

WES NEWS

April 2023

Issue 111

*The official magazine of the
Western Equestrian Society,
formed in 1985*



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman:	Rob Painter rob.painter.home@gmail.com	Spokesperson and figurehead of the society.
Secretary:	Dan Gwalter dan@wes-uk.com	Manages council, organises meetings etc.
Treasurer:	Beverley Jeavons bevjeavons@hotmail.co.uk	Oversees the financial affairs of the society.
Mem. Secretary:	Ann Hughes wesmembership595@sky.com	Contact with any membership queries.
Health & Safety:	Vicki Holden weshealthandsafety@yahoo.com	Monitors Health and Safety to ensure compliance with legislation, etc.
Area Coordinator:	Kayreen Jones kayreenjones4@btinternet.com	Point of contact for the area representatives.
Show Coordinator:	Helen Payne helenmpayne@outlook.com	Organises all activities of the society.
Publicity Officer:	VACANT wespressandpr@gmail.com	Promoting the society in the media.
Youth Officer:	Annelie Matts amatts@btinternet.com	Promotes activities for youth members.

Other Society Contacts

Animal Welfare Adviser:	Pauline Norton chloe276@aol.com	The person to report to with any animal welfare issues.
Trail Award Scheme:	Sarah Cameron & Jane Gibbs westrailaward@yahoo.com	Administers the Trail Awards.
Webmaster	Daniel Gwalter dan@wes-uk.com	Maintains WES website.
WES News Editor:	Roger Wells wesnewsmag@gmail.com	Edits WES News and distributes it electronically to all members.

SOCIETY APPROVED JUDGES

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

David Brindley (Wrexham) Tel. 07778 591196

Michael Carder (Cambridgeshire) Tel: 01354 692011

Johanna Cotton (Wrexham) Tel. 07984 141973

Scherie Dermody (Cheshire) Tel: 01270 780620

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

**Bob also holds NRHA.DE, and judge emeritus for AQHA, APHA, NCHA & NRHA*

Tanya Rowe (Norfolk) Tel. 07786 968517

Judges' Committee

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

AREA AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

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

	Area	Representatives	Email addresses
1	Grampian and Highlands	SANDRA LODER	loder1212@gmail.com
2	Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire	LINDA CLANCY	lindaclancy01@gmail.com
3	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire <i>Devon:</i> <i>Wiltshire:</i>	JOHANNA MEAD <i>Ann Webster</i> <i>Jane Brain</i>	johanna1968@outlook.com annequus@aol.com j1412b@hotmail.com
4	Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, North- umberland, Tyne & Wear <i>Tyne and Wear:</i>	VACANCY <i>Jo Powell</i>	 jojackandskwert@gmail.com
5	Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Yorkshire <i>East Yorkshire:</i> <i>North Yorkshire:</i> <i>Lancashire:</i> <i>West Yorkshire:</i>	SU MCALPIN HARRY SCARGILL <i>Harry Scargill</i> <i>Nickey Smith</i> <i>TBA</i> <i>Lesley A. Wilkinson-Lyner</i>	su.mcalpin@gmail.com hbscontracting@outlook.com hbscontracting@outlook.com nickeysmith.wes@gmail.com lesley@thehooovesgroup.com
6	Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire <i>Pembrokeshire:</i> <i>Gloucestershire:</i> <i>Herefordshire:</i> <i>Glamorgan:</i> <i>Powys:</i>	MANDY HAWKINS <i>Julie Wilson</i> <i>Gill Parker</i> <i>Bruce Lawrence</i> <i>Yvonne Allen</i> <i>Fran Groves</i>	mandy.hawkins.1234@gmail.com rainbow.eggs@btinternet.com bronze@gillparker.co.uk office@valleyviewranch.co.uk ylallen@aol.com frangroves@aol.com
7	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire. <i>Leicestershire</i>	VACANCY <i>Stephanie Goodacre</i>	 stephaniegoodacre@btinternet.com
8	Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex <i>East Sussex</i>	VACANCY <i>Vicki Holden</i>	 vholden26@yahoo.co.uk
9	Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk	TANYA ROWE	westerncoachuk@gmail.com
10	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands	ABBEY BROTHERTON	fjordshow@gmail.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	SARAH SETON-SMITH	sales@sarade.online

SOCIETY APPROVED INSTRUCTORS

The following Instructors have met the criteria for WES Accreditation. They have provided documentary evidence to the Society to demonstrate that they: hold Public Liability Insurance cover to a minimum of £5m; have attended a recognised Child Protection course and hold a recognised First Aid qualification, as defined in the Society's Rulebook (Rules 19.1/7). Anyone booking an Instructor should request evidence that this documentation is up to date. The Society cannot accept any responsibility for Instructors not having up to date Insurance or First Aid.

Aberdeenshire	Sandra Loder (Level 2)	☎ 07825549728	
Cambridgeshire	David Deptford (R; Level 4)	☎ 01354 651944	
Cheshire	Scherie Dermody (Level 2)	☎ 01270 780620	■ 07930 410128
Denbighshire	Tim Keeley (Level 2)	☎ 01824 750463	
Dorset	Martina Drabkova (Level 2) Michael Langford (Level 3)		■ 07775 729942 ■ 07834 956900
East Lothian	Kayreen Jones (Level 2)	☎ 01620 892632	■ 07895 106052
Hampshire	Bob Mayhew (Level 5) David Lloyd (Level 2) Tammy Greaves (R; Level 2)	☎ 0239263 2145 ☎ 01252 875896 ☎ 01425 610278	■ 07818 445562 ■ 07824 664795
Herefordshire	Bruce Lawrence (R; Level 4)	☎ 01432 820081	■ 07791 323192
Lincolnshire	Joe Midgley (Level 2) Lee Rutter (Level 2)		■ 07588 412702 ■ 07736 430111
Norfolk	Tanya Rowe (Level 2)	☎ 07786 968517	
Northumberland	Clive Johnson (Level 1)		■ 07932 798666
Oxon	Catherine Wright (Level 2)	☎ 01608 730039	
Surrey	Janet Burwood (Level 2) Kirsty Hewitt (Level 2)	☎ 01293 782014 ☎ 01932 340358	■ 07715 833349 ■ 07961 684201
Yorkshire	Emma Chapman-Lonie (R; Level 2) Joanne Smithies (Level 2) Adam Yates (Level 2)		■ 07964 932877 ■ 07719 670321 ■ 07795 624074

Key to qualifications: **R**, Riding Stables. WES levels: **1**, Assumed to be an Assistant Instructor, working under the direct or indirect supervision of a more highly qualified instructor/trainer. A Level 1 instructor is expected to be able to teach basic Western riding skills to novice riders on trained horses on a one-to-one basis e.g. In a riding school situation; **2**, Expected to have good theoretical and practical knowledge of all disciplines covered by WES and to be able to prepare students and horses for competition in all WES show classes at local/novice rider level. Should be capable of teaching independently in one-to-one or group sessions. Should be a competent horse person, capable of working with both trained and novice horses; **3**, An experienced instructor, who has demonstrated a high degree of practical ability, and depth of theoretical knowledge in at least 2 specialist modules. The instructor will be of a satisfactory standard in order to prepare horses and riders at National Championship level; **4**, An autonomous and highly experienced instructor, who has demonstrated a high degree of practical ability, and a depth of theoretical knowledge in at least 5 specialist modules; **5**, Honorary. An enhanced level, which may be awarded to those level 4 instructors who have demonstrated a commitment to continuous professional development and equestrian excellence.

Instructors' committee: Micheal Langford (*chair*), Bruce Lawrence, Emma Chapman-Lonie, Tammy Greaves.

