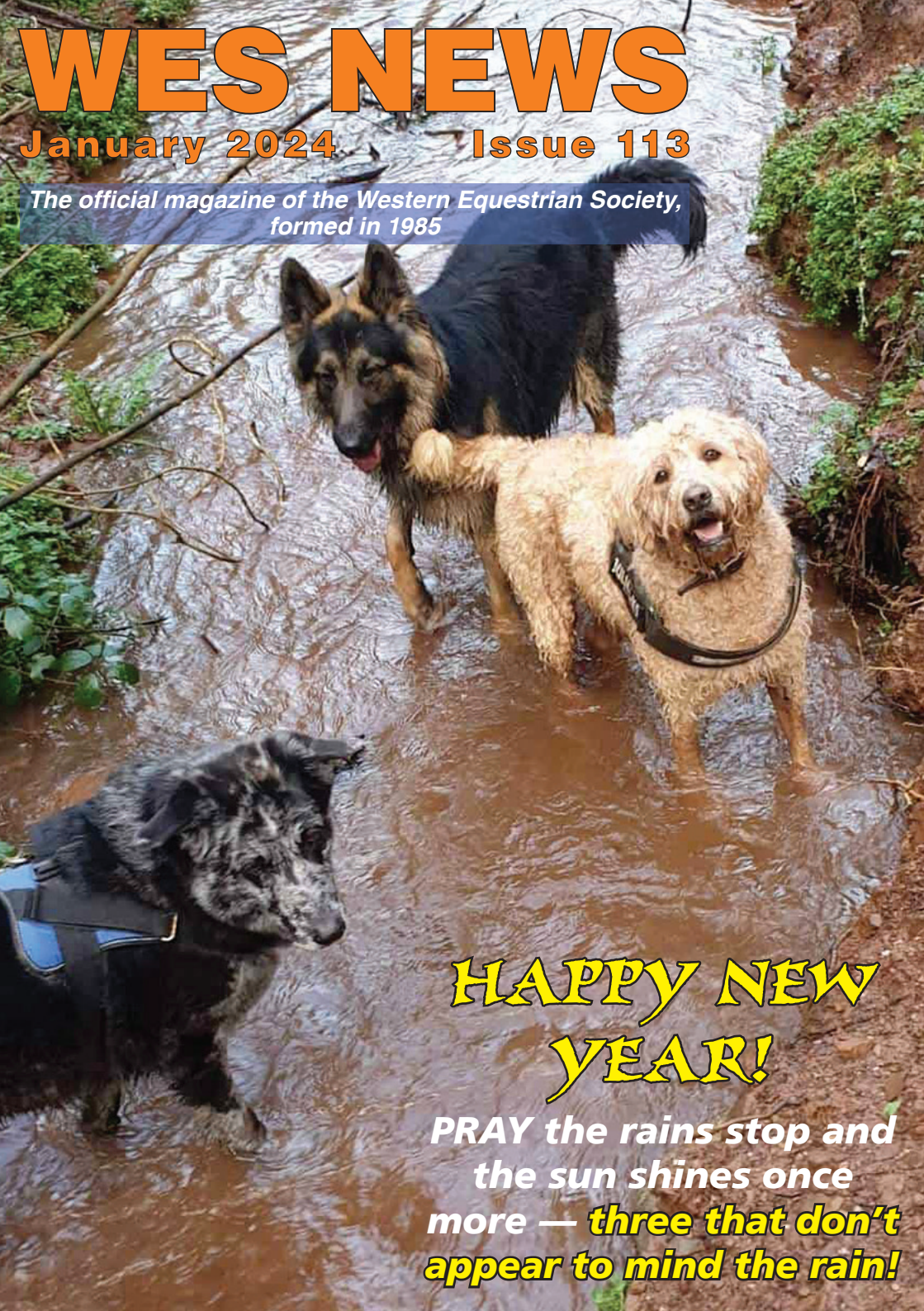


WES NEWS

January 2024

Issue 113

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



**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**

PRAY the rains stop and
the sun shines once
more — **three that don't
appear to mind the rain!**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman:	Rob Painter westernquestriansociety.chair@gmail.com	Leader of the Society and Chair of the Society Governing council
Secretary:	Daniel 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	Maintains contact with the membership
Health & Safety:	POSITION VACANT	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:	Rob Painter (temporary) westernquestriansociety.chair@gmail.com	Promoting the society in the media
Youth Officer:	Dani O'Brien daniobrien1987@hotmail.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 pale.rider@live.co.uk 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

LUCY ADAMS (Lincolnshire) 07833 357682 (Also holds AQHA card)
DAVID BRINDLEY (Wrexham) 07778 591196 david.brindley1@outlook.com
MICHAEL CARDER (Cambridgeshire) 01354 692011 mick@carder.me.uk
JOHANNA COTTON (Wrexham) 07984 141973 johanna.cotton@outlook.com
SCHERIE DERMODY (Cheshire) 01270 780620 scherie0105@googlemail.com
DAVID HUDSPETH (Nottinghamshire) 07977 530954
BRUCE LAWRENCE (Herefordshire) 07791 323192 office@valleyviewranch.co.uk
DAVID LLOYD (Hampshire) 01252 875896
BOB MAYHEW* (Hampshire) 07818 445562 bobmayhew62@gmail.com
 *Bob also holds NRHA.DE, and judge emeritus for AQHA, APHA, NCHA & NRHA
TANYA ROWE (Norfolk) 07786 968517 westerncoachuk@gmail.com

