



EFTBA Veterinary Newsletter 36



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November 2020

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Welcome to EFTBA’s veterinary newsletter

Dear EFTBA members,

I would like to thank Hanspeter Meier for the latest EFTBA Veterinary Newsletter #36, which is very kindly sponsored by Moyglare Stud. In this edition Hanspeter puts a number of interesting and timely topics under the spotlight. These include: climate change and super growth factors.

This has been a challenging year both financially and mentally. It has been a year of predominately on-line meetings. Des Leadon and his veterinary colleagues who give so freely of their time and expertise have been to the fore in fighting the good fight and keep the proverbial gates open and stock moving.

2020 has seen us loose many industry friends, who were close and dear to some, also respected and cherished players in our game. I commend and thank Hanspeter for his kind words on the passing of Pat Smullen and Andrzej Michalski, amongst many others. People, like these who are contributors to our industry are much appreciated and never forgotten.

I look forward to participating with all EFTBA country representatives

next week during EFTBA's online 2020 AGM, which takes place on Tuesday, 24th November 2020 at 6:PM (GMT) and 7:PM (CET)

Best regards

Joe Herman

Chairman, EFTBA

Editorial

The last two issues of our newsletter dealt with very unpleasant subjects in our industry. Of course, it is our responsibility to reveal such blunders and oppose them. But this year, we had to fight plenty other problems as well (e.g. Covid-19, Brexit-21). For this reason and for a change, this newsletter wants to inform about positive aspects of our activities. In this respect and first of all, we also want to remember and pay great honor to two outstanding personalities and horsemen in our highly esteemed acquaintance: Andrzej Michalski and Pat Smullen.

Dr Hanspeter Meier

EFTBA veterinary advisor & Newsletter editor

“Many thanks to Mrs. Eva-Maria Bucher-Haefner, Moyglare Stud Farm, for her valued sponsorship of this newsletter.”



Moyglare Stud

Obituaries

Andrzej Michalski

Andrzej Michalski was born on 26th July 1953 in Poznan (Poland). In 1972-77 he studied animal husbandry (faculty of horse breeding) and agriculture at the University of Life Sciences, in Poznan. After completing his apprenticeship at the studfarms in Liski (Trakehners, Fig. 1) and Michalow (Purebred Arabians), he was employed at the studfarm in Kozienice (Thoroughbreds, app. 100 km south-east of Warszawa).



Fig. 1 Trakehner stud Liski (ca. 3000 ha, 1977)

There, he spent the next 10 years of his life gaining breeding skills under the supervision of Major Jerzy Sas Jaworski, reaching in a short time the position of the head breeder.

In 1988 he left Poland for Belgium, where for 17 years he managed an equestrian training centre for children and youth. In 2005 he moved to Ireland, returning to the job he loved, breeding Thoroughbreds. Initially in the studs of Irish owners, then running (together with his wife, Maria Marron) his own stud with great success. His foals were very lucky at auctions and racecourses in Ireland, the UK and the USA.

Andrzej Michalski was a representative of the Polish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association at the EFTBA for several years.

He was also passionate about ornithology, history, art and hunting, as a member of the Tipperary Foxhounds, in the degree of their Master (M.F.H.).



Fig. 2 Andrzej Michalski, M.F.H. Tipperary Foxhounds

Andrzej Michalski passed away suddenly at the age of 67, on 9th August 2020 (Antek Michalski).

When I had the pleasure of getting to know Andrzej as representative of the Polish TBA, we exchanged visiting cards - as usual. But in this case, I was very impressed and delighted with the specimen and still keep it in my drawer:

Andrzej Michalski M.F.H., M.Sc.

Palmers Hill, Cashel,
Co. Tipperary, Ireland

Tel. +353 (0)87 611 2940

Andrzej obviously did set more value on his title as Master of Foxhounds (M.F.H.) than on his academic distinction as Master of Science.

Patrick Joseph Smullen

Pat Smullen was born on May 22, 1977, in Rhode, Co. Offaly, where he was quickly drawn to horses and at the age of 15, he didn't want to go to school and pursued his dream of a career as a jockey. He had been learning some riding skills by going in at the weekends to Joanna Morgan.