WES Policy on UKCC Instructors wishing to apply for WES

From March 2022 this will no longer apply and all UKCC Instructors must undergo the WES Instructors Assessment to be added to the WES list.

From March 2022 in order to become a WES approved instructor a UKCC coach must:-

1. Become a member of the Western Equestrian Society.
2. Have undergone and passed the UKCC Western Assessment Level 2 or above.
3. Pay an application fee for the assessment.
4. Have undertaken and passed a Western Equestrian Society Rulebook Test

Upon application the Instructor will be required to comply with all rules of the Western Equestrian Society relating to membership of the Approved list including maintaining Society membership, attendance on an approved Child Protection Course and providing proof of insurance and First Aid on an annual basis.

WES Trail Riding Award Scheme

The Trail Riding Award Scheme is open to members of the Society only. The Scheme is very simple – any WES member who hacks out for pleasure, trec or endurance (**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 and must be sound and fit.

- The scheme is subject to a once only payment of £40.
- Participants can download a Log Sheet or an excel spreadsheet to record their hours spent hacking.
- Stories, achievements and photos, can be posted to the Western Equestrian Society Facebook page and your WES Area Facebook page.
- Records must be submitted to the Society by email westrailaward@yahoo.com on or before 1st February on an annual basis to verify claim.



Subject to ratification the following awards will be made:

- ★ 50 hours members will receive a certificate.
- ★ 100 hours – quality SOS Saddle tag.
- ★ 250 hours – special rosette.
- ★ 500 hours – inscribed silver belt buckle supplied by Montana Silversmiths.

The new WES merchandise shop is now live . . .



www.teamequestrianshop.co.uk/western-equestrian-society

From the Editor

THE BIRTH & FUTURE OF WES

IN 1985 Bob Mayhew, who had been learning all about Western riding, and who had previously bought the Avenue Riding School, got together with me, and several friends, to discuss starting a new 'Western Club'. After many months of work, with valuable input from other interested parties (*Mick and Barbara Carder, Thea Lloyd, Lawrie and Liz Langan, Sheila Parrot, Pat Dyke, Bill and Julia Sheppard, Joan Andrews, Donne Cox, and Jean Fryer, to name just a few*), a draft of the foundation, constitution, and rule book of the new 'Club' was produced and presented to interested parties at the Plough and Harrow in Guarlford, Malvern, Worcs. Following much discussion, the **Western Equestrian Society (WES)** was born. The aim of this new Society was to help people who were interested in the Western style of riding, by way of encouraging them to take it seriously – not just gallop about in fringed clothes with six guns blazing! – But, to use the subtle aids developed by American Ranchers, which was originally taken to the Americas by the Spanish Conquistadors.

Bob spent many evenings contacting trainers in America, to gain as much information as possible in order to teach others in the UK to a high standard of Western riding. He started out on a tour of the UK, running exhibitions displaying the beautiful art of Western riding. He also invited trainers from the States to the Avenue to run clinics – Pete Bowling and Larry Kaston to name just two.

We currently have 21 approved instructors registered with the Society (*see page 4*) and, by using their expertise, you can improve your riding skills. Why not take the time to contact those nearest to you to find out what they can offer.

The 'shop window' to show quality Western horsemanship is by attending organised, official, WES events (clinics, shows, organised rides). I realise with the current economic climate, especially fuel costs, it is understandable that attending events may be beyond your current budget but, if you can only manage to participate in one local show or clinic, you are helping to raise the standards within your chosen equine discipline.

THE FUTURE OF WES IS IN YOUR HANDS

Roger Wells, Editor

wesnewsmag@gmail.com

2022 High Point Winners

Novice Rider: High point: Jane Windsor; Reserve: Sandra Chapman

Amateur: High point: Evelyn Dash; Reserve: Gill Parker

Open: High point: Evelyn Dash; Reserve: Kim Briggs

Youth 13 & Under: High point: Nancy Cook; Reserve: N/A

Youth 14-18: High point: Scarlett Eyles; Reserve: Emogene Wooton-Jones

Novice Horse: High point: RQH Electric Tartan, Kim Briggs;
Reserve: Benji, Geraldine: Scargill

Intermediate Horse: High point: Leaguerly Hot, Tanya Rowe;
Reserve: Smokin Red Dene, Sarah Hadley

Open Horse: High point: Always The Best Seat, Evelyn Dash;
Reserve: RQH Electric Tartan, Kim Briggs

Bill Sheppard Award: Winner, Claire Hooper, area 6
Other nominations were: Katrina Corbett, Emma Thompson, Hazel Tonge and, Di Nicholson

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY 2023 ISSUE

Sunday 25th June 2023

Please email your reports, articles, etc. in Word, text (with pictures and Graphics), or as a PDF to wesnewsmag@gmail.com

If you are sending in an advertisement, please send it as a PDF, Word or a graphic so it can be resized as necessary to fit the available space.

It will help if articles are submitted for publication as you have them, rather than waiting until the deadline. This makes the editor's life a little easier.

COVER PICTURE: Joe Midgley with his 3 year old quarter horse Magnus Rex (*Remy*) at dawn, taken at a 'Theodora's fundraiser' event for the Rainforest Children's Ward at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital.

Joe and his wife, Hayleigh ran the event to say thank you for the care their daughter received when she was ill last year, where Remy did a ground and ridden demonstration. A raffle was held with a target of £1,000, Joe and Hayleigh are thrilled to announce that it raised £3,000!

Photo courtesy of Emjay photography

New WES website is live!

LET'S be honest; it's been a long time coming and, for various reasons, has taken far longer than we had anticipated; however, the new site is here, and we are sure you will love it as much as we do.

The website has been completely rebuilt and redesigned; we won't bore you with all the details, but here are some highlights.

Faster

No more waiting for slow-loading pages ★ **Functional** – more relevant content for our members, judges, instructors and guests ★ **Cleaner** – all content is within 2 clicks thanks to the new menu ★ **Use Anywhere** – the website works on any device

The new WES Website has a wealth of information for all

Instructors and area reps directory ● Rule books, patterns, and various societal forms ● Links to all WES Facebook groups ● Events Calendar (sortable by area or type of event) ● Society points of contact ● Committee member bios ● Show results and current standings ● Current Newsletter and archives ● Links to our fantastic national show sponsors

What's Next

Our journey doesn't end here; we are already working on new features that will keep the website fresh and add even more value.

Directory

We are keen to ensure that all Western-related facilities are easily findable on the WES website. Once completed, the directory will be the place to find all venues, instructors, tack and accessory shops etc.

Market Place

The new marketplace will allow our members to advertise tack and items for sale free of charge. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to advertise horses for sale at this time, but saddles, headstalls, pads etc, are all fine.

Blogs and Articles

We hope to bring you some insightful stories and articles from the UK Western world. Check back regularly or subscribe to site updates to find out when we publish new content.

WES Trail Award . . .

will this be the year you win a buckle?



THE ever-popular WES Trail Award is attracting lots of interest with many new members signing up over the last year. A huge welcome to you all.

For many of us Western riders, trail riding is our passion, with rewards seen in mileages, hours and heart/horse relationships that others can only dream of. For others, it keeps their show horse mentally and physically fit, and goes a long way to giving the extra sparkle in the show ring and, in turn, in the rosettes.

Being out on the trail on a well behaved, brave, and fit horse, is like nothing else. The Trail Award is for anyone who rides outside the arena in Western tack, with rides of any length all clocking up towards receiving your amazing buckle at 500 hours.