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	RICHARD ALLAN	<i>richard@rionaquarterhorses.co.uk</i>
2	Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire	LINDA CLANCY	<i>lindaclancy01@gmail.com</i>
3	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire <i>Devon:</i> <i>Wiltshire:</i>	JOHANNA MEAD Ann Webster Jane Brain	<i>johanna1968@outlook.com</i> <i>annequus@aol.com</i> <i>j1412b@hotmail.com</i>
4	Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear <i>Tyne and Wear:</i>	VACANCY Jo Powell	<i>jojackandskwert@gmail.com</i>
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 Harry Scargill Nickey Smith TBA Lesley A. Wilkinson-Lyner	<i>su.mcalpin@gmail.com</i> <i>hbscontracting@outlook.com</i> <i>hbscontracting@outlook.com</i> <i>nickeysmith.wes@gmail.com</i> <i>lesley@thehoovesgroup.com</i>
6	Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire <i>Gloucestershire:</i> <i>Herefordshire:</i> <i>Glamorgan:</i> <i>Powys:</i> <i>Worcestershire</i>	MANDY HAWKINS Ally Brimble Bruce Lawrence Yvonne Allen Fran Groves Lynne Stanley	<i>mandy.hawkins.1234@gmail.com</i> <i>alison.brimble@gmail.com</i> <i>office@valleyviewranch.co.uk</i> <i>ylallen@aol.com</i> <i>frangroves@aol.com</i> <i>lynnem.stanley@btinternet.com</i>
7	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire. <i>Leicestershire</i>	CATT CASTLEDINE Stephanie Goodacre	<i>catt.castledine@gmail.com</i> <i>stephaniegoodacre@btinternet.com</i>
8	Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex <i>East Sussex</i>	VACANCY Vicki Holden	<i>vholden26@yahoo.co.uk</i>
9	Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk	TANYA ROWE	<i>westerncoachuk@gmail.com</i>
10	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands <i>Bedfordshire</i>	KELLY APPLEBEE LORRAINE STANLEY Abbey Brotherton	<i>kellyapplebee77@gmail.com</i> <i>lorrainestanley@msn.com</i> <i>fjordshow@gmail.com</i>
11	Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside	KAYREEN JONES	<i>kayreenjones4@btinternet.com</i>
12	Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde	PATRICIA O'MICHAEL	<i>barbarellababy@hotmail.com</i>
13	Dorset and Hampshire	SARAH SETON-SMITH	<i>sales@sarade.online</i>

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.

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) Tammy Greaves (Level 2)	☎ 0239263 2145 ☎ 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	
Oxon	Catherine Wright (Level 2)	☎ 01608 730039	
Surrey	Janet Burwood (Level 2) Kirsty Hewitt (R; 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.

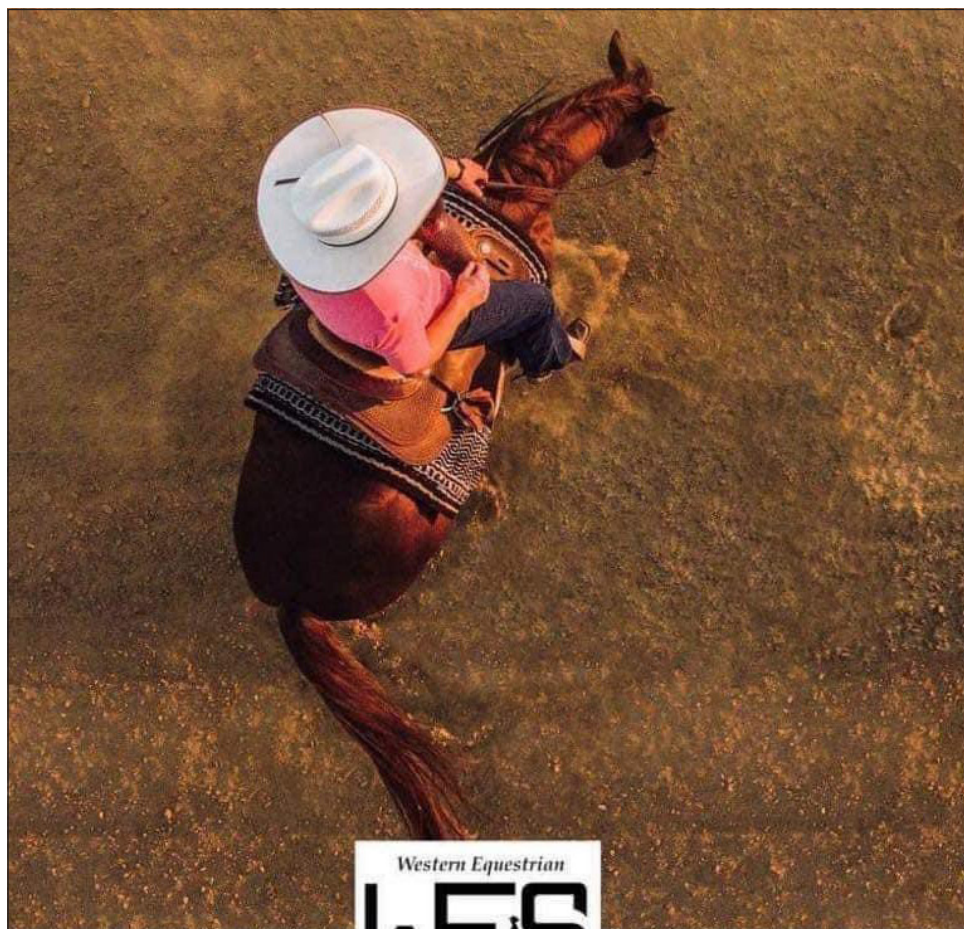
WES Policy on UKCC Instructors wishing to apply for WES

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. Pay an application fee for the assessment.
3. 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.



**Monday 26th
February 2024**

**Assessment for
Levels 1 & 2**

**Valley View
Ranch
Ullingswick
Hereford
HR1 3JQ**

**Instructor
Assessment Day**

**If you have what
it takes to
become a WES
Instructor, apply
now!**

<https://www.wes-uk.com/instructors/>

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.

WES

merchandise shop . . .



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

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

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.*

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2024 ISSUE

Wednesday 27th March 2024

*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.

Equestrian
team wear
specialists

TEAM
EQUESTRIAN



- Dedicated web page for your team apparel
- Earn commission on sales to boost club funds
- No minimum order
- Direct delivery to team members
- No more collating orders and collecting money for committees

Email us to find out more

info@teamequestrianshop.co.uk

WWW.TEAMEQUESTRIANSHOP.CO.UK

WESTERN RIDING INSURANCE

AS YOU are all probably aware, Harry Hall offer 3rd party insurance at a very economical rate*, and many use it, but their wording on cover has been a bit tricky as it only seemed to cover English things like show jumping, dressage etc.

