

# HISTORY OF THE EQUINE TRANSEVA TECHNIQUE™

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The Winks Greene (WG) Transeva has come a long way since its original design. Although many think that electrotherapy is a modern way of treating and rehabilitating equine injuries, electrotherapy dates back to the early 1800's although electro-therapy was only used on animals for rehabilitation purposes in the early 1900's. The first person with a scientific basis on why it would be beneficial to put electricity into the muscle, was Morton Smart in his work, "The principles of treatment of muscles and joints by graduated muscular contractions" (Strong, 1967) published in the early 1900's. Dr Morton Smart together with Mr. Rowley Bristow developed the original faradic apparatus, 'Smart-Bristow Coil' It is with this apparatus that they started their research on the effect that electricity has on the muscle when applied in controlled amounts. Charles Strong started showing interest in electro- therapy in 1914. Over time he bought a 'Smart-Bristow Coil' and started making some improvements to the device to make it more effective. (Strong, 1967) Strong strived to design a apparatus that produces a faradic current designed to penetrate the body while causing the least amount of discomfort. (Strong, 1973)

In 1939 Charles Strong extended his healing therapy to both horses and humans due a comment made by Lord Louis Mountbatten. Although faradism was well known as a form of treatment/therapy it has not yet been used on horses. (Strong, 1967) Only once Strong started treating horses with the Strong Box did he realize that the electrical current was still too uncomfortable to be used on horses. This was because; unlike humans horses cannot be persuaded that the uncomfortable feeling is going to improve them in the long run. With this in mind Sir Charles Strong designed the Strong Box. (Strong, 1967)

The new model was soon after, put to the test and did not disappoint. Although difficult to operate as it required two people it showed promising results. From the experienced he gained when using this machine Strong set out to improve it even further and so in the 1980's the SEVA also known as the Transeva, shown in figure 8, was invented. (Strong, 1973) The reason for this name is because Trans means through and SEVA stands for Strong Electrical Veterinary Apparatus. (Strong, 1967)

The Transeva was much better accepted by even the most highly strung horses. The Transeva was easy to operate and required only one operator. It also gave the practitioner full control of the strength of each contraction as well as the speed of the contraction throughout the entire treatment. The Transeva was further improved by designing it to run on battery power.

This not only made the Transeva easier to transport it also helped improve the safety of the machine. The Transeva's pulse in some way is designed the same way as a telephone, the pulse allows it to ring and seize when the current stops. Bearing that in mind the pulse of the Transeva is based on the same principal, to contract a muscle when the current is flowing and when the flow is cut off the muscle is allowed to relax and lengthen. (Strong, 1973) After several contractions to the stressed area, the operator as well as the patient can feel the muscle relaxing. This is because the muscle movement, stimulated by the Transeva, aids in increasing blood flow to the injured area as well as moving stagnant lymph away from the injured area.



Figure 1: The Transeva.  
[www.winksgreenetranseva.com/history.html](http://www.winksgreenetranseva.com/history.html)

The pulse is controlled by the operator who evaluates the tone of the muscle and adjusts the pulse accordingly. Due to the precise work of this machine the operator is now able to treat recent injuries with gentleness as well as treating old, hard injuries with more vigor to help recreate the movement, return elasticity and increase the range of motion. (Strong, 1973)

It is very important to realize that this kind of treatment is not a massage. *"It is best described as a fully controlled form of artificial exercise which achieves in a fraction of time the results which massage and passive movements, no matter how skillfully applied (and all other forms of treatment known at the present time) aim to achieve, but rarely do."* (Strong, 1973)

In 1988, Sir Charles Strong passed away and the Transeva, his notes and the rights were given to his disciple D.M (Winks) Greene who made it her life mission to improve and grow the Transeva that she has learned to love after spending 18 months learning how to use the apparatus from her mentor, Sir Charles Strong in 1952. In 1999 Winks Greene visited a technician, Nicoras who helped her add more movements into each pulse train created by the Transeva in the hopes of making the current more comfortable for horses. (Nicoras, 1999) She also added a screen to the Transeva to help make it more user friendly. She called the improved apparatus the Winks Greene Transeva. Winks Greene passed away June 2010. Prior to her death the future of the equine technique with the WG Transeva was left to Beth Shaw. Beth Shaw is currently based in Karkloof, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa, where she continues to treat both equine and human patients with the WG Transeva. She also runs BSET Academy, home of the Equine Transeva Technique™, and trains students to be ETT™ Practitioners.