It took me almost 5 years on two borrowed horses and, finally, completing on own my young Highland, Lily. Sarah, on the other hand, managed 1,000 hours in around a year on her lovely Welsh/Conemara boy, Ziggy!



Jane on her Highland, Lily



*Sarah on her Welsh/Conemara boy,
Ziggy*

I use my trail rides for fitness for us both as well as training. Leg yields, for gates; halts and back-ups for obstacles and obedience for everything you encounter. A win, win for the show ring (hopefully, one day) as well as the trails.

The Scheme is very simple – any WES member who hacks out for pleasure, trec, or endurance (*training and schooling in an arena do NOT count*), in a Western saddle, can record their hours and qualify ultimately for a superb, Montana Silversmith inscribed belt buckle.

The buckle is achieved after 500 hours. To put this in context, if you hack for two hours, twice a week for a year this will be approximately 100 hours a year. To achieve the buckle is a commitment of five years! Some will do more hours and achieve their buckle much more quickly, others do not have good hacking or maybe have a young horse they are bringing on, but everyone can work towards this. It does not matter if you ride a Quarter Horse or a Welsh pony, if you ride out in Western tack you are eligible.

The horse does not have to belong to the rider, but must be ridden in a Western saddle and must be sound and fit.

The scheme is subject to a once only payment of £40 and, once registered, participants can download from the Society website (www.wes-uk.com) a Log Sheet to record their hours.

Stories, achievements and photos can be posted to the Western Equestrian Society Facebook page and your WES Area Facebook page, ([wes-uk.com/facebook](https://www.wes-uk.com/facebook)).

Subject to ratification* the following awards will be made:

- 50 hours members will receive a certificate
- 100 hours - quality SOS Saddle tag,
- 250 hours - special rosette
- 500 hours – inscribed silver belt buckle supplied by Montana Silversmiths.

* You must be a continuous WES member; you must check in with Sarah and myself at westrailaward.com annually in February with a copy of your hours record.

Jane Gibbs and Sarah Cameron



RETIREMENT SALE

EVERYTHING MUST GO INCLUDING:

Equi-Trek 'Space Treka' Trailer.

3 Crates Saddles (all pre automation) 1 of them is a show with silver.

Saddle Racks, Various Head Stalls, Bits, Reins, Spurs, Show Shirts, Lead Ropes, Lunge Lines, Travel Boots, Hoof Boots.

Several 6'3" Rugs, Skips, Buckets, Hay Nets and Bags, First Aid.

13 Miscanthus Bedding Bales, Hay (small bale, about 200), Feed Barrels, Fork and Corn Broom.

Electric Fencing Posts and Tape. Fencer and Battery. Poles and Jumps.

I will post small items at cost. Everything else needs collection. Prices subject to negotiation. Could do a deal on multiple items or the whole lot. Could have missed some, so call to ask.

I am based in West Somerset.

Call on: 07956637662

EMMA CHAPMAN TRAINING LTD. DATES FOR 2023

APRIL

23rd WES Area 5 Clinic

MAY

6th Trail Clinic

JUNE

17th Groundwork and Showmanship

JULY

1st & 2nd Michael Langford Camp

AUGUST

5th & 6th Camp 1

SEPTEMBER

9th & 10th Camp 2

OCTOBER

7th Bend and Flex

NOVEMBER

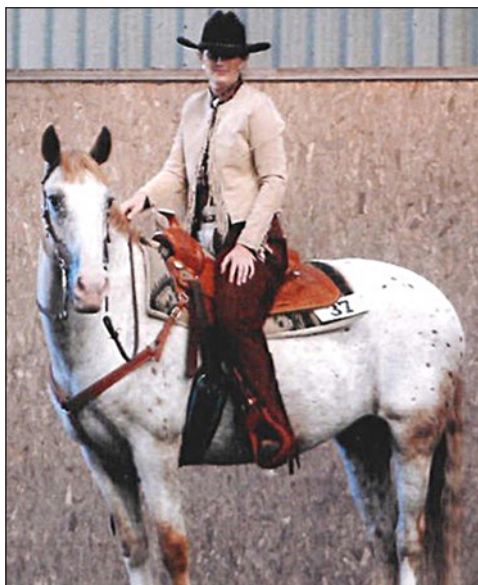
4th General Western clinic

A tribute to Cherokee Brown Eyes (aka Cherry) 1987-2023

MANY of the more mature members will remember Cherry, the first horse I owned of my very own!

She competed in many WES events, shows, clinics, summer camp etc. and also turned her hand to Trec competitions and later became a superb trail riding horse, only retiring from ridden work this year, aged 36.

When I first saw her, we had driven from Kent to Buckinghamshire one evening to view her. It was a windy, rainy evening and was starting to get dark...not the best time or weather to try a horse. However, my husband Paul got on her and started to ride her across a huge muddy farmers field...as he started to go



down a slight hill out of view... the saddle slipped right round underneath her, and Paul made an unscheduled dismount. Far from panicking, Cherry just stood there with the saddle under her tummy, looking at him as if to say "that's not meant to happen" I decided there and then she was the one for me without even sitting on her.

Over the years, our bond grew so strong, into one of mutual love and trust...she truly was the horse of a lifetime...I will miss her every day.

She was a real character.

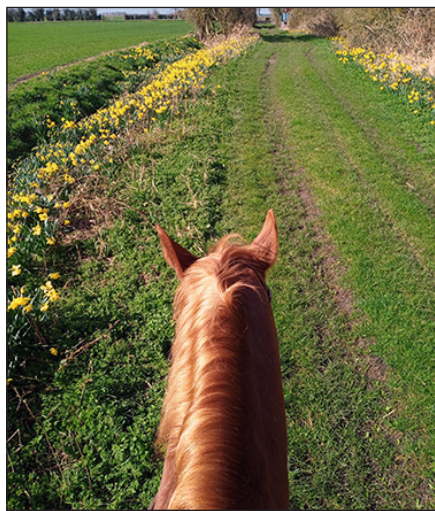
Run free sweet girl

Jo Gallagher

DAFFODILS AND ROSES

SINCE moving to Cambridgeshire 8 years ago I have been fortunate to have easy access to miles of off-road riding. Whilst I miss the scenery, hills, and wild flowers, of Worcestershire, I love the wide open spaces, big skies and wildlife of the Fens. There are no primroses or bluebells here but to compensate we have daffodils everywhere, mostly leftover from the days when they were grown commercially in the fields. One section of grassy bridleway has so many daffs along each side that you can see a yellow line from half a mile away. Then I ride along a short section of road before turning off to ride back home along the riverbank where there are yet more daffs growing along the banks. For me it is a joy to ride along each year and acknowledge that spring has arrived at last.

As daffodil season draws to a close, I look forward to riding past the many fruit orchards in full blossom, and then next up is peony season. One of our neighbours is a flower grower who currently has over 10 acres, with peonies of various colours which flower successionally, including one of the new varieties of coral pink which fade to cream.



By the time they have finished flowering we move on to the roses. There is a commercial rose grower not far away who produces huge numbers of them for the wholesalers. They move onto fresh ground with each growing cycle to avoid rose sickness. In previous years I have ridden a bridleway with huge fields of fabulous colour and scent on either side. Last year they were on a field at the end of our lane, there was a dirt track across the middle of the field, which was perfect for me to have a closer look at them and to be surrounded by scent. I wonder where the roses will be next year.

