

THE CASPIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY



SPRING/SUMMER 2012

THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1076026

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Mr Brian Smith-Boyes (International Registrar)

PLEASE NOTE COPY DATES for "THE CASPIAN" MAGAZINE
Spring/Summer - 1st April * Autumn/Winter - 1st October
All submissions to be sent to Vicki Shortis (see above)

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Dear all

As I write this, Somerset has had just a few mild frosts and just about enough showers, but some counties are facing hosepipe bans. Parts of Scotland are too wet and others have been hotter than California! Like the British weather, the general financial situation is unpredictable – let's hope it soon improves.

Those with horses and other stock have been struggling to pay the exorbitant cost of hay and feed and will undoubtedly welcome the Spring at last. Livestock has to be fed and cared for no matter what else is going on - I'm relieved I haven't had to do it in recent years. Our Caspians matter to us, so we like to feel we can keep an eye on their welfare, yet some people don't get around to notifying the transfer when they sell a Caspian. This is the reason Ruth, our Registrar, tries so hard to keep tabs on Caspians that change hands. So please - if you sell, tell!

Caspians seemed to spend more time in the limelight in the early days than they have in recent years. This may be partly due to the loss of their novelty value, but it's a situation we should strive to change. Do consider a loan to a kind working home, preferably one with a reasonably high profile, so your Caspian will be noticed for all the right reasons. A few owners are doing this, I'm pleased to say - it's worked well in the past and can do so again. There are so *many* exciting things that Caspians could be doing! If you can find a suitable class or can even just lead him or her around looking beautiful at a show or pony club near you, small beginnings can lead to greater things. The CHS will reward you if you are the highest placed Caspian at shows, so it's a win-win situation!



You will see some changes on the Council pages. The people retiring from these posts have provided a wonderful service to the CHS for many years. I am deeply grateful to them and thank them very much indeed for all their help, as I know do all members of Council. The people taking on these posts are being kind enough to donate their time and brainpower and this is always much appreciated. We wish them lots of luck with the work they'll be doing for the CHS, particularly John's replacement, Ray Austin. John S was appropriately thanked at the Council meeting on 1st April. I'm glad to say that he wishes to remain on Council, so we'll gain another man on what is turning into a really good team, with exciting plans!

Please write 'CHS' in your diary on 1st July (Council meeting), 14th October (AGM and Council meeting) and 25th November (Christmas Lunch)! More information on the AGM and Christmas Lunch will follow. CHS members are *always* welcome to send queries, comments or suggestions to any Council member, especially as we approach each Council meeting. Between times, we can usually get you an answer fairly quickly unless it requires considerable debate. Lastly, keep a fresh eye on our website, which is due to be updated shortly!

Have a great summer. Keep the camera handy and tell us about your adventures in the next magazine!

Cheers!

Liz Webster

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2012 DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

May 23 rd	Our President carries the Olympic torch through Shurdington, near Gloucester.
May 25 th	Open Day at Stichill Stables, Nr Kelso. Scotland anna@stichillstables.co.uk
June 7 th & 8 th	Suffolk Show, near Ipswich, CHS stand lizwebster08@gmail.com
July 1 st	Council Meeting at Shawell Village Hall, Leics
July 7 th	Hanbury Countryside Show, Park Farm Nr Redditch, (Caspians may be parading)
July 29 th	Totnes Show, Devon, CHS stand
August 15 th - 17 th	International Caspian Conference & Breed Show, Sweden, margaretalindahl@telia.com
September 1 st	Kingsbridge Show, Devon, CHS stand
October 14 th	(a.m.) Annual General Meeting and lunch - all welcome. (p.m.) Council meeting – Shawell Village Hall
November 25 th	Christmas Lunch, details to be confirmed

EDITOR:*Vicki Shortis*

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of The Caspian.

Spring is usually my favourite time of year, but as I write this it is feeling very cold and wintry. We have a hosepipe ban – once this was announced the rains arrived and it has not stopped since, but it must be good for next winter's hay!!!!!!

You will find a variety of articles to interest most members and I am always on the look out for newsy items to include, so please do keep me posted. The next edition will be out in November.

Kevin and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in January. I would like to thank the members who sent us cards, it was very kind of you.

If you are showing your Caspians this year, I wish you lots of success and don't forget to apply for your Points card. Thanks to all of you who have been sending in used stamps for fund raising, especially the member who has got her village involved in collecting too. Remember the pretty and unusual ones are the most collectable. So please SAVE & SEND USED STAMPS. Thank you. Good Luck!

"OLD" TREASURER!*John Sansome*

As you probably know I have resigned, after 14 years as Treasurer of the CHS. I decided that it was time for someone else to take over, someone with fresh ideas, someone who could possibly source donations for the charity.

I have very much enjoyed being Treasurer of the CHS. I'm told that if I want to be on Council then I will have to be elected. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave money for the farewell presents, they were excellent, just what I wanted.

Ray Austin has now been appointed as Treasurer. His background is in insurance. He's very keen to help out and I am sure he will do a very good job. Do read his submission below.



Our Old and New Treasurers
The old Treasurer is holding his clock radio

NEW TREASURER:*Ray Austin*

I received some mail from the NCVO for the position of Treasurer for the Caspian Horse Society. In the village where I live there are a vast number of, as I say, 'horsey people' and, as I had never heard of a Caspian Horse, I asked around. The stock reply was "never heard of it" from all the people in my village who ride

horses. This gave me the challenge to investigate the Caspian Horse. I was amazed to find that the history goes back to 3000BC – it was mind blowing.

I was happy to be selected for the post of Treasurer at the Meeting of the Council on 1st April 2012. After meeting all the members of the Council and the warm welcome I received, I look forward to being able to give my best as Treasurer, as John has done over the years. And to the Caspian Horse becoming an ELEGANT SMALL HORSE to more people.

If members pay any fees directly into the CHS bank a/c, would they please briefly identify the sum paid in, e.g. membership, passport, transfer, to avoid time consuming enquiries. It is also helpful for the relevant officer to be informed by email/phone when the fee is paid in.

MEMBERSHIP:

Vicki Shortis

Spring is also the time for the renewal of Annual Subscriptions, due 1st April. Have you forgotten?! Please renew as soon as possible. Your continued and valued support is needed! I would like to welcome several new members and look forward to meeting you at one of our events. Later this year I will be handing over the Membership Secretary's hat to Sarah Anderson, a hat I have worn for several years. I hope you will give her your support.

Please remember to let us know if there are any changes to your address and if you have an email address, remember to send it to me at vshortis@sizzel.net to make sure you receive the News Letter, which is sent out electronically between the twice-yearly magazine. This is to ensure you are kept up-to-date with news.

REGISTRAR:

Ruth Staines

DEFRA has now put the National Equine Database out to tender. It has also sent a lengthy document, 'Review of Zootechnical Legislation', apparently to tidy up the legislation and also to stop complaints. At the time it was sent, no queries could be answered as it arrived in a rush, but it seems there is, after all, time for reflection. As far as we can tell, we would appear to comply with the bulk of the legislation, particularly after our work with the Swedish Horse Board last year.

The CHS now requires photos to accompany a stallion licence application: details are available on the website or from the Registrar.

