

WES NEWS

***The Official Magazine of the
Western Equestrian Society,
formed in 1985***

December 2019

Issue 101



**Merry Christmas
And
Happy Trails in 2020**



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WES TRAIL AWARD SCHEME

The Society's Trail Riding Award Scheme is open only to members of the Society

The Scheme is very simple - any WES member who hacks out for pleasure (training and schooling do NOT count) in a western saddle can record their hours and qualify for an award. The horse does not have to belong to the rider, but must be ridden in a western saddle.

- The scheme is subject to a once only payment of £40.
- Participants can download a log sheet from the **WES web site** (www.wes-uk.com) on which to record their hours spent hacking. If you do not have access to the internet forms can be obtained from **David Hudspeth, Old Police House, 14 John's Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts., NG12 2GW**
- Subject to ratification* the following awards will be made:
 - **75 hours:** Commemorative certificate.
 - **150 hours:** Commemorative certificate.
 - **250 hours:** A certificate plus an inscribed silver belt buckle* supplied by Montana Silversmiths, subsidised by £50.00 from WES funds, the price to be confirmed at the time of purchase.
 - **500 hours:** Certificate plus option to purchase trail award merchandise embroidered with the Trail Award Logo obtainable from WES Merchandising.
 - **1,000 hours:** Option to purchase a Trail Award Jacket, embroidered with the Trail Award Logo, obtainable from WES Merchandising, together with 1 year's free membership of the Society.



** To qualify for the silver belt buckle and other benefits claimants must have maintained continuous membership of the society since joining the scheme. In the event of membership lapsing for any period the claimant's participation in the Trail Riding Scheme will be deemed void. Rider records must be submitted to the Society on an annual basis when requested. Clothing supplied will vary depending upon the fashion as the time of request.*

For details of the WES Trail Awards Scheme, please contact David Hudspeth, Old Police House, 14 John's Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts., NG122GW

WES MERCHANDISE

For a wide range of
clothing with the WES
embroidered logo
please visit the
**TOTAL CLOTHING
SHOP**

WWW.totalclothingshop.co.uk/wes

WES WEBSITE

Please visit the WES
website for
information on the
Society, details of
shows clinics, etc.

www.wes-uk.com



Society Information

Council Members				
Position	Name	Address	Phone	email
Chairman:	Ann Hughes	Twin Oaks Stables, Stamford Road, Collyweston, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 3PE.		wesmembership595@sky.com
Secretary:	Debbie Langford	Monmouth Ash Farm, Horton Heath, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7JS	07889 363548	debbie@ferndown-com.co.uk
Treasurer:	Nick Verstage -	1, Craddock Barns, Craddock, Cullompton, Devon, EX15 3LH.	07773 228331	nverstage@hotmail.com
Membership Secretary:	Ann Hughes -	Twin Oaks Stables, Stamford Road, Collyweston, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 3PE.		wesmembership595@sky.com
Health and Safety:	Patrick Smith -	22 Chestnut Avenue, St. Athans, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 4JP.	01446 751140	Wes-safety@hotmail.com
Area Co-ordinator:	John Ayles			alberta.ayles@btinternet.com
Show Co-ordinator:	Michael Carder	Horseley Fenn Farm, Stocking Drove, Chatteris, Cambs., PE16 6SH.	01354 692011	wesshow@carder.me.uk
Publicity Officer:	Jim Lyner	28 Birksland Moor, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire, BD11 2PA	01274 218483	wespublicity@mail.com
Youth Officer:	Louise Hunt			Louiseh2015@gmail.com
Other Society Contacts				
Animal Welfare Adviser:	Louise Hunt			Louiseh2015@gmail.com
Trail Award Scheme:	David Hudspeth:-	Old Police House, 14 John's Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts., NG12 2GW.		Hands-on-qh@ntlworld.com
Webmaster	Dawn Lewry			tallbird21@hotmail.co.uk
WES News Editor	Chris Thompson	3 Waterside Court, Twyford, Berks RG10 9JB		cpa.thompson@btconnect.com



Area and County Representatives

Area rep. names are in **BOLD**, County rep. names are in *bold italic*

Area No.	Area Covered	Representative Name	Phone	email
1	Grampian and Highlands	KATHY BRIGGS		pyenjack@btinternet.com
2	Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire	MICHELLE SURGEY PRICE	07875 206045	unziptheflare@googlemail.com
3	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire	SARAH HAMLIN	07754 252484	sarah.hamlin38@gmail.com
		PAM PURSLEY	07772 389303	pam@pursley.co.uk
	Devon:	<i>Linda Thompson</i>	01409 221888	thompson_linda@hotmail.co.uk
	Wiltshire	<i>Toni Bendall</i>		wuineapeggs@hotmail.com
4	Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	ANGIE TAYLOR	07423 060320	angie@whittonstalltaxi.co.uk
	Tyne and Wear	<i>Jo Powell</i>		webster.powell@btinternet.com
5	Lancashire, Merseyside, Yorkshire, Greater. Manchester	CHRISTINE OUTRAM	07974 962877	christineoutram1@icloud.com
	East Yorkshire	<i>Margaret Kemp -</i>	01759 318227 07703 222594	mekemp.wes@gmail.com
	Lancashire	<i>Georgina O'Connor</i>	01254 233702 07787135053	activepeopleandpets@gmail.com
	West Yorkshire:	<i>Lesley A. Wilkinson-Lyner</i>	01274 218483	lesley@westemsaddles.uk.com
6	Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire	MANDY HAWKINS	07771 901385	wesarea6@gmail.com
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	Powys	<i>Fran Groves</i>		frangroves@aol.com
	Dyfed	<i>Julie Wilson</i>		rainbow.eggs@btinternet.com
	Gloucestershire	<i>Gill Parker</i>		bronze@gillparker.co.uk
	Herefordshire	<i>Bruce Lawrence</i>		bclsph123@icloud.com
	Worcestershire	<i>Roger Wells</i>		rwells613@gmail.com
7	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire.	VICKY EASTON	07971 034031	Vicky.wes7@gmail.com
	Leicestershire	<i>Stephanie Goodacre</i>	01455 209015, 07817 608558	stephaniegoodacre@btinternet.com
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9	Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk	JO TURTLE		joturtle@btconnect.com
10	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire., Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands	SARAH CAMERON	07899 958925	pale.rider@live.co.uk
	Cambridgeshire	<i>Sarah Cameron</i>	07899 958925	pale.rider@live.co.uk
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	Northamptonshire & Buckinghamshire	<i>Stacey Collins</i>		mail@stacey-collins.co.uk
	Warwickshire, West Midlands & Oxfordshire	<i>Wendy Scott</i>	01564 793565	Wendy_Scott@Talk21.com
11	Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside	KAYREEN JONES		kayreenjones4@btinternet.com
12	Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde	PATRICIA O'MICHAEL		barbarellababy@hotmail.com
13	Dorset and Hampshire	ANNE BATLEY	01202 779576	a.batley@ntlworld.com



Society Approved Judges

The following is a list of members holding WES judging cards.