Thanks to the efforts of our Membership Secretary, Ann Hughes, to see if western can be acceptable, they said that they covered AQHA trail!

Following their examination of videos of all WES classes sent in by Ann, they approached their underwriters and have come back with the following statement:

Thank you Ann.

This is most helpful,

*All the activities that you have shown in the videos are covered under our **Gold Plus** and **Platinum** membership levels. If you ride under the AQHA rules (*which WES do*), then your activity will be covered by association when participating in western riding activities.*

Kind regards

HH – Lisa

Harry Hall Contact

The WES Trail award would be covered under hacking out.

****Always read the small print and make sure any policy covers what you want it to cover.***

NB: WES, as a Society, do not endorse any particular insurance cover. This article is only to highlight another company that do cover Western Riding activities.

Annual General Meeting 2024

Members, many of you have asked if we can return to a face-to-face AGM so I have arranged a return on, Saturday 16th March, to a venue WES have used in the past . . .

Holiday Inn Coventry, Hinckley Road, Coventry, West Midlands,
CV2 2HP

In addition, and to maximise the number of members who can attend, it will also be on Zoom. It will be a challenge to facilitate both at once, however, I think its important for the members to hear from their Council and for the Council to hear from their members.

Current planned timing will be from 2pm to 4pm. The Agenda and any papers will be circulated in advance as usual.

Rob Painter (Chair)

Judges and Instructors Seminar – so what is it Judges look for?

Rob Painter *Chairman*



Mick Carder, Scherie Demody, Janet Gay, Lee Rutter, Tammy Greaves, Pauline Norton, Bob Mayhew, Kim Biggs (Collier), Gary Yaghdjian (aka Gary Smith), Emma Lonie, Helen Payne, Jane Windsor, Martina Drabkova, Nicole Sherwood.

AS I was flicking back through our Annual Journal, I spotted the invite for our Judges and Instructors Seminar back in October (13th - 15th) and it reminded me what a great weekend it was and that we need to do more in 2024.

It was primarily aimed to help our Judges and those that want to become judges to progress, however Instructors were also invited as it helps them as they coach and train their clients who want to improve in the show pen. I know not everybody wants to measure their progress via shows, but for those that do having an instructor that can explain the basics of each manoeuvre and what a plus or a minus would be is invaluable.

We had an excellent group of “students” ready to learn, ask questions, and share experiences. We also had the wisdom of Bob Mayhew, and Mick Carder leading the seminar plus, of course, a special guest . . . Gary Yaghdjian (aka Gary Smith) from Ontario Canada. Not forgetting our hosts, Oakridge Arena who took care of us over the weekend.

Mick Carder had collated many videos of various classes for Bob and Gary to use to explain, with the aid of our rule book, what Judges are looking for in all the various western classes. Plus, this seminar included an overview of working cow classes, which as we all know have become more and more popular over recent years.

I wasn't formally part of the seminar, I attended to show my support to all those there, however I had the opportunity to listen in and watch some of the sessions. It is fascinating to hear how to observe what a plus manoeuvre looks like and how to judge that against the less good manoeuvres.

One thing that struck me was the balance to both spot the errors exhibitors make while also looking for those plus points. Often, we can think of judges only looking to spot what went wrong, but they spend as much time looking for what went well or very well and rewarding that with plus points.

That's why it's so important to look at your score sheets after classes to see what your strengths are that you can maintain and rely on, as well as looking for areas to improve. For most disciplines 70 is the default standard and it's by maximising your strengths and minimising where you are less good that you can achieve and surpass that standard.

Whilst it's the Judges score on the day that will place you in the line, it's the trend over time that shows how well you and your horse are bonding into a formidable team.

The whole judging process also highlights the importance of the role of the scribe to note each manoeuvre mark and accurately capture judges' comments.

The team got some great feedback from the attendees, and we are actively planning other seminars in 2024. I think there is also a place for a shorter exhibitor-based version to help those who show to learn how to make it "easier" for the judge to see the "try" and get those plus points.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

16: Annual General Meeting at the Holiday Inn Coventry, Hinckley Road, Coventry, West Midlands, CV2 2HP

MAY

10- National Camp at Valley View Ranch & Equestrian Centre, Ullingswick, Herefordshire,
12: HR1 3JQ. – Contact: annhughes595@sky.com

AUGUST

16- National Show at Oakridge Arena, Holme Farm, Swinderby Road, Collingham, Newark
18: NG23 7NZ. – More information to follow closer to the time

Rocky Mountain Horses

Carol Lear-Schofield

HAVING had Quarter Horses for many years Carol has now got into Rocky Mountain Horses and has enrolled on the WES trail awards scheme and believes she is the first to do this with a RMH. She hopes to promote the breed to the western world in the UK.



Carol on Royal Mountain Horse, Vision.



Lilly on Vision (EHR Visions of Grandure) on the left; in the middle Mr Darcy (QH owned by Mell Dale); and on the right Carol on RMH Footies Ziggy Stardust.

Evelyn Dash Seriously Injured in Aachen



Following an awful accident while unloading her horse at this year's Aachen October show, Evelyn published the following item on Facebook:

WELL, my Q23 didn't quite go according to plan! I must say a huge thank you to Mary Larcom, Avril Wilson and Georgina Alice Allsopp for going above and beyond in looking after Denna throughout the show, in addition to showing their own horses and keeping in contact with me during my stay in hospital. Especially Mary who kept Denna entertained (lunged)

twice each day. Also to Jessica Jane Moore for going to Germany and driving her back in my horse box. Also, thank you Beryl and Lester Wilson for your hospitality prior to our trip. So, recuperation time, but in the words of Arnie: "I'll be back".

Not to be left out Evelyn managed to get to the Oakridge Halloween show, albeit on crutches. From the reports I have received it appears she was in good form and thanked council for the 'get well soon' gift (pictured here).

