

ATBC Newsletter

June 2011



ATBC

ACN 41 003 084 839

This publication is the official Newsletter of the

Australian Thoroughbred Breeders Club Limited

The Club, which currently has over 200 members, was formed to assist thoroughbred breeders through the presentation of talks, seminars, stud visits and social activities as well as providing incentive schemes and a Stallion Tender Scheme. New members are always welcome and the membership can be arranged by contacting the Club Secretary. Annual membership fees are \$ 50 for a single member or \$ 70 for a joint membership, which includes families, partnerships or corporate bodies

ATBC P.O. Box 821, Windsor NSW 2756

Phone: (02) 4577 6120 Fax: (02) 4577 6120
Email: atbc@atbc.com Web: www.atbc.com

ATBC Directors

John Holloman, President
(02) 4572 1177

Dianne Lanham, Vice President

Brian Bresnahan, Treasurer
(02) 4571 4515

Sandy Batchelor

Ethne Potowski, Assistant Secretary

Barbara Robertson, Secretary

Lynda Searle

Wendy Simpson

John Tuckfield, Newsletter Editor
john_tuckfield@hotmail.com

Christmas in July

All are invited to the Club House on **Sunday 17th July** from **11.30 am** to celebrate Christmas in July. Traditional Festive Fare and Drinks will be provided by the Club and it is hoped that there will be sufficient good cheer to warm us all up.

To enhance the spirit of the season we ask that you bring along a gift to the value of under \$10 (ten dollars). As Santa is on his mid winter break, we have again secured the services of an eminent Australian woman to hand out these presents and she is currently sprucing up her little helper.

Now this is important. The present you buy should be either general in nature, or appropriate to someone of **your own sex**. It should be wrapped and there should be some indication of which sex the present is for, if it is indeed intended for a particular sex. This is important, as at these gatherings women tend to outnumber men by a large number.

As we are catering for the event it is also really essential that we get a good idea of likely numbers, therefore, we ask that you contact either **Sandy on 4579 6180** or **Ethne on 4575 1747** and indicate that you will be attending by **Monday 11h July**.

This was the highlight of last years social calendar. We already have had to disappoint the Waterhouse family, who had asked we move to a later date, so that it didn't clash with some event they had planned in Europe. So be there or be square (I can't believe I said that)

Production Deadline: Please note that advertisements and articles must be received by the third Tuesday of Each month to guarantee their appearance in that month's Newsletter

Dentistry by Dianne Lanham

Agnes Banks Equine Clinic recently hosted a talk by Dr. Shannon Lee, an equine dentistry specialist.

Horses are no different to people; 80% have periodontal problems. Previously, horse dentists simply rasped teeth, but Shannon insists on a thorough examination of the mouth using a light mirror. To help the procedure he has a specially built steel crush, which is transported on a trailer and lowered onto the ground when needed.

His first slide was of a normal horse's teeth and gums. The teeth were basically straight with markings from feed but most importantly the space between them was triangular in shape and a healthy pink in colour.

The next slide was a different matter. The gums were swollen, red and receding. Not a good look at all!. With damage to the supporting ligaments there is less support for the teeth causing them to move around more which results in pain.

Slides of the back teeth showed gaps between the teeth. These harboured feed, which in turn turned rotten. This problem can be overcome by widening the gap between the teeth, although not too wide, as nerves would be damaged.

Shannon then showed a slide with two lots of grass. The one that had been in one of these gaps was not properly digested and we were told that if we had smelt it we would never forget the foul odour, as it contained bacteria with enzymes that cut into the gums, bone and ligaments.

On the other hand the grass from a normal mouth was still fresh looking and had been well chewed up.

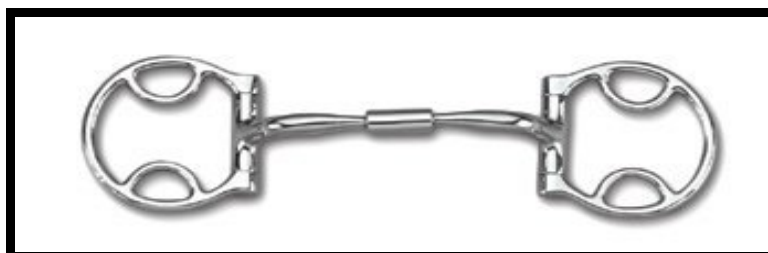
Blood takes bacteria back to other organs including the heart. Infected teeth have been seen to result in embryonic death and low birth weight foals. Plaque containing bacteria can also build up and needs scaling back.

Other examples of problems included:

- bot fly larvae which had migrated from the horse's legs via the stomach to the horse's mouth had in fact burrowed a hole in the gum
- a 2yo thoroughbred frequently tossing its head around had an ulcer about the size of a 20 cent coin caused by sharp teeth.

