

Mrs A. Tett
Legal Practice
The Castle
WINCHESTER
Hants
SO23 8UJ

The Old Cottage
Frith End
BORDON
Hants
GU35 OQS
18th March, 1998

Dear Mrs Tett,

Headley Park Rifle & Pistol Club

Thank you for your letter of 13th March which is in reply to mine of 16th October which I understand has been forwarded to you by Cllr. Roberts. May I assume that Cllr. Roberts was interested to know if my suggestion for creating a bridleway on land opposite the Rifle Range was feasible?

You say that the land in question opposite the Rifle Club is not common land.

I did of course check with Olive Holmwood in your Chief Executive's Dept. that the land in question is indeed common land. I checked again today and she invites you to go and look at the maps for yourself. I enclose a copy of the map Olive sent to me on the 2nd October, '97. You will see that the common land opposite to Rabbitfield Hill is owned by a Mr Peter Whitfield who rents it to Hampshire County Council. There is a strip of common which continues from this point to the C102 near to Headley Park. In these circumstances I cannot accept your advise that my suggestion for a bridleway creation is not feasible.

On 10th June, 1997 a Public Inquiry was held for the Creation of bridleway rights on FP54 Broxhead Common. You will of course have the Inspector's decision letter on file. I would like to quote from para 59 of that document:

"The advantages to the many horse owners resident in this 'Tolkien' area of narrow, twisty country lanes (which are unsuitable for joint user) are considerable." and a further quote from para 73:

"Final Conclusion. I conclude that the convenience of the local residents (amongst whom I include the motoring fraternity who will also benefit from less horse traffic on local roads); and possibly (given the high horse population in the area within reasonable riding distance of Broxhead Common) the convenience and enjoyment of a substantial section of the public, would be enhanced by the proposed upgrading. I further conclude that the adverse effect on the interests of the landowner can reasonably be accomodated by compensation. I therefore finally conclude that it is expedient to confirm the Creation Order."

In the light of these quotations, I would again remind the Council of its duty under Section 130 of the Highways Act 1980.

I enclose a photocopy of the British Horse Society's opinion regarding the Government's White Paper on the right to roam.

Surely this is the perfect opportunity to see whether such voluntary access agreements can work or whether in the end legislation will be needed.

I do not consider that it is the action of a responsible Council to decide to take no action when an issue of public safety is concerned. I therefore hope that the Planning and Transportation Department will reconsider my proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen Comber

ORIVE



S revamped in bid to upgrade British sport horse breeding

Major changes announced as studbook
now open to all breeds

100 years of
will come to an end
announced at at
today (5
radical changes
onal Light Horse
ociety (HIS).

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ment support to
the breeding of
the Army, has
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its studbook to
stallions of any
is to change its
Sport Horse
Great Britain.
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Thoroughbred
lion parade will
ontinental-style
ow with ridden,

loose and in-hand
assessment, as well as
mandatory progeny
inspections. Only existing
premium sires will be
exempt from the
requirement to be ridden.
An application for full
membership of the World
Breeding Federation for
Sport Horses is under way,
which should see HIS-sired
event horses leading the
international rankings.

Over the past five years,
financial support from the
Horserace Levy Board has
decreased and ceases
completely after next year.
This, coupled with a steady
decline in the number of
mares covered under the
premium scheme, meant the
society faced an uncertain
future in its present form.

Announcing the changes,

HIS chairman Robert
Warden said: "The society
has taken a bold move
which will do nothing but
good for the sport horse
breeding industry in this
country.

"Britain has been
producing top sport horses
for many years but, until
now, the society has been
unable to emphasise the
influence our stallions have
had.

"Selecting our stallions as
sport horse sires, and adding
GB to the name of all our
British-bred stock, will help
us to do this."

Sport Horse Breeders
(GB) will carry on the
present HIS role in affiliated
showing and there is to be a
separate studbook for
stallions promoted as show
hunter sires.



National Riding Week 1998 launched

The Princess Royal joins Noel Edmonds, Olympic three-day event gold medallist Jane Holderness-Roddam and former international show jumper and Horse & Hound columnist Graham Fletcher to launch the 1998 National Riding Week. Following the success of the inaugural week last year, the focus this time will be on fighting "prejudice and ignorance" against horse-riding, in which almost 1½ million people take part, most of them for recreation.

"National Riding Week will attempt to raise the awareness of riding and other aspects associated with it," said the Princess, who has competed in both horse trials and racing

The first new-style stallion
grading will be held in the
autumn, and mare gradings
will take place at the
National Mare Show,
Addington, the National
Hunter Supreme
Championship Show and
another venue either in the
north of England or
Scotland.

Lemieux joins tennis circuit

INTERNATIONAL event
rider Robert Lemieux has
wasted no time in carving a
new career following his
retirement from riding with
a bad leg injury.

Having honed his
interviewing skills on
television and with *Horse
& Hound's* World of the
Horse presentation, Robert
presented the on-court
interviews with top tennis
players at the Guardian
Direct, a new date on the
ATP men's tour at
Battersea Park last week.

Robert hopes to do more
of this kind of work in the
future.

Sheikh's long distance victory

SHEIKH MOHAMMED
AL MAKTOUM won the
160km dry run for the
World Equestrian Games
over a route between Dubai
and Abu Dhabi.

Riding Nelson, the 1997
European gold medal-
winning ride of French rider
Jaques David, Sheikh
Mohammed snatched
victory from his brother
Sheikh Hamdam by
Isec.

Right to roam – riders a priority

THE British Horse Society
has registered its concern
with the Government's White
Paper on the right to roam,
saying it concentrates on
ramblers, but should include
horse riders as a priority.

A spokesman said: "There
are nearly three million
people who ride and their
needs are arguably greater
than walkers. The proposed
legislation on access to the
countryside should and must

take into account the needs
of riders, who desperately
need safer off road riding."

The British Horse Society
proposes where there are
existing tracks and paths
over areas of mountain,
moorland and common that
are suitable for horses that
these should be made
available to riders.

The Country Landowners
Association responded
positively to the challenge

set by the Government in its
countryside access consult-
ation paper, saying it was
pleased the paper contained
a voluntary option for
landowners.

President Ian MacNichol
said: "We share the
Government's desire to
improve access to our open
countryside, but believe this
is done best by negotiation,
not legislating to create a
right to roam."

Breeders meet over Fell deaths

FIVE meetings have been
organised nationwide to
update Fell pony breeders
on the mystery disease that
is threatening the extinction
of the breed.

The meetings, organised
by Fell Pony 2000, a charity
set up by Fell Pony Society

members and vets from
Liverpool University, start
next week.

The first is on 13 March
at Penrith Auction Mart at
7.30pm, followed by 14
March (1pm, Crooklands
Hotel, Kendal); 21 March
(Leahurst Large Animal

Hospital, Neston); 25
March (Houghall
Agricultural College), 17
April (British Equestrian
Centre).

The meetings are open to
breeders and all those
interested in securing a
future for the Fell breed.

weeps
Windsor

this year's Royal
Horse Show (14-17)
is the biggest
the layout of the
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radestand
exhibitors,
Castle Arena at
the show and
site more
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been extended

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ully on 17
private family
be held at
urch, Colchester,
onday, 9 March
flowers please
page 101.