I am now working to produce the studbook in printed and electronic forms; I do not plan to hold any in stock as it will be printed/produced on demand, so that the most up-to-date version will always be available.

I end with my usual plea to owners and breeders to keep their paperwork up to date and let me know any changes.

A Newsletter is sent out to members by email, between the twice yearly magazines.

If you have not received one, please contact vshortis@sizzel.net

Last year saw quite some activity by the Constitution Committee mainly concerned with the process of assessing potential foundation stock. The administrative matters are now largely closed out but the work of assessments still has to take place.

During the last 2 years considerable effort has been made by the registrars around the world, in conjunction with myself, to improve our knowledge of our Caspians (castrations, deaths, exports etc). In the USA this has involved the resolving of many long-standing registration issues and corrections to historical errors. The process is continuing as there remain problems to resolve.

Recently I launched a little project to find our “Old Timers” as we still show a large number of horses as being alive when statistics would suggest otherwise. There has already been a good response, particularly from Australia, to confirm being alive (and hopefully well) or died (I know also that both the CBS & CHS are on the trail). We are just as interested in confirmation that an over-25 is alive. Any not positively identified as alive, nor reported as dead, will in future be classified as “lost”.

I have at last been able to update the Stud Book and lists of progeny by stallion & mare. The reports are posted on the ICS website in a read-only version. Work continues to provide more information. www.caspianhorses.org

The continuing work also includes a start on rebuilding the ICSB database in order to improve the information that we can obtain from it and to make some parts easier for registrars to use.

A few facts; there have been registered Caspians in 21 countries of the world since 1976. Today it is probably 16 (gone are Bermuda, Japan, Spain, Venezuela and probably Jordan).

Of the 823 male Caspians showing as not dead, 298 are licensed stallions; of these, 25 have been reported as gelded. That leaves 525 unlicensed males. Of these, 31 are reported as gelded, meaning that there must be approximately 494 entire, but unlicensed, male Caspians running around! Hmmm.....

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Under the Data Protection Act (1984), members should be aware that their details may be held on computer in accordance with the act. This information will be used for circulating Society material and the compilation of members lists.



I always found Brian to be a perfect gentleman, a kind man who was deeply interested in Caspians and their bloodlines and took the trouble to travel far to CHS meetings for many years. I was surprised and pleased to see him at the AGM last year and thankful that we had the chance to talk with him. Now that Brian has passed away, we will be without our special advisor to Council, a loyal and enthusiastic member and a thoroughly delightful person.

Liz Webster

I was very upset when Peggy – Brian's wife – rang to tell me of his death but cheered, as she was, that he died doing what he loved best – feeding his beloved horses. He was on the CHS Council for many years, seldom missing a meeting although travelling a long distance and it was particularly nice to see him at the AGM last year. His overriding interest was the Caspian bloodlines, which he studied at length and as Bloodlines Advisor was always here to help breeders with their breeding programme.

We shall miss him very much and be grateful for all that he has done for Caspians and the CHS throughout the years.

Pat Bowles

It's something of a cliché to say of a man that 'He was a gentleman of the old school', and yet I think there is no phrase that better describes Brian Wood. I knew him over a number of years, and throughout I found him totally genuine in his concern to help the Caspian - modest, unassuming, hard-working, willing to drive to meetings from a remote corner of Wales - he valued our company as we valued his. He must have been a great companion, and our hearts go out to Peggy in her loss.

Rosemary Harris

Brian Wood was a gentleman dedicated to the Caspian, particularly studying bloodlines and keeping meticulous records,. keeping us all up-to-date at council meetings by giving us all detailed pedigree charts, pointing out any bloodlines which were becoming endangered. His support will be much missed.

Vicki Shortis

Brian Wood was a quiet unassuming man who liked to remain in the background, where he worked tirelessly to research bloodlines. He was a part of the Caspian scene for almost as long as I can remember and could never do enough to help whenever he was asked.

Working not as most of us do with the aid of computers, but with pen and paper, Brian made use of all the information that he could glean from stud books and personal contact. I can only guess at the enormous number of hours that he must have spent and it was truly a labour of love. He could quote the sires and dams of most of the stock that he watched moving around the ring at shows, where he was almost certain to be, whenever they took place.

Brian never entered into controversy and was totally without bias. He was one of the nicest men I have ever met. It is nice to know that he died doing his favourite job, feeding his animals, and my sincere condolences go to his wife Peggy at this sad time. We will all miss Brian very much.

Brenda Dalton

I first met Brian Wood on joining CHS Council, in the early nineties. He always brought carefully drawn charts along to the Council meetings, highlighting the bloodline percentages of the various Caspian Foundation lines. His painstaking work was invaluable, Brian identified the Foundation lines that were most in danger of becoming extinct. He alerted us all where to direct our breeding efforts, to try to prevent the loss of any bloodline. I recall he went to great efforts to bring the Fatemeh line back from the brink, by encouraging several of us to breed from this bloodline, and some had success!

Brian worked quietly for decades breeding part-bred Caspians, and eventually bought his pure-bred mare, Henden Bella, as he told me, to do his bit on a practical level to maintain the rarest bloodlines, after encouraging the rest of us breeders to do so!

It was a great pleasure to re-acquaint with Brian at CHS AGM, last October. Over lunch, he arranged to bring his mare, Bella, to our stallion, Arjuna Akbar Shah, this spring. We were so disappointed to hear that Brian had passed away and so that foal would now never be....

In response to our condolence card, Peggy Wood, who is Brian's wife, called on Good Friday, to say she knew Brian's plans for breeding Bella this year, and if we were willing, we could bring Bella home, and execute Brian's wishes in his absence. Wish us well in this endeavour, foal photos next year, we hope!

Barbara Smathers

8 THE FUTURE OF CASPIAN BLOOD LINES

*First published in The Caspian Spring/Summer 2002, written by **Brian Wood***

It has always been essential to maintain all available bloodlines in a rare breed such as the Caspian, in order to reduce the possibility of future problems which could occur due to lack of sufficient genetic diversity.

Up to the present time, all bloodlines have been maintained by the simple expedient of ensuring that no sire line or female family has been allowed to die out. This method of maintaining bloodlines is no longer sufficient.

For example, the Doueez bloodline is one of the rarer bloodlines, and mares of this family have now reached the 5th generation from Doueez. These mares carry only 3% of the Doueez blood. This is lower than the existing strength of the bloodline, which means that the amount of Doueez blood in the breed will decline. In fact, ALL the rarer bloodlines will decline once they have reached the 5th generation, UNLESS use is made of stallions which carry a significant amount of the rare bloodline.

Analysis of the bloodlines carried by Caspians registered in 1999 and 2000 showed that there were 11 bloodlines of 4% or less. Stallions which are currently on the CHS list of Stallions at Stud and are capable of improving or preventing further decline of below average and rarer bloodlines are given below.