It is easy to imagine the pain caused when the reins were taken up.

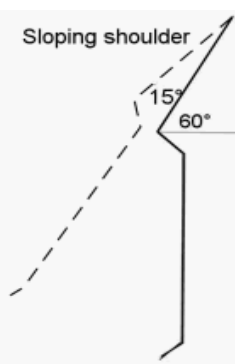
Three year olds are betwixt and between in that they are getting new teeth while still retaining some of the old ones. Canine teeth often embedded in the gum can cause swelling and tenderness. Even a small red spot can indicate a painful ulcer. Shannon spoke briefly on bits and how the "nutcracker" action of snaffle bits can also cause pain to the mouth. He showed a bit where the middle section was about the same width as the two sides but had no join in it, making it less likely to hurt the gums.



These problems are treatable and preventable **Hexarinse** was recommended to be used every second day. Where it might be impractical to treat every horse on a large stud horses that may be susceptible should be targeted, especially pregnant mares and those with bad breath or those that dirty water. The procedure takes less than a minute and requires rubbing or brushing the product over the teeth. Apparently the taste is pleasant and horses come to enjoy it (probably the massaging is also agreeable). A 13 year old thoroughbred was shown before and after a three month treatment period. He went from being in a very poor condition to a healthy, happy horse. This talk was quite an eye opener and very interesting. Shannon pointed out that a recent three day, eight hour a day seminar in the U.S.A. had produced a "tome" over and inch thick just on this topic!.

Pre-purchase checks are recommended as is an examination and attention to teeth BEFORE breaking in.

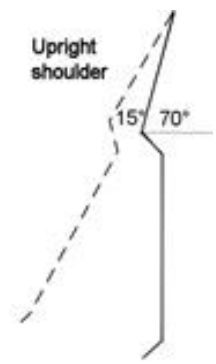
On the Motion of the Foreleg by Peter James



In a previous Newsletter we had a look at the importance of the length of rein in racehorse performance mainly from the view of the physics of levers involved in the locomotion process. No mention was made of the slope of the shoulder and how it functions in the physical processes.

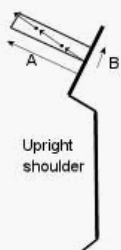
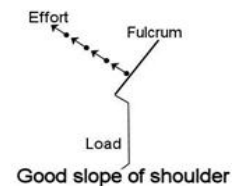
The schematic on the left side depicts the foreleg of a horse whose shoulder is at 60° to the horizontal, The solid line shows the position of the limb when standing. The dotted line represents the position of the limb when extended forward. The deviation angle of 15° was chosen by way of il-

lustration.

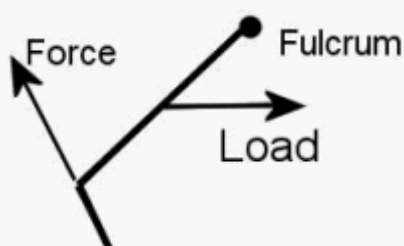


The schematic at the right now shows an upright shoulder, in this case a shoulder that is 70° from the horizontal. We have kept the same angular deviation of 15° as in the case above. Notice the stride of the upright shouldered horse is shorter than the stride of the horse with a good shoulder.

There is another disadvantage of an upright shoulder in efficient locomotion. Remember in the previous article, the most efficient use of the force applied to the shoulder as a lever is when the force is at a right angle to the shoulder as shown on the right.



The schematic at the side represents a horse with an upright shoulder. Notice that the force applied by the muscle is not at right angles to the shoulder but slightly off. The muscle is not only pulling the shoulder forward but also slightly upwards. A rectangle has been drawn around the muscle with the muscle acting as the diagonal. This is what is known as a parallelogram of forces. What that means is that the original force is split into two components, in this case A and B. Notice that the force pulling the shoulder forward, A, is smaller than the original force (the diagonal is longer than the side). The other element of the force, B, acts up along the



shoulder tending to move the shoulder fulcrum upwards. This force even though small is a wasted effort.

There are other advantages of a good sloping shoulder. The shoulder together with the humerus and the pastern provide a shock absorber effect when the leg hits the ground. The concussion force is applied to the shoulder by the humerus tending to rotate the shoulder forward and push upwards as shown on the left. The load are the muscles that pull the shoulder back. In this case the shoulder movement is stretching those muscles. The more upright the slope the more force is applied pushing the whole shoulder upwards as in the case above. This action is countered by the muscles that keep the top of the shoulder in place. Overuse of these muscles can lead to a sore shoulder.

Another case where there is a decrease in performance of the shoulder motion is when the horse goes off the bit by raising the head and neck. So a horse with a good shoulder mimics one with an upright shoulder in as much as the muscle is not pulling at a right angle. This will shorten the stride.