Sarah Hadley

Finding the joy of horse riding again – *in a Western Saddle*



AFTER a serious horse riding accident 28 years ago, when I nearly lost my right hand, I thought my days of riding were over for good. Fast forward to present day and my dream of horse riding is a reality thanks to confidence building riding sessions on a Western trained horse whilst living in Cornwall, and experiencing a wonderful riding holiday on a ranch in Idaho, USA. That fantastic experience led me to purchasing a Western trained Morgan mare. She had been bred in Cornwall in 2005 by Briarpatch Morgans, and as a two-year-old, was sold to a lady in Denmark where she was trained for Western riding. After ten years in Denmark and, due to a change in circumstances for the owner, the mare needed a new home. I was still Western riding and helping at the stables where the mare had been born – riding some of her relatives (aunt and half-brother) and, after vet checks and endless amounts of paperwork etc., I purchased the mare and she returned to her place of birth in Cornwall. Her name is Briarpatch Halo Duster (stable name Halo), and she is a wonderful horse. I have owned her for nearly 5 years now and she is a well loved member of our family. She is kind, patient, very smart, and a pleasure to ride. I use natural horsemanship techniques when we work together, utilising pressure and release to try to build our bond and move forward with our partnership.

After 17 years in Cornwall my husband, Rog, and I relocated back to Derbyshire in December 2021, bringing Halo with us. Rog loves horses and whilst in Cornwall he did ride Halo's half-brother, Churchtown Sir Lancelot (aka Duke). Another lovely Morgan, but quite unusually tall for the breed at 16.2hh, ideal for my hubby though, who is 6ft 4in. We were extremely lucky to be able to take ownership of Duke in November 2022, where he travelled from Cornwall to live with Halo in Derbyshire. It's a 'work in progress' for Duke, as, after many years as a therapy and holiday guest riding horse, he can get confused with what is being asked of him. We've decided to let him settle into his new home and will get back to natural horsemanship and Western basics with him this spring. He is a good natured gelding and will happily ride out locally with Halo. Sadly, Halo doesn't like trailers or lorries, perhaps remembered experiences from her journey from Denmark to Cornwall and then Cornwall to Derbyshire, so our ideas for travelling to clinics, etc., are on hold until we can address this issue.

If I had not found Churchtown Morgans in Cornwall six years ago and renewed my confidence in riding, through Western riding, we would have missed a wonderful opportunity to own, ride and love, two beautiful Morgan horses. We love Western riding and the super Western riding community.

Joining WES will give us a chance to learn more about Western riding (*never stop learning and hopefully improving*), interact with other Western riders and, once Halo has overcome her fear of loading, we will be excited to attend some WES clinics and activities with both of our steeds.

Gilly Bent



WES merchandise shop

www.teamequestrianshop.co.uk/western-equestrian-society

GIVE THE PHOTO A CAPTION...

THIS photograph was sent in by Stephanie Goodacre from Area 7.

Stephanie is pictured on Bailey (*Docs Baileys N Cream*) with Prudence her Irish Terrier attached. All it requires is a great caption... please send your creations to me at

wesnewsmag@gmail.com

The top three submissions will be published in the July issue of WES News.



*Sarah Cameron with Ziggy Stardust, her Welsh
Section D x Connemara,
winner of best home bred horse with Anglian
Distance Riders.*

*Completed 1,600 mile mustang challenge
over 2 years.*



Area Round-up

Area 1 *Grampians, Highlands*

FOLLOWING our Area 1 AGM in November planning has been underway for various events in 2023.

Not much happens up here during the winter due to the unpredictable weather and, needless to say our first 'Off Horse' session was cancelled for that very reason on the February 10th, this will now take place on Saturday 1st April. The plan is to have 'Off Horse' video sessions, looking at and discussing Western riding and show classes, which is something that will keep a social element for members going over the winter, when we aren't riding as much. We hope to add more next winter.

Our first Play Day will be on Saturday, April 29th, at Arlene's yard and we hope to see a good turnout for that. I have also arranged clinics with Michael Langford for May 20-21st and July 29-30th.

If anyone has any queries please get in touch and we look forward to seeing everyone fairly soon.

Sandra Loder

Area 5 *Lancashire, Greater. Manchester, Merseyside, Yorkshire*

IT'S been another packed year for WES up here in Area 5, with plenty of exciting events on the calendar going forward into 2023. Having recently joined Su as her fellow Joint Area rep., I'm very grateful for all the continued support of our members in Yorkshire and Lancashire, as well as all the other areas' members that trek so far to attend some of our events. Over the last year our area organisers have pulled off some fantastic events, with new trainers, new venues and new types of events to do. A firm favourite, that I'm sure will continue to be so going forward, are the trail rides. We had, I believe, four rides in 2022, and at the time of writing have just had our first of 2023. Well supported, these events will hopefully help further bolster our social scene, as well as providing a low cost and relaxing variation to the usual events, as well as encourage more members to participate in the trail award scheme.

Given the current, and likely ongoing, economic issues faced by the county, as an organiser I'm hoping that trail rides and other lower cost events like members fun days and social events, will help to keep people

involved in WES that might be struggling a bit at the moment with other priorities. It's important to remember that WES isn't just about show scores, it's about good horsemanship and a great community of people all with one thing in common: **a love of horses**.

I am currently knee deep in preparation of our area's upcoming Easter camp at Bishop Burton College – a yearly event that Margaret had run brilliantly for many years; and, once again, we look set to have another great camp with plenty of support. Thanks to the increasingly resurgent number of participants, I've even been able to drop the basic price of the camp by £25 per person this year without having to make any other changes to the event. This camp, along with our three area shows, will likely be the highlight events as always.

We have been blessed with two new official WES trainers in our area, Adam Yates and Joanne Smithies, and also not 1 but 3 new County Reps.

All in all, it's been a great year and I hope you all have a great 2023, happy trails everyone.



Harry Scargill – Area 5 Joint Rep

Area 6 *Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire*

OUR AGM will be on Sunday April 23rd at 3pm this will be a zoom meeting but those members attending the usual Sunday group at Valley View Ranch (and any members who don't do zoom, **by prior arrangement**) can meet in person and join the zoom link from the clubhouse. My most recent 2 year term as area representative is due for re-election, any member wishing to put themselves forward for the role will be able to do so at the meeting where the vacancy will be voted on. I am willing to stand again if no other suitable candidate comes forward.

The Area 6 Summer Camp is returning to Valley View Ranch on July 28th to 30th with instructor Bruce Lawrence. Stabling is available from Thursday afternoon through to Sunday (straw provided). All meals for riders are included from Friday morning to Sunday lunchtime. Riders will be split into groups (usually 4 riders) and each will ride one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon each day. Booking forms can be obtained by email: wesarea6@gmail.com

The total cost of the event is **WES Members £400 per person** (£200 non-refundable deposit to be paid on application and the balance of £200 to be paid 6 weeks before the event i.e. no later than 15th June 2023), **non-members £425** (deposit £200, balance £225). Places are filling up quickly but if it's oversubscribed I will keep a waiting list.

We are also planning to have our WES area 6 show as part of the American Horse Festival at Valley View Ranch between the August 11th and 13th. More details to follow soon for this.

All the best,

Mandy

Area 7 *Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire.*

AREA 7 members will already know that I have stepped down as Area rep, which leaves the position open to a younger more enthusiastic person! Anyone interested? Many thanks to everyone who supported the clinics.

Talking clinics, I am still running the two clinics I organised until we find a new Area rep. The first is a Trail clinic at Sovereign on April 22nd and the other is again at Sovereign but a Ranch riding clinic on the July 8th.

Enjoy the rest of the year!

Vicky

Area 8 *Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex*

AFTER a successful Area 8 meeting in January followed by a delicious roast lunch. The members discussed forthcoming events for 2023. We have several events already booked in the diary.

Our Mini break, short stay with trail riding and clinic in June, is now fully booked. This has been a very popular event. However, unfortunately

after 15 years I have had to cancel our Summer Camp at Plumpton College. The increase in costs made it unaffordable for some members.