ALAMARA	Arjuna Akbar Shah; Eastern Shahida; Middleton Shir.
NOUR JEHAN	Sirhowy Croesus; Shepton Darius; Hopstone Jamshyd; Middleton Shir.
MEHRI	Casbrook Kozzar Damzack; Casbrook Kozzar Zeven; Sirhowy Croesus; Shepton Darius.
ANAHITA	Eastern Shahida
SHIRINE	Bytham Razshir (<i>gelded in 2002</i>)
TALOCHE	Alborz Borzou (<i>died in 2011</i>)
FATEMEH	Casbrook Kozzar Damzack; Casbrook Kozzar Zeven
DOUEEZ	<i>None at present on CHS List of Stallions at Stud</i>
FELFEL	Runnymede Orion; Runnymede Fel-Fel
ASEMAN	Casbrook Kozzar Damzack; Casbrook Kozzar Zeven; Sirhowy Croesus, Shepton Darius
PALANG	Hopstone Shepesh; Hopstone Avaz Khardan; Eastern Shahida, Hopstone Jamshyd

First I would like to congratulate Brian Smith-Boyes, who has worked hard on the ICSB over the last few months and has updated much-improved versions of the gender offspring lists along with the stud book on the ICS website. He has great plans to improve the website and I am looking forward to seeing them come to fruition over the next twelve months or so. Brian is devoted to updating the owner and status information so please go to the website and check the updated listings. If it is out of date ***please contact your own national registrar*** (copying it to Brian). This is a problem with which I can fully sympathise from when I was Registrar. He cannot update information from individuals. It must come from your Registrar; otherwise information in the two registers will conflict.

Although I have spoken to Brian many times, I have never met him and I am hoping that I will meet him at the International Conference in Sweden in August, along with lots of new owners and breeders from all over the world. If anyone needs conference details, please contact me at daltonb@talk21.com

Ruth Staines e-mailed me recently to tell me about a book which is available on the internet. It is a photographic publication created by Kerri-Jo Stewart, who was invited to visit Dr Ghiadi in north eastern Iran. Dr Ghiadi was a colleague of Louise Firouz and Ruth rode with her to his stud, close to the border with Turkmenistan, in 2002. I met him at Gara Tepe Sheikh when I visited Louise. The photography is excellent and there is a section devoted to Louise in the latter part of the book. The following link allows viewing of the entire publication and it is well worth looking at. It is already on my Christmas list!

<http://www.blurb.com/books/3101262>

For almost a month now the midges having been causing my Caspians, and me, some aggravation as I live close to a canal which is the perfect breeding ground. I find that the finer coated animals are the ones that are the most affected and, although I have tried almost every expensive concoction on the market, I find that the only product worth buying is benzyl benzoate. This problem needs to be treated before it has an effect so, from March onwards I apply it, diluted in a well washed-out fairly liquid bottle, morning and night, using latex gloves; after a month, once a day is sufficient.

The problem is that benzyl benzoate has become impossible to buy from chemists, so I now make a bulk purchase of 8 bottles (lasts two years) from Hyperdrug.co.uk. If anyone else is having difficulty obtaining it I can forward the link, which is: <http://www.hyperdrug.co.uk/Easivet-Benzyl-Benzoate-Application-1L/productinfo/BENZYLEASI/>

Liz Webster

The first modern 'Caspian' spotted by Louise Firouz in 1965, was Ostad, a small bay stallion pulling a crude wooden cart through the narrow streets of the bazaar in Amol, just another workhorse like the donkeys and horses around him. Those found later were ridden by overweight adults, pulling or piled high with cumbersome loads or often threshing corn. Their discovery unwittingly started a re-evaluation of equine history.

Clearly these elegant ponies were strong and agile, far tougher than their looks implied and willing to work hard. Once they'd recovered their strength at Norouzabad, Louise set them to work with delighted children at her riding school. As well as an astonishing history and unique characteristics, she discovered that they possessed a formidable jump and high intelligence. The found 'Caspians' learned quickly and excelled at their new duties, though their previous lives had been so different. Louise became convinced that they had a tremendous future as narrow, comfortable children's ponies and cross-breeding sires, if only they could be seen; their amazing jumping ability would be irresistible to competitive children; their beauty, natural agility and willing, equable temperament would quickly attract the attention of the horse world for riding and driving.

In the early days, she was right. Numbers were low, yet a comparatively high percentage of Caspians (and I always include part-breds) in Britain, Australia and New Zealand were encouraged to show off all the things they love to do. This included scurry, driving trials, carriage driving, ridden dressage competitions, eventing, show classes, show jumping, gymkhana, pony racing, pony clubbing and, in West Australia, popular team displays at prestige shows. They were ridden by the disabled and taught young children to ride. These activities, and their rarity, brought Caspians many appearances in the media, attracting even more attention.

Despite this early burst of activity, Caspians in the West still tend to be viewed as unusual, decorative objects for collection. It has become clear that this form of celebrity has not always worked to their benefit. Once their rarity and beauty became more widely appreciated, Caspians were enthusiastically bred and sold on. It cannot be denied that sales to other (new) breeders were easiest to achieve. Few breeders found it necessary to produce and sell a well-schooled 'product'. Most preferred to leave that to the next owner, who often did not do so. Nevertheless, it has to be said that tremendous efforts have been made towards the general promotion of the breed and, although numerically small, their geographical spread has been impressive. Caspian type has been mostly well-preserved....but that's another article in itself!

Today's financial climate has, alas, revealed a downside to the tendency to overlook the working aspect of the Caspian. It frustrates me that too many of these capable, intelligent, willing Caspian horses can languish idly in field or stable these days, bored, under-exercised and often over-fed, with nothing constructive to do. The performance aspect – on which Louise was sure their future would hang – has been largely absent since those active years. From a Caspian's point of view this is truly a shame, especially for those which can develop laminitis as a result. Those

who have worked with Caspians know that they are great characters, full of curiosity, willing to join in the fun, wanting to be busy. Stallions may have a particularly monotonous, lonely existence, only occasionally relieved by stud duties – if at all. Some stallions *are* broken to ride and/or drive and some are even allowed company outside the breeding season as Louise advocated, but they're the lucky few.

The scarcity of working Caspians here in the UK, in particular, tends to give a false perception of the breed as pointless to the rest of the horse world and has resulted in a flat market for Caspians, particularly in these straitened times. These days buyers must find value for money and proven performance ability. Rarity, uniqueness and history are not enough. With the number of unbroken, inexperienced and unproven Caspians on the market, the average horse buyer really can be forgiven for looking elsewhere.



*Chris Belton drives Hopstone
Mustapha and H. Chahar Shambe*

It doesn't have to be like that, of course, but it does require effort and some expense, although Caspians learn so easily and quickly that lengthy, expensive training is seldom required. Swedish owners have demonstrated that proper schooling and competition results gained before sale lead directly to a thriving market, for Caspian geldings and barren mares especially, whose delighted owners and riders have quickly spread the word to other buyers. Of course some owners elsewhere have shown this too, but the rest of us must learn a valuable lesson from them - and we need to start as soon as possible. Our geldings and barren mares can be particularly good ambassadors for the breed!

These are my personal opinions, but I hope they are shared by others. In no way do I under-value the good work that has already been done, but we need to take a new direction now and put working Caspians into the limelight where they belong. The CHS encourages all initiatives towards the breaking and schooling of Caspians, to help create a solid and ongoing market for them. We owe Louise and the Caspians that much.