In the next and final article we will look at another physical property known as the Moment of Inertia and how it affects the foreleg motion.

Horses for Sale or Lease

We have a new facility on our website where members can advertise their horses for sale or lease. All that is required is that members email in the details of the advertisements they want placed. We already have 6 horses listed.

Kunjin Virus by Dianne Lanham

Derek Major of Agnes Banks Equine Clinic gave a presentation at the Club house on **Dynamic Respiratory Endoscopy**, which will be written up next month. In the course of the evening Derek also touched on a virus that had had a devastating effect of the equine population.

In the summer of 2011 about 500 horses of all breeds and ages all over Australia, but especially in the Hawkesbury and the Hunter, were reported as having a neurological disease. It was felt that many additional cases were not reported. Sixteen horses died representing 10% of the those affected in NSW. This is a higher mortality rate than that of the E.I. outbreak.

Symptoms include poor co-ordination, wobbling, fever, lethargy and facial drop. The disease is spread by mosquitoes and carried by migratory water birds and domestic poultry (Some D.P.I. sentinel chickens in the country also showed the same symptoms and in fact several people did as well)

Dereck pointed out that the virus is one of the Australian **Kunjin** group. It is not Ross River Fever but is similar to Nile River Virus which is prevalent in the USA.

Dereck is concerned that unless a vaccine is developed the coming seasons will be even worse. The alternative is to test all horses for antibodies

Wyong Winners

Wyong was described in the Australian as 'very much the poor relation of provincial racing around Sydney', however, attendees at the Queensland Derby meeting were probably looking it up on Google maps. **Sincero** and **Torio's Quest** took out the Stradbroke and Queensland Guineas respectively.

Sincero cost \$ 8,000 at the Sydney Classic and has now won 9 from 13 and \$ 1 million plus change, Torio's Quest went for \$15,000 at MM Adelaide and is 5 from 10 for just over \$ 750,000.

The Australian Stud Book Keepers' Awards for 2010/11

Even though the season is not quite finished the ASB have kicked off the awards season in emphatic style:

Keeper's Best 2-Year Old: Without doubt, **Sepoy (Aus)** 2008 was the best 2-Year Old with his dominating Group 1 wins in the MRC Blue Diamond Stakes and the ATC Golden Slipper Stakes. Sepoy also won a Group 3 and two listed races.

Keeper's Best 3-Year Old: **Shamrock (NZ)** 2007 asserted her superiority by winning the AJC Derby and VRC Australian Guineas over the colts, and placings in the AJC and VRC Oaks, Rosehill Guineas, and Edward Manifold Stakes. No colt rose high enough to surpass her although **Playing God** from Western Australia deserves a mention for consistent performances with a win, a second and two thirds at Group 1 level.

Inbreeding to Superior Females

At the end of this Newsletter you will spot an advertisement for the sale of this seminal work.

Club member, Bob Ratcliffe, when placing the ad asked me what I thought of the price. I Googled Amazon and found other editions at far higher prices and advised Bob. The thought subsequently occurred to me that I should check eBay. I typed in 'Inbreeding to Superior Females' and got:

Single Ukraine Ladies

Single Baltic Lady

Bad Girls in your area

and

Sassy woman seeking fun

I conferred with Bob who replied that he had immediately checked his copy and could report that it definitely concerned the breeding of racehorses.

Letters

Dear Sir.

Just a quick note to let you know that my overseas racing experience more than lived up to my expectations!

Highlights included the Aga Khan's stud where I met the horse I scored the highest (tough choice though!) in **See the Stars** and his dad **Cape Cross** at Darley, who is possibly the best looking horse, even at 17, that I have ever seen. But followed closely by **So You Think** - his run last week was destroyed by the use of a Pacemaker (see my diatribe below) and his Dad **High Chaparral** - all the Coolmore stallions are great walkers, but he is the best I saw in three countries.

I was introduced to **Snow Fairy** at Ed Dunlop's yard - very gingerly as she is very strong minded! But I loved her spunk, which she will need when I back her against **So You Think** and **Workforce** tomorrow night - even though I also had the privilege of watching **Workforce** at the gallops at Newmarket where his class just shone through the hundreds of other horses working there gloriously - I asked one of the foremen on the gallops "who is that lovely looking boy?" to which he tersely replied 'he is a good horse - his name is **Workforce** and he might just be one of the best horses in Europe at the moment!'