Apprenticed to the local trainer Lacy at Tullamore, Pat did not take long to record the first of his near-2'000 winners at Dundalk in 1993. He became champion apprentice twice and he began a 20-year association with trainer Dermot Weld in 1999. The first of nine titles as champion Jockey came in 2000 and finally he also won 12 classic victories, including the Epsom-Curragh-Derby double 2016 with Harzand. He did become a most prominent jockey, one of the most respected members of his profession.



Fig. 3 Pat Smullen and Refuse to Bend after winning the 2000 Guineas 2003 in Newmarket (Thoroughbred Owner and Breeder Oct. 2020)

At the top of his profession for almost all of his career, he was in his prime when struck by pancreatic cancer in early 2018. Although he survived aggressive treatment and major surgery, he was forced to retire in 2019, and instead he led a hugely successful fundraising for cancer research. In this time,

his trademark inner strength saw him become an inspirational figure to many in racing and in Irish society. He was responsible for founding the "Pat Smullen Champions Race for Cancer Trials Ireland". In 2019, Pat was presented with the Cartier/Daily Telegraph Award of Merit in London and was also appointed as the honorary president of the International Federation of Jockeys Associations.

This year Pat has kept a lower profile at home with his family in Brickfield Stud, Edenderry, and in an interview at the begin of September, he also testified his great interest and joy for breeding. He had a couple of mares at home, but also had a very special relationship with Moyglare Stud for many years. During his career, he was fortunate to get to ride for Moyglare (Fig. 3) and was also appointed advisor at Eva Maria Bucher-Haefner's Stud.

Pat Smullen passed away on the evening of Sept. 15 at St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin and was laid to rest in his hometown of Rhode. Representatives of the President and Taoiseach were in attendance and the President's aide de camp Col. Stephen Howard gave Pat's family a personal message from President Higgins (Berry 2020, McElligott 2020, Powell 2020).

Pat will be remembered a man who was quite simply world class both in and out of the saddle. His message for us was: **"If you let the negative feeling get in on top of you I think it will overtake you. My message to people is to just get up and live for today."**

We extend our cordial condolences to the families of Andrzej Michalski and Pat Smullen.

Actual Themes

Global Warming due to climate change

Horse pastures and the climate change

At the yearly FFP-conference in Germany with the subject "pasture management and its influence to the health of the horse" last July, Arnold Dietbert (2020a) gave a presentation to actual questions in regard to climate change in this field. He is convinced of such a development in his country and expects that this will be even essentially more distinct in future. However, the yearly average of rainfall isn't yet much less than in earlier times (Fig. 4), but the temperatures will rise, especially in the spring and above all in the summer. In his opinion, this problem will become even bigger in coming years, because the amount of rain will spread out even more unfavorably during the year. He expects more rain

in autumn and winter, less in the warm spring and hot summer. If it rains in summer, there it is more often a strong rain and the considerable amount of rain doesn't ooze away in the soil, but flows away above ground or evaporates again quickly. The very dry soil just cannot absorb the very big quantity and store it; it therefore also isn't available for the plants. Germany already has to endure more drought in regions with poor rainfall than in earlier years. Already in the years 2017-2019, some regions had problems to provide enough roughage for the horses due to deficiencies between 50%-70%.

denburg, Thüringen, Sachsen-Anhalt, some regions of Sachsen, Rheinland-Pfalz and the Mittelgebirge (Fig. 5).



Fig. 4 Regions with low rainfall in Germany (arid > semi-arid climate) (Ø 530 l/m² p.a., min. Magdeburg 473 l/m² p.a.) Normal Ø of rainfall in Germany: 600 l/m² p.a. (1881-1990) (Dietbert 2020b)



Fig. 5 The German Steppe? (Dietbert 2020b)

Quite considerable areas in Germany also did have modified rainfall in the last years and forests suffered from dryness (rainfall: - 25% in summer + 25% in winter; temperature: + 3,5° in summer, + 2,2° in winter)(Dietbert 2020b). These wooded areas will perish at medium-term and agricultural cultivations only will be productive with intensive irrigation. The missing storage of water in the soil due to the forest-dieback will also lead to the sinking of ground water. Dietbert warns that together with the intensive agricultural irrigation, at long-term this will lead to a desertification in some parts of Germany, e. g. Bran-

denburg, Thüringen, Sachsen-Anhalt, some regions of Sachsen, Rheinland-Pfalz and the Mittelgebirge (Fig. 5). Dietbert thinks that in Germany one has to consider seriously the change of a humid to a semi-arid climate. It is high time to reflect on the strategies of the survival of plants in a steppe. Helpful measures could be: appropriate manuring, reduced animal stocking, avoidance of soil compaction, limitation of wind-erosion and preference of drought resistant grass (e.g. feather grass).