For more information on ETT™ visit: [www.BethShaw-ETT.com](http://www.BethShaw-ETT.com)  
[www.ETT-AAP.com](http://www.ETT-AAP.com)  
[www.BSETAcademy.co.za](http://www.BSETAcademy.co.za)

YouTube: ETT™ Technique – Perfecting the Equine Athlete

# THE HISTORY OF THE WG TRANSEVA CURRENT AND EQUINE TRANSEVA TECHNIQUE™

- 1800-1831** First mention of using a Faradic current to aid in the healing of injuries in humans based on work done by Volta: The first person to produce an Electro chemical cell. Another leader in this field at that time was Michael Faraday.
- 1847** A first noteworthy therapeutic practitioner who focused his attention Electro therapy was Dr. Duchennes of Boulogne.  
\*Reported findings to society of science in Paris
- 1886** James Stone imported a Faradic apparatus which he used in Cleveland Row, St. James's.
- 1900's** Dr Morton Smart (1878-1956) together with orthopaedic surgeon Mr Rowley Bristow developed the electro-therapeutic field by creating an apparatus called:  
**'Smart-Bristow Coil'** The Smart-Bristow Coil was improved during the first world war to make the current less painful and the treatment more precise. (Glendale Hospital Museum, 2015)
- 1912** Morton Smart published account of treatments done with Gradual Muscular Contractions. Morton was knighted for his work.
- 1917** Orthopedic surgeon Walter Rowley Bristow (1882-1947) First description of pain free method of electrical nerve stimulation: His book "The treatment of joint and muscle injuries."  
(Glendale Hospital Museum, 2015)
- 1930** Charles Strong qualified as a chartered physiotherapist. Strong was, soon after employed in two hospitals in the Orthopedic department. During this time Charles Strong became acquainted with the different forms of electro-therapy available as well as the 'Smart-Bristow Coil'. At this stage electro-therapy was only used for the rehabilitation of atrophied muscles.



Figure 2

**1932** During a personal treatment given by Charles Strong to Lord Louis Mountbatten after a polo injury he learned about Morton Smart. Dr Smart used the faradic current for immediate treatment of muscle sprains to increase healing time and restore muscle function.

**1933** Morton Smart followed up on his report made in 1912 with his book 'The principles of treatment of muscles and joints by graduate muscle contractions'.

**1934** Charles Strong adopts Morton Smart's technique and bought his apparatus. Even though Strong was getting good results from the 'Smart-Bristow Coil' he still believed the apparatus could be improved and he set out to do it. Over time he developed a more acceptable current.

**1934** Charles Strong treated Lord Mountbatten with his new version of the machine and Lord Mountbatten asked: "As humans respond so rapidly to this form of treatment for their injuries why isn't it used on horses for theirs."

**# Charles went on to treat two of Lord Mountbatten's polo ponies that even veterinarians struggled to get sound. Within a fortnight both ponies were sound.**

Lord Mountbatten suggested that Strong visit both Dr Morton Smart & Percy Stone (Remaining son of James Stone – Original Importer, 1886)

**# Morton Smart agreed that Charles Strong can take over his practice after World War 2**



**1934-1939** Strong realized that while his current machine is achieving good results in the equine world the current is still not well tolerated by the horses. Developed a new machine for both human and equine use but before it could be tested the war broke out and the model was lost.

## **WORLD WAR TWO**

**Small improvements and developments took place during the war to help make the apparatus more comfortable for horses.**

**1946** Improved apparatus was redesigned after the war and put to the test. It was still too difficult to use as it needed two operators and the current was still uncomfortable.

With the new knowledge gained from the tests done with this apparatus further improvements were made.

**1950** Charles Strong created the 'Strong Box'.



Figure 3: The Strong Box  
[www.winksgreenetransva.com/history.html](http://www.winksgreenetransva.com/history.html)

**1952** D.M Greene (Winks) travelled to England and apprenticed with Sir Charles Strong. During the next 18 months Charles Strong taught Winks how to treat musculoskeletal injuries with the Strong Box on both horses and humans. She too started on polo ponies.