JUST received this fabulous Montana silver belt buckle from the postman as Ed and I were setting off on our morning ride today. WES have awarded it to me for completing my 500 hours in the saddle. I had no idea it was going to be so splendid. I love it and will treasure it forever, thank you so much WES. I urge any other WES members who are considering registering for their trail award scheme to do so without delay. Ed and I have had such fun together clocking up those hours.



Di Nicholson



Ready for Christmas!

HERE is my son Ned, who is 7, on his pony Molly, all tacked up in their western saddle, ready for Christmas! He is learning to master the jog and steering at the moment.

Hermione Keeping

Another budding Youth Rider . . .



Trail Award mileage validation - February deadline

WITH the WES Trail Award really gathering impulsion over the past couple of years, it is important for those signed up to remember they must send in their mileages at least one a year to keep on the Trail Award. This must be done on or around 1st February of each year.

With around 50 of you actively taking part, the easiest way to send in mileages is to email the Trail Award administrators, Sarah Cameron and Jane Gibbs, at westrailaward@yahoo.com. Include a copy of your most recent mileage sheets. It does not matter what your mileages are as there is no deadline for completing the award – it is not a race.

You must be a continuous member of WES for the whole of your time on the award, so check your membership is up to date to avoid disappointment.

Also, for those of you on Facebook, please check out our WES Trail Award page where we aim to interact with you all and where we love to see your photos out and about on the trail and hear your stories – good and bad – let's keep it real as we all have days where things do not go to plan.

Members who have been enjoying the recent 7-week Trail Award Treasure Hunt aimed at encouraging us to get out on the trail, in-hand or ridden in the wet winter months, there will be some prizes available, but at the time of going to press the hunt was still on.

It is lovely to see many of you forging new friendships and supporting each other as this truly what WES is all about.

Happy Trails

Working Equitation, *trying something new!*

Claire Hooper & Tonka

DECEMBER 2023 at Valley View Ranch with Bruce and Tina Lawrence hosting – several of us had a go at working equitation whilst kitted out in our Christmas outfits.

The working equitation course included a dressage test, obstacles which included a bridge, rope gate, barrels, side pass and jump poles, backup chute and carrying a water jug all done against the clock.



The first picture shows me and Tonka attempting the water jug challenge, which requires you and your horse to pick up a jug full of water from a barrel, circle around the barrel whilst holding the jug in the air and putting it back without spilling any water.



Another obstacle was the “check the crops” which involved circling around the crops in both directions as fast as possible.

The barrel obstacle (*pictured right*) was ridden as if we were doing a barrel race, riding a cover leaf.

Working Equitation requires you to be able to ride a course as fast as you can without incurring penalty points.

Everyone had a wonderful time at Valley View Ranch with Bruce, there was lots of fun and laughter. I hope that Bruce and Tina will host more events like this in 2024.

After losing my confidence 2 years ago, Bruce has been so encouraging to help me through every time I have had a wobble with my confidence and has even got me doing reining and flag work.



WESTERN ROUND-UP – LIVE

Let's go promote Western Equitation!

Rob Painter *Chairman*

WHAT was Western Round-up – Live? Well, it was my personal attempt to show how we can proactively promote Western equitation to a wider audience. It was born out of various thoughts and conversations I'd been having with a variety of people.

A friend of mine, who is a million miles away from taking part in western riding, mentioned one day that if there were places, he could see the riding he had seen on Yellowstone (which were the reining episodes) in the UK he would pay to watch. I said yes, we do that in the UK and much more . . . By the way he became my sound man for the event.

I heard through the grapevine that our some of our female trainers felt they don't always get the same billing as their Male counterparts . . . that gave birth to the idea of two teams – 5 girls v 5 boys – Equal billing – 10 trainers bringing their experience to the Arena . . . Tanya Rowe, Emma Lonie, Louise McKnight, Susie Anderson, Joanne Smithies (who sadly, for personal reasons, could not take part on the day). Lee Rutter, Bob Reader, Andrew Plant, Alan Payne, and Joe Midgely. Plus, we should also include Tom Wilkinson (and team) who brought the Sudbrooke Park Cattle!



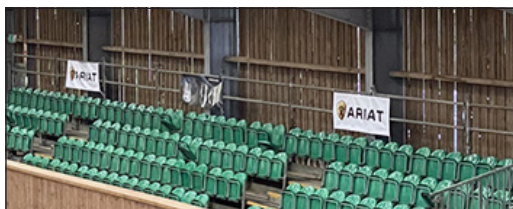
Last and definitely not least Bob Mayhew joined me with the commentary and supported by Mick Carder as his scribe, judged the girls v boys superhorse class that closed the day.

I should also add in Lita Pocock who I had been chatting too and planted the idea of a Western Riding Festival in my head – Western Round-up Live was born!



I had no idea how well it might work or if it would work so I kept it branded under the Western Round-up (podcast) brand in the early days just in case it was a flop to avoid it impacting on WES. That said both WES and Western Horse UK were always identified my “partners”. My initial thoughts were that if I could get at least 100 people in the seating area of Oakridge arena it would be ok and have some atmosphere. I priced the tickets at about the average price to enter a class at a horse show, and children were free – as you know I’m passionate about bringing younger people into western riding. Ticket sales kept climbing and in the end over 340 tickets were sold. I could have sold more, such was the demand, but I wanted to guarantee everyone that bought a ticket had a seat.

We went from this . . .



To this on the day . . .



Of the 300 plus that arrived on the day at least 25% (75 ish) said they were new to Western Riding! All attendees were given a Western Round-up goodie bag with a Western Horse UK Magazine, plus WES and GK Halter promotional leaflets.

In addition to our Trainers, we also had four students who were invited to take part in the day. Dan Gwalter with his Paint Horse “George”, Sarah Kinston with Lottie an Exmoor x Friesian and Beth Clinging with Sydney a Welsh Cob and Tori Page with Walla her Quarter horse.



Plus, in the Courtyard Mike O’Brien was giving talks and advice about Equine dentistry. Bob Reader also popped out there to talk about Western tack.