Further recommendations by Dietbert did also refer to probable changes for manuring and for feeding. More and longer periods of sunshine provide more energy in grass and plants and he thinks that additional concentrated food shouldn't be given if the horses graze all day. Whatever the development may be - many questions of diverse scientific disciplines will have to be answered.

He recommends that every stud farm gathers information in regard to the development of climate change and sustainable agriculture.

However, finally he also wondered whether such change might be favourable for our horses in regard to the incidence of affluence-diseases.

Global warming and racetracks

In an interview with Ronan Groome (2020), Peter Roe (general manager Fairyhouse) sees the maintenance of tracks - Covid aside - as a larger issue due to global warming changing weather patterns.

Irish racecourses are very much expected to produce quality ground conditions yet the costs of doing so are rising all the time:

"We've been recording rainfall from Met Éireann since 2000. From October to February just gone, we had 21 inches (53.3 cm) of rain and it was the wettest period we've had from October to February. From March to May, we only had two and a half inches (6.35 cm) of rain and it was the driest period we've had since we recorded rainfall. It's crazy what is happening with global warming and it's becoming harder and harder for racecourses. If you take last winter we lost two meetings in November which were rescheduled and I lost one fixture in February, which I lost on two occasions and it ended up cancelled. Then take into account the dry spell we had in May, June and July. Through the HRI grant scheme, we put in a ring main, which cost about a quarter of a million, to help with our watering" (Groome 2020).

Fewer fatalities in the US

No On-Track Equine Fatalities at Santa Anita Fall Meet

Just more than a year ago, Santa Anita suffered a rash of breakdowns at its 2018 - 19 winter-spring meet. Once more, an awful lot of articles appeared in the media and the reputation of racing suffered immensely. But since then, the track and the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) have put a number of reforms in place to improve equine safety. And at the recent 16-day fall meet, their efforts seem to indicate a remarkable improvement. The meet concluded Oct. 25 and there were no equine fatalities during racing from 1'106 total starts and 51'200 training sessions (data collected by the CHRB). The track, one of the busiest in the United States in terms of Thoroughbred training, also didn't see an equine fatality during morning workouts during the dates of the recently completed race meet.

CHRB equine medical director Rick Arthur noted that changes in medication policies and a strong voided-claim rule have helped. He credits horsemen with picking up the safety ball and running with it. He noted that the horse racing safety panel only had to scratch one horse from a race because of safety concerns.

"We've seen a real change in the culture when it comes to safety," Arthur said. "That's what really has allowed us to accomplish these improvements".

"Really, if it gets to the point that the regulatory vets have to scratch a horse, that's not where we want to be. The horsemen are self-regulating, which is what we need. They're the ones who know the horse more than we ever will."

For the year, five catastrophic injuries have occurred during racing at Santa Anita - meaning 99.89% of the track's 4'871 starts through Oct. 25 have been clear of such incidents. This year's Equine Injury Database rate of 1.02 equine fatalities per 1'000 starts at Santa Anita is about a third of last-year's rate of 3.01 and half the rate of 2018, - 2.04. When training numbers are included, equine deaths at Santa Anita have been reduced 62% this year.

"It's really satisfying," Arthur said. "We're just seeing everyone being more cautious and it's making a difference" (Angst 2020).

Equine Fatality Drops in Mid-Atlantic Racing

Over the last 10 months, the rate of catastrophic breakdowns in the American Mid-Atlantic decreased significantly, from an average of 2.4 per 1'000 starts from 2010-2014 and to 1.8 from 2015-2019. This year, it is an incidence rate of 1.21 (far better than the national average). This translates to 99.9% of starts this year run without a fatality.