We also have several Trail rides planned for the coming months, which I hope will be popular with members and non-members alike once the weather improves.

Looking forward to Spring and Summer.

Happy Trail

Jo

A snippet sent in by our previous editor, Chris Thompson

I WAS finishing a ride and was getting ready to dismount and saw a large tractor with an enormous rattly trailer coming towards me. I quickly realised that I had nowhere to go and did not fancy being passed when on top, dismounting, or on the ground. So I rode him through the pedestrian entrance to the barn and into his stable. The yard manager was not too impressed!! I think this falls into the “**don’t try this at home category**”



Meet Our Council Officers

ROB PAINTER, Chairman: Some of you may know me, as I have been an “announcer” at many Western horse shows of the past 20 plus years, and for many years had the privileged of announcing at the WES National Championship show.

I have been involved, and have become passionate for the Western ways of training and riding, since I helped form the UK Paint Horse Association (UK PHA) with my wife, Sue, and other fellow Paint Horse enthusiasts.



Sue, who some of you may know, has been actively supporting Western events over 20 years, and has bred many Paint and Quarter horses that can be seen out on the Western showing circuit. Our journey to Western riding evolved through riding Cobs English style at local shows, through owning, riding, and driving Hackneys, into breeding a part-bred Paint, and being hooked on Western riding in all its disciplines. I have ridden (English & Western) but choose to support Sue in her riding rather than compete myself.

I have worked with WES Chairs over the years and have always admired what WES stands for. I think is vitally important to the Equine Industry to have an organisation that promotes the Western Equestrian riding and showing disciplines. What's more, it's also important it continues to be breed agnostic, so it embraces and provides an environment for all horses to be ridden “Western”. I believe WES's place is to be the hub of all Western Equestrian standards and activities in the UK. The UK needs a central Society which cares about, and is at the forefront, of Western riding standards.

In the past I was part of a group who tried to bring together other societies (AQHA UK, UKPHA, BR, ApHC) in such a way that we worked more together in a loose collaboration. For all sorts of reasons, that failed... I think WES can be that driving catalyst and I would like to try again, working with organisations and venues that provide opportunities to ride Western, improve standards... and for those who want to measure their improvement against others, provide opportunities to show and promote Western riding. Over the years I have built up good working relationships with the other Western centred societies, venues, and trainers, which I believe I can utilise to build and promote Western Equestrian interest and standards.

In my professional career as a Change Consultant, I have a proven track record in leading significant and transformational changes in organisations. I can bring these leadership skills to WES along with my passion to see Western riding as a significant part of the UK Equestrian world.

I am looking forward to working with council and our Area reps. plus of course meeting as many members as possible at various events and shows, especially the National show in August.

DAN GWALTER, Secretary and web master:

As a 40-something guy, I grew up watching the Westerns and idolising the likes of Clint Eastwood as he rode bravely at brake-neck speeds across the wide-open plains of America.

Moving forward as an adult, I became interested in the Western methods of horsemanship and riding in respect of the relationship, trust and bond that you build with a horse that enables you to perform to such a high level.

Right now, I am a novice rider with a beautiful paint horse that challenges me daily!



BEVERLEY JEAVONS, Treasurer: My passion for horses goes back as far as I can remember, starting riding at age 10 back in the late sixties. Bought my first horse at age 21. Fast forward to 2021 and after a successful hip replacement 3 years ago, I now have a two Paint Horses and have taken up Western riding (alongside other disciplines) hoping the lovely big saddle will keep me in place!

ANN HUGHES, Membership Secretary: I found the whole ethos behind riding 'Western', after a lifetime of riding the 'English' way, totally enlightening, I simply could not get enough information to learn how to get a horse so relaxed and willing, without using all the contraptions and limitations I was used to.

When I joined WES and found people so helpful and friendly, instructors with so much knowledge, I felt that this was a million miles away from the attitudes I had so wanted to leave behind. This in turn made riding a pleasure again.

I joined the council in 2011 because I wanted to give back something to a society that had given me so much enjoyment. I now have a family of like-minded people that so want to share, with as wide an audience as possible, the benefits of having a horse that is a partner, not a slave.



VICKI HOLDEN, Health and Safety: My western journey began in 2015 when I visited the White Stallion ranch in Arizona. I had always ridden English and had horses on loan but ,when I first sat on a Quarter Horse in

a western saddle I was hooked! On my return to the UK I decided I wanted to buy my very own AQH and, after putting a post out on Facebook, went to look at a gorgeous buckskin named Tuffy who was for sale locally.

He was perfect and I truly believe it was meant to be so, after him passing the vet check, he was mine. I was over the moon! Before I went to the ranch I had been having some western riding lessons and taken part in a couple of shows on the lovely Paloma, one of my instructor's horses, so I knew a little about the various disciplines. After getting Tuffy and becoming an AQHA member I went along to watch shows at Bodiam where I got chatting to some of the lovely people who ran our local WES group. They were very welcoming and encouraged me to join. It was only after attending a couple of events that I became a county rep myself.



Unfortunately, not long after that Covid struck so we couldn't put on many events but we were determined to try and keep member's spirits high so I introduced the lockdown challenge, which quite a few members took part in and it really gave everyone a reason to keep riding and training their horses even though there were no events to go to. Once the lockdowns had lifted it was full steam ahead and area 8 put on numerous clinics, shows and trail rides which were well attended. The enthusiasm and support of the members has been really motivating and makes me happy to fulfill my role.

I have made a lot of good friends through WES and love being able to share my passion for all things western and horses with like minded folk. I decided to take on the Health and Safety officer role after attending a first aid course earlier this year as I appreciate the importance of trying to minimise the risk of accidents occurring in what is already a risky enough sport.

I now have a mare too (a wannabe paint) who I have converted from English to Western and she has taken to it well, as most horses do. I am fully committed to my roles within the society and if any members have any suggestions or concerns regarding health and safety or would like me to try and organise a specific event within area 8 I am more than happy to help so please don't hesitate to contact me. Happy trails!

KAYREEN JONES, Area Co-ordinator: I found WES around 24 years ago. I had just bought my first pony, an unbacked Highland Gelding, and I was determined to train and back him myself. I had a friend helping me who was a traditional instructor and I remember thinking that there must be an easier way for the horse and human. It so happened I was doing a pet



portrait for a lady and when we got talking she mentioned she was part of Area 11 and done Western riding.

She very kindly invited me up to watch the training day they had and I was hooked. Everyone was so lovely, friendly and the horses were so chilled! I joined that day and the friends I made then I am still friendly with now. For that I will be forever grateful.

Since then horses have come and gone. I have had Quarter Horses, Appaloosas and Arabs... but I keep coming back to my Native ponies and love the challenge of getting them light and responsive, and my big aim is to get to the WES nationals with one of my Ponies.

Currently I have three Highland ponies and an Appaloosa cross, who is currently out on loan. To be honest, they suit my lifestyle and my personality! Stubborn, no doubt my husband would say!!

I am part of the WES trail ride award and despite losing my confidence badly, I am gradually getting my confidence back hacking out. It will be a proud day when I get that buckle!

After a while I was encouraged to do my instructors assessment and I was luckily enough to pass. I think the rule book was my bed time reading for weeks. When the Area rep retired I took over and have been Area 11 rep on and off for about 17 years.

Again I am stubborn and love the challenge. I love working with people and horses whether teaching, trail riding or just having our Area 11 play days and trying to encourage English riders to give it a go!

