

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

"Hi everyone,

It has been a busy start to the year with myself and various other Protexin staff attending the British Breeders and Stallion Show, The Rosdals Mare and Stallion Course, BETA trade fair, Horses Inside Out Conference, The Student Equine Vets Congress at Glasgow and The National Equine Forum in London... and most recently the outdoor shows at Gatcombe Horse Trials followed closely by Belton Horse Trials in Grantham!

But the reception has been good from all of the diverse events we have attended with nothing but positive feedback from riders, owners, vets and retailers, so we must be doing something right. The highs have been the continued growth of our range and the introduction of Gut Lix, which you can read more about on page 3, to compliment the range and form a solid (literally!) base for our developing Equine Premium products.

Hopefully my horse Bud (Nothing Gained) will be back competing in June following a break due to a fractured splint. He's been pounding the roads for a month now in a woolly coat but all things being well he should be back into an Open Novice in June with a CIC/CCI 3* as the target for late season fingers crossed."

Jonathan Nelson
Director – Protexin Equine Premium



Introducing Gut Lix!

Find out more on page 3.



Christmas Competition

This year's competition was a huge hit; we were absolutely overwhelmed by the number of entries! Our two lucky winners received a custom drawn pastel portrait of their horse by local artist, Jess Brown of J S J Brown Studios and wow what a talent, check out the prizes below:



2016 Bursary Winner Updates



Becca Finn,
Adult Bursary
Winner



Abbey Rimmer,
Junior Bursary Winner



2016 Bursary Winner Updates

Becca Finn, Adult Bursary Winner

Last autumn I was fortunate enough to win the Protexin Adult Bursary 2016. It included some great prizes and also helped me to fund regular training for me and my horse, Stay Gold Liberator (Bean), over the winter with Sabrina Jones FBHS.

One of the prizes was a pot of Cosequin, a specialised joint supplement. I hadn't really used joint supplements before as I thought they were for horses with sore joints. However, I noticed that after about 10 days my horses weren't getting filled legs after being stabled and Bean was warming up more efficiently when being ridden. I have continued to feed Cosequin and have had no sign of filled legs all winter and have been able to continue riding without worrying about a stiff horse from being stood in. I am now a convert and can see the benefits of feeding a specialised joint supplement such as Cosequin, to assist well-being, and help prevent the joints getting sore in the first place!

I enjoy eventing and finished last season with my then 6 year old competing at Novice level. We were a confident partnership across country, helped by being based at Milton Keynes Equestrian Centre where I am lucky enough to have access to a full cross country course. Showjumping had been our weaker phase and I had knocked a few frustrating poles. I decided that over the winter I was going to

sharpen up our showjumping and increase Bean's strength.

Through training with Sabrina, she identified that our canter was lacking consistency in the rhythm and although Bean was reactive to my aids he wasn't truly connected. We set about working on many, many transitions to improve connectivity and impulsion, introducing more lateral work for suppleness and counter-canter exercises to improve balance and strength. I also did plenty of poles and cavaletti exercises in between sessions. I was to go out to showjumping shows with the plan to work through an effective warm up and "school" over the course. We can all be guilty of putting pressure on ourselves at a show, riding differently to how we do at home, this can send mixed messages to our horses.

I have really felt the benefits of these exercises, he is far more "rideable" and I have a better understanding of how to help him perform.

As a result of my winter training I have qualified for British Showjumping Discovery Second Rounds and have started jumping confidently at Newcomers. I am really pleased with our progress this winter and feel we are ready to take on the season ahead!

This eventing season I plan to confirm our confidence at Novice Level before taking on a CIC 1* event. I will also be contending second round qualifications to get to the British Showjumping National Championships.

I am really looking forward to the year ahead and appreciate being able to have regular training to achieve my goals. Thank you Protexin for being part of the journey.
#PoweredByProtexin



Abbey Rimmer, Junior Bursary Winner

I'm writing this on the way back from a very busy and successful first event of the season at Epworth. My rising 6yo, Last Count (aka Rudi) did two beautiful rounds in his first ever BE100 and my 14hh pony, Mr Ree, had a great fun run in preparation for the Pony Trials that start next week!

