishing 3rd overall.

Estella was next to ride and was also able to secure a very nice clear round again with no time penalties. Estella finished in 1st with a cracking time of 158.56, the optimum time being 164!

Our last rider of the team was Linda who had been concerned about her braking system in the lead up to the competition. No

need to worry though, a very respectable round with 8 jumping penalties and 0.4 time penalties finishing in 8th place.

The team finished 2nd overall so well done to them!

A huge thank you to all of our riders and helpers for representing the club so brilliantly!

### LESSON SPACES AVAILABLE

#### WILLIAM BLANE CLINIC

15th APRIL

- \* 9:00am jumping 80/90cm
- \* 12:30pm jumping 80/90cm

CONTACT EMMA BROOKE FOR FULL DETAILS

## XC & SJ Clinic @ Brynlewelyn

May will soon be upon us and after a difficult winter resembling the scene from never ending story that haunted my childhood what better way to blow away the cobwebs than a blast training with Mandy on the x-country course and a showjumping train-

ing session with Elin Gwenllian Jenkins!?!

Payments for your reserved spaces are now due and the total cost is £40 for 3 hours of training...bargain! If you haven't already paid please get in touch with our trusted

booking expert Emma Brooke to arrange by 30th April.

If you missed booking your place, let Emma know and she will add you to the reserve list for any spaces that become available.

## A Little Bit of Science.....

**“Early results indicate that the use of blues and yellows can significantly improve fence edge contrast for horses”**

The Exeter Equine Vision Project have been busy analysing the visibility of different showjumping and cross country fences to horses. Results suggest that the visibility of showjumping fences is strongly affected by colour, further influenced by the presence or absence of horizontal white stripes on poles. Orange, yellow and green type colours offer low visibility, whereas blue

and yellow offer high visibility. Results for the cross country show that the visibility of fences is strongly affected by materials used (paint type, wood) and colour. Again orange and green type colours offer low visibility, whereas blue and yellow offer high visibility. However, there are differences depending on the type of pole and shade of colour used, and indications that weather, shad-

ing/vegetation, and light conditions may play a major role in visibility of colours to horses

**“Fence edge contrast may play a role in determining fault rates at fences.”**



Horse



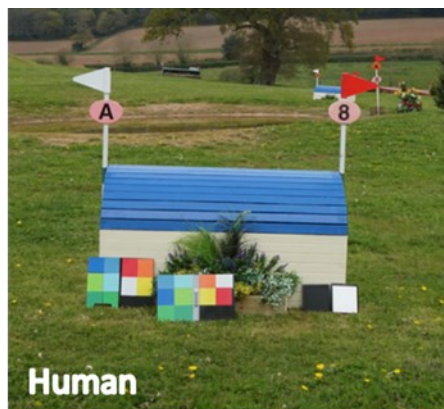
Horse



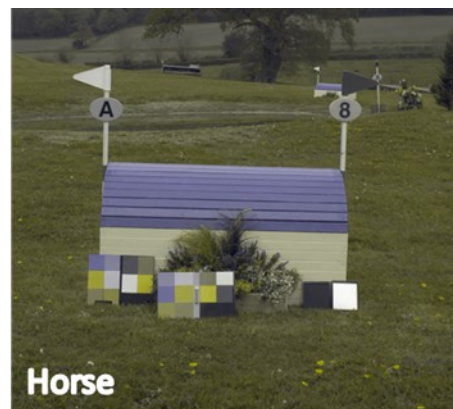
Human



Human



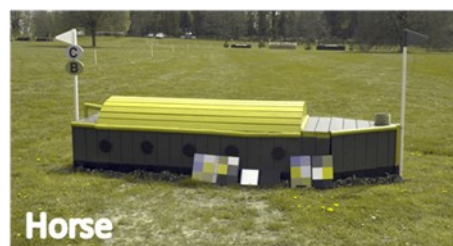
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Horse



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Horse



## Results . . . . .

In many cases there is low visual contrast between the bottom of the fence and its foreground and the top of the fence and its background...Where will your horse take off to jump? Where will he land?

The impact of colour contrast to the background is of particular importance in fences with solid colour poles or poles with horizontal stripes instead of traditional vertically white-colour stripe poles. What's in the background...a white arena fence, perhaps a trade stand tent or a horse lorry? Can your horse differentiate

the fence from what is in the background or are they the same colour? Something to think about in the course walk!

Elements of orange, yellow, red and green tend to be less contrasting with each other and inconspicuous against a grass background. Woody and orange coloured edges in particular have low visibility and are substantially less visible than some of the alternative colours tested in the Exeter Equine Vision Project. Think about your approach, giving your

horse plenty of opportunity to work things out. The project has linked fence edge contrast with fault rates at fences.

Another interesting finding is that the type of paint used (e.g. gloss v's matt) also plays an important role in visibility with matt paint seemingly offering better visibility...lots to think about!

Whats next? Well, the project has identified some areas for future work which include exploration of the

role of light and weather conditions, shade and vegetation on visibility of different colours so watch this space! Thank you to Martin Stevens from the university of Exeter for providing us with all the details and photos for the newsletter article

**“Work should further explore the effects of paint type used.”**

## Vale of Aeron Riding Club



E-mail: ValeofAeronRC@yahoo.co.uk

We are a friendly local riding club located in Mid West Wales and have been established for over 20 years. We run with members from the surrounding areas of Lampeter, Tregaron, Llanrhystud, Aberaeron and Aberystwyth. We offer training and development to our members, mounted and unmounted, as well as social events and competitions. New members, senior or junior, are always welcome.

[www.valeofaeronridingclub.weebly.com](http://www.valeofaeronridingclub.weebly.com)

## Government Consultation on Equine Identification

The Welsh Government are consulting on the Equine Identification Regulations, which include; A requirement for all Member States to operate a central equine database containing information on horses within

their territory, with greater sharing of information and tighter controls over micro-chip numbering with an option for member states to require the micro-chipping of older horses. To have your say on this important

matter please visit the consultation pages

[www.beta.gov.wales/implementation-revised-eu-rules-equine-identification-wales](http://www.beta.gov.wales/implementation-revised-eu-rules-equine-identification-wales)



Club branded clothing is available from GG Designs, Tregaron (07969295206) Price list as follows;

- Soft Shell Gilet - £26.40
- Soft Shell Jacket - £29.70
- Polo T-Shirt - £15.20
- Hoodie - £19.90
- Waterproof Jacket - £35.10