As well as Western I enjoy Tilting, which is jousting, but using a lance to take a ring off a hanging gallows. I often compete in my western saddle to do this. Again we ride one-handed and guide one-handed through the gallows with a lance in the opposite hand.

However as Area Co-ordinator I really look forward to working with everyone and supporting people as much as I can. I can be contacted via email or by phone and if I am not in I will always get back to you.

I also enjoy low level dressage in order to keep any schooling fresh and the horses interested. It helps my confidence as well if I am out and about more often. So between my horses, my dogs (1 collie and 2 Bassett hounds) and my 4 grandchildren I am kept pretty busy.

I am looking forward to the challenge of my new post and If I cannot answer a question I will somehow find the answer!

HELEN PAYNE, Show Co-ordinator: I've recently taken over the Show Co-ordinator role from Mick Carder (big boots to fill!); I'm a long standing member of WES Area 7 and live in North East Derbyshire. Some of you

may know me if you attend AQHA/BR shows, especially at Oakridge, as I'm often acting at gate/rosette steward there. In case you were wondering, Alan Payne is my son, and I spent many years as a "youth mum" on the western competition scene gaining valuable knowledge and experience along the way.

Having retired from a full time NHS management role in August 2022 (although I still work part time), I've got a bit more time to give to voluntary things and I wanted to give back to WES, which is where I was first introduced to Western riding and showing. I have done a little low level showing myself, but my main passion is supporting and enabling others to participate in showcasing our fantastic horses and promoting the western way of riding via the showing scene.



ANNELIE MATTS, Youth Officer: Horses have always been a huge part of my life; they have brought me so much enjoyment and purpose and I really couldn't imagine my life without them. I studied at Bishop Burton College and left with a Business Management Degree and my BHSAL. I spent a lot of time gaining experience on different training yards in Scotland, England and Ireland before starting my own training/rehabilitation yard on my family farm in the North of Scotland. Of all the horses I have worked with, there was one horse that changed me and made me realise how little I knew about training horses! He was the best teacher I could ever have had and I feel very fortunate to have met him. It was this change that drew me to the Western world. I now live in South Lincolnshire with my husband and little girl (3.5 years) where I run a training/rehabilitation yard. I absolutely love my job; it really doesn't feel like work when I get to spend my days with these amazing animals. I have a retired eventing mare and my wonderful Highland, Forbes, who I now share with my little girl. We are looking forward to getting more involved in the Western Community and it is through this that led me to volunteer as WES Youth Officer. I want to help the young ones learn, and appreciate these wonderful animals, and of course have lots of fun along the way.

PAULINE NORTON, Animal Welfare Officer: I'm a level 4 UKCC Equestrian Coach based in Kent. From pony-mad schoolgirl to List 3 British Dressage Judge and British Reining Open Hi-Point Champion, I think I've tried most things during my equestrian career! I have worked closely with other member bodies of The British Equestrian Federation on coaching, safe-guarding and welfare and hope to use some of this experience to help WES present a professional face to the general equestrian community.





SARAH CAMERON (left) and **JANE GIBBS** (right), *Trail Award managers:* Sarah and Ziggy love endurance and pleasure rides. They have completed 1,000 hours as apart of the WES trail award scheme and 1,900 miles in pony Express. Numerous awards in Endurance rides.

Jane and Lilly have just started pleasure rides but Jane is no newbie to Endurance. With Angel (her first horse) she had numerous completions over the years with many graded rides at a high level.



Jane has also completed her 500 hours for her buckle.

The aim is to get as many people on their horses in a Western saddle as possible out in the open countryside.

ROGER WELLS, Magazine Editor: In the 1980s my daughter, Tina, started working for Bob Mayhew at the Avenue Riding Centre. After watching Bob working with his first horse, Tulip, my whole family became engrossed with the way the horses moved – the calm, quiet, demeanour about the whole concept of riding.

In 1985 I worked alongside Bob in putting together a presentation for the formation of a new horse-riding society – The Western Equestrian Society. Using the rulebook of the largest Western riding organisation in America, we adapted it to incorporate all horse breeds to the Western way.

Having edited the early magazines of the Society and being directly involved on council as membership secretary, I am now not so active in organising events, but I still follow the journey whenever I can.

Since 1961 I have been involved in the production and teaching side of printing from the hot metal days of newspapers to the transition to computerisation. Retiring in 2007 I still try to stay involved in the trade, if only to keep my mind active.

Never has a journey been more worthwhile than my involvement with Western equitation.



How to Save Money on your Horse Insurance

GETTING the most for your money is becoming more and more important. Whilst the reasons for insuring differ for everyone, the rising cost of vet bills is often the driving force for people looking to take out insurance for their horses. There may be ways you can make savings without compromising on what is most important to you. Here are a few ways you could save on your horse insurance:

1. The reason most people insure is for the veterinary fee cover. **Increasing your excess** will bring the cost of this section down. Remember, excesses are paid per incident, so this needs to be an amount you are comfortable paying for each claim if your horse was unlucky enough to have multiple incidents within the same year.
2. **Don't double up.** Cover for **Public Liability** and **Personal Accident** are optional on most horse insurance policy. This means if you already have cover elsewhere, perhaps through a membership or affiliation, you do not need to be paying for the same cover twice. It's worth checking the terms of the cover elsewhere to ensure it will protect you at all times, rather than solely when you are attending events run by the organisation.
3. Sometimes, having the most comprehensive cover is not the most cost-effective option if your horse has been unfortunate enough to have a number of previous issues. If the list of exclusions on your horse's policy is lengthy, **weigh up a more limited policy such as catastrophe cover** which is available from less than £400 a year.
4. **Check your insurance matches the activities your horse is participating in.** If you've dropped down a level for any reason or stopped doing certain activities with your horse, both training at home and whilst competing, it may pay to advise your insurance company of this and see whether it is possible to reduce the class of use to make a saving.

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Bolting, Rearing and Bucking

Part 2 by Karl Greenwood

This article by Karl was sent in by WES member Jo Gallagher

Rearing

Why does a horse rear?

It could be discomfort, badly fitting tack, veterinary or dentistry issue. It could be a training issue, a poorly trained horse. It could just be that the horse is young, or inexperienced.

Of course, the horse could be frightened of something in its environment – or it could be napping. It could even be picking up the rider's lack of confidence, sensing that the rider doesn't want to be going out there – because the rider is feeling frightened, so the horse it is thinking, "Well, if YOU don't want to go out there, I certainly don't!" . . . and then the nervousness happens and then the reins start getting tight and everything starts getting a little bit unpleasant and the clamping of the legs starts . . . Any of those things could cause a horse to rear.

However, the main thing to remember is rearing is unacceptable.

Rearing is so unacceptable that we don't even accept the little jumps and "pops". Sometimes people say they find the little pops exciting, or they say, "Oh, I quite enjoyed that – it shows that they're excited."

Well, to a horse you've got to keep it 'stupid simple'. It is **NOT OK** to rear.

It is very hard to explain to a horse that a small rear is acceptable, and a big rear is not. How are you going to explain to a horse which has a very simple brain, how many degrees is acceptable? 78.5 degrees? Is that OK? That's just not going to happen. The answer is you do not rear. You don't rear. You do not do the little rears, you don't do the big rears. No.

So what is the problem with rearing?

What is our big fear with rearing? The horse goes up, the horse comes down again, no problem. Of course, the big fear is that the horse will go up, carry on up, and go up and over backwards.

So, with horses going over backwards, do you think they want to go up and over backwards? Of course they don't.

Quite often if a horse goes up and over backwards it will never rear again because it has frightened itself. Certainly, when horses are out playing in the fields, and they are all running around and having a jolly time, rearing up at each other, do they fall up and over backwards? Not usually, no. They are usually fully in control.