**1953** Winks Greene returned to South Africa with a Strong Box.

**1974** Charles Strong becomes the first physiotherapist to be awarded knighthood.

**1980** The first TRANSEVA was created by Sir Charles Strong.  
Trans: **T**hrough, **S**-Strong, **E**-Electrical, **V**-Veterinary, **A**-Apparatus

**1984** Sir Charles Strong published his first book 'Common Sense Therapy for Horses' Injuries' with Faber and Faber Ltd Publishing House.

**#Winks Greene opens her own rehabilitation centre in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa called: Natal Equine Physiotherapy centre.**

**#This was also the year Winks Green had a big break through when she used the Transeva to rehabilitate Gondolier, he was never expected to race again after a hind quarter injury.**



**1985** After three months of treatment by Winks, Gondolier went on and won the 1985 Rothmans Durban July Handicap. Durban July.

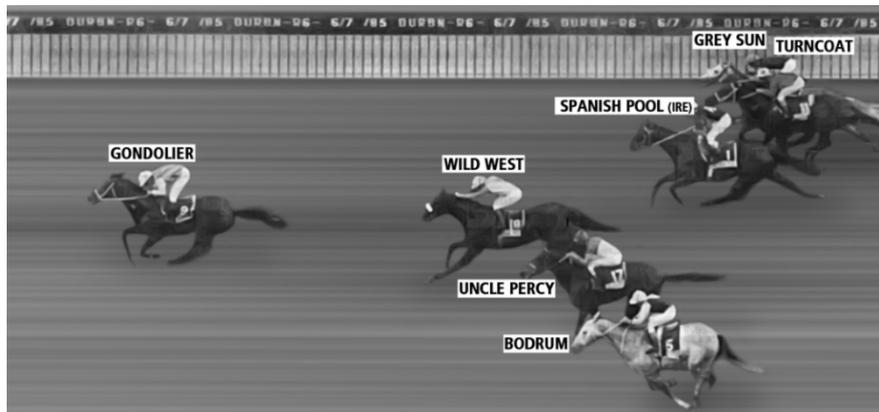


Figure 6:  
Can be found at: <http://julyhandicap.info/index.php?page=racedetail&raceheadid=349>



Figure 4: Sir Charles Strong treating a horses shoulder.  
[www.winksgreenetranseva.com/history.html](http://www.winksgreenetranseva.com/history.html)



Figure5: The Transeva.  
[www.winksgreenetranseva.com/history.html](http://www.winksgreenetranseva.com/history.html)

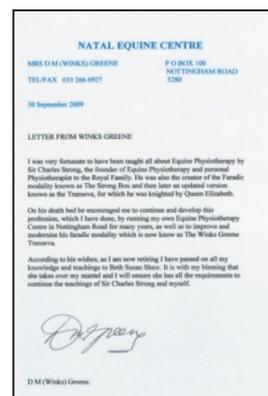


**1980's** After Gondolier Winks has made a name for herself. Winks contributed to various magazines and journals, including SA Racehorse and Parade. One of the founder members of the ACPAT (Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy) under the auspices of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, she is the only founder member outside the United Kingdom.

**1988** Sir Charles Strong passed away at the age of 78. Strong left all his work to his disciple Winks Greene.

**1988–2009** Winks Greene continued to alter and improve the Transeva current to make it more comfortable for equine or human patients. She later renamed the apparatus the 'Winks Greene Transeva' as it is still known as today.

**2008** BSET Academy was established. Beth Shaw started developing a curriculum to support the learning of Fundament Equine Practices and Introduction to ETT™



**2009** Guardianship of Sir Charles Strong's and Winks Greene's Transeva work was passed on to Beth Shaw.

**#The first students completed BSET2 Fundamental Equine Practices and Introduction to ETT™.**



**2013** ETT™ was trademarked and becomes it's own modality.

**Feb 2015** BSET Academy recognized as training provide by CEEPSA



**2015** ETT™ Association of Accredited Practitioners was established.

**2017** BSET3 Advance ETT™ Practices curriculum was created.



**July 2017** ETT™ Practitioners Beth Shaw and Birgit Schroder won the South African premier horse race, The Vodacom Durban July for the third consecutive year, totaling 9 wins over the last 14 years.

**Jan 2018** BSET Academy receives CATHSSETA Accreditation for Course 71469 Equine Practices.

