

## Laura Kraut

▲ The US rider and her new mare Terra won both the Grand Prix qualifier and the Grand Prix at Wattenhall CSI\*\*\* in Cheshire — despite Laura riding with a broken jaw after her horse Cedric hit her with his head during the Global Champions Tour in Monaco.



## A Yorkshire farrier

▲ Steven Beane has won the World Championship Blacksmith competition at the Calgary Stampede, Canada, for the third year in a row.

## Matthew Wright

▲ The eventer won five sections from nine rides at Great Witchingham. He also had two seconds, both in sections he won.



## Louisa Brassey

▲ The former event rider has announced her engagement to Champion Hurdle-winning jockey Philip Carberry.

## Good week

## Bad week

### Ruby Walsh

▼ The jockey is once again on the sidelines and has been forced to sit out the Galway Festival after crushing a vertebrae and tearing a ligament in his neck in a fall at Killarney last week.



### A drunken carriage driver

▼ A 61-year-old man was stopped by police after his horse and carriage "zig-zagged" across a road in Kent. He reportedly told officers: "I'm drunk, my horse is drunk, so what are you going to do about it?" They arrested him.

### Lynn Russell

▼ The show producer was stranded on the A1 after her lorry broke down travelling to Arena UK. But she was rescued by two kind strangers — one who towed her to the services and a second who lent her a lorry to complete her journey.



### Eventers in Cumbria

▼ Hutton Horse Trials was forced to abandon all its competitions on Sunday (17 July) due to heavy overnight rain.

## Breeding

# Foster mare service saves the day for jumping stud

A showjumping stud has praised a little-known foster mare service that stepped in after a nursing mare died of a suspected brain haemorrhage.

Carolyn Murdoch, stud manager at Old Lodge, in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, contacted Clononeen Bloodstock Services after a match through the National Foaling Bank did not work out.

And she thinks other studs should consider using the company, which is believed to be one of just two in the UK offering this service.

"I was not sure about [the ethics of] using a service like this at first," she told *H&H*. "The idea of taking the mares' own foals away did not sit right with me, so I took myself off to see their foals unannounced. They seemed as happy as Larry."

According to Clononeen, foals stay with their mothers until they are at least three weeks old. They then move into small groups, if their mothers are needed for fostering, and are bucket-fed like calves until they are weaned.

The Old Lodge mare died on 27 June, 12 days after she foaled a filly by German sire Armitage.



Old Lodge's orphan foal grazes happily beside her foster mother

The National Foaling Bank sourced a mare that had lost a foal that day but the pair failed to bond.

Then a contact suggested Clononeen boss Deirdre Cash and within four hours Ms Cash and cob mare Babyface were on the yard.

"Deirdre spent three nights sleeping in the stable with them and did not go until we could leave them together in the stable or the field," said Ms Murdoch.

"I can't praise them highly enough — they did it all."

This service cost her £2,000. Ms Cash, who runs the foster

mare service as a sideline to her traditional cob stud in Faringdon, Oxfordshire, said their service is well known in the thoroughbred industry but not in other circles. She said they have 100 mares and provide around 40 fostering services a season.

"We breed good foals, so we can always find a home for the boys and we often keep the fillies," she said.

But Johanna Vardon, who has run the National Foaling Bank charity for 46 years, dealing with more than 18,000 cases, does not approve of the system.

"I feel very strongly that foals should not be taken away from their mothers to make way for a foal of greater value," she said.

However vet Ben Mayes, president elect of the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), believes the fostering service has a role to play.

"I was totally unaware of any service other than the National Foaling Bank, but feel the greater the provision of foster mares the better the outlook for orphaned foals," he said.

► **For more information about Clononeen Bloodstock Services, visit: [www.needafostermare.co.uk](http://www.needafostermare.co.uk)**

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### Diary dates

#### Happy birthday

Showjumper William Whitaker turns 21 on Tuesday (26 July)

#### Dress up

Dig out your Panama — racing at Glorious Goodwood starts on Tuesday (26-30 July). [www.goodwood.co.uk](http://www.goodwood.co.uk)

#### Go celebrity spotting

It's Cartier International Polo at Guards, Berks, on Sunday (24 July). [www.guardspoloclub.com](http://www.guardspoloclub.com)

#### See police horses in action

Members of the emergency services ride at Blue Lights Horse of the Year Show at Aintree racecourse, Friday-Sunday (22-24 July). [www.bluelightshorseoftheyearshow.co.uk](http://www.bluelightshorseoftheyearshow.co.uk)



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