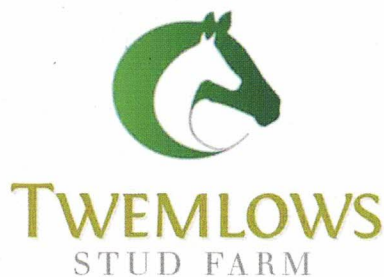


# 2022 / 23 Newsletter



## Stud Season Update

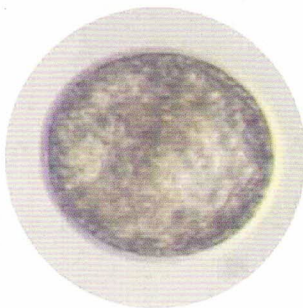
We have reached the end of another busy and successful stud season. Our Senior resident vet Monica Morganti and second vet Rebecca Keating where this year joined again by Ria Hartevelde (who was last here in 2020) and Petra Faltýnková. Embryo transfer recipients were in great demand with a number of frozen ICSI embryos transferred. Our stud manager Nikee lead the yard team supported by Megan Owen managing the stocks and Lisa Kitchen as our foaling manager. Mark and Tim managed our paddocks and keep the stud maintenance up to date. Joining, Shona in the office, at the beginning of the year, Sam O'Brien took on the task of overseeing our accounts. Sam was new



to the position and coped well with a busy first stud season. Issy Fraser joined the office in the July, she is now your first point of contact when you call/arrive on stud. It was good to be able to welcome our courses back onto stud properly with our Foaling the mare course again proving very popular. We would like to thank all our customers old and new for their continued support and look forward to seeing you in 2023.

## Transfer of Frozen Embryos

The availability and transfer of equine frozen embryos is becoming more and more popular. The majority of frozen embryos on the market are produced in the laboratory as a result of ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection).



Embryo after thawing

They can be frozen with a couple of different techniques (vitrification or slow freezing) and therefore require different thawing methods. Being able to thaw them when the recipient is ready allows greater flexibility. During the past two years we have been transferring an increasing number of these embryos into both client and our own recipient mares.

## Pony Club Camp Visit

At the start of August Sir Watkin William Wynn's Pony Club camp came for an evening visit. Our vet team divided in to three groups, anatomy, lame-ness & heart rates. I am not sure who had more fun the vets or the children. We always welcome groups to learn more about what we do, so if you have a group that may like to visit the stud please contact the Shona in the office.



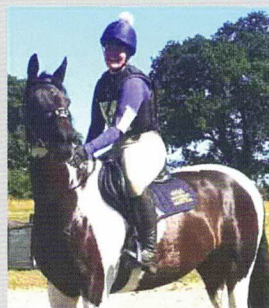
## Recipient Mares

We have a strong herd of recipient mares and again this year demand was high for recipients early in the season. This year we have added new straw storage and more mare housing to help with the winter housing. We are always looking for quality mares that need a new job, so please contact the office if you have a mare that needs rehoming.



## Staff Profile - Issy Frazer

In August Issy joined the Twemlows team as Stud Administrator. Issy was previously managing a BHS Approved livery yard and riding school and has been coaching a variety of riders for over 15 years. Issy also has prior experience in design and marketing, but she could not stay away from horses. Issy has recently achieved her BHSQ Level four Senior Yard Manager Qualification, with plans for more exams next year, including attending our AI Technician Course. Issy is keen to continue expanding her knowledge and skills within the equine industry. Issy enjoys spending her days off riding and competing her Irish sport horse mare Mini.



Vanir Kamira ridden by Piggy March once again wins the Twemlows Stud Burghley Embryo Transfer Scholarship prize.



This year we implemented a new computer system called Wise Option on stud to record all our mares details. It has made all our processes quicker & will improve productivity around the stud.



Edward, Monica and Petra attended this year's European Veterinary Practitioners Symposium on Equine Reproduction in Ghent, Belgium.

Two of our vets Rebecca & Ria are spending the winter in the Southern Hemisphere. Rebecca is working in Cape Town for Baker & McVeigh & Ria is in New Zealand working for Equibreed NZ.





## What is a Caslick & does my mare need one?

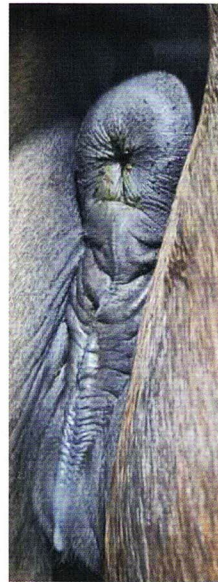


The uterus must be free from infection for a mare to become pregnant. Embryos will not survive in an infected and/or inflamed environment. In healthy mares there should be three natural external barriers protecting the uterus from external contamination. From the outside, the first barrier is the vulval lips which form an outer seal. The second is the vestibulo-vaginal sphincter made up of tissue within the vagina. The third, is the cervix which is the final barrier to the uterus. If one of these three barriers fail, the uterus may become compromised. It is most common for the first barrier, the vulval seal, to fail. Mares with good conformation normally have their vulva perpendicular to the ground and most of the vulva should be located above the pelvic brim (a bony shelf that can be felt either side of the vulva). As the anus is positioned directly above the vulva, the vulval lips must form a good seal to keep out fecal contamination and air which may lead to harmful infections. Air or feces can lead to infections of the vagina (vaginitis), cervix (cervicitis) and uterus (endometritis) and in pregnant mares could cause inflammation of the placenta (placentitis).

Poor vulval conformation can in most cases be improved by a Caslick's procedure. This involves suturing closed the vulval lips following local anaesthetic infiltration,



Mare with poor conformation



Mare with good conformation

therefore preventing aspiration of air and feces. The bottom of the vagina is left open to allow urination. The procedure is quick and painless, and mares can return to their normal routine immediately. Once a Caslick's is placed and sutures have been removed the new seal

will stay in place until the vulva is cut opened prior to foaling. Post foaling it is essential for the Caslick's to be redone regardless of the mare being rebred or not the same season. This will avoid any contamination potentially leading to serious infection and long term fertility problems.

Why does my mare have poor vulvar conformation? This is a question we hear a lot at Twemlows. Typically, poor vulvar conformation develops in mares that are anatomically predisposed. Multiple pregnancies poor muscular tone and poor body condition are also risk factors and can worsen the condition. In some mares poor vulvar conformation can already be present from a young age. Therefore, to avoid possible contamination and damage to the uterus, mares of all ages whether a breeding mare or not should be evaluated to check if a Caslick's may be recommended. Sports and racehorses are caslicked if necessary as the inlet of air and feces leading to potential infection and irritation could have an impact on their performance and affect their future breeding potential. A Caslick's is a very simple procedure that can save hassle with uterine treatments, infertility, and pregnancy loss long term in the broodmare but can also be helpful to keep comfortable mares in training.

### The Twemlows Peacock Family

You may have noticed the newest additions to the yard on your visits over the summer. The Twemlows Peacock family consists of Prince Albert, King George, Sandringham (Sandra), Camilla, Catherine and this years hatchlings Windsor and Crown.



  
**STALLION**  
AI SERVICES  
**OPEN DAY**  
22nd April 2023

## Twemlows Courses 2023

### Practical Ultrasonography

A series of one day courses designed for vets and new graduates wishing to gain experience in scanning mares for breeding purposes.

Only two spaces available

### Foaling The Mare

11th March

### Foaling & Yearling Management

12th March

### Artificial Insemination Technicians Training Course

#### Mare Days

22nd, 24th Feb, 7th, 9th, 21st & 23rd March

#### Stallion Days

23rd February, 8th & 22nd March