So, why is it that a horse would go up and over backwards?

It's because, the rider is frightened, we have got hold of the reins, the horse has gone up, caught us by surprise, we fall back, we hold on to the

reins to try and keep ourselves on the horse, and the horse is then up on its back legs and it cannot come down! It is going, "Get. Off. My. Mouth!", and it goes up and gets pulled over backwards.

So what is the best thing that we can do?

As soon as the horse rears, these reins must not be pulled. We must drop that contact. We need to do two things. We need to drop the contact on the rein, and we need to make sure that we don't fall off...which means we need to hold on – and hold on tight.

So a simple solution is to get hold of the mane.

If you haven't got a mane, you could have your neck strap. Alternatively you could get one of those little straps that go from the little D-rings on the saddle. The crucial thing is, you've got something prepared. Make sure you're not trying to make up something at the time.

You could get hold of the gullet of the saddle. You could get hold of anything...that you have already prepared to get hold of, something that you know and you have practiced.

So if you grab hold of a plait, or the mane, or whatever, then you are not going to fall off,...and the reins will be wonderfully loose because your hands have moved forwards. You are not going to fall off – and you are not going to pull the horse up and over backwards.

So when's the best time to make sure your horse is OK with you suddenly launching yourself at the mane? When it rears? Or maybe – perhaps more sensibly in bite size stages, at any time, every day, starting today.

Get your horse prepared, get your kit prepared, and get yourself prepared.

To reiterate, the two main dangers of rearing is falling off, and the horse going up and over backwards. What we need to remember is, in order to stay on you need to hold on, and to allow the horse to come back down you need to loosen off that contact. Fortunately, the solutions for these two outcomes are the same. Move your hands forward, and grab hold of something you prepared for and practiced consistently and regularly.

So here we are. We need to get hold of the mane, and if you do grab hold of the mane then your hands will have moved forward and your reins will be loose. If your horse hasn't got a mane you could have your neck strap. I have heard people say that neck straps are for novices. I am of the opinion that anyone who would state that is themselves a novice. Neck straps are not for novices. No, they are for keeping us safe and for training our horses.

If you don't have a neck strap have something else. Have something prepared. Maybe you'll buy a different strap, a saddle with a pommel or maybe you have a high gullet on your saddle which will suffice. Whatever it is that you do have, have it prepared and be practiced exactly what you will do in that situation.

So when you get out on your horses, and you're nervous that they're going to rear, and your nervous energy goes higher and higher and higher, that's

how you start to get the responses that could lead to a rear. Nerves or fear or excitement, it's all the same energy.

When myself and my team want to train a horse to rear for our work, we have to raise their energy... on the other hand, if you do NOT want a horse to rear, then you have to keep your energy low and more you keep your energy low, the less chance the horse will have to take that energy and rear. And as well as keeping your energy low, your horse's energy low, you also have to take charge of the unhelpful screamers and panickers and the bellowing know-it-all's who'll be adding to the situation.

Position

When a horse does rear, what should we do with our position? Surprisingly, on the whole, you should not do anything much!

You shouldn't particularly lean forwards, you shouldn't particularly lean backwards, (you might want to leave forward just a little bit – just to make sure that you don't pull on the reins), but when you think about it, your centre of gravity is in your stomach. So leaning forward dramatically, and throwing your arms around the horse's neck, is only going to move your centre of gravity forwards on the horse by a tiny bit. However, if you DO throw your hands around the horse's neck, which some people advise,...well, your head is coming down, the horse's neck is going up, the chances of you mistiming that and ending up with a bloody nose, is very high.

Remember, it is your centre of gravity that you are moving, but whatever you do, it doesn't move very much. If it was that important to always throw yourself forwards, and if you didn't you would somehow pull a horse over with your weight, then you wouldn't get those beautiful photos of circus girls rearing up on horses and laying back down the horse's tail – because it would be impossible. But they do quite happily because it's perfectly possible.

Moving your position isn't important – after all, if you don't sit up, how can you wave the lasso round your head? So you don't have to change your position particularly, just sit up straight. The main thing is to be prepared, have a course of action planned and practiced, and hold on.

So when we, as performers, ask a horse to rear, we use a set of signals. It's simple signals that some riders might use inadvertently in exactly the same way and so get wheelies out of their horses when they'd really rather not.

So to get a horse to rear, we use leg and contact. The leg has asked the horse to move forwards, the contact has shut the front door, so the horse cannot move forward. It's being urged forward by the leg, it has nowhere to go... so it goes up. It is very similar to rein back. If you do rein backs on your horses, the leg is telling the horse to move forward, the rein has shut the front door. Because of the leg the horse will move.

Whether the horse moves backwards, or whether it rears, is down to how you have trained them.

Let's say that we are on a young horse, or a nervous horse, and we are going to go out of the yard, and we can feel that the horse is backing off, maybe wanting to nap back to the stables, and we can feel that it is going to rear.

So, let's head out of the north gate of the stable yard. You want to go that way, and you have to go that way. You have to keep moving – because you can sense the horse's reluctance and you are aware that the horse has to stop in order to rear.

However, if the horse HAS stopped, or DOES stop, we then need to get moving. A moving horse cannot rear.

So the horse has stopped, and we have a leg on, because we know that we have to keep moving, so we put our leg on more, and the because the horse has stopped, we are feeling a bit nervous, and maybe we are accidentally pulling on the reins through nervousness and wrongly assisting horse to stop, pulling on the reins a little bit – or even a lot – and we're kicking and we're pulling, . . . well, that's how we rear horses.

So that's how come they rear.

Then what's the solution? When the horse is stuck rearing and you are kicking and pulling and the horse is rearing – what's the solution?

We have to get the horse moving forwards. It won't go forward in the original North direction, but we have to get it moving forwards in some direction.

If you cannot get the horse to go north, then get it to go east.

The rear is solved in the same way as when a horse plants itself on the ground. Maybe you have had a stubborn horse do this. A horse that absolutely refuses to move forward and leaves you sat there. It's rooted completely to the spot leaving you kicking like a cartoon! The way to get it moving forward is to make it move to the side and cross it's front legs over, to "fall" into that first step. You can therefore get the horse to turn to the side and continue to walk forwards, albeit at 90 degrees to your first intention.

A rearing horse is just like a horse that has 'planted' and refuses to go forward. A rear is like a super plant. An absolute "No. I am stopping."

You need to get the horse moving forwards. It won't move north, but it will move forwards to the east – if we determinedly tell it to.

If the horse will not go north and we insist that it goes east, this will have two effects. It will reassert your mastery, and it gets the horse moving, and, as soon as the horse takes a step, you have won. Because a horse must stop in order to rear.

And you are not letting it stop. Make a circle – maybe a big circle, or maybe a small circle, and then take another bite at the same direction again.

It could be that when you take a second bite at the same direction, it could be that the horse stops again, and you have to do another circle, and another circle, and you may wiggle your way forwards out onto your ride . . . but the

important thing is that the horse does not get an opportunity to stop. This means it has not got an opportunity to rear.

In our work, in films and shows and photoshoots, when we have horses that rear a lot, sometimes they can start to become troublesome with it, rearing when you don't want them to. The whole correction described above boils down over the years to a small signal. The signal is a quick flick on one side of the rein and a sharp word, and the horse knows that means do not rear. It is a tiny version of the full circle.

In our job, not only do we have to teach the horses to rear, but we also have to teach them NOT to rear.