Talking of privileges, I was also introduced to **Sir Lester Piggott** who graciously met up with our tour party at the morning gallops as he is a friend of a local couple in the industry who are close friends with some of my colleagues on the tour. It was an absolute pleasure. The local couple (Jean and David) have worked in Newmarket for years and I enjoyed reminiscing with David about his breaking in of **Shergar** - which was unremarkable despite his wild wall eye. At the time he never dreamed that **Shergar** would be such a star! David is still riding out! Gilltown were very interested in my mare descended from **Shergar** through the wonderful broodmare **Gently** (her page and progeny make great reading, including **Bishop's Ring!**). The Aga Khan got out of breeding in Ireland and sold Gilltown after the **Shergar** tragedy. But the current Aga has bought it back and it is the most magical of places!

Horses to follow: the first foal of **Ouija Board** that I met at Ed Dunlop's yard (I just like those Cape Cross- line horses!); the two year old **Tough as Nails** who placed at the Curragh on Derby Day living up to his name in a tight battle; and **Zoffany** who nearly lowered **Frankel's** sails at Royal Ascot - I backed him at odds on pure good looks.

Places to be seen: definitely Chantilly race course with a glass of champagne in hand!

The things I did not like about European racing: the use of Pacemakers. Goes against my Australian spirit of fair play to see races where horses are palpably not run on their merits! If they want to continue this unsportsmanlike tactic then don't let the public bet on the pacemakers! And how do you get a true reading of a horse's ability? No wonder the lack of European success in the Melbourne Cup where most connections want their horses to win!

And the crowds! Makes you appreciate the Australian racing experience! And finally, the social stratification of the racing scene based on either the 'class structure' and/or the wealth structure. Makes you appreciate more finely the huge triumphs of Australian courage, talent and fortitude shown by firstly **Choisir** and the panel beater from Newcastle and then my old

mate **Takeover Target** and the most famous taxi driver to ever grace the streets of Queanbeyan.

Colleen Goth

Ed's Note:

It is interesting to see the Australian reaction to the use of pacemakers not only from Colleen, but in many other racing commentators following the defeat of **So You Think** at Ascot.

There was an excellent piece by **Rob Ferguson** in **The Australian** in October 2009 wherein he rues that lack of the use of pacemakers in Australian horseracing and blames it for the poor standard of staying races here. He credits the use of pacemakers by those seeking to lower his colours for the success of Sea The Stars during 2000. The use of pacemakers he argued was not only legitimate but in his words led to "...truly run races... best horse wins...champion horse unveiled....wonderful betting medium and excited spectators"

He also argues that the reason that the Europeans have had limited success in the Melbourne Cup is because the pace of the race is often dubious. In Luca Cumani's view "...a sprint to the first bend, drop anchor and then a sprint again the last 1000 or 800m"

The final paragraph of the article (that I will attempt to get a link to on the website) reads :

"Maybe allowing pacemakers will be one small step to bringing back the glory of middle distance racing to Australia—a glory that has been so devalued since the Golden Slipper began, that many trainers are going to England to buy stayers to race in Australia because our own horses and races are so weak.

And pacemakers do sometimes win. In the last 25 years they have taken out two QE II Stakes and one Eclipse, for example.

For Sale

Inbreeding to Superior Females
Using the Ramussen Factor to produce better
racehorses

As New

\$ 250

Contact: Bob on 03 9755 8837

Or email: bob_ratcliffe@bigpond.com

Horse Paintings to Order

Treat your owners, friends or trainer - or even yourself - to an original painting of their pride and joy!

Sizes vary:	16 x 20 inches	\$225
	18 x 23.5 inches	\$295
	29.5 x 39 inches	\$495

All I need is a good photograph, with the racing colours detail clearly visible. Allow approximately 21 days for delivery. Prices do not include P&H

Email me for a chat! casabiza@hotmail.com

tel: 08 9592 7599 or 0407 964 661

Bryant's Freezebrands

Service and
Satisfaction
Guaranteed

All areas
Competitive Rates
Ring Jason
0458 755 580
Anytime

Do you feel that your racehorse would do better with a little T.L.C.?

A smaller stable can give more individual attention. Pre-trainers welcome

To discuss your horse's needs contact

Deborah 0418 421141 or e-mail

Braelodge@bigpond.

Are you looking for that present that is just a little bit different?

Would that person who has (almost) everything like a themed gift item of a horse,

A dog, a cat, a frog, a pig or even an owl?

Visit our website and/or our EBay store and view some of the unique items that are available. (you will find the majority of other animal items on the EBay site)

Delivery is by Australia Post and is usually delivered within 3 or 4 days of payment.



On the web @

www.pussnpoochgallery.com.au

or

<http://stores.ebay.com.au/pussnpoochgallery>

Or email

sales@pussnpoochgallery.com.au

**The trusted
name in
Horse
Insurance**



www.logans.com.au
(02) 9909 1499

Wayne Cone Transport

Servicing the Hunter Valley

Discounts for ATBC Members

Phone : 02 4981 8713

Mobile : 0427 002 653

Email : wmcone@live.com.au