(Prob. = Newly approved judges who are required to stand alongside existing judges for at least one show before accepting a judges appointment).

Lucy Adams (Lincolnshire) Tel: 07833 357682

David Brindley (Wrexham) Tel. 07778 591196

Michael Carder (Cambridgeshire) Tel: 01354 692011

Johanna Cotton (Wrexham) Tel. 07984 141973

Scherie Dermody (Cheshire) Tel: 01270 780620

John Dodds (Northumberland) Tel: 01434 220130

David Hudspeth (Nottinghamshire) Tel 07977 530954

Louise Hunt (Kent) Mob: 07712277812 email: Louiseh2015@gmail.com

Bruce Lawrence (Herefordshire) Tel: 07791 323192

David Lloyd (Hampshire) Tel: 01252 875896

Bob Mayhew (Hampshire) Tel: 07818 445562,
email: bobmayhew62@gmail.com

NB. (Bob also holds NRHA.DE, and judge emeritus for AQHA, APHA, NCHA & NRHA)

Tanya Rowe (Norfolk) 07786 968517

WES Judges Committee

The following Judges are members of the WES Judges Committee:

Mick Carder (chair),
Bob Mayhew,
David Lloyd,
Scherie Dermody



Society Approved Instructors

The following is a list of WES Approved Instructors

John Fyfe	Tel: 01316649715 Mob: 07957 555 989
Sandra Loder	Tel: 01975 41270 Mob: 07825549728
Janet Burwood	Tel: 01293 782014 Mob: 0771 5833349
Tammy Greaves	Tel: 01425 610278 Mob: 07824 664795
Tanya Rowe	Tel: 01379 854949 Mob: 07786 968517
David Lloyd	Tel: 01252 875896
Arlene Cluness	Tel: 01464 871264 Mob: 07776 251944
Emma Chapman-Ionie	Tel: 01969 623688
Kayreen Jones	Tel: 01620 892632
Bruce Lawrence	Tel: 01432 820081 Mob: 07725 501207
David Deptford	Tel: 01354 651944
Michael Langford	Mob: 07834 958900
Catherine Wright	Tel: 01608 730039
Kirsty Hewitt	Tel: 01932 340358 Mob: 07932 029558
Scherie Dermody	Tel: 01270 780620 Mob: 07930 410128
Tim Keeley	Tel: 01824 750463
Bob Mayhew	Tel: 0239263 2145 Mob: 07818 445562

From the Editor

Welcome to the 101st issue of WES News

You may notice one or two changes in the layout of the magazine. Following comments that it was difficult to read on an iPad in the two-column layout, I have prepared this issue as a single column layout. Your feedback on whether you prefer this layout, or the original two-column layout, would be appreciated.

There is also a new “letters to the editor” section where we have one letter, hopefully this will be the first of many more letters to the editor. People can use this section to express their views on various subjects.

I should also like to thank those WES members who sent me paper copies of back numbers of the WES News so that I can digitise them.

Please don't forget that this is your magazine so, if you feel the urge to write something, please do so and send the article to me. Do you feel that you could not write an article? Well, unless you try you will never know. Maybe writing an article for WES News could be your resolution for 2020.

If you are reading something and you think it may be of interest for WES News why not send it to me. There may be copyright reasons why it cannot be used, but my experience is that most people welcome the additional exposure.

Finally, I would like to wish you all

A Merry Christmas and a happy and involuntary dismount free 2020.

Chairman's Comments

*By
Ann Hughes*

As we come to the end of yet another year I can only look back and think what an up and down year it has been.

At the beginning of the year, I had no thoughts that I would end up being chairman of a club I have had so much from and met so many lovely people and I really hope that I can do the role justice.

At the moment though I am trying to build an ark, it only seems a year or two ago they were warning that global warming was going to mean a water shortage and that all the underground water reservoirs were drying up, seems they got it wrong!!! I hope you are all coping with the mud and have not been affected by the very serious flooding that has happened in various parts of the country.



Organisation of the Nationals (August Bank Holiday weekend) is already underway and I am sure you will have seen the annual clinic has been open for entries and is already almost full. There are a few minor changes that have made to both and we hope that you will get even more enjoyment from them.

I am looking to change the way I have done the membership in the past to being an online system, whereby everything will be done by email, this may cause a problem to a few people that either do not use email or are in an area that does not receive broadband, but I am hoping that we can overcome that by using a small amount of snail mail only. It does mean that you will no longer have the plastic cards and it will save a fortune in postage. If you have any views on the change I would very much like to hear them.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and a huge **thank you** to all the Area and County Reps and my fellow council members for the support they have given me so far. Happy Holidays.

Area Coordinators report

*By
John Ayles*

I am now approaching my first year in this role, it has been a big learning curve for me, it has been interesting getting to know all the Area Reps if only by emails, hope to meet you all at 2020 Area Reps meeting.

I have been trying to tidy things up to get back on track with WES Rules and Procedures, now I have discovered what needs to be done, my role will be to achieve a greater partnership with you all.

We all think that WES is a organization we are proud to be part of, so thank you for all your hard work over the past year, I may have been a thorn in your side (that will continue next year).

Have a happy Christmas

Deadline for next issues

Here are the submission dates for the next issues of the WES News:

Issue 102	Friday 28 th February 2020
Issue 103	Friday 29 th May 2020

The Magazine will typically be published 1-2 weeks after these dates.



Please submit your reports, articles, etc. in Word or as an email, with pictures and Graphics as JPG files. If you are sending in an advertisement, please send it as Word or a graphic so it can be resized as necessary to fit the available space

Finally, please do not wait until the last minute to send items to me. Receiving 8-10 Area Reports plus any articles on the final day runs the risk of something getting lost in the rush. Indeed, this issue was delayed for a day by a very late report from an Area Rep. It very nearly did not get included.

If you have a report or an article, please send it to me as soon as you have done it. My email address is cpa.thompson@btconnect.com

Cover Picture

Snow Horse by Verity Thompson, reproduced here with her permission. Verity does quirky cards, mugs, paintings, etc.

To see a range of her products please visit her website <http://www.sketchy.org.uk/>

To forestall any comments, Verity is my daughter and I believe she is a talented artist. I am, of course, not prejudiced in this matter!!



