

2023 / 24 Newsletter



Stud Season Update

The 2023 Season at Twemlows has welcomed some outstanding mares across all disciplines. **Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer** continues to be popular and supported by top riders, owners and breeders. From September to March our in-house **OPU and ICSI** programme, headed by our senior vet Monica Morganti and her team has had good success including the genetic salvage from Shire mare Colloe Grove Hollywood (see details below).

Twemlows Stud became the Approved Transfer Centre for Mares of Macha who specialise in marketing frozen embryos, bred from proven performance mares. They share our passion as breeders, using the latest advances in breeding technology to produce some of the world's best Sports Horses. Our Foaling Unit continues to thrive thanks to a very hard working and dedicated team of Stud staff, supported by our in-house vets. At the forefront of our breeding programme, the health and welfare of every horse visiting

the Stud is a priority. We offer bespoke packages to cater for everything from a pleasure mare to a top competition horse. Our schedule of available courses continue to support our vision to educate and inspire the best approach to British breeding and to enhance the welfare and development of Sports Horse breeding in the UK. We would like to thank all our customers for their valued support throughout 2023 and we look forward to welcoming you in 2024.

Shire ICSI Success

This year we had the exciting pregnancy from **Genetic Salvage** procedure from Shire mare Colloe Grove Hollywood. She had to be put to sleep, but being a rare and endangered breed, the owner wanted to do what he could for the breed. After euthanasia the ovaries were removed and transported to Twemlows within hours. The oocytes (eggs) were collected and processed in our laboratory and an embryo was produced by ICSI, using the frozen semen of Fife's Jack of Diamonds. When the embryo reached blastocyst stage, it was transferred into one of our recipient mares and she was subsequently confirmed in foal. This technique gives a last chance to mares that have to be put down at short notice and owners wishing to produce offspring from the mare. We are delighted for the owner Jason Holder and we are looking forward to seeing this special foal on the ground in 2024.



Embryo Legacy For Sue Davies

For any breeder, the prospect of an **embryo by a 5* GP stallion** out of a GP winning donor mare would be exciting. This pregnancy has particular poignancy for Billy Twomey and Janette Chin and for the legacy of Janette's mother, the late Sue Davies. The embryo is the product of Lady Lou, on whom Billy took the CSI4* La Equina Small GP in March this year and Chat Botte ED, who claimed the Bolesworth Worldwide GP in June, both of which were owned by Sue, a long term supporter of Billy. The embryo was transferred to one of our lovely recipient mares and we are all looking forward to the birth of this foal.



What a wonderful legacy this foal will be for a passionate and respected breeder such as Sue Davies.

Twemlows 2023 Burghley Scholarship



Twemlows Stud Farm awards an annual Embryo Transfer Scholarship to the highest placed British domiciled mare completing the Burghley competition providing it is placed

in the top 20. This enables winning elite mares to breed quality foals without disrupting their ability to compete. Twemlows 2023 Burghley Scholarship winner was Cavalier Crystal, ridden by Harry Meade, who came 3rd overall. She arrived immediately after Burghley for her first Artificial Insemination. We are looking forward to her returning after Badminton in May.

Staff News

Chrystal (pictured) joined the team as office manager in August having previously worked as a General Manager in manufacturing. She is excited to be able to combine her lifelong passion for horses with her commercial experience. Sarah who joined Twemlows at the start of the 2023 season as Stud Administrator is your first point of contact at reception and is happy to assist with any questions or queries you may have regarding your breeding plans.



This season we have also welcomed to our team Gabby, Assistant Foaling Manager, Immy, Stud Nurse/Vet Assistant and Kathy as Assistant Stocks Manager.

Stocks Manager, Megan Owen, decided to take on the challenge of trekking up to Everest Base Camp in Nepal, with her daughter Becky. Megan said it was the hardest thing she has ever done, but they beat altitude sickness and a fear of heights, to successfully make it to the base camp.



At the end of the 2023 season one of our senior vets Rebecca travelled to the largest Embryo Transfer centre in Queensland, Australia, to support Equivet Breeding Centre

owned and run by vets Max Wilson and Robyn Woodward. Rebecca is enjoying working with a different variety of mares including Quarter horses, Stock horses and Polo cross ponies. We look forward to welcoming her back to Twemlows at the beginning of the 2024 season.





Twemlows Stud Farm - A Brief History



In 1940 Edward's grandparents, Bob and Rosemary Matson, moved from a small farm in Cheshire to take on the tenancy of the neighbouring farm to Twemlows Hall, known as The Twemlows. Bob Matson developed a pedigree herd of Ayrshire cows, the milk from which was used to produce traditional farmhouse Cheshire cheese and the whey was fed to pigs. Within a few years Bob also rented Twemlows Hall from the War Commission then in 1953 bought the farm and increased his dairy herd to milk at both farms. In 1962 Edward's father, Richard joined the family business. Sadly in 1967 the dairy herds, youngstock and pigs were wiped out by Foot & Mouth. The farms were restocked the following year with the more modern Friesian cows. All the milk from the farms, plus extra bought in from neighbours, went into making a ton of farmhouse cheese each day. As well as traditional farming, Bob Matson was well known for producing horses for hunting and eventing. Each year he sourced and purchased two and three year old horses from all over the country and Ireland. These were broken and produced before being sold at the famous Leicester Sales each Spring. In the 1970s two traditional Irish Draught mares were brought over from Ireland and over the years produced many successful horses in the competition world – this was the



Richard and Sienna Matson –the second and fourth generations of the Matson family at Twemlows.

beginning of Richard's lifelong wish to bring British breeding to the forefront of the equine world.

Following the death of Bob Matson in 1986 it was decided as a family to go down the "diversification" route in 1988. Over a four year period all the farm livestock was sold and they started to focus on breeding horses

specifically for the Sport Horse sector and Twemlows Stud was formed.

The Stud has evolved from mares visiting stallions standing at Twemlows Hall for natural cover, to becoming one of Europe's leading equine Artificial Insemination Centres.

In 2006 Embryo Transfer (ET) commenced at the Stud and in 2011 Twemlows Stud was awarded a Knowledge Transfer Partnership research grant, in conjunction with Liverpool University's equine hospital at Leahurst. This work involved the study of freezing embryos and the reproductive technology of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) and Ovum Pick-up (OPU). This was the first attempt to master these techniques in equines in the UK and only the second in Europe. Both ET and ICSI and OPU have grown in success and popularity at the Stud since they began.

The foaling unit at Twemlows Stud has also developed from having a handful of mares to foal down in the 1990s, into a specialist separate unit with 20 foaling boxes, mare and foal paddocks and dedicated staff giving 24 hour care.

Training courses for AI Technicians were introduced in 2001 and the Stud also offers Foaling The Mare and Care of the Foal courses for lay people and has become a training centre for various Veterinary Reproduction courses.

Education at Twemlows

We offer a variety of placements for veterinary students. We offer a 4 week externship programme & work experience opportunities for vets & general equine students. They will work alongside our vet & yard teams & will get to see all aspects of mare reproduction and foaling. Please email us on office@twemlows.co.uk for more details if you are interested.



STALLION
AI SERVICES
OPEN DAY
20th April 2024 From 10am

Twemlows Courses 2024

Practical Ultrasonography

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

13th, 20th & 26th March

Foaling The Mare

16th March

Foaling & Yearling Management

17th March

Artificial Insemination Technicians Training Course

Mare Days

20th, 22nd February
5th, 7th & 21st March

Stallion Days

21st February, 8th & 20th March