When various trainers were not in the Arena, they were by the stands answering questions from the audience.

The day took the audience on journey, first explaining the differences between

western and English riding, e.g. tack and equipment, but emphasizing all horses can be ridden western and you don't need all the western equipment to get started.

We then went from starting and groundwork through Western pleasure and Ranch rail and Ranch riding, into Trail and Ranch Trail.

We also had some fun time in the arena with the youth's courtesy of Dani O'Brien our Youth Officer



And some of the trainers got in on the act too . . .



Before moving on to the cow work, we presented Ariat goodie bags to William Jones for his enthusiasm and special skills and Sid and Max who were at the older end of the youth age range (13 years and under) for helping the little ones and picking them up if they fell over.

We also announced the winner of the Ariat raffle. Ariat provided us with a £200 western Boot voucher which every ticket holder that attended had a chance to win. Congrats to Rachel who looked pleased with the voucher win and another goodie bag. Thank you, Ariat, for your fantastic support!

WESTERN ROUND UP		
Live!		
WES IN ASSOCIATION WITH WESTERN HORSE		
Western Round Up Live - Doors open		
09:00	09:55	Doors open for early arrivals
Intros and Intro into Western Riding		
10:00		Welcome and intro the day, plus intro to the trainers and our students
10:30		What is Western riding and what's different from English riding? Why is the tack different and do you need western tack to ride western?
Starting and groundwork, including Halter and the breeds, plus Showmanship		
10:30		Ground work & Starting
12:00		Halter - introduce the Breeds
12:00		Showmanship
Mount-up: Western Pleasure, Ranch Rail, Western Riding		
12:00		Western Pleasure / Ranch Rail / Horsemanship
13:00		Ranch Riding - Western Riding
Let's hit the trail		
13:00		Ranch Trail
14:00		Trail
Fun for the youths		
14:00		Kids Trail and roping
15:00		Raffle & Break to clear arena for Cows to arrive
Time to work cows		
15:00		Cow work
16:00		Cows leave arena drag and set for cones for reining
What to do if there are no cows Reining		
16:00		Reining
16:30		
Trainer teams ride-off		
16:30		Drag and set for Show - including the draw
18:00		Ride off, results awards and close



Then it was time for Tom Wilkinson and team and the cows. Tom and team demonstrated the correct way to move the cows around the arena and explained the various working cow classes and demonstrated the fence work much to the delight of the crowd.



We followed the cows with a “what do you do if you can’t get cows?” Reining demo with Lee, and Andrew plus Tori our student, who truth be told stole the show in that demo.

We wrapped up the day with a girls v boys superhorse class ride off, with Bob Judging. It was great to see and hear the teams supporting each other. However only one team could win and this time it was the boys, with the girls vowing revenge at the next Western Round-up Live event.



Thanks again to all those who attended. My biggest thanks go to the Trainers and Tom all of whom entered the spirit of the event, worked so well together. Everybody, I mean everyone, that helped did so on an expense only basis – thank you so much. Did it make money? It was never about that it was about promoting what we love to get even more involved ... so NO but we all just about broke even and we want to do it again and maybe take a smaller version on tour watch this space!



Youth Members - I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and got lots of horsey inspired presents! 2024 is hoping to be a full year for our youth members. As well as our summer challenge and some organised WES Clinics (15th August 2024, the day before the National Show and a youth group at the WES National Clinic May 10th-12th) We have teamed up with AQHA UK to bring you a series of clinics all over the country. As explained below you can attend these clinics on ANY BREED or there may be chances to borrow horses for those who don't have their own. As a WES member you can join AQHA UK under our joint membership scheme. Please get in touch if you'd like more information or have more youth ideas! Dani O'Brien



Youth Riders
AQHA-UK NEEDS YOU...

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO RIDE WESTERN OR IMPROVING YOUR EXISTING SKILLS?

YOU COULD EVEN POTENTIALLY JOIN OUR TEAM AND REPRESENT YOUR COUNTRY!!



Next year we are excited to announce that AQHA-UK will be holding a series of Youth clinics dotted all around the country, giving young riders from all backgrounds the opportunity to experience Western Riding & gain some great tuition & horsemanship skills.

Clinics are open to ANY young riders under 18 (not association specific) We are working alongside The Western Equestrian Society, British Reining, IQHA & The Pony Club.

The clinicians are some of the UK's top trainers, who themselves have previously represented their country as British Team members at The Youth World Cup.

There will also be opportunities for those without their own horses to watch demos, participate & learn. More information and dates coming soon....



AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION
UNITED KINGDOM

Youth Riders



Diary dates for upcoming clinincs

**FEBRUARY 12TH @ OAKRIDGE ARENA WITH LEE RUTTER &
LAUREN JOLLY**

**APRIL 1ST/2ND @ SOVEREIGN QUARTER HORSES WITH OLIVIA LOCHHEAD
& ANDREW PLANT**

**MAY 27TH/28TH MAY @ BURLEY-VILLA WITH MARYLIN RANDALL (OPEN
TO ADULTS & YOUTH)**

**JUNE (DATE AND VENUE TBC) WITH MARYLIN RANDALL (OPEN TO
ADULTS & YOUTH)**

**JUNE 8TH/9TH @ SOVEREIGN QUARTER HORSES WITH CHARLENE CARTER
(OPEN TO ADULTS & YOUTH)**

JULY 29TH/30TH @ BURLEY-VILLA WITH TAMMY GREAVES & JESS MARCH

**AUGUST 26TH/27TH (TENTATIVE) @ BODIAM INTERNATIONAL ARENA
WITH ANDREW PLANT & TAMMY GREAVES**

OCTOBER 28TH/29TH @ THE CRESCENT ARENA (CLINICIANS TBC)

DISCOUNTED RATES FOR AQHA-UK YOUTH MEMBERS

Booking forms will be available on the website in January

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Some of you may have seen the Facebook item posted by Bob Mayhew on November 3, 2023 relating to an item about Mike Bushell attending an area 13 clinic. This article is from WES News, issue 85, December, 2015.