Letters to the Editor

The following Letter was received from Wendy Scott.

Dear Editor,

Area and County Reps along with other WES Members do their utmost to promote WES as an All-Breed Society, emphasising that it is not necessary to own a Quarter Horse to be a member and participate in Western activities, and there is a wide variety of breeds now being ridden western and competing very successfully which shows that the message is getting across.

I was therefore surprised to read that contrary to the WES All-Breed ethos, AQHA (UK) had been allowed to present a trophy to the Hi-Point Quarter Horse at the Nationals, which to my mind showed disrespect to the other breeds participating, and WES wonder why membership has declined by nearly 50% over the last decade ?

To level the playing field shouldn't WES therefore match this with an equivalent Hi-Point trophy at the very least for best Non-QH, if not for each of best Paint, Arab, TB, Saddlebred, cross-breed, et al, to demonstrate that they still care about the others ?

Yours in anticipation,

Wendy Scott

How can we manage stabled horses with their welfare in mind?

By
Alex le Grand

As winter arrives most yards up and down the UK change their management regime and a lot of horses are stabled for some part of the day/night. This is usually because the fields get too wet and muddy and yard owners want to rest the fields so that the horses have enough grazing to last them year-round. This could also be because a horse is prone to abscesses during the winter due to the wet conditions and therefore bringing them in for some part of the day or night can reduce the risk of an abscess developing.

Whatever the reason for stabling horses, it doesn't have to be a negative emotional experience for the horse.

There are a number of different strategies that we can put in place with the aim of making the stable a less 'negative' place to be. These strategies will hopefully neutralise some of the 'negative' associations with the stable.

What can we do?

- Stable your horse next to his/her pair bond so they can interact with each other and smell each other.

Editors note:

This picture shows my stallion, Brego, interacting with his best mate and next door neighbour Moose

- Make the stable as light and airy as possible with windows as well as a door chain so that when you are around, you can have the door open with the chain across so that horse can stand and see what is happening on the yard
- Put a mirror in the stable so that if a horse is not able to see or touch another horse while stabled, he/she can see themselves



- Bring in the horses in pairs so they are not walking from the field to the stable on their own

Enrichment Time

Zoos often will schedule times during each day when they will give the animal's enrichment sessions. This usually includes giving them an activity to do which will mentally stimulate them.

I no longer see stables as 'boxes' or an opportunity for horses to stand around doing nothing for hours. Instead, I see the stable as an ideal opportunity to mentally stimulate the horse through enrichment.

Horses are intelligent animals and love BOTH physical & mental stimulation as well as exercise. So when horses are in their stable and are not moving as much we can give them activities that will mentally stimulate them through enrichment. This works really well because even horses that live out 24/7 all year round can lack mental stimulation and enrichment.

Enrichment for the stabled horse

- Give them a slow feed ball and put hay nuts or their evening feed in the ball so they can forage for their feed over a period of time rather than eating it all in one go.
- Give them multiple sources of forage. Put some of their hay in a haybar, some of their hay in a slow-feed trickle net, some of their hay in a forage ball. This will encourage them to forage for their feed as they would if they were out in the field grazing.
- Forage balls can be really useful and really enriching for horses. You can put hay in (wet or dry or steamed) or haylage and it will last a lot longer and because the ball will move around as the horse tries to get the hay out, it will encourage the grazing behaviour.
- Make proper use of trickle nets. Normal hay nets don't really restrict the horse's forage intake very much and the holes are quite often too big, and the horse can get big mouthfuls of hay instead of little bits. Trickle nets can help by encouraging the horse to 'graze for their hay' because they can't get massive mouthfuls. This means the hay lasts a lot longer (which is less time spent stood doing nothing) and there is something always lining their stomach which will reduce acid and encourage gut movement.
- For barefoot horses, you can tie the trickle net up and leave it on the floor for your horse to eat low to the ground in a grazing position or if you think your horse might drag it through the bed, you can put a tie ring closer to the ground and tie it against the wall (see picture below). For shod horses you can put the trickle net in a haybar so that they can't get their shoes caught for any reason.
- You can get a rope and loop it back on itself and push carrots through so that the horse has to pull the carrots out. If you use straw bedding you can hide carrots in the bedding. You can use a tyre and hide hay cobs and carrots in some hay within the tyre.

As you can see there are so many different things that we can do to help mentally stimulate horses in their stable. Whether your horse is stabled at night in the winter, during extreme weather or due to a medical problem... these different strategies and enrichment ideas may help you to change your horse's attitude towards the stable.



Alex Le Grand <https://naturalequinetraining.co.uk/>

Alex Le Grand is a qualified equine behaviour consultant and trainer. His approach to training and horsemanship in general is based on the motto of setting up horses to succeed. His approach mixes equine behaviour and psychology as well as complementary therapies

Editor's Note:

My stallion, Brego, has had some behaviour problems. Normally he is a dope on a rope when being led, but if he was going to a field he would take off, which could be dangerous.

Until I met Alex, I had seen several so-called experts who tried to sell me expensive gizmos which they claimed would cure the problem. My analysis of their claims was that they were treating the symptoms and not the cause.

When I first spoke to Alex, he calmly told me he could cure the problem and did not want me to buy any items apart from a bag of Thunderbrooks Haycobs. to reward wanted behaviour with. Alex went back to the root cause and Brego can now be led to the field safely by anyone who understands Alex' methodology. I think this may be the subject of a future article

Bregos Stable Toys

By
Chris Thompson

In his article Alex Le Grand talks about things to relieve the horse's boredom in the stable. This short article explains what I use for Brego to help him whilst he is in the stable.

Hay Net

Brego uses a small hole haynet made by Nibbleze (<https://www.nibbleze.net/>). He used to have normal hole sized haynets but he would eat his hay too quickly. The small hole size of these nets makes him eat more slowly



In this photo you can see the difference in size between the yellow Nibbleze haynet on the left and the Blue conventional haynet on the right.

I chose this make of small hole net as it does not have knots in the net and lasts a reasonable length of time.

Hay Ball

In addition to the small hole hay net Brego also uses a hay ball. His is a parallax one (<https://www.horsehayfeeder.co.uk/>) that I purchased from Equus (<https://www.equus.co.uk/>).

The parallax one was recommended by Alex and Equus had the best price when I purchased it



His hay ball is the orange one here. In addition to hay, I had pushed some small apples into the holes, these can come out as the ball is rolled around

Treat Ball

Brego also has a treat ball, that can be filled with treats. I have this on loan from another livery at the yard, but they are available from several sources. It is filled with Hay cobs and is used in his stable or in his field. He is not allowed it too often in his stable as he loves to bang it against the wall to get the treats out and the noise can be heard all across the yard and down the drive!!



