

Vet Group delighted with equestrian talk turnout

Alnorthumbria Veterinary Group hosted a hugely informative client evening with two experts in their field, Olympic Farrier Haydn Price from Wales and Northallerton's List 2 Dressage Judge and British Horse Society Instructor, Margot Tiffany. These two leading equestrian specialists demonstrated the importance of understanding correct paces of the horse and shoeing for performance. The event was held at the Gubeon Equestrian Centre near Morpeth, courtesy of James Taylor and attracted in the region of 200 equestrian enthusiasts from the North East and Yorkshire, including a good number of the area's farriers.

Following interactive presentations from both Margot and Haydn, the duo then appraised six horses ridden by some of Northumberland's top competition riders. The audience could experience and appreciate firsthand the way different horses move through their paces according to individual conformation. As a dressage judge, Margot Tiffany looks for regularity, rhythm and suppleness and she provided an excellent insight for dressage and event riders in the audience.

Haydn Price discussed Farriery, advising it is the link to maintaining soundness and performance, and that shoeing dynamically for each individual horse might just be the difference between first

and second place, or even gold and silver. When discussing shoeing, Haydn stressed the importance of being proactive: "ask the farrier to watch you trot the horse up and discuss with them any issues or worries you have about your horse's movement. Farriery has come such a long way and we have the technology and science to solve problems and create a better performance just through the shoes on its hooves."

As consultant farrier to the British Equestrian Federation and team farrier to the British dressage and showjumping teams, Haydn wants people to realise that shoeing is an issue and a priority in keeping horses sound.

A successful raffle on the evening raised £400 for the Equine Grass Sickness Fund. Visit www.alnorthumbriavets.co.uk