As I mentioned earlier, if a horse rears, we do not want to be wrapped around the horse's neck. This is because we do not want a bloody nose – but also there is a second reason wrapping your arms around the neck of the horse is inadvisable. If you are wrapped around the horse's neck, when the horse comes back down, you are in no position wrapped around the neck to continue to ride your horse, carry on and educate the horse. You are in no position to ride a horse forward pitched around its neck.

If your arms are straight however, as soon as you come back down, you are back in your normal position, ready to take control and drive forward straight away.

So, let's suppose that we are out going for a nice ride, and everything's lovely, and the sun is shining, and the birds are singing, and we are having a lovely time then suddenly our horse stops and rears. Grab hold of the mane, hold on, and loosen the contact. Our horse is up on its back legs, pawing the air, flames coming out of its nose. Everybody you're out with is screaming, and hollering,...but it doesn't bother you. You've got the mane, your contact is loose. You can stay up there 'til Christmas if you want to – you are not going to fall off, you are not going to pull the horse over, and eventually the horse comes back down to Earth.

That's fine, you've saved the day, super. However, we have to train this horse not to rear – which means we have further work to do.

We need to move on from where we are, we need to take control of this situation.

We need to free up one of our hands, so by wiggling our fingers in such a way that we don't let go of the mane, should the horse rear again, so with one hand holding the mane and all the reins, with your free hand, snake down the rein, as close to the bit as possible, and we will pull sharply down on the rein and round to the side. Down, because we do not want it going up, and round, to the side, because we need the horse to move forward. We cannot get it to move forward in the original direction, let's say north, so instead we will pull it to the side and make it walk to the east.

As soon as the horse takes a step to the side, we have won. We are back in control. We can sit up normally and drive the horse forwards. Forwards, forwards, forwards. Driving round in a big circle –and taking a second bite at the same direction.

When we have decided that we will take we take the second chance at the same direction, then it is loose rein, drive on, leg on, – a horse needs to stop to rear, so come hell or high water we will not stop.

If the horse has happened to stop, we will immediately do a second circle:- keeping our mastery of this horse's motion in a determined forward impulsion and take another bite at the same direction. Loose rein, scream, swear, drive on, leg on, call it a bugger, whatever it takes to get it past that point where it previously stopped and reared.

Do not let it even consider stopping, absolutely no choice except to keep Going. If you do that 3 or 4 times, the horse is going to give up thinking that rearing works. So eventually, the signals become less and less exaggerated. Nowadays, our signals to our horses, when we don't want them to rear, is a quick shake of one rein and a sharp word, and that's all they need. The wonderful thing about this technique, is that the whole exercise can be trained on a horse that is not a rearing horse! You do not have to sit on a rearing horse to practice going through the process in your head, being fully prepared to do the required actions to save the day...desensitising your horse to having it's mane grabbed in an emergency, and everything else described here. So train your horse for this eventuality... and yourself.

You can practice thinking, "I will turn a horse like this", and practice grabbing on and turning the horse, practice going in your circle, practice going forward in a determined manner. Everything you can practice to be prepared for a rearing horse does not have to be practiced on a horse that rears.

So you can practice with your horses. To get the desensitisation, to get the obedience, to define and claim your leadership...you can get those tools in your belt. And the best bit is...you can start today!

Karl has written a book on all the aspects of Rider Confidence. It's called ***Control your Stress And Enjoy your Horse***, and is available from all good bookshops. (£19.95)

Karl is an Equine Show-man, Clinical Hypnotherapist, Rider Confidence Coach and Author. He has been producing performances with horses in live shows, films and tv for about 15 years. He is now highly sought after to help riders to feel confident about riding their horse and to achieve their goals.

The final part will be in the July Issue (No. 112)

WES Website

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

www.wes-uk.com

ANNUAL PUBLICATION

**2023 will see the first printed
ANNUAL magazine for WES members**

WE want to hear from you about . . .

- ◆ ***Your Western riding journey***
- ◆ ***Are you new to Western – if so share your story***
- ◆ ***Have you recently transitioned or started a horse on their journey to Western – please tell us so we can monitor your progress***
- ◆ ***Can we find the youngest and oldest members of WES and hear their stories?***
- ◆ ***First show entrants*** (your stories, good, bad and comical)
- ◆ ***Area Reps – we need your show reports please***
(Show us the different breeds that take part – Shires, Cobs, TB's, etc all sizes and shapes)

**The first issue will be published early
October 2023 to showcase the national show**

Please send your stories, photos, etc to:

wesnewsmag@gmail.com

Please indicate that is for the
ANNUAL MAGAZINE



NATIONAL CAMP 2023 WITH JOE MIDGLEY AND LEE RUTTER

Save the date!

When?

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th May 2023

All members are welcomed to join the Western Equestrian Society for our National Camp 2023.

With both **LEE** and **JOE** at hand
it's one not to be missed



Where?

Centrally located, with close access from the M1 and A42/M42,
at Pickering Grange, Grange Farm, Ellistown, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 1EZ

Booking information will be available in the New Year

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 6:** 3-day easter camp with 2 wes instructors and roughly 30 riders at Bishop Burton College, organised by area 5. – Contact: Harry Scargill, hbscontracting@outlook.com
- 22:** Fun In Hand Show at Burstow, organised by Area 8. – TBC
- 22:** Trail clinic at Sovereign Quarter Horses, organised by Area 7. – Contact: Vicky Easton, vicky.wes7@gmail.com
- 23:** Area 6 AGM, Zoom meeting 3p.m.-4p.m. – Contact: Mandy Hawkins, mandy.hawkins.1234@gmail.com
- 29:** Clinic with Emma Chapman, organised by Area 5. – Contact: Roz Wilsher, roz@garrywilsher.co.uk

MAY

- 5:** WES 3-day National Summer Camp with Joe Midgeley & Lee Rutter at Pickering Grange, Grange Farm, Ellistown, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 1EZ. – Contact: Ann Hughes, wesmembership595@sky.com
- 27:** Burley Villa Witsun Western Show, New Milton BH25 5SH. – Contact: Jane Muir, corryonqh@aol.com

JUNE

- 21:** Two night mini break, and training clinic with Tammy Greaves, East Sussex (15 places). – TBC

JULY

- 8:** Ranch Clinic at Sovereign Quarter Horses, organised by Area 7. – Contact: Vicky Easton, vicky.wes7@gmail.com
- 28:** 3-day Summer Camp at Valley View Ranch, Hereford HR1 3JQ, organised by Area 6. – Contact: Mandy Hawkins, mandy.hawkins.1234@gmail.com

AUGUST

- 8:** 3-day Summer training camp and show with Michael Langford and Catherine Wright (tbc). East Sussex (20 places). – TBC
- 25:** National Show at Pickering Grange, Grange Farm, Ellistown, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 1EZ. – Contact: Ann Hughes, wesmembership595@sky.com

SEPTEMBER

- 24:** Trail Training and Mini Competition at Sedlescombe, East Sussex, organised by Area 8. – TBC

ADVERTISING RATES

WES approved events are free, as are “For Sale” and “Wanted” small adverts posted by **current members**. Rates for other items are as follows:

Full page £30 (portrait 148mm x 210mm)

Half page £20 (landscape 148mm x 102mm)

Quarter page £12 (portrait 69mm x 102mm)

WES Members receive a £5.00 discount on the above rates.

These rates are per issue, and advertisements should be relevant to Western riding or horses, e.g clothing or tack.

Advertising copy should be in **PDF, Word, Text** or **JPG format** and sent to the editor WES News.

[**wesnewsmag@gmail.com**](mailto:wesnewsmag@gmail.com)

Payment should be made by BACS. *Once an advertisement has been accepted, advertisers will receive account details and the reference number to be used to identify their payment.*