Both the Hay ball and the treat ball can be used in his field

Swedes

Not all horses like swedes but Brego does. So sometimes I make a hole through a large swede and tread some rope through it and hang it up in his stable for him to play with. Othertimes I will put one on the floor and he can roll it around

Hay Pillows for Horses

by
Lara MacKendrick

My ponies LOVE their new hay pillows so I thought I would share with you why I like them.

When my quarter horse, Sundance, joined my other two ponies, there developed constant food friction. Sundance scoffs his food and it appeared to me that the others felt they must keep pace, or else the new boy was going to get the lion's share. So, with winter approaching, grass dwindling and hay becoming the staple, I was prompted to re-think my system and investigate slow feeders.

After trawling the internet, I found The Hay Pillow. This product is robustly made, easy to fill and lightweight so you can place it in the paddock wherever you choose. On day one, the pillows worked a treat, dramatically reducing any hay skirmishes; a calm had descended. Instead of piles of hay, they had one pillow each and it seems as if maybe they liken the pillow more to a patch of grass rather than a pile of hay they want to protect. I offered loose hay too but they preferred working at the hay pillow. As all three have limited experience of hay nets, I chose the largest mesh size in case they found it hard to work out but really could have gone to a smaller mesh, as they manage fine.

Personally, I feel this product does a very good job of providing hay at ground level. There is the added bonus of hay not blowing away or being "smooshed" into the mud!



Lara's Horses with their hay pillows

The Hay Pillow website (<https://www.thehaypillow.com/>) has lots of info and reviews. One thing to note, this is a product for "barefoots". Also, it is made in the USA and tricky to purchase at the present moment but hopefully this will change if more people take interest.



A tale of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

This is a little story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought that **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

A trip to Northumberland

*By
Bill Tait*

The end of July saw Mel and I driving up to Northumberland with Paddy Skye and Amigo in tow.

We had decided to break the journey at Thrunton Woods and give the neds a break. Although we weren't far from Ingram our destination it was a good opportunity to have a short ride. We rode around the plantation, which had splendid views higher up.

We loaded up and drove to Ingram to find where the horses were going to stay, Jane who ran the B&B, directed us over to Whooperton where the farm manager Dan showed us to the paddock and explained we could use their arena if it was raining in the morning.

Next day after a splendid breakfast, it was throwing it down so we took him at his word and had a good play in the indoor arena. Thankfully the weather cleared and we went for a ride on the nearby green lane (lots of cows, calves and some large bulls!!!) over to Ingram and stopped at the nice cafe there for refreshments, then back.

Next day we tried to follow a route recommended by Sue Rogers (the local BHS access officer) sadly we reached a point high up on the moors where the track disappeared and we were forced to return. It is pretty wild up in those Cheviot hills.

Friday saw us boxing the horses over to Ingram and using the BW over to a place called Chesters.

Sue had said it wasn't rideable but the cowboys needed to try it themselves. It turned out quite tough, with us leading the neds down a narrow bracken covered track, slipping and sliding in the constant drizzle. The horses did well but at the plantation we found the gate wouldn't open very far, so we pushed and shoved and dug till finally it was wide enough to go through. Then we had to ford a stream and scramble up an overgrown path to finally escape through a gate that did open. Across a big tussocky field and we arrived at Chesters, a locked up farm house

After that we were on a good track leading over to Prendwick Farm. Interestingly they had set up holiday huts in their fields, these looked really good having all the modern conveniences. Certainly worth considering if they would let you keep your horse in the field.



After Prendwick, we followed a good green lane/byway over to Ingram. Some awkward gates but we managed a few good canters. At Ingram, the rain had finally ceased and we had some nourishing soup at the cafe.

This was an adventurous ride and certainly not for the faint hearted. Saturday and we were heading back to North Yorkshire.

The Cheviots Hills have numerous bridleways, but it seems unfortunately that too few riders are using them, hence the condition. However this is real riding country, so quiet, with fantastic views, we will be back.

Seasons End

By
Kayreen Jones

I always get to this point in the year and I wonder what to write and whether everyone is bored of the same conversations!! However, as no one has emailed me to ask me to stop writing I will continue and I do actually enjoy it.

Where have I got to with Flora my wee Highland?

Well we can go backwards, sideways move our hip and move our shoulder.

Forward is a bit of a work in progress consisting of a lot of effort from me (too much) and not a lot of effort from her (too little).

Now in all my years of backing youngsters and tramping around the countryside lit up like a Christmas tree either long reining, or walking in hand, I have learnt that Highlands are special!

In fact they are very special.

To start with I had a plan!!

Treat them like normal horses. Well, they are not normal horses and having had Highland ponies for years I have realised there is more than one way to skin a cat (Scottish term) or back a Highland!

Normal (and I repeat Normal) horses can be round penned as youngsters, taught the basics in the round pen backed in the round pen and then progress to the wide open spaces!

Nope Highlands think differently, do not get me wrong they are easy to back just not terribly easy to school until later.

They learn quickly oh yes the wrong things as well as the right things. Like if you for one day, one second, one month change the way you do something you will be met with nope don't do it that way!!

Consistency is necessary as is repetition (the same for all horses I know) but when you are talking about $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne of youngster challenging your decisions in the round pen you want to make sure you are totally consistent.

The trouble is they think a lot (usually about food!) They are clever (usually more than us) and they don't like being lied to (do things the wrong way and jeez!!) So I have learnt you do things backward!! You teach them how to stand at a mount block (check), show them the tack and wear it (check), teach them about the bridle, giving their face, going right and left and how to go back (check). Put them in the round pen, if you have one or on a 12 foot line too soon and they are off with heels up and a not terribly happy expression on their faces.

They are strong and they will win that battle usually with the poor handler being dragged or letting go so they learn how to get away!

Nope after the basics sit on them!! Long rein them and sit on them, walk them out and sit on them, do anything but do not let them think they are being schooled. Leave that little nugget until they are going forward, backwards and sideways and over trail obstacles. They need their brains schooled before their bodies.

Now this may sound like I am downing Highlands not all. I Love them, they are difficult stubborn and opinionated, but.... I always have one somewhere hidden being brought on. I have trained them and bred them for a few more years than I wish to name. I agree with Bob when he tells me quarter horses and Quarter horse crosses are easier, they are!

In fact, so much so that when I am working with them I doubt myself so much waiting on an explosion or argument well discussion that I would have had with a highland. I have a two year old Quarter Horse that has had a saddle on and been bitted and there was no need for much of a discussion. Hmm maybe I should learn something here! Hmm though life would be boring!!