They've come on leaps and bounds over the winter, thanks to the training I've been able to attend since winning the bursary. Rudi's been busy at u18 training and Mr got to spend a weekend at Pony Training, in prep for a season of GB trials.

They've also both started on the Gut Balancer which has improved their condition and happiness no end. Mr has started on a course of Recover Aid this week, to help keep him on top form for 3 weeks of eventing and Rudi has a shot of Quick Fix before competitions which stops his sloppy poos!

It all must be doing some good as the horses are looking and feeling better than ever. The extra training has helped us immensely and winter competitions in dressage, show jumping and arena eventing have resulted in numerous wins and placings for both horses, so fingers crossed for a successful season!

Mr is going to be competing in the early Pony Trials and if all goes to plan, will be doing his first 1* at the end of April and then the British Pony Champs at the beginning of June. Rudi has a little break now until mid-April where he's going to be having a go at some 100 u18s and then will hopefully step up to Novice. So an exciting season planned and very happy to have the support from Protexin!



Our Latest Addition, Gut Lix

Protexin's innovative new product Gut Lix provides salt supplementation and supports the gastrointestinal system - but why do horses need salt and what's the link between salt and the gut?

The importance of electrolytes

Salts are made up of electrolytes, such as Sodium, Calcium and Chloride, which the body needs for a variety of vital processes. The importance of having the right quantity and balance of electrolytes cannot be stressed enough; electrolytes keep the heart beating, the muscles contracting, the nerves firing, the kidneys working, and the gut moving. A lack of or imbalance in the body's electrolytes can affect any one or all of these systems and more.

Electrolytes are taken in as salts in the diet, and in a resting horse, lost into the urine, under the control of the kidneys which tightly regulate levels in the blood. However, when exercising, the horse's extensive muscle mass generates a huge amount of heat which must be dissipated from the body to avoid overheating. Sweat is produced, carrying heat away from the body as it evaporates. This means that when in intensive exercise a horse can lose up to four gallons of sweat per hour. In that four gallons of sweat, up to thirty teaspoons of salt are lost. This represents a massive loss of electrolytes.

In a large study of horses eventing at various levels, horses lost between 2-6% of their bodyweight and up to 20% of the electrolytes in their blood in sweat whilst on the cross country. We must replace these lost salts to ensure proper recovery from exercise and continued good health. Small electrolyte deficits can prolong recovery, cause dehydration, muscle stiffness and slow down the gut.

Replacing the lost salt, also drives drinking and rehydration. This may seem odd as after a session in the saddle you may not find yourself reaching for a bottle of salt water. However, a horse's desire to drink is controlled by the salt concentration of its blood. Taking in salt after exercise stimulates the thirst response and leads to better rehydration over the following 24 hours.

So, why not just add some electrolytes to the feed after exercise? Many products are available, and will give you control over how much salt your horse takes in. But, taking in a large quantity of salt all at once can draw water out of the gut wall and blood stream, actually making dehydration worse and in one study even predisposing the

horses to gastric ulceration. It's better to let your horse regulate its own salt intake; after all, they've managed millions of years without us interfering! Providing a Gut Lix means that electrolytes are always available if required.

How are electrolytes linked to the gut?

The hind gut: Electrolyte loss can slow the gut down, and any change can have a knock on effect on the bacteria living inside it. This is part of the reason that vets have found a proven link between exercise and an upset in the balance of bacteria in the gut. A small imbalance might not be obvious, but might make a horse sluggish or irritable, reduce its ability to digest fibre, and predispose it to colic or laminitis. It is important therefore to support the good bacteria, and maintain digestive health during exercise. Gut Lix does this by delivering our patented Preplex® prebiotic, which encourages the growth of health positive bacteria.

The stomach: The salt in Gut Lix encourages the production of saliva. Saliva is important not only for proper chewing and swallowing, it also helps to neutralise the stomach acid, reducing the risk of ulcers. It is known that under modern management systems horses are not producing enough saliva, as they are not eating throughout the day. This change is contributing to the high rate of gastric ulcers, especially in stabled horses. Salt encourages salivation and drinking without providing extra calories.