A Foggy Day In West Sussex



Left to right: Jim & Lesley Lyner, ????, Anne Batley, Emma and Mike, Lee Durrant, Bob Mayhew.

IT actually started some time ago when watching BBC's Breakfast News and noticing Mike Bushell seems up for anything, the next stage was to make contact, which I did.

After several emails and texts we eventually decided that we could film in the South on a Monday or a Tuesday or in the North West on a Thursday or a Friday, feelers were put out without disclosing what we were up to and with the help of various members and trainers we set about trying to locate venues that would be suitable for perhaps filming in the spring.

Then the "TEXT" arrived early October, "Can we do something on November 1 – Berkshire or Hampshire". Panic, we had less than 3 weeks to organise something – venue, people, horses.

A quick call to the man that is Bob Mayhew. "Hi Bob, it's Jim, have you got any plans for the Nov. 1". "Well Batty Anne has got a clinic here, what you after?" says Bob.

After a little discussion with Bob and subsequently Anne Batley, we organised, I use the word organise very loosely, that we could **gatecrash** Anne's and Area 13's clinic.

I then arranged everything with Mike Bushell, and a date and time was set.

Got up Saturday, October 30, with loads to do, including dropping Tilly off with our son and then on the road to Wye Oak, got to our digs, booked in and then joined in with the Area 13 AGM and fish and chip supper.

Sunday, got up had breakfast and went up the foggy road to 'Chez Mayhew' to be met by Chrissie, as Bob was already teaching a group of Area 13 members. We had about an hour before the camera man, Lee Durrant, was due to arrive and we were entertained by Chrissie with me bobbing up and down to every noise outside.

Lee arrived about 10.30 and we showed him the lay of the land and he got his cameras ready for the arrival of Mike at 11.00 am. Well, 11.00 am came and went as did 11.30, Mike arriving around Noon with his partner Emma, having driven through some quite horrendous weather and explaining that it was glorious sunshine when they had left home.

Then the organisation which I mentioned earlier came in – NOT! Mike just wanted to don a Stetson and get on board; thank God for Mr. Mayhew who calmly spoke to Mike and said this is what we will be doing, you need a hard hat on but, if you're prepared to waiver that we will proceed.

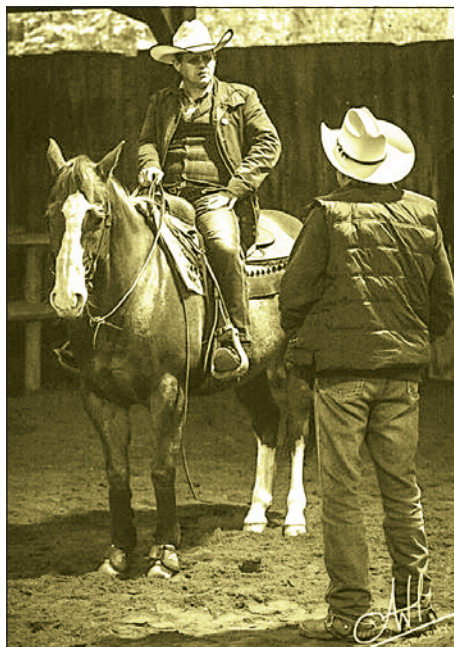
Bob explained that he would show him how to interact with the horse, (Anne Batley's, Blaze) and then he could take part in a trail exercise, well once on board we couldn't have prised him off of Blaze. A little different to when Mike tried show jumping with Ben Maher.

Bob then invited Mikes partner Emma, who rides already, to have a go on Jax who was tacked up ready and waiting and they were joined by Anne Batley and Michael Langford for a short pleasure lesson followed by a trail lesson and short demo by Michael on what to expect in a reining class.

"Can we have a ride outside now?" says Mike, so we helmeted him up and a small group went out on a hack .

I have to say that considering his experience with Ben Maher, Mike did incredibly well, riding one handed at one point so that he could hold a camera in the other hand.

All in all it was a great day and I wouldn't be at all surprised if we see Mike back in a Western Saddle in the future, both he and Emma said how much they had enjoyed themselves oh! and a very green looking Lee Durrant upset that he couldn't put his camera down to have a go himself.



Big thanks to Bob and Chrissie Mayhew, Michael Langford, Liv Lothead and the staff/clients at Wye Oak, also to Anne Batley and the Area 13 members without whom none of this would have been possible.

At the time of writing our 4+hrs of filming edited to around 3mins was scheduled to go out on the 7 November. I'm sure that some of our more technically minded members will have posted the entire thing on facebook at your time of reading, but if you missed it try YouTube as Mike's antics do usually end up there.

JIM LYNER.

Photo: Anita Walkowska-Hopcia

The Coaching Corner

By Pauline Norton

WHY is that you can go along for a lesson with one coach and things go really well, yet you can go to a clinic with someone else, equally as experienced and knowledgeable, and you can't understand what they are going on about? It's not about the contents of the session or the validity of the coach's qualification, so what makes the difference?

The Visual Learner

These folk are usually very observant and aware of the visual impact of things . . . They are often neat and tidy, well turned out and enjoy watching demonstrations. They prefer to watch someone perform a manoeuvre before they try it themselves. They might be distracted by outside goings on, such as horses running in a field or new people arriving. They may use words like, "I see what you mean." or "How does this *look* to you?"

The Auditory Learner

An auditory learner will enjoy listening to instructions, may talk a lot and ask a lot of questions. They need to hear exactly what they are expected to do before they go off and try it. They are often distracted by outside noise and very often talk things through to themselves aloud. They might use phrases such as, "That doesn't *sound* right." or "I *hear* what you're saying, but."

The Kinaesthetic Learner

Kinaesthetic means someone who learns through feel. For a rider that might mean that they need to feel a movement in order to understand it. They often touch people to gain their attention and are very aware of the touch and feel of things. Their choice of phrases might include "I really can't *feel* that." or "I want to *try* that for myself." Riders are very often kinaesthetic as we enjoy the feel of the horse to groom and to ride.

Whilst most people have a strong preference towards one of these styles, it is not uncommon for someone to have a second 'favourite' learning preference as well. It can also change depending on what you are learning.