How many youngsters can you long rein with one hand in an open stubble field, with an adopted (the highland and Shetland are best buddies) Shetland in the same hand. Either my training does work or I am nuts!! Perhaps better not to answer that.

However I love what I do, I love teaching people to work with their horses and I love seeing young horses grow and evolve in to safe solid little (or big) citizens fit for a career in whatever they enjoy doing most.

Giving people the pleasure of bringing on their own horses and developing them makes my day.

I wish you all a good Christmas and New Year and as all my younger horses are having the winter off I hope to give you some more adventures in the New Year.

Kayreen



The WES Scottish National Show

**By
Aileen Taylor**

**The WES Scottish National show was held at Highfield of Howe, Giffordtown, Fife on
Sunday 22nd September 2019**

Numbers were down this year to 16 Competitors but entries were fairly good in some classes.

The weather was changeable, and we had a thunderplump¹ in the afternoon making rather a noise on the roof of the Arena as it beat down. The Judge Mick Carder could not come as he had to have an operation and Bob Mayhew who has clinics with the competitors on Saturday before the Show agreed to step in and judge instead of Mick. As usual Bob did a very good job.

There were no non-riders taking part this year.

¹ Editors Note:

For the benefit of English readers, Thunderplump is a Scottish word.

It means to a heavy and sudden shower of rain accompanied by thunder and lightning. Personally, I think it is a marvellously descriptive word.

Thanks must go to all the team organising it . This year we had a new Show Manager Lesley Hastie with Kathy Briggs as Secretary, Richard Allan as Arena Manager and Kareen Jones as Treasurer with Aileen McCandlish handing out the Rosettes.

Thanks also goes to Highfield of Howe for the use of their Premises

Photographs from the show



Iain Loder on Wonder Who She Whiz



Jennifer McFarlane on Connor



Lu Boase on Smarts a Little Hot



Jill Robertson on Garrabeg Li'L Lakota Sioux



Fiona Whitehead on Wildcard



Irene Fazakerley on Forest Pebbles



Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan



Katrina Tebbutt on Missy



Sandra Loder on Check N Tuff



Joanna Thomson on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme

Results

Hi-Points Winners were:-

- Walk/Jog** – Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
- Novice Rider** – Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit
- Novice Horse** – Jennifer McFarlane on Connor
- Amateur** – Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
- Open** – Iain Loder on Wonder Who She Whiz
- Native Horse/Pony** – Jennifer McFarlane on Connor

This year every Class had a Sponsor except Class 25 – Heather Horsemanship

The Winners in each Class were (With Sponsors):-

Class 1: Amateur Showmanship (Zoe Hall)

1. Glen Bruar Summer Thyme with Joanna Thomson
2. Wonder Who She Whiz with Iain Loder
3. Diamond Sundown with Karen Holliday
4. RQH Flash Drive with Victoria Maclachlan
5. Mon Ami Marraah with Wendy Renton

Class 2: N Tuff with Sandra Loder

1. Smarts a Little Hot with Fiona Spittal

Class 3: Prelim Pleasure (Kathy Briggs)

1. Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
2. Lu Boase on Smarts a Little Hot
3. Julia Crook on Norseman
4. Isla Tebbuth on Missy

Class 4: In Hand Trail (Lisa Cleeton McTimoney Corley (Animal Treatments))

1. Joanna Thomson on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme



Class 5: Walk/Jog Trail (Sheila Wood (In Memory))

1. Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
2. Karen Holliday on Diamond Sundown
3. Joanna Thomson on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme
4. Victoria Maclachlan on RQH Flash Drive
5. Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit
6. Fiona Whitehead on Wildcard

Class 6: Novice Rider Trail (Ally Mac Mechanical Services Ltd.)

1. Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
2. Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit
3. Joanna Thomson on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme
4. Victoria Maclachlan on RQH Flash Drive
5. Karen Holliday on Diamond Sundown
6. Fiona Whitehead on Wildcard

Class 7: Novice Horse trail (Hilary Bowyer)

1. Joanna Thomson on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme
2. Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
3. Jennifer McFarlane on Connor
4. Arlene Cluness on Brave Will Win
5. Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit

Class 8: Amateur Trail (Heather Ronaldson)

NO ENTRIES

Class 9: Open Trail (Riona Quarter Horses)

1. Arlene Cluness on Brave Will Win
2. Iain Loder on Wonder Who She Whiz

Class 10: Heather Trail (Arid Systems)

NO ENTRIES

Class 11: Walk/ Trot Pleasure (Garrabeg Horsemanship)

1. Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
2. Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit
3. Victoria Maclachlan on RQH Flash Drive
4. Fiona Whitehead on Wildcard
5. Isla Tebbutt on Missy
6. Jill Robertson on Garrabeg Li'Llakota Sioux

Class 12: Novice Rider Pleasure (Sandra Loder)

1. Jennifer McFarlane on Connor
2. Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit
3. Irene Fazakerley on Forest Pebbles
4. Isla Tebbutt on Missy
5. Joanna Thomson on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme
6. Jill Robertson on Garrabeg Li'Llakota Sioux



Class 13: Novice Horse Pleasure (KM Equestrian)

1. Arlene Cluness on Brave Will Win
2. Jennifer McFarlane on Connor
3. Patricia O'Micheal on Smarts a Little Hot
4. Sandra Loder on Check N Tuff
5. Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit
6. Katrina Tebbutt on Missy

Class 14: Amateur Pleasure (Irene Fazakerley)

NO ENTRIES

Class 15: Open Pleasure (Riona quarter Horses)

1. Arlene Cluness on Brave Will Win
2. Iain Loder on Wonder Who She Whiz
3. Patricia O'Micheal on Smarts a Little Hot

Class 16: Heather Pleasure (Garrabeg Horsemanship)

NO ENTRIES

Class 17: Novice Rider Reining (Sandra Loder)

NO ENTRIES

Class 18: Novice Horse Reining (Lesley Hastie)

NO ENTRIES

19: Amateur Reining (Parscord Creations)

NO ENTRIES

20: Open Reining (Lunga Riding Stables Ardfarn)

NO ENTRIES

Class 21: Walk/Jog Horsemanship (Lesley Hastie)

1. Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
2. Irene Fazakerley on Forest Pebbles
3. Victoria Maclachlan on RQH Flash Drive
4. Susan Thomson on The Colonels Dunit
5. Fiona Whitehead on Wildcard
6. Katrina Tebbutt on Missy

Class 22: Novice Rider Horsemanship (Sandra Loder)