So have fun with your Caspians and part-breds and let us know how you get on!

GENE BANK

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The CHS has set up a page on the JustGiving website to raise money for a Semen Bank. The target is £10,000. Semen from the rare bloodlines in this country can be transported to anywhere in the world. This service will be useful to any Caspian breeders, giving them the chance to use these rare bloodlines in their breeding program.

To donate go to www.justgiving.com and enter "Caspian Horse Society"

Swedish Caspian Horse Association

Announces

The third

International Caspian Conference

15th/16th/17th August 2012

MAIN VENUE:

Blå Wingen, Husby-Långhundra, Knivsta

(Blå Wingen is located 19 Swedish km from Arlanda Airport)

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE and ADDITIONAL VENUE

Margareta Lindahl, Secretary SCHA

Address: Lunda Mellangården 20, 741 94 Knivsta.

Phone: +46 (0)-18 38 72 48

Email: margaretalindahl@telia.com

THE CASPIAN BREED SHOW

AUGUST 18th 2012

At Nordiclights Stud which is located very close to Blå Wingen

Judges: Mrs Joan Taplin & Mrs Liselotte Erixon

Countries to be represented include:

Australia	Canada	Hungary	New Zealand	
USA	Belgium	France	Iran	Norway
Bermuda	Germany	Netherlands	United Kingdom	

OPEN TO MEMBERS & NON MEMBERS



HANDS UP! WHO'S GOT A CASPIAN HIDDEN OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE?

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Penny Walster

The 2012 Show season is now started and underway. This is the only way to **really** get the public to see these beautiful horses, so how many of you fabulous members can get them out into the show rings and into the spotlight????!!

Caspian horses thrive on the public attention and find going to the shows an important event in their lives; they love the hustle and bustle and play to the audience. With their beautiful coats and china-like appearance they are proper eye-catching horses who attract lots of interest. This in turn gains admirers of the breed and the more informed the public are the more chance the breed has of going forward and attracting more membership and support for the breeding programmes and ownership of these fabulous little horses which is so lacking.

With that in mind I will again remind everyone of the Points Scheme for anyone to get involved with. It is free to join – all you need to do is send an SAE to Mrs H Thirlby, 35 Castledine Avenue, Quorn, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 8DW to register an interest and have a Points For Performance card returned to you. Points will be awarded for attending classes at ANY show or class, whether it be showing, dressage, eventing, showjumping, driving, endurance etc. (provided your card has been signed by the Show Secretary) up to Championships, which gain the most points. These are all totalled up at the end of the season for the Highest Placed Caspian, who will be awarded a fabulous sash and rosette. Runnymede Fel-Fel was the Highest Placed Caspian 2011. Can YOU take it this year?????

Let's see a big uptake on the Points Scheme. We want to see photos and news on your horses, whether they are pure or part-bred so they can be added to the news page of the website and we can see YOU and YOUR horses in the headlines. We know they are out there but just tucked away looking beautiful, we so want to see them in the show ring looking even more gorgeous, bathed and shiny, with smiley faces on both horses and handlers!!!!!!!!!!

If you are unsure of what to enter or want any advice on turnout etc., drop me an email on info@bathleyhillfarmlivery.com and I would be more than happy to help or suggest ideas!!!!

‘THE HORSE: ARABIA TO ROYAL ASCOT’

The British Museum is to hold its first exhibition devoted to the horse, running from May 24 to September 3 in Gallery 35, entry free. It has been planned as a Jubilee gift to the Queen and timed to coincide with the Olympic Games. Exhibits include the gold chariot drawn by four small horses from the Oxus Treasure that helped Louise Firouz formulate her theories of the history of the Caspian Horse.

After a long absence from the Caspian Horse Society, I am pleased to have been asked to join the Council again, to help Liz, Barbara and others with support work to generate activities/events for the breed.

I was disappointed to see that the Breed Show had collapsed and also many classes at other shows had disappeared too, mainly through lack of support and finance from not only breeders and owners but event organisers too. However this is not peculiar to our breed, but also many other events nationwide in these times of austerity.

What can we do? After discussion with others here are a few ideas.

1. With an acceptance that fuel and travel costs are at an all-time high, perhaps we can go back to supporting classes at a very local level... such as leading rein (jumping and showing) classes.; first ridden, child handler classes, driving classes etc., putting the Caspian amongst other equines to be more seen. I am sure many of you do this in a few areas already but certainly I have not seen a Caspian at any shows or pony club activities in the Midlands and surrounding areas for many a year. Who knows, this could lead to regional classes for Caspians around the country and perhaps the re-emergence of a Breed or Combined Breeds Championship Show.

2. We could also consider exhibiting the Caspian Horse at local fetes or schools as an interesting attraction.

3. Many local Feed Merchants and Saddlery Stores are adding days/or evening events to draw in customers and again the Caspian has such a history as to be of great interest. We will investigate the possibilities

4. As above, Equestrian Colleges, Studs, Stables (riding / racing) etc. have Open Days. Again I am sure that, if approached, there could be opportunities to display the unique merits and associations of our Caspian Horses there too.

5. I also believe that the ancestral links which connect the Caspian to early equine forms, supported by research, would be an ideal lecture or demonstration at Pony Club and Riding Club camps and rallies, especially if one could be seen in the flesh!

These are only a few ideas and I am sure many of you have brilliant suggestions of your own. Let's hear from you.

The Caspian Horse has many skills. Lovely paces for dressage, very workable and amiable temperaments for R.D.A., for riding, handling and driving.

Indeed many Caspians have been extremely successful at National Driving Trials in the past, have a scopey, easy jump for many events when trained and a lithe athletic quality for mounted games. What about polocrosse opportunities? I am sure they would perform in Pony Racing too.

In this Olympic Year and with more public interest and sympathies towards the horse after the great film and stageplay of Warhorse, let's put our deserving Caspians rightly back into the spotlight again.

Meanwhile at Council we will try to raise our profile and liaise with others to provide events in areas for our equines.

Good Luck to all in 2012 and let's put our Caspians back in the public eye.

TO ALL MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD

Please help the CHS to raise funds for promoting the Caspian

Save and send me your **used stamps** taken from your mail envelopes. Ask your family and friends to help. We can sell these to help raise funds.

Also **Postcards – Old, Used & New**



I look forward to hearing from you, many thanks for your help!

Please send to:

**Vicki Shortis, Costessey House,
Costessey, Norwich, NR8 5DG, UK**

OLYMPIC TORCH BEARER

15

Our President Mrs Jane Holderness-Roddam L.V.O, C.B.E. has been chosen as an official Olympic Torch Bearer for the London Games. Jane will carry the Torch through her local area Shurdington, Gloucestershire, on the 23rd May. Start time is 17.35. The next point is Cheltenham Racecourse.

STUNNING PHOTOS...

... are needed to promote the Caspian Horse to a wide world – on the website, in the magazine and at Shows. Some people have a natural talent for capturing a stunning picture through the eye of a lens. But many of us don't have this gift, we love our horses and most of us think our horses are beautiful, but beauty is quite often just in the eye of the beholder, wearing rose tinted specs.