This success is due to the collaboration between racetracks, regulators, industry groups, and other stakeholders. Their strategic plan was to improve equine safety using evidence-based best practices. The recommendations included above all increased veterinary oversight, medication restrictions, and rule changes. For instance, this meant prohibition on nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug "stacking" (the use of more than one NSAID the week of a race), 48-hour withdrawal time for NSAIDs, 14-day withdrawal for joint injections, necropsies on equine fatalities, prohibition on bisphosphonates in all horses under the age of 4 (s. NL 35), and limitations on the use of thyroid supplements and clenbuterol.

Continued education for trainers has also been proposed (King 2020).

Compounding Pharmacy admits guilt in federal case (Super Growth Factors)

Facing 10 years in prison, owner of pharmacy reached a plea agreement

On the 3rd of November, Blood Horse Daily reported: "Compounding Pharmacy Admits Guilt in Federal Case" and referred with this article to the indictments in regard to the unlawful distribution of compounded prescription drugs this spring (s. NL 34, Super Growth Factors SGFs).

Tailor Made Compounding (TMC, which is in no way related to Taylor Made Farm) in Nicholasville (Ky.) and its owner who have been linked to a sweep that saw nearly 30 federal indictments earlier this year, entered guilty pleas Oct. 30 in federal court to unlawful distribution of compounded prescription drugs. TMC pleaded guilty to distributing unapproved new drugs throughout the United States from Oct. 25, 2018, through April 1, 2020, e.g. to unlawful distribution of selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs) and other substances (such as SGF-1000), which the Food and Drug Administration had not approved for distribution in the United States (SARMs are synthetic chemicals designed to mimic the effects of testosterone and other anabolic steroids).

TMC also unlawfully distributed more than a dozen other unapproved new drugs. In connection with the plea, TMC agreed to forfeit \$1,788,906.82, representing its 2019 sales for these products. TMC and its owner are scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 24, 2021. The latter faces up to 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250'000 (Blood Horse Staff 2020).

"Second pillars" of the horse

How do you differentiate between farm and companion animals?

Philippe Chemineau, the president of the World Association for Animal Production (WAAP), recently discussed the question of the definition of what are farm animals exactly and how they differ from companion animals (in the editorial of the magazine "The World Animal Science News").



There, he mentioned the horse - much to our pleasure - favorably:

In his opinion, the differentiation between farm and companion animals within our favorite animal species is a little complicated, when we try to separate those that are dedicated to animal production from those which we classify as „pets" and include a range of categories such as, animals for sport, for

pleasure, for competition, etc.; in fact not within the „farm animal species" group. This complexity is derived from very diverse types of animal-human relationships that different human societies have developed since domestication of the various species. Domestication has created a strong link between humans and animals and the place taken by them in the different human societies since the Neolithic ages was based on two pillars. The first one, which seems common to all societies all over the world, is the production of food, workforce, fibres, skins, etc. which allow these domesticated animals to play an important role in the development of modern societies providing milk, meat and other useful products.

All these animal products contribute to feed humans and provide them very useful products for day-to-day life. This seems him true in all countries today, whatever their development may be and this was true since the beginning of animal domestication. This is the **first pillar: animal production**.

However, and this is a characteristic of human society, we also developed a „second pillar" with these domestic animals, which may dramatically vary between locations and societies and in some cases, could be a very important foundation of the specific society.

We can find examples of this second pillar in all other species of our domesticated farm animals but he would like to give some more examples below: **horses which are the subject of a remarkable variety of second pillars**. The horse is considered a „noble" species because it was used since its domestication for its ability to provide a workforce for humans, even though it may also provide meat and milk. This species has been developed for racing, which is a powerful economic domain as it is generally associated with games, and for entertainment as it answers the strong demand of contact with nature. More recently, the horse has shown its potential to improve the mental health of disabled people by developing soft links with them, another good illustration of the range of human links. He believes that **the horse is the one who has provided the largest second pillar in terms of diversity** (Chemineau 2020).

I guess that we agree to this statement of Philippe Chemineau, especially with all the possible second chances for our Thoroughbreds off the track.

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If there is any area you would like covered in these very informative newsletters you should contact Kerry on kryan@itba.ie and she will forward your request on.

Joe Hernon, Chairman EFTBA



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