1. Jennifer McFarlane on Connor
2. Joanna Thomson on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme

Class 23: Amateur Horsemanship (Kathy Briggs)

NO ENTRIES

Class 24: Open Horsemanship (A. Gough Clinical Solutions Consultant)

1. Iain Loder on Wonder Who She Whiz

Class 25; Heather Horsemanship (NO SPONSOR)

NO ENTRIES



Class 26: Novice Horse Ranch Riding (Olivia Lochhead Training)

1. Sandra Loder on Chuff N Tuff
2. Jennifer McFarlane on Connor
3. Kim Briggs on RQH Electric Tartan
4. Joanna Thomas on Glen Bruar Summer Thyme
5. Fiona Whitehead on Wildcard

Class 27: Novice Rider Ranch Riding (Sandra Loder)

1. 1st- Jennifer McFarlane on Connor
2. 2nd- Fiona Whitehead on Wildcard

Class 28: Amateur Ranch Riding (Olivia Lochhead Training)

NO ENTRIES

Class 29: Open Ranch Riding (A. McCandlish Taxis)

1. Iain Loder on Wonder Who She whiz

Class 30: Freestyle Reining (Lunga Riding Stables Ardfarn)

1. Irene Farakerley on Forest Pebbles

The next Wes Scottish National Show is booked for 19th & 20th September 2020 at Highfield of How again

From the Western Dressage arena

By
Wendy Scott

Some of you may have watched the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) World Championships streamed from Guthrie, Oklahoma, over 5 days from Oct 2nd-5th in two enormous covered arenas at the fabulous Lazy Acres facility.

It was really good this year as the transmission did not suffer the buffering we experienced last year, the announcing was excellent and informative, and the standard much higher than 2018 with entries up by over 33%.

The competitors must have laid out eye-watering amounts to compete, with entry fees from \$75-\$130, stabling from \$120 per night and admin fees of \$88, never mind the accommodation costs and transport over vast distances to get there !

The rail classes on the first day were so full that they had to be split and the other 4 days saw 238 rider and horse combinations ride an incredible 1093 WDAA dressage tests, and overall 37 different breeds competed representing 27 US States and 3 Canadian provinces.

Western Dressage is truly a discipline for all breeds and Western Dressage UK will ensure it stays that way and at an affordable price!

Area Round-up

Area 1

Grampian and Highlands

By

Kathy Briggs

Area 2

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire

By

Lesley and Michelle Surguy-Price

Area 3

Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire

By

Sarah Hamlin

In our first year as Area reps, we organised two playdays and a saddle fitting/information day, one of the play days went ahead, but unfortunately the other one and the saddle fitting day had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Area 3 has very few venues that are suitable, affordable, and that can be reached easily from more than one county to make them cost effective, that coupled with a lack of WES approved Instructors and consistently low membership numbers (currently 27) meant that we took the decision to not organise any more events for the rest of the year, yet our facebook group continues to grow with a membership of over 360 people.

On a high note, our Area was asked if we would like to put on a demonstration of Western riding at the West Country equine fair at Westpoint arena, Exeter, Devon on the 7th/ 8th December, the team includes Chris Cole, Tammy Greaves and Ginny Johnson,



Tammy riding her horse Yella



Ginny riding Charlie Brown owned by Area member Caroline Burrowson, and who recently took part in the National show.



Area 4

Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear

By

Jo Powell

Here in Area 4 we are challenged with a very small membership (16) spread across a very wide area (County Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland and Cumbria).

Of course, during the winter months it is even more challenging to spark interest when availability of the few indoor arenas there are becomes scarce. It's also expensive to get trainers for clinics to travel this far up North! However, we are doing what we can to keep western riding alive and kicking (hopefully not literally 😊) in this part of the country.

Since being appointed County Rep I have passed my Show Manager's test & plan to organise fun/practice days and trail rides. We just need the weather to be kind to us 🍂.

Area 5

Lancashire, Merseyside, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester

By

Christine Outram

Area 5 will be holding their annual Christmas Dinner/Dance at The Bridge Hotel, Wetherby on 08 December 2019 so get those dancing boots polished and work up an appetite. We have Jonny 2 Step (http://www.j2step.com/index_flash.html) to give instructions to those of us who need it but it's so much more fun when it goes wrong!! For those who don't want to dance, don't worry. There will be no coercion. WES members, family and friends all welcome. The cost will be £30 per head and I would appreciate numbers sooner rather than later

We have a clinic organised with Lee Rutter at Catterick on 1st December 2019. Probable format will be 09.30 start, 15.00 finish with 1½ hour session in the morning, 30 minute lunch, 1 hour session in the afternoon which should mean you can at least set off from Catterick in daylight. The cost will be decided when I know numbers, the absolute maximum number of places will be 15, but I would expect no more than £65. There will also be a Ranch Horse/Versatile Horse clinic with Emma Chapman-Lonie early in the new year.

The AGM has had to be moved from Wetherby Golf Club because of renovation work there so I've taken the easy option and gone back to The Bridge. Please let me have anything you want on the agenda over the next few months. The AGM will be followed by lunch for anyone who wants to stay. Same date 26th January 2020)

My 2nd 2 year stint in the role of Area Rep comes to an end this year. Please give some serious thought to who you would like for the next 2 years or to coming forward for the role. If you would like to take on the role you can either let me know or give your name directly to Ann Hughes, our Chairman and Membership Secretary.



Area 5

Additional report

by

Lesley Wilkinson-Lyner (West Yorkshire County Rep)

Well what a fabulous turnout we have had this year to our series of David Gray Clinics.

It was great to welcome David back to training after a 4-year absence from the sport, he came back refreshed from the break and set to immediately making improvements to our riders and their horses.

Janet Amir was one of the participants on our first clinic of the year in April and I am sure she won't mind me saying that she was so delighted after the first morning of training that she requested to be booked onto any further clinics with David that we would run throughout the year. Janet was keen on doing some Reining training and by lunch time had unlocked Wally enough to be able to do a respectable spin! Much to her delight. By the end of the 2nd session of the day she had succeeded in achieving the flying lead change that had been an issue for some time.

This was just an example of how pleased all our participants have been with the level of training given to them by David throughout the year that kept them coming back for more.

From novice and newcomers to more experienced competitors we have watched every rider and horse grow in confidence and technique throughout the year. We received many repeat bookings and we have a core of riders that have returned again and again to each clinic that we have hosted in West Yorkshire.

Our Venue at the Wakefield RDA has been really suited to the clinics and we have been well catered for with the Indoor arena always freshly dragged and good clean Kitchen, toilet and relaxing viewing areas (leather sofas included)

David and Laura kindly travelled from their home in Essex to lend support to those of our riders who competed both at Myerscough and the WES Nationals and we know this was greatly appreciated by them all.