Look at pictures of your own and other people's horses. What do they tell you? For example, does it look well groomed or scruffy, has it four legs or three?! Does it look bright and alert or dull and fed up? Does it look as though it has a short or long back? Does the handler look neat and tidy? What is in the back ground? This will frame the horse and a good background can improve the whole picture.

TIP: Google 'How to photo a horse'. There you will find lots of very helpful tips and good advice, some by well-known horse photographers. Or find a professional photographer to do the job for you. A really good picture could sell your horse.

Extracts from the Internet

Have you noticed your horse or pony being intensely interested in the approach of his feed but seemingly reluctant to chew it? Or maybe he's regularly dropping half-chewed food from his mouth (*quidding*)? Maybe he has 'smelly mouth' – not exactly halitosis as we know it, but strongly smelling of feed or grass. Perhaps he has started to lose condition, looks uncomfortable with the bit, throws his head about when bridled or doesn't want to go forward like he used to? Could be that he needs a visit from the dentist as soon as possible.

Horses and ponies have between 36 and 42 teeth: 12 incisors to tear grass, which erupt as milk teeth and are later replaced by permanent incisors; 24 molars for grinding feed, of which the first 12 erupt as milk teeth; four canine ('bridle') teeth, located between incisors and molars, which erupt at about five years in the male and seldom in the female and two small "wolf" teeth sited in front of the upper molars that are often removed as a precaution against biting problems.

The shearing action used when a horse eats affects how the horse's teeth wear and this is exacerbated by its diet and the interval between dental treatments. Extremely sharp edges on the outside of the upper molars and inside the lower molars may result. These can be sharp enough to cut into the horse's cheek or tongue when eating and can cause pain when a sharp tooth is hit by the bit. To remove the cause of the pain, the sharp spikes of enamel must be 'floated' off, using a dental rasp to remove the points and produce a level chewing surface once more. If a tooth is missing, the opposing tooth will grow into the space and can cause problems, so this long tooth must be filed to the same level as the others.

Routine tools used to treat the horse are a full mouth gag and hand-operated stainless steel files. Some dentists claim that sedation will not be needed, but most would prefer to sedate for the safety of both parties. Many people consider that the use of power tools should be viewed with suspicion, since the tools are not water-cooled in operation, there is no proven benefit to the horse and a bad experience can cause huge problems next time.

A horse's teeth should normally be first checked at the mouthing stage of breaking-in, or at approximately 2 years old. With fast growth and periodic loss of milk teeth, their mouths can change considerably at this age and any pain felt then can become associated with the bit and cause bad habits that are difficult to eradicate. Thus professional trainers feeding a grain diet to young horses usually get them checked three-monthly, while grain-eaters of five years and older are checked 6-monthly.

The teeth of mature horses and ponies without specific dental problems should be regularly maintained to ensure a long and healthy life. Paddock fed horses aged 5 and above should be checked at least bi-annually. Veteran horses in their late teens, whose teeth have stopped erupting, should only need checking every two or three years, unless a problem arises.

It has only been possible here to give a short summary of the information available on the internet. The British Association of Equine Dental Technicians can help to find qualified equine dentists in your area.

STICHILL CASPIAN HORSES

LICENCED STALLIONS AT STUD 2012



BYTHAM BOBBY DAZZLER

Registered part bred – first cross with Welsh Section A

A superb example of a part bred

Foaled 29 April 2004 – 12.2 hands high



BYTHAM ORIENT

Pure bred Caspian – in his first season at stud

A fabulous example of the breed

Foaled 1 June 2009 – To make approximately 11.3 hands high

Considered to be a national treasure in their native country by the Iranian Government, Caspians are very much horses despite their size, and are recognised for their conformation and bright, alert, intelligent but gentle temperaments with their agile movement inherited from their mountainous origins making for excellent jumping and sporting abilities.

Fees £100 and £25 Grooms Fee – *no foal free return*

**COME AND SEE THEM ON FRIDAY 25 MAY
AS PART OF THE BORDERS FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE PROGRAMME**

Anna Bergmann 01573 470 635 or anna@stichillstables.co.uk

Both are tested negative and vaccinated against EVA and tested negative for CEM

All mares to be certified clear of EVA and CEM

Jenne Timbs

As usual life is a rush around here. I attended the horse breeds EXPO meeting for the Queensland Royal show today and once again the Caspian horse has been included in the limited shed space that allows for only 18 different breeds. This will be the 4th year we have attended, and the awareness of the Caspian Breed is starting to grow, however sadly it has not resulted in any sales, so after this year we will have to stop breeding until we are able to sell some horses.

Last years EXPO resulted in a mini/pony trot family approaching us and we agreed to lease them (free) one of our 3 year olds, Jasenna Zerem Yeled, to break to harness and trial at the trots for one year. Errol is an experienced harness trainer and I went over to their property several times to watch the various stages of Zerem's training. It was very pleasing to see that he did not put a foot wrong. To date he continues to do well and though still a colt he passed his first trial day in February.



Lenard, the family's 12 year old son, was wondering if he could also ride Zerem and so his father Errol put him up on Zerem's back and proceeded to lead him around as if the horse had been doing it all his life. They later asked me if he had had anyone on his back before, he had not.

Several times they have commented that he is so well behaved that they sometimes forget that he is a colt. It is very satisfying to see one of your foals grow into a horse that fits the Caspian reputation of being very trainable.

The other short story is in regard to one of our 2011 foals Jasenna Hadar. Around 9am on the 6th October 2011, I checked Ningana Bella, to see how close she was to foaling. I looking at her udder and figured that she would have the foal some time that day. I rubbed her belly and commented to her that I would really appreciate it if she could organize for Sienna (our 7 yr old) to see this foal born, as it would be her first time. I then left the mare in the house yard for the day.

Just after 1pm I was standing at the kitchen window and saw Bella walk past. She had visible drips of milk on her teats, a sure sign that she was very close to foaling. So I got the video and camera gear ready and then Sienna found Bella and started to lead her toward the stable.

“No, leave her around the house,” I suggested, “let’s just see what she does.” I was not long before Bella chose the area of lawn between our outdoor area and pool fence to have her foal. I took a few photos, then handed our expensive camera to Sienna while I moved the video to a better position. Sienna forgot that she had to look through the view finder of our digital SLR in order to locate the subject matter of the photo, and as a result we have some partial photos of the stages of foaling. At least the video captured the event. It was an amazing thing to watch those little white hooves appear, then the pink nose with a large blaze. I sighed with relief when the tricky shoulders were free and the rest of the foal slipped out easily. I immediately left the video and went to tear the bag so that the foal could take it’s first breath. It is always a challenge to tell the exact colour of a newborn foal, but I was pretty sure that I was looking at a chestnut.