For instance, you might remember a phone number by saying it out loud (auditory) or need to see a yoga movement (visual) before you try it. Have a think about the words that you use and in what environment you learn best. Next try and identify the learning preference of your regular coach and see how they compare . . . Does your coach use a variety of language to cover all learning preferences?

Imagine your brain as a computer. There are many ways you can input information – keyboard, stylus, voice command, memory stick, touchscreen etc. However, if you have an old-fashioned computer without any of the fancy new add-ons and you try to input information by touching the screen – what will happen?? Nothing!! That is similar to what happens when a coach tries to input information to a rider using the wrong learning preference – it doesn't get through!! They next time you receive instructions from someone to learn a new skill, pay attention to how the information is being given . . . If you find it hard to understand the instructions, it might not be because you're a 'dunce' – it may just be that they are not using your learning preference!

Here's a little quiz for you – try and identify which learning preference each of these riders have. Answers below.

Constance Farder

Constance is always very neat. Her horse has matchy matchy everything and has to be perfectly groomed before she leaves the yard. She enjoys watching other people do the exercise first before she tries it out. Her most irritating phrase is, "I see what you mean."

Dicky Ticker

Dicky can often be found in a corner somewhere chatting to someone on the phone or talking to his horse. He asks loads of questions and is the last one to be quiet when instructions are being given! He finds it very hard to concentrate when there was a lot of noise outside. His most common complaint is "I can't hear you!"

Dinah Soares

Dinah uses a lot of hand gestures when she talks and tells you 'she needs to feel the movement' to understand it. She is always stroking her horse's nose and telling everyone how soft it is. She has learned how to massage her horse and sometimes likes to get off her horse to walk the manoeuvre to see how it feels.

They next time you receive instructions from someone to learn a new skill, pay attention to how the information is being given. If you find it hard to understand the instructions, it might not be because you're a 'dunce' – it may just be that they are not using your learning preference!

Answers:

Constance – Visual

Dicky – Aural

Dinah – Kinaesthetic

Goal Setting Template

THE table below can be used to set your SMARTER Goals – see page 11 in your printed WES News Journal delivered to you at the beginning of October, 2023.

S pecific	What is my specific goal. Have a good think about how you can make your goal SMARTER	
M easured	How will I know when I've achieved it. This could be hours in the saddle recorded on an app or competing in a specific class.	
A greed	Have I got the support I need, eg coach, family. Share with friends and family to see who can help.	
R ealistic	Do I have the resources to achieve this goal. Do I need arena,equipment, coach, trail rides?	
T imed	Do I have the resources to achieve this goal. Do I need arena,equipment, coach, trail rides?	
E xciting	On a scale of 1-10 how excited am I to start this goal – less than 5 and you are unlikely to make it!	
R ecorded	How am I going to record my achievement, eg video, score sheets.	

Pauline Norton is a United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Level 4 Western Coach, a Tutor and Assessor for the Western Coaching Certificate and a member of the Coaching Development Action Team at the British Equestrian Federation.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RAY HUNT



I HAVE spent most of my life around horses. When I was growing up, my family farmed. We put our crops in and out with horses. Horses have always been a part of my life,” said Ray Hunt in his opening words to a crowd of horse industry craftsmen, product wholesalers and retailers at the Denver International Western/English Apparel and Equipment Market. In January (2004), Ray gave two presentations at the market. The following quotes are taken from the first of these presentations. The structure given to the quotes here was added later to help the reader move from topic to topic. Look for more quotes in an upcoming issue.

“My father was a great teamster. His horses were winners; he never made them losers. He was a horseman and maybe a little of him rubbed off on me. His judgement was very good around a horse. He knew when and how to go about doing things. I did not realize this until I got older. As I got older, I did things exactly like Dad did, but it didn’t work exactly the same way for me. So, I found out there is something more to it, when you feel it in here (your heart), when you feel for him, when you feel of him; the confidence can go down through that body, or you can take it out.”

A horse is sensitive

“A horse is a very sensitive animal. He can feel a fly land on him. You folks who have been around horses know that because you put fly spray on him in the summertime. And yet when you ride him, you ride him like he doesn’t have any feeling. You ride him with a chain curb strap, a tie-down, martingale, wires, pulleys, and cables. Why?”

“You’re destroying what Mother Nature put in there.”

“I did so many wrong things for so long, until the horse came along that wouldn’t put up with me. I couldn’t believe that. I couldn’t pound and hammer and make him all right. I’m not proud of what I’m saying. And Tom Dorrance came along and said ‘Ray, that’s really not necessary anyway.’ So he showed me how to go about things in a different way. I had to do some of the same things, but my presentation was altogether different. It’s how I hope you would present things to me, and it’s as I hope I present things to you, I have to allow you time to learn it.”

It takes a lifetime

“I need to know my job, what I’m trying to teach, and you don’t learn that overnight. It takes a lifetime to learn how to live a lifetime. I see young people that are around horses for four or five years, and they know it all. They haven’t even scratched the surface. It’s amazing what a horse will get done in spite of them, and if he didn’t fill in, we wouldn’t get much done with horses. It’s amazing what the horse will do for us if we treat him like he’s one of us.”

“Now somebody has got to run this program. If I was running a company, they probably hired me because I knew what I was supposed to do. Anybody can hang up a sign that says ‘Horse Trainer’ and here comes the victim. Anybody. You don’t need to know anything to work with a horse.”

What gets in the human’s way

“There is no way that the horse will ever try to take advantage of you. He’s as honest and as truthful as anything you could ever work with. He has no ego that gets in his way. He has no pride that gets in his way. He doesn’t know what win or lose is. And those are the four things that get in the human’s way. It’s very sad. All the horse is trying to do is survive; he’s trying to make it. So I try to work with him like he was me, just like I hope he would work with me.”

Discipline

“I have to have discipline. My company should have discipline. If I’m a schoolteacher, I have to have discipline; otherwise, the children will run me out of the classroom. Or I can’t teach them, because they are walking around the classroom looking out the window, and they aren’t paying any attention. I don’t have to have a club or a gun to do that.”

