

SEMEN

Stallion AI Services ran a webinar on the legendary Big Star, with the prize of a straw from the Olympic champion going to one lucky participant. Just one of the myriad reasons we love the horse world. Where else would semen be offered as a prize, and a prize everyone would be desperate to win?

GOGGLEBOX

On the subject of the webinar, Big Star's owner Gary Widdowson and rider Nick Skelton provided tremendous entertainment, prompting one watcher to ask whether they had considered going on GoggleBox... ah, please let that happen.

DRIVING

Employee of the week must go to the Asda driver whose passing of a horse on the road was so exemplary, the rider did her first ever online shop, with Asda. Save horses, live better. We like.

GOOD WEEK

BAD WEEK

WALKERS

Bad walkers of the week, though, were those who rang top eventer Francis Whittington to tell him a horse was blocking a public right of way – or grazing in its field. What did Boris Johnson say about people using common sense?

YOGA

A Muggle who has been helping with horses recently appeared with horse, in a state of excitement. "She just did this thing, where she scratched her neck with her back foot!" he revealed, in awe. "It was like some sort of yoga." She's brilliant at Downwards Horse.

MESSAGES

An H&H-er hoping to speak to a charity that uses horses to protect rhinos left a message on what she thought was the owner's phone... but no message was heard. So to whoever got said message and is trying to work out what it was all about... sorry.

Question asked over riders' use of phones

The issue of phone use by riders and cyclists was raised in parliament by an MP whose constituents are concerned

By ELEANOR JONES

RIDERS should not be tempted to use phones while in the saddle, despite the fact there are no plans to introduce new related penalties.

Luke Evans, MP for Bosworth, asked the transport secretary in a written question to parliament whether there were plans to introduce sanctions for riders and cyclists found to have caused accidents by using mobile phones while riding.

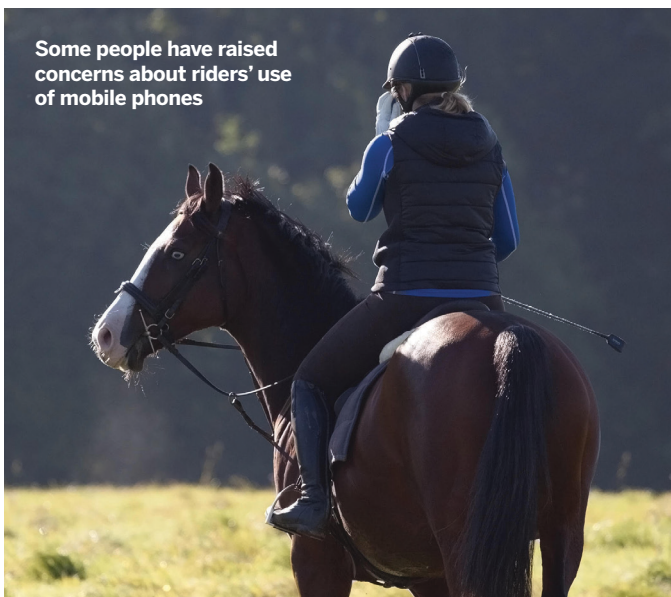
The government replied at the end of May to say it had no plans to "introduce new penalties for cyclists and horse riders using mobile phones while riding".

"All road users are required to comply with road traffic law in the interests of their own safety and that of other road users," the reply said. "For those who do not adopt a responsible attitude, there are already laws in place that can make them liable for prosecution. The Official Highway Code explains the law and gives advice for cyclists and horse riders on how to safely use our roads."

Dr Evans told H&H some of the residents of his rural constituency had raised concerns about incidents caused by riders and cyclists using mobile phones.

"I wanted to follow this up and ask ministers for reassurances that action can be taken if an accident is indeed caused by negligence.

"To be honest, I wasn't aware that this was a particularly large problem, although the ministerial



Some people have raised concerns about riders' use of mobile phones

response has prompted a number of people to contact me from other parts of the country for whom it is a significant matter.

"I will see how this develops and call for action if needed."

British Horse Society director of safety Alan Hiscox told H&H: "As vulnerable road users, it is vitally important horse riders and carriage drivers adhere to the rules of the Highway Code when riding on the road. Rule 53 states that equestrians should keep both hands on the reins, unless when signalling, so they should not be using mobile phones while riding, unless in an emergency. In addition, riders should always

concentrate on their surroundings so they can react quickly to any circumstance.

"While remaining safe on the roads is not always fully in our control, we are all responsible for ensuring we keep ourselves as safe, as visible and as in control as possible."

Ian Dexter of HorseSolicitor told H&H that should a rider be proven to be on the phone when an accident occurred and a related claim went to court, it could be that the opposition could argue contributory negligence on the rider's part; that he or she was not paying full attention to the road so was partly at fault.

And finally... Dun well

A TEENAGER who was targeted by bullies over his love of riding has had the last laugh.

Young eventer Theodore Anderson had been building a presence on social media, with posts about himself and his pony Dun Delight, but ran into some negativity from his peers.

But when his cause was shared online by a leading dressage rider, he not only

picked up new followers but was also approached by a brand, in hopes of working together.

"If all this hadn't happened, I don't think I'd be looking at a brand deal, or speaking to H&H, or have as many social media followers," the 13-year-old said. "Now, more people see my accounts and I can progress.

"It's almost like, 'Who's laughing now?!' EJ



Picture by Sharon Kingston/Alamy