I had ordered a chestnut filly with a blaze and 4 white socks. Well, I had the blaze and 4 white hooves, with at least one definite sock. But did I have my filly? I snuck a peek between those legs.... another colt! I guess you can’t always have exactly what you wish for. We named him Hadar, which in Hebrew means honour, magnificence and majesty. He is a beautiful horse and Sienna and I were certainly honoured that his mother trusted us enough to come to us and have him right outside our outdoor area. It was a very civilized experience to be able to sit in the outdoor area and watch Hadar jump to his feet and find his way to the milk parlour. It would be wonderful to sell him to a show home where he can play a big part in promoting the breed





This is Markazi Shazadeh, the Caspian mare I bought. You see her with Emma de Wolff, the almost eight year old daughter of my friend Brigitte Kilian. The woman leading the mare is Ali Vegter who trained Shazadeh and prepared her and Emma for this first ride. The picture was taken by Erwin de Wolff, Emma's father and Brigitte's husband.

Brigitte and I first met on an Arabian Horse Show in the Netherlands. We both shared a dream: to own an Arabian horse. At that time I already knew that the majority of Arabian horses are not traditionally bred from authentic bloodlines. Fashion nowadays dictates the Arabian horse scene to a great extent, with the result that the Arabian becomes more and more a show horse. My dream was to own an authentic Arabian of old, 'asil', bloodlines.

Brigitte immediately warmed to this idea and when I visited a breeder who used old Egyptian, so-called 'Babson' bloodlines, she joined me.

This resulted in a visit to the USA where we met several Babson breeders and, finally, to our ownership of Manara Samira, a Babson/Sirecho/Halima mare, bred by the Stam family who now live in Ireland.

For eleven years Samira was our pride and joy. Brigitte rode her in endurance rides and her daughter Emma learnt to ride on her. Typically for Babsons, she was small (1.42m) and had a very sweet temper. She was not a show model at all, but had the unpolished beauty of the original desert horse.

She inspired me to write a book, 'Impressions', in Dutch and English, about the Arabian and its origins. And when you talk about the Arabian's origins you must mention the Caspian horse, of course!

So I visited Caspian horse owners and the first thing that struck me about Caspians was that they are so much like the old-fashioned Arabians like Samira. Nanda Smit-le-Poole has a mare that Brigitte and I immediately called 'mini Samira' because she was the carbon copy of our Arabian, only 20cms or so smaller.

When our Samira began to suffer from arthritis in both forelegs, we tried everything we could think of to help her. For more than a year we tried all kinds of treatments, but to no avail. In the end we had to let her go, and little Emma, who was present when Samira was put to sleep (she insisted to be with her to the last) cried her eyes out.

Our other horses, especially the bay Lipizzaner mare Fadra who had been Samira's closest friend, showed sadness and missed her. All the joy seemed to be gone from Fadra; she really mourned.

I could not get the Caspians from my mind and I invited Brigitte to visit Nanda and to take Emma along with us.

For Emma, the whole herd of Caspians was somewhat overwhelming, but she fell in love with Shazadeh because this mare, in her quiet way, showed her trust and gentleness, like Samira did.

In looks, they are unlike, but in gentleness, they are very similar and that appealed to her.

So I decided to buy Shazadeh for Emma.

I did this for Nanda, to help her promote the Caspian horse; for Brigitte to do something in return for all the good care she gave to Samira; for Emma to have again a horse to love, and for myself to remind me time and again that this is what the Arabian originally must have looked like in prehistoric times.

I think it would be a good education for every Arabian horse breeder to have a good look at a Caspian horse. It helps to put you back with your feet on the ground after all that fancy Arabian horse show stuff! Although some will never learn, I'm afraid.

And my next dream?

Well, what about this: what will happen when you cross a Caspian horse with an Iranian Asil, the oldest and most 'primitive' of all Arabians (did you know that among these Arabians there are individuals that are striped without a clearly diluted coat colour, somewhat similar to Caspians?)

Will some atavistic characteristics re-emerge, like the Heck brothers found out when they crossed several cattle breeds to re-create the aurochs?

Maybe this will remain a dream, but you never know.

For now, we are all happy with Shazadeh, she is happy with us and Fadra is delighted to have a small, bay Samira back with her!

THE CASPIAN IN ITS NATIVE LAND 21

Louise Firouz

From the International Stud Book, Vol. II, April 1978

The chance discovery of a miniature horse in Northern Iran in 1965 drastically altered previously held views of early horse domestication in the Middle East and eventually offered solid and convincing proof of the origin of the hot-blooded Oriental horse.

The so-called Caspian pony, a name derived from the geographical location of the original siting and the small size of the horse, was first noticed in the Caspian littoral town of Amol. Competing in size and labour with the local donkeys, it was chiefly obvious for the great speed with which it darted through the narrow alleys conveying cart loads of goods from one part of the town to the other. On closer inspection the fine head, large eyes, slim bone and gaily carried tail not only set it apart from *Equus Asinus* but also from the rest of its own species laboring under large loads of agricultural produce.

Sheer curiosity prompted the purchase of several of these miniature horse and their transport to Norouzabad outside Tehran. They were enthusiastically received by pony-starved young children who, without a thought to historical circumstances, promptly learned to ride and teach their mounts the elements of jumping and gymkhana. So successful were the consequent exploits of the Caspians that more were found and brought to Tehran to form the nucleus of a breeding herd.

The stud at Norouzabad grew to twenty-three Caspians but, as a purely private venture, it was difficult to maintain financially. The Royal Horse Society (RHS), which had been formed in 1970 under the distinguished patronage of the Crown Prince, HIH Prince Reza Pahlavi, and whose primary aim was dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Iran's native breeds, bought the Caspians and left them to be maintained at Norouzabad until 1974, from which time the RHS took over complete management of this herd.

A second private herd was started from Foundation Stock (FS) found along the Caspian Coast in 1975. Approximately twenty mares and three stallions were purchased, of which seven mares and one stallion were sold to the Caspian Stud (UK) in the fall of 1976. This herd was maintained under natural conditions on the Turkoman Steppes of North Eastern Iran at Gara Tepe Sheikh. Following the grass and grazing in herds watched over by two dedicated Turkoman 'charpadars', the mares grazed for two and a half months in the Khalet Nevi mountains by the Russian border during the Spring, for four and a half months in the lush wild alfalfa pastures of the Eastern Alborz mountains during the summer, and then down on the Turkoman Steppes to graze the harvested wheat stubble in the fall. During the winter the Caspians were sheltered at night in an adobe stable, browsing in the day time among the tender shoots of green barley planted especially for them. At the time of the Vernal Equinox (the Zoroastrian New Year) the mares moved once more toward the Russian border and the verdant pastures of the Khalet Nevi, where their foals joined in play with foals of other herds and gamboling flocks of lambs.

Five foals were born to the Gara Tepe Sheikh Stud during this time of which one was consumed by wolves along with his in-foal dam. A particularly fine Foundation mare also succumbed to this fate within a week of the first tragedy. Further tragedies of this sort were averted by the CS (UK)'s timely purchase of seven mares and one stallion, ensuring sufficient space for the remaining Caspians in the protection of the winter barn.

When the RHS declared a ban on exports of Caspians beginning Jan 1 1977, the stud of Caspians at Gara Tepe Sheikh was forced to close its doors. Thus, the RHS, in order to save the Caspian horse from extinction, established a separate Society whose main aims were to collect and maintain all Caspians extant in Iran, selectively breeding them in a 'National' Stud to conform with a specific standard of the breed. Thus the Gara Tepe Sheikh Stud joined with the Norouzabad Stud stabled on the elegant grounds of the Royal Society Stud in Gonbad-e-Gabous. As of this writing, the RHS Stud in Gonbad-e-Gabous numbers sixty-three stallions, mares and foals, of which the greater number are Foundation Stock.