We closed our series of 2019 clinics with our final one of the year on 30th November 2019. Running to a different format, of a clinic in the morning and a practice show in the afternoon.

The day dawned with sub-zero temperatures and didn't improve much throughout the course of the day, but in some ways was a welcome relief to the weeks of previous rain we had been experiencing in Yorkshire.

Another brilliant day, we had offered a prize to the best Xmas turnout and had a couple of beauties. I think due to the cold fancy dress for most was not on the top of their list, but Nickey Smith looked set to take the prize with her Santa goes western themed outfit including white fringed red chaps and matching bolero. However, when the practice show started, from nowhere she had competition and Liz Greenwood entered the arena in an amazing Christmas creation, complete with patches dressed in flashing Christmas lights and baubles. It was a hard decision but Liz one the prize and I personally was disappointed for Nickey. The day ended in smiles, good critical feedback was given to every competitor on how they could have improved



their personal scores, and everyone set out for home vowing to return next year. All in all I think the year was a great success for these clinics and I would like to thank David Gray and Laura for travelling such a distance on a regular basis and all the participants and their horses, all of whom have grown in confidence and ability throughout the year.

Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy and horsey 2020

Area 6

*Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent,
Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire*

*By
Mandy Hawkins*

We had a very successful Area 6 clinic at Valley View Ranch with instructor Bruce Lawrence on November 10th. We were very fortunate with the weather which remained dry all day But fairly cold. The clinic had 15 riders and some great progress was made by everyone.

Further dates will hopefully be arranged for the New Year.

The date has been arranged for the WES area 6 Summer Camp 2020 Due to the enormous success of this Camp in the previous 2 years we will be returning to Valley View Ranch on the 19th to 21st June.

All current members of Area 6 should have received details and a booking form by email. At the time of writing this we only have a couple of places left so if you want to come then please get your deposit paid immediately.

Once the spaces have all gone I will have a waiting list of anyone else who is interested in attending and we will look at the feasibility of getting a second instructor.

Area 7

Derbyshire , Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire.

*By
Vicky Easton*

Very little to report this quarter.....

No clinic since the National. Michaels clinic on the 2nd November had to be cancelled, but we do have Lee Rutter giving us a clinic on December 7th.

Nothing booked yet for 2020



Area 8

Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex

By

Jo Gallagher

Since the last newsletter, Area 8 members (and some non-members) have taken part in several events.

The first I must mention is our ever popular Summer Camp held at Plumpton Agricultural College in Sussex. This was my first attempt at running the Summer Camp solo! And I'm pleased to say it all went well, and judging by the messages of thanks received, everyone enjoyed themselves.

This is the highlight of the Area 8 Event calendar, and attracts members from neighbouring areas as well as Area 8. Our clinicians this year were Scherie Dermody and Alan Payne, who brought their own individual styles to their clinics. Of course it's not all training and no play, and most members had chance to go out around the farm and surrounding fields to enjoy some lovely off road hacking.

Alan kindly offered to stay on an extra night and laid out the Trail pattern for us, which he guided us through in preparation for the Area 8 show on the Sunday morning,

The show was very well supported with several entries arriving on the day to take part, as well as those already taking part in the Summer Camp. We had some generous sponsors who donated some fantastic prizes, and the show went very smoothly with the help of Helen Collins, and David Lloyd, assisting our judge for the day Mick Carder.

On 29th of September and 13th October, we had two Trail clinics with David Lloyd at both ends of the Area, one being in Surrey, organised by Helen Collins, and the other just over the border of Kent into East Sussex. David helped the riders negotiate various obstacles, before we all had chance to ride a complete pattern and be judged! ... all of us hoping to achieve those elusive + points!

This coming weekend we have our last ridden event of the year, a clinic with the popular trainer Lee Rutter, which is fully booked, and I will report on this event in the next newsletter.

After that we have our Christmas meal taking place this year at the western themed Tex Mex restaurant the Smith & Western, which is already proving popular with several deposits being taken. This will round off what has been a very eventful year, with almost one event taking place each month, there has been plenty for Area 8 members to get involved in. Clinics with, Susie Anderson, Tammy Greaves, Bob Mayhew, Alan Payne, David Lloyd and Lee Rutter, as well a wonderful Trail ride and BBQ our Summer Camp, and not forgetting our three social events, at A 21 Diner, a Sunday Lunch, and soon to be Christmas meal.

It is with sadness that I have to announce that Berkshire County Rep, Helen Collins has decided to step down from her post at the end of this year to spend more time on her Life Coaching business. I thank Helen for her help and support this year.



On a more positive note, Tina Aston and Denise Russell are interested in taking on the role of joint Surrey County Reps. I am truly grateful for their desire to get involved and look forward to working with them in 2020.

WES Area 8 Berkshire:

*An update from Helen Collins,
Berkshire County Representative (and supporting Surrey)*

Howdy folks

Where has this year gone?! I hope you've all had a great year and managed to get involved in many of the WES activities organised in our Areas and throughout the country this year. It really doesn't seem five minutes ago since I wrote my first article for the WES magazine earlier in the year in which I introduced myself and my hopes for the year, and here I am now writing my last article for this year, and sadly my last article as volunteer County Representative for Berkshire. More on that later.

David Lloyd Trail Clinic:

Since my last update for the Berkshire and Surrey region of Area 8, I held the David Lloyd Trail Clinic in Surrey. A big thank you to David for sharing his excellent tuition, to Penny for hosting and for the delicious cakes, and to the spectators, riders and horses for attending and supporting this event.

Christmas Lunch in the West:

On December 8th, I have a Christmas lunch booked at the Shire Horse near Maidenhead for those of us based in the West of Area 8. Booking forms and non-refundable deposits are required to secure a place (subject to availability). This is an alternative to the Christmas meal that Jo is organising in the East of Area 8, for those not wishing to travel so far.

Handing back the reins:

This brings me to my last point... sadly I have taken the decision to hand back the reins and step down from the volunteer position of WES County Representative for Berkshire (and supporting Surrey) as at the end of this year. I'm disappointed to be stepping down earlier than envisaged, however in recent months I have needed to re-evaluate my commitments and refocus my energy towards the demands of my coaching business and other personal priorities (western riding included).

I have had a fulfilling year supporting WES having organised a number of successful events, increased events held in the Berkshire/Surrey area, and raised further awareness and interest in WES and western riding, which is essentially what I set out to achieve in taking on the role. I have met many lovely people along the way and I would like to thank you all for your support this year, you know who you all are, and I wish you and WES ongoing success in the promotion and enjoyment of western riding in the UK.