So you can see that electrolyte replacement and gut health are intricately linked. Gut Lix supports both of these systems, helping to ensure salt intake, rehydration, and good gut health.

Liam Gamble, Veterinary International Business Manager

Liam Gamble is a veterinary surgeon and part of the technical team at Protexin Equine Premium. He graduated from Cambridge University before working in equine practice in North Yorkshire. Having spent years owning, competing and working with horses he joined the Protexin team keen to advance veterinary and owner education in the fields of equine nutrition and probiotics.



- REPLACES LOST ELECTROLYTES
- 10 VITAL MINERALS
- PREPLEX® PREBIOTICS TO NOURISH THE BENEFICIAL BACTERIA IN THE GUT
- PUREST SALT FROM CHESHIRE
- ENCOURAGES SALIVATION AND DRINKING
- SAFE AND LOW CALORIE
- BETA NOPS APPROVED

Testimonials

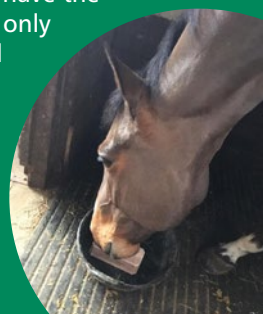


Phil Rowley of Rowley Racing

"Here at Rowley Racing we have used Gut Balancer now consistently for the last three seasons with great results. Recently we were asked to trial an enhanced mineral lick from Protexin. The horses love it, each one lasts a horse about a month. In the yard we trialled it in the horses were seen to be less stressed post exercise and exhibited much reduced stress behaviours such as wood chewing, plus they drank more."

Stacey Cook

"I want my horses to have the best, and Gut Lix not only provides the essential salts and minerals they need but some prebiotics that I can make easily available to them, which is a huge added bonus in my eyes."



Meet the Team!

We will be attending a variety of events throughout the year so make sure to come and see us!

Badminton Horse Trials

3rd – 7th May

Over 160,000 people attended last year's event, and it's set to be even bigger this year! We can't wait to see both old and new faces at this year's event. You'll find our stand in World of the Horse, see you there!



Burghley Horse Trials

31st August – 3rd September

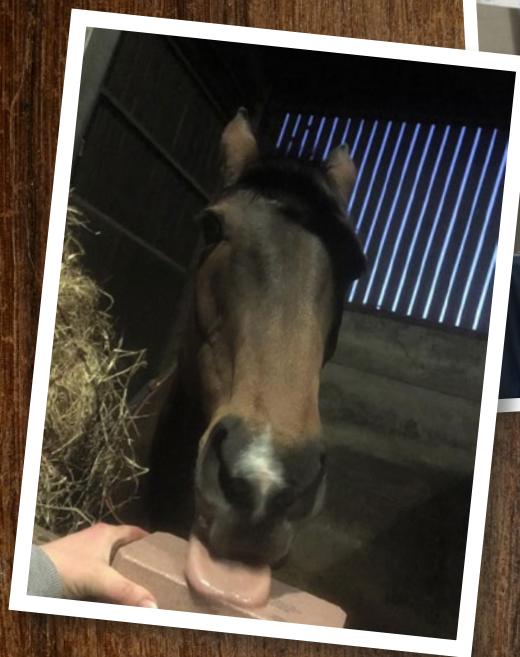
We had a blast meeting so many of you at Burghley Horse Trials last year, 8 lucky winners bagged themselves a Cosequin Equine Goody Bag in our stand prize draw! We hope to have as much fun with you all this year!



To keep up-to-date with our latest event news, make sure to follow us on our social media pages:

 @ProtexinEquinePremium  @ProtexinEquine  @ProtexinEquine

Photo gallery...



Barry approves of Gut Lix!
We received this fab photo on Facebook from Sami Hodson.



Kirsty and Jonathan enjoyed meeting so many of you at The British Bred Sports Stallion Event back in January!



Bimbo has recently been showing off his new hair cut whilst enjoying the sun.

If you'd like to feature in our next Newsletter photo gallery then please email us at info@equinepremium.com with a picture of your horse.