Fran Smith-Boyes

Costessa Siyroun recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of his birth. Four years ago it would have been difficult to imagine that he would still be with us but he is; he's tough.

He was born on 21st April '82 just outside Norwich (England) under the caring eye of Vicki Shortis. At 2 years old he made an eventful journey of about 950km (600 miles) to the North West coast of Scotland (that story is for another time). He thereby became the first Caspian in Scotland. During this period he sired (amongst others) the Breed Supreme Champion, Rosmear Bahoosh (C Siyroun x Hopstone Lili).

Sadly, due to the distance we were from any other Caspian, he did not get the opportunity to try for that trophy himself. However he was ready for the challenge, having been prepared for the ring by Harry van Praagh (a racing jockey turned trainer).

Due to our moving from Scotland to a then unknown final destination, Siyroun went to stay at the Darkhorse Stud in the North of England, where he sired more foals. Some of his descendants went to the USA.

In 1995 he arrived in France (despite administrative obstacles). There he met up again with H. Lili who shared his paddock for the last 2 years of her life. He moved once more to our current home where he remains, very content, at liberty to go where he pleases since he retired from being a stallion; far from chasing all the ladies as in days gone by he now runs away from them, except for R. Ramesh – they're too much hassle!

His birthday was celebrated in, for him, familiar surroundings, he being a frequent visitor to our kitchen (if we're not careful). In his younger days he had worked out that he could get from our front (closed) yard to the paddocks by nipping through the house (the front door was often open). If, however, the back door was closed he simply ended up in the kitchen! In recent times he had observed that one of our cats who was often in the stables could open the back door – he would follow! He developed a passion for flour. (His table manners leave much to be desired, as can be seen in the photo).

Four years ago we thought that he would have to be put down as he came out of a winter just skin and bones, with almost no hair. He gave the appearance of suffering from sweet-itch, with something unidentified in addition. The 'sweet-itch' turned out to be a parasite that lives just under the skin and becomes very active in sunlight. The remedy seems to be to worm every month for 6 months. He has come out of this winter in much better condition than for several years and would probably love to find a small rider just to go for little hacks in the woods! Fran recently got on his back, it made him feel very important again.

The amazing story of Marine S/Sgt Reckless! I give you Staff Sergeant Reckless, the horse.

This horse was a pack horse during the Korean war, and she carried recoil-less rifles, ammunition and supplies to Marines. Nothing too unusual about that, lots of animals got pressed into doing pack chores in many wars.

But this horse did something more. During the battle for a location called Outpost Vegas, this mare made 51 trips up and down the hill, on the way up she carried ammunition, and on the way down she carried wounded soldiers.

What was so amazing? Well she made every one of those trips without anyone leading her.

I can imagine a horse carrying a wounded soldier, being smacked on the rump at the top of the hill, and heading back to the "safety" of the rear. But to imagine the same horse, loaded with ammunition, trudging back to the battle where artillery is going off without anyone leading her, is unbelievable. To know that she would make 51 of those trips is unheard of. How many horses would even make it back to the barn once, let alone return to you in the field one single time?

She retired at the Marine Corps Base in Camp Pendleton where a General issued the following order - she was never to carry any more weight on her back except her own blankets. She died in 1968 at the age of 20.

So, to see her story and photos to prove where she was and what she did, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIo3ZfA9da0&feature=youtube>

DISABLED RIDERS

Brenda Dalton

I would be grateful if anyone who is involved, or has in the past been involved, with disabled riders or drivers could send me the details so that they can be included in an article for the magazine. If you have not been involved yourself but know someone who has, please can you let me have their contact details? If you have a photograph, please also send that, along with permission from the owner/photographer to use it. I am sure we will all be very surprised at the number of Caspians and Caspian owners that have done wonderful work for the disabled. daltonb@talk21.com

The Society is subject to English law. Overseas members are accepted on the understanding that any actions by members against the society are brought within the UK legal jurisdiction.

THE CHS IS AFFILIATED TO

- *The International Caspian Society*
 - *The Central Prefix Register*
 - *The B H S Breeds Committee*
- *The British Association of Equine Societies*

Hello to all my friends, old and new,

Spring is definitely in the air! Longer days and lush grass are now good news but I notice our grazing is already restricted. I think this is jolly mean but I'm told it keeps my waistline trim and prevents Laminitis. I'm shedding my thick winter coat with regular grooming, helped by crows and jackdaws who will perch on my head and back



to pull out hair for lining their designer nests. The other day I had to put up with three pecking me when I was lying flat out relaxing. Such a cheek!

There has been quite a lot of activity at the farm and we ponies seem to have been the only witnesses. The Police have been around as my Mum's Land Rover was stolen during the night while we just stared over the fence. What could we do as it was pushed away and then driven to a field and stripped of every part? Mum said we should have made some noise but, I'm afraid, we really had only eating on our minds! At least ~~we~~ weren't taken is all I can say. Anyway, she keeps muttering about 'rural crime' and has asked me to mention to you about safely storing your tack and rugs, using invisible, identifying marker pens as much as possible and photographing everything you own, including your horses and ponies, which can also be micro chipped. It is so much easier for the Police to **see** what's missing.

I am looking forward to warm, summer days and nights. March surprised us with some wonderful weather but, as always when the sun appears, keep an eye on your troughs and buckets, scrub them out and fill regularly, as we chaps don't enjoy drinking green water. We also don't like a spring treat of double wormer or increased visits from the Farrier but that's all part of keeping us 'top notch' for all those happy, riding days and fun events.



Time to go; I've just heard the gentle whirr of some new horse clippers. I hope they're not coming my way! Give your mobile a rest and enjoy the great outdoors!

Love, Paddington.

26 YET MORE NOTES FROM THE NORTH

From Bytham Orient in the Scottish Borders

Hello, I am Fred – Bytham Orient – by Persicus Nicky out of Bytham Oriole. I was bred by Pat, who very generously gave me to ‘her’ as a yearling because it was thought I was so lovely I should definitely stand at stud and Scotland needed me ! So I arrived here a year ago, a rather shaggy little thing, with not too many manners, but plenty of self-confidence and a good idea of my own importance – to find the natives none too welcoming. In fact Dazzle thought I was a vile little upstart.

I have spent the winter out in the field as apparently I still have a nasty dose of the ‘terrible twos’. I can’t understand it myself – I reckon I am supremely obliging – but the winter has been kind, with no serious snow and there is good shelter from the relentless wind so I look a million dollars and even my mane shines.

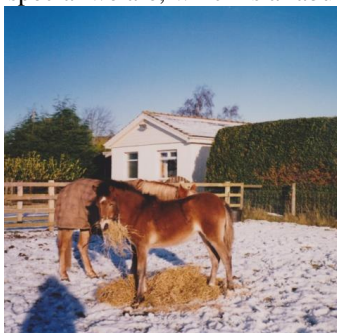
Everyone says I am going to be simply smashing. The vet says my trot is to die for – ‘she’ is pretty smitten and we are hopeful of some mares for me this year. On the down side Dazzle, who is the apple of ‘her’ eye, still doesn’t go a bundle on me and there is talk of serious education in the spring – about which I will keep you Posted, as frankly I think I know it all already.