WES Volunteer Vacancy: County Representative for Berkshire

I believe new County Reps have already been appointed to Surrey, which is great news in support of continuing to bring activities to Surrey. In the meantime, with a vacancy arising for the volunteer position of County Representative for Berkshire as at the new year, if you are interested in applying for this position, to continue building interest, events and membership in WES for Berkshire, please contact Jo Gallagher, WES Area 8 Rep, in the first instance.

Happy trails,

Area 9

Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk

By

Jo Turtle

Area 10

*Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire., Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire,
Warwickshire, West Midlands*

By

Sarah Cameron

Area 10 have had a very eventful year.

Growing in membership is a great sign that we must be doing something right.

Our annual holiday is always very well attended.



This year we camped and corralled in Wells Next to Sea.

A short hack of approximately three miles to the wonderful beach at Holkham makes the venue a great place to stay.

This year we had fourteen horses staying and a few woofers.

The whole weekend is a great social.

Fish and chips consumed with a fair amount of wine and beer!

Next year's dates are already booked in July.

Any Wes members who wish to join us please contact Sarah Cameron

Area 11
Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside
By
Kayreen Jones

Good grief where has the time gone!! We are now at the last report of the year before Christmas and New Year are upon us again. Mind you we all say that but it happens every year. Since our last report we have been busy. We had our Scottish Championships in September which was well attended but we missed a few faces due to horse lameness and other commitments. The show was busy and we had our pre show clinic the day before which is brilliant for getting the horses settled in. Thanks must be extended to Bob Mayhew who very kindly (and with permission) stepped in when our judge could not attend.



We have had a few area play days, which have varied in attendance, and we have taken these opportunities to practise things we may not try normally. We decided that the last two would be pole work and we practised more complex things like loping into the box and out, loping in halting, turning and loping out. As well as jog and trotting poles and lope overs. The difference in the horses way of going and rider confidence grew over the two sessions that we had.

The last one we practised loping on the rail with the young horses that have not done that and to try and encourage the hesitant loping horses to give it a go. This was good fun and got the horses a bit competitive which improved the forward and lope.

This set up gave us a lot to work on which was good fun and we practised the type of confusion (planned of course) that you get in a warm up ring with riders working on their own thing. It taught people to plan and watch where they were going in accordance with everyone else.

We hope to plan more in the New Year as well as a demo evening with a mix of horses and riders, we also hope to have another come and have a go day in the New Year.

Our weekend trail ride went well apart from the weather it was windy, wet and the 1st shoot of the year was on the Friday morning. This did not affect visiting horses but mine were a little fresh!

We had some lovely rides over the remaining stubble and through the woods. It was lovely to see some new faces but we missed one or two also.



Steph and Chino in Binning wood.



Tenika and Big Boss out on the trail in Binning wood. This is a nice 3.5 hour hack to the woods and back over a variety of terrain.

I am shortly about to email out all WES area 11 members so that we can get some feedback on what you want next year. We had a lot of people interested in clinics and at the last minute a lot of people pulled out. For us it costs about £1500 to get an instructor up from England, pay for accommodation, arena and travel. The last clinic we had of the season with Michael Langford was brilliant and those who rode really enjoyed it but we had 5 people pull out. Fortunately we had some funds to pay for this but this cannot continue, we can only book, if people are willing to come and turn up on the day.

Please take the time to respond to the email I will be sending out to help me plan for next year.

I have happily taken on the Area Rep position again and am honoured to be voted in but it takes time and effort to plan and organise events. Please give your feedback so we can do this as well as we can.

Wishing all our members old and new a very merry Christmas and New Year.



Area 12

Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde

By

Patricia O'Reilly

We held a WES area 12 two day clinic at Morris equestrian Centre in Ayrshire early sept it was agreed that we would opt for an indoor clinic given the inclement weather, and we also choose the location carefully so that it was accessible to as many members as possible given the huge geographical area 12 covers. this has been the first clinic in many years held by area 12, and was very well attended.

Sherie Dermody was our Clinician and I'm sure she needs no introduction, her passion and enthusiasm brims over and she managed to do a sterling job keeping our wild Scottish rabble in order! lots of learning, light bulb moments, home work, and of course lots of laughs.

The whole clinic was focused and light hearted which was an added bonus, as no one felt under pressure. We worked on balance. Straightness, rhythm to name a few and worked through some really good exercises to encourage these aims.

Sherie may be a slight lady in stature, but she carries a huge tool kit!

We also ran through a few patterns as the WES Scottish national show was looming in the background.

There was improvement in everyone's partnership with their trusty steeds, which was fantastic for people to see, feel and watch.

The accommodation for both horses and riders was great, we even managed to all stay in the same accommodation, a very kind previous member allowed all of us to stay at her spacious house we enjoyed a lovely meal in the evening. With lots of horsey talk, and some discussion on what people want to do in the future months with regards to play days, clinics and social events.

Hopefully encouraging new membership and renewal of previous.

We even managed some karaoke and dancing!

And lots and lots of laughter!

As the saying goes... All work and no play...

We as an area would like to take this opportunity to thank sherie for her time, wisdom and expertise, and look forward to the coming year, hopefully everyone will have done their home work!

We are planning an after Christmas get together...a social gathering.. Food, thoughts and ideas. For the coming year.



Area 13

Dorset and Hampshire

by

Anne Batley

Area 13 has been running its monthly clinics with Bob Mayhew over the last few months. Its been great to see some new faces attending and showing real enthusiasm for western and doing a great job keeping up with everyone even though new to western. It's also great to see everyone help out and demonstrate manoeuvres, offer encouragement and help, also to hear from the venue how much they like having the western crowd, they commented on how polite, motivated and tidy we all are! Its also makes it all worthwhile seeing the improvement from one month to the next and the sense of achievement from each rider when suddenly the penny drops!

I will be organising soon events for 2020, so if anyone has some ideas of possible events or ideas please let me know. We have 2 shows already organised, an Area 13 show on 8th August, at Shedfields Equestrian, Hampshire and a combined Area 13 & 8 show at Merrist Woods on 27th June 2020, further details to follow but put the dates in your dairies and start practicing!

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish members of Area 13 and the rest of WES a lovely Christmas and new year and all the best for 2020 – new year's resolution – support and enjoy as many area events as possible.



Event Notifications

WES Northern Camp 2020.

When: 9-11 April 2020
Where: Bishop Burton College York Rd, Bishop Burton, Beverley
HU17 8QG
Instructor: TBA
Further details: Contact Margaret Kemp
mekemp.wes@gmail.com or
07703 222594