“So it’s got to come from us to the horse. And what is your responsibility? It’s no different than raising a child. So, this horse is running over you, walking on you, doing things you don’t want. Why would you let him do

that? Who is the instructor? Who is the teacher? Who is taking care of this outfit?"

"All you are doing is offering this horse a good deal, no different than you would offer it to me. I have to run this outfit or it's going to run me. If I'm not running that company or keeping that ship on course, I'm going to run it into the ground or run it into another ship. So I have a responsibility."

"If you're running the company and it goes broke, do they beat you? No, they fire you and get someone who can make them some money. So you have a responsibility to ride him. Maybe you don't, but I've got a great responsibility here to make out of this horse what Mother Nature would like for him to be. You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, but you can make a sow's ear purse that carries just as much money as a silk one."

How we do it

"It's not so much what we do, it's how we do what we do. And all you are trying to do is get this horse to where you can operate the life in his body, through his legs to his feet, through his mind. The mind might come last because he doesn't understand. But you have to give him space to learn."

What I can offer

"This will fit any horse. It can be Bold Ruler or some old long-headed Mustang. He has a brain, he thinks, he feels, he has feelings. So it isn't the horse to me; it's what can I offer the horse so I can get a return."

"That's what has made things so interesting to me for the last 40 years. And I'm still learning. I'm probably the best student at each one of these things because I know how much more there is to learn, if I could get ahold of it. I don't know if I ever will or not. I'm not discouraged by that. I hope you folks will get there first so you can come back and help me."

Fear and discipline

"Spurs are no different than a bat or a crop, or a whip. It's an aid to help get discipline. He should not be afraid of your crop, or your spurs, or your bat or your whip or your romal. He should not be afraid of it. But the way most people use it is, 'You better be afraid, or I'll hurt you.' Then he is thinking wrong. A horse doesn't want to get hurt, no more than you or I. You're going to have to do something to make the wrong thing difficult and the right thing easy. But you should never do anything to hurt him on purpose."

"In our day we had discipline and we had manners. We didn't have any money. This was back in the 20s and 30s. We just had ourselves. When father told you something; you didn't stand there and chew the fat, you got headed that way. You didn't say 'why' or 'I don't think so' or 'give me a better reason.' You headed that way because he had nine of us hardheaded kids to feed."

"When he told you something, you did it, and I wasn't afraid. But if I didn't do it, I knew I was going to get a spanking. So, discipline, respect and fear can be real close together, but they are as far apart as the day and the night."

“A lot of times to get a response you might think you have to get him afraid. Don’t get him afraid, I don’t want him to be afraid. But I want the highest degree of respect. You don’t get that overnight. What I give, I will receive. What I give him, I can take back. I cannot take out of him what I don’t give him. I can’t take out of you what I don’t put in there by teaching you something. I have to present it in a manner that you can learn it, so I can take it back. Now how are you going to do this? Get a bigger stick and hope to hell that it works out? I’m not being rude, I’m just telling it like it is.”

A reason why

“It’s got to come from here (your heart). People are working on their horse; their horse is all right, (your heart) has got to get in order.”

“You ask me why I do things. You don’t have to do none of this. But there is a reason why I do what I do, and the horse is why. And then you show him and he says, ‘well I’ll be darned.’ But I ask people ‘Well, why did you do that?’ And they say ‘Well, that’s what they say to do.’ What? How is the horse going to learn if you don’t know why you do what you do.”

“And look what the horse has to go through. Please, I’m not condemning anyone. But know where you are at. Can you really teach this thing? Everyone should have the opportunity to teach one, But how would you hope he would help you to understand? I think you folks can do the job; I hope you learn to see what’s taking place.”

“It’s amazing what you can learn once you have already learned all there is to learn. Some people think they’ve got it all figured out; they are just scratching the surface. There is so much to be had here it’s unreal. And what I talk about, most people will never ever reach that goal. That doesn’t matter.”

“Try to stay on the edge of trouble. If your horse starts to get really troubled back off and do less. That is so hard for the human to do. Why? They are afraid they have lost. Especially the cowboy. He wears a high-crown hat and high-heeled boots and he’s a tough son-of-a-gun. So he’s not too apt to see what I’m talking about; he’s too tough. For the lady it’s a little easier for her because she’s going to wait until her husband gets back, so she’s going to back off a little bit. At that point if I could, I would just pour a little bit of that woman into that man so he could back off a little bit. Then if I could just get her to be a little bit braver, that would be great, but you can’t do that.”

Being honest

“You have to have guts and determination if you want to look for what I’m talking about. If you don’t, that don’t make you wrong. What do you want to do or accomplish? And what are you capable of accomplishing? It’s your concentration, your coordination, and your reflexes in that order. But the concentration isn’t near deep enough.”

“The human has to have confidence in himself. And lots of people don’t have the confidence. And the reason they don’t have it is that they don’t have the experience.”

“The definition of confidence is knowing that you are prepared for the unthinkable.”

“You say ‘Oh he might spook, he might buck, he might fall down, he might rear.’ So, look what he’s working with. He knows you can’t handle it, and that don’t make him wrong to know that you can’t handle it. And he might do any of those things because something might scare him or he might slip and fall at any time and yet the people can’t handle that, but they want to go on with their horse. If he turns around quick, they fall off.”

“So, confidence again is knowing you are prepared for the unthinkable, and I don’t know how you are going to get that without experience, That still don’t make you wrong. You know where you’re at, you should know your capabilities. That’s no sin and no crime. You’re being honest with your fellow man. You’re being honest with him; you’re trying to keep him out of trouble.”

Trail Award Treasure Hunt photographs

PHOTOGRAPHS taken on our Treasure Hunt are still being assessed. The winner will be announced later.

Week 1 Conker and water

Week 2 Flower and bin

Week 3 Hawthorn berries and rosehip

Week 4 Bridge and ivy

Week 5 Ice/frost and Sunset/sunrise

Week 6 Holly/mistletoe and animal tracks

Week 7 Something festive



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