

Honorary President
International Society for Equitation Science
Presidents@equitationsscience.com

29 November 2018

Dear ISES President

We acknowledge receipt of your somewhat bizarre open letter to World Horse Welfare dated 19 November following Richard Davison's presentation to our Annual Conference last month.

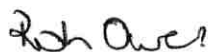
Over the past few weeks we have been contacted by a few members of the ISES Board, some of whom we understand have also been in contact directly with Richard. As we mentioned to them, we invite presenters to our Annual Conference (which is not a General Assembly or Scientific Conference) to share their personal opinions and encourage debate about some of the key issues relevant to the equine and charity sectors. We believe Richard did just that and know that he has corresponded with some of your members regarding most of the points raised in your letter.

More generally you clearly recognise the number of supportive comments that Richard made about the work of the ISES during his presentation and, in terms of balance, there was an opportunity to question him during the Q&A session (all of which is available to watch online). So we do not believe that what was raised at our Conference will potentially damage sport horse welfare. Indeed we take the opposite view, as it is generating discussion and highlighting the issues raised by both Richard and the ISES.

World Horse Welfare fully recognises the relevance of correctly fitting tack to sport horse welfare (indeed to all equine welfare) and we do take the time to review the latest scientific literature. Without doubt, appropriate education in the fitting and use of tack, together with an awareness of the issues that can be caused, is vital.

Cooperation and partnership working are fundamental to the approach of World Horse Welfare, which can produce very positive results when any collaboration is undertaken with a constructive, practical and open minded attitude – whether everyone initially agrees or not.

Yours faithfully,



Roly Owers
Chief Executive