Amber and her foal have wintered really well, there is a plan for me to cover her this May so then we would have progeny from each of us to fly the flag for Caspians up here.

We have a big Open Day in May as part of the really prestigious annual Borders

Festival of the Horse which was instigated by the BHS to counteract the detrimental effects of the Foot and Mouth epidemic and is hugely popular with people coming from far and wide to enjoy demonstrations, open yards, guided rides and talks on all manner of equestrian topics.

Dazzle has written a big cheque for a full page advertisement of us both to appear in the festival programme which has a print run of 20,000, so we hope that masses of people will come. Some of the CHS Council are very kindly coming to stay to give us moral support and tell everyone about the history of Caspians and how special we are, which is a fabulous endorsement of our quality.



Amber and Sapphire enjoying the winter sunshine



See how well I look after a winter in the field

Black Sands and Celestial Horses: Tracks over Turkestan by Gill Suttle

Scimitar Press – available from Amazon, Foyles, Waterstones.

This is a book about another rare Central Asian horse, the Akhal Teke. Gill Suttle has done what most of us can only dream about: she travelled, solo, in the newly independent Central Asian states of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, bought an Akhal Teke stallion which she rode in Turkmenistan, and even managed to bring him back to UK!

Gill interweaves her travels with the complex histories of the two countries, making the history as fascinating as are her struggles with post communist bureaucracy. Utterly determined, she never takes no for an answer. The journey was made in 1996, in a window after independence when visitors could just about travel independently. From trips I made in the following decade, I know that even those opportunities are generally no longer available, so she gives a fascinating insight into the lives of the ordinary people of Turkmenistan. A treat not to be missed.

WORD SEARCH

L	Z	F	C	O	L	D	I	C	P	U	H	E	T	S
E	U	E	C	N	E	R	E	F	N	O	C	F	L	W
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I	S	T	A	M	P	S	P	M	T	L	C	S	A	Z
S	M	O	F	S	S	W	O	R	K	I	N	G	H	N
L	N	R	A	T	M	W	K	T	N	L	S	S	O	P
A	C	C	S	U	Z	N	I	H	O	H	G	T	L	G
T	W	H	T	D	A	F	C	M	I	A	C	I	R	E
I	T	P	D	B	H	E	O	S	T	L	D	C	H	Y
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N	T	N	I	O	L	H	P	N	D	F	N	I	N	F
K	E	O	O	K	P	U	S	D	N	A	H	L	T	D
G	U	Z	H	W	E	A	T	G	U	D	I	L	K	M
H	N	C	A	S	S	E	T	S	O	C	S	O	L	L
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Zootechnical
Gentleman
Dentistry
Costessa

Legislation
Working
Stichill
Conference

Foundation
Handsup
Genebank

Stud book
Stamps
Torch

Liz Webster

LEMON YOGHURT CAKE (Easy recipe and makes 2 loaf-shaped cakes, which freeze well)

2 lemons,	unwaxed/washed	1 pot corn or sunflower oil
1 pot natural or lemon yoghurt (approx. 150 g). Keep empty pot as a measure.		3 pots sugar (+ 1 extra tablespoon for topping afterwards)
3 large eggs		4 pots self-raising flour

Preheat oven to 160 C, or Gas mark 3.

Line 2 loaf tins or 1 equivalent square tin with greased greaseproof paper (sides and bottom)

Peel one lemon thinly and squeeze juice.

Put rind, juice, yoghurt, eggs, oil, sugar and flour into Magimix or similar cutting/mixing machine. (Use the empty yoghurt pot as a measure, filling to the same level as the yoghurt was. Chop rind finely if chopper/mixer not available).

Mix on slow speed for about half a minute, stop mixer, scrape all mixture from sides to centre.

Mix again on high speed for another half minute or until thoroughly blended.*

Pour mixture into lined and greased tins** and bake in centre of oven approximately 1 hour (large cake) or maybe 45 minutes for the loaf tins before testing. When done, cake should spring up when pressed slightly in the centre.

While still hot, squeeze 2nd lemon into saucepan and boil up juice with a tablespoon of extra sugar, then pour over cakes while in tins and allow to cool before removing.

(This cake can be made without lemons if wished and still tastes nice!)

** At this point you can stir in glace cherries or sultanas etc. by hand if you wish.*

*** At this point you can decorate the cake/s with cherries or blanched almonds or whatever you want (or nothing is nice!)*

HINTS AND TIPS

Vicki Shortis

- ❖ Spring nettle tops make good soup, the rest dry and chop, add to horse feeds, an excellent tonic which puts a bloom in their coat. Never collect nettles from the roadside as they are contaminated by exhaust fumes.
- ❖ When horses are standing looking wet and miserable in the pouring rain, I always feed a little dry hay or straw, it's like a bowl of hot soup to us.
- ❖ When riding in bright sunshine wear something bright so you can be seen.
- ❖ When travelling to shows, put the horse's tail in an old tight to keep it clean.
- ❖ Bicarbonate soda sprinkled over the stable floor before putting the bedding back, helps to kill stable smells.

PLEASE REMEMBER if you have some good tips to share them with us

WEBWISE & USEFUL CONTACTS

www.laminitisclinic.org Telephone help line 0905-105-1051. This is a very informative and helpful site for anyone with a laminitis problem.

www.sweet-itch.com For useful advice and information to help overcome Sweet Itch.

www.grasssickness.org Hopefully you will never come across this problem, but it's worth visiting this site to learn more about this very distressing disease.

www.ragwort-ulk.com **www.ragwort.com** Two sites for advice about ragwort.

www.yourhorseshealth.com/health_care/colic For help with colic. (Note: health_care)

www.bhs.org.uk The BHS site covers a wide range of issues affecting horse and rider and related subjects on a daily basis.

www.endurancegb.co.uk Excellent site for anyone who is interested to know more about long distance riding. Caspians could do well in this field.

www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk Excellent site covering everything connected with horse driving.

www.riding-for-disabled.org.uk Where disabled people can obtain information.

www.pcuk.org The site where you can learn all about the Pony Club in the UK.

www.nntta.co.uk Useful site if you tow a trailer. Ever wondered where you could find the spare part you urgently need, or needed some advice on how to tow with a trailer?

www.stolenhorseregister.com Tel 0870 870 7107 Horse stolen/missing? Contact the Stolen Horse Register.

www.thebrooke.org The Brooke gives free treatment to relieve the suffering of horses, donkeys and mules for the poor people in Egypt, India, Jordan and Pakistan.

www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk Our own website with associated links.

www.caspianhorses.org The website of the International Caspian Society. There is a lot of information here, plus links to other sites. If anyone would like to add a link, contact the Registrar, Brian Smith-Boyes, e-mail: ICSRegistrar@hotmail.com. This site enables e-registration by national Registrars.

http://groups.google.com/group/ICS_Caspian_Horse The ICS Caspian Horse Forum (Do not try to Google it, paste it into the very top of your page.)

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