

BREEDING SEMINAR

Friday, 5th March 2010

The 2010 breeding season got off to an excellent start on Friday, 5th March, when West Kingston Stud and Willesley Equine Clinic hosted a one-day seminar at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Delegates heard some fascinating talks covering all aspects of equine breeding. The seminar was chaired by Triple Olympic Eventing Gold Medallist and Chairman of the British Horse Foundation, Richard Meade OBE. Speakers were:

Carole Mortimer – Freelance equestrian journalist and *Horse & Hound* columnist;

Tessa Clarke – Stud Manager of West Kingston Stud and Stallion Centre;

Martin Boyle – Pioneering Consultant Vet internationally renowned for his research and work on equine frozen semen;

Chris Shepherd – Senior Partner of Willesley Equine Clinic, stud/AI vet and equine frozen semen specialist;

Lynne Crowden – Internationally known British Warmblood breeder/producer of dressage horses and Non-Exec Director of the National Equine Database;

Emma Tomlinson – Founder and Director of Beaufort Embryo Transfer Centre;

Katherine Hemson – Willesley Equine Clinic Stud Vet, with special interest in mare fertility and foal health;

Louise Jones – Dodson & Horrell Equine Nutritionist.

The main hall and balcony of the Boutflour Hall were filled to capacity with delegates from all walks of equine life, including vets, students, mare owners and stallion owners from as far afield as Cornwall and Derbyshire, who enjoyed the excellent presentations. Questions throughout the day showed the high level of interest in the topics covered and there was a lively Open Forum session at the end of the day. Feedback received from the delegates has been excellent and many have expressed interest in future seminars.

The take-home message of the seminar was the need for careful selection and preparation of stallions and mares, using proven/graded stallions and obtaining the best paperwork possible for British-bred horses, to improve our position on the world breeding stage. The need for objective assessment of the mare was highlighted as crucial when choosing a stallion. The role of the National Equine Database was also discussed as one of the important developments to support British Breeding.

Sponsors of the event were EV Veterinary Products, Countrywide Farmers PLC and Dechra Veterinary Products. By popular demand, the speakers' presentations will be available to print off for a limited period at www.westkingtonstud.co.uk.

Ends.

Picture attached (copyright free):

Open Forum at the Breeding Seminar

Contacts: Pauline Henson, Seminar Co-ordinator
West Kingston Stud, Church Farm, West Kingston, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 7JE
Tel: 01249 782050 Fax: 01249 782940 Email: jhroddam@aol.com