



Issued: 20 October 2014

Leading saddle maker to support Saddle Research Trust Conference

Albion Saddlemakers have confirmed their support for the forthcoming Saddle Research Trust International Conference. The well-known British manufacturer of competition saddles and accessories will be sponsoring the exclusive International Researchers' Workshop, to be held on 30th November and 1st December 2014. This follows the public Conference on 29th November 2014, which is sponsored by the British Equestrian Federation and World Horse Welfare.

The 2nd Saddle Research Trust International Conference is the only event of its kind to be held, worldwide. It will bring together leading veterinary and scientific experts to examine the latest research on saddle-related equine welfare and performance issues and hear how results of new research affect horses and riders. It's a unique opportunity for vets, therapists, trainers and riders, as well as horse owners themselves to gain collective access to the knowledge and opinions of internationally renowned experts and to participate in panel debate.

The morning programme will explore the impact that horse, saddle and rider have on each other. The pivotal session will be from Dr Sue Dyson, Head of Clinical Orthopaedics at the Centre for Equine Studies at the Animal Health Trust. During the afternoon various renowned international experts will examine the kinematics of the equine back and neck, the effects of saddle design and function and influence of the rider and the practical application of science. Richard Davison, Olympic dressage rider and former BEF World Class Performance Manager will then give his personal view of research before the full panel makes itself available for questions and discussion from the floor.

The following day a closed discussion Researchers' Workshop will be held in Newmarket, giving the experts the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics that are important to the future welfare and performance of horses and riders. The priorities in research and how it can be funded will focus the investigations over the following two years until the next meeting in November 2016. From how to objectively assess and measure saddle performance and evolve industry guidelines on saddle fitting, to the effects of different saddle designs on both horse and rider health issues, the workshop outcomes will plan to provide consensus statements to guide horse owners and industry professionals.

Anne Bondi, Saddle Research Trust Director said: "We are proud and delighted to have Albion on board as a sponsor. This valuable support will help further the cause of welfare beyond independent commercial interests and product development."

Paul Belton, Chairman of Albion Saddlemakers continued: "As a saddle manufacturer, we believe in investing in our industry and are therefore delighted to sponsor the 2014 SRT Research Workshop.

The increased knowledge and research will raise awareness worldwide, assisting in the future development of saddle fit, design, innovation and construction. Albion supports some of the world's leading riders and trainers and we feel such a gathering of information will be very influential and will have a most positive benefit to our key partner – the horse.”

The Saddle Research Trust International Conference will be held in Cambridge on 29th November 2014 at Anglia Ruskin University. The conference is also supported by The British Equestrian Federation, World Horse Welfare and Horse & Hound and is approved by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA). Advance tickets are £100 or £150 on the door. Concessions are available. To find out more, buy tickets and to download a copy of the programme visit www.saddleresearchtrust.com, email research@saddleresearchtrust.com or telephone 07775 912202.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

- Further information from Bright Bay, +44 (0) 1986 784562, 07768 958911, email: brightbay@btinternet.com
- The Saddle Research Trust was founded in 2009 to promote the welfare of the ridden horse and to raise awareness of the widely underestimated issues surrounding saddles, equine backs and performance. Trust Director, Anne Bondi, is currently undertaking a Doctoral Research Programme at the University of Sunderland, studying the interaction of horses, saddles and riders. The SRT facilitates collaborations between its Research Associates and promotes objective scientific research in order to further its aims.