

WES ANNUAL JOURNAL

November 2025



2025 WESTERN EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW

A Spectacular Weekend at the Oakridge Arena

Celebrating 40 years of WES

National Show Results

Area Roundup

Dates For Your Diary

£3.75

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WES ANNUAL JOURNAL '25

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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. Adverts 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 westernequestriansociety.editor@gmail.com

Payment should be made by BACS

Once accepted, advertisers will receive account details and a reference number to use to identify their payment.



JOIN THE WES TRAIL AWARD

The WES Trail Award is open to any WES member who trail rides with their horse.



Follow these simple steps to get started today:

- Sign up at www.wes-uk.com/trail-awards and make a one-off payment of £40
- Record your trail rides into a log sheet
- Send your stories, achievements, questions and photos to the WES Trail Award Facebook page or your WES Area Facebook page
- Submit your log sheet to westrailaward@yahoo.com before 1st February each year
- Remain a member of WES for the duration of your Trail Award

Record the time you spend on the trail and earn prizes for each milestone you hit:

- ★ On sign up – a hi-viz vest sponsored by Western Tack Trader
- ★ 50 hours – a certificate and first aid kit sponsored by Pauline Norton
- ★ 100 hours – a quality SOS saddle tag sponsored by Garrabeg Western Horsemanship
- ★ 250 hours – a special rosette and water bottle sponsored by LR Western Horses
- ★ 350 hours – a softshell jacket
- ★ 500 hours – an inscribed silver belt buckle by Montana Silversmiths sponsored by Cowgirl Like Me Media

There's also a special trail award for reaching 500 miles to celebrate WES's 40th Anniversary and a 1000 hours award if you've already completed the 500 hours award!

WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL JOURNAL



2025 is the 40th year of the Western Equestrian Society, and many of you reading this Journal were there at the start and are still with us now! Thank you for your continued support and participation. A warm welcome to our newer members, for some this will be the first Journal through their post box – it's great to have you on board. One new member is Lydia Voice, our new WES Editor. My thanks to Lydia for volunteering for the role and to our previous Editors, Roger and Kate, for helping Lydia settle in. I hope you like the change of style we've adopted – fresh but hopefully familiar. In addition, we plan to increase the frequency of our online newsletters to help members feel more informed and connected.

This year has been another good year for WES. We continue to grow in terms of membership numbers and are on track with the three year plan shared at our AGM. Members only join and stay because the Society provides something of value. Some things change along the way but a constant is our Area Reps along with our Pros, Judges, Youth and Trail Award Officers who work hard to put on activities that are supportive and educational in helping horse and rider be the best they can be. As well as having a lot of fun!

The Team Gwalter article helps convey some of what we try to deliver. During the year we've also tried to provide value with great partnerships and sponsorships, for example WES discounts for Durango and Muck Boots as well as the 2026 Horsemanship Showcase – where WES will be giving a specific demonstration supported by our Pros and others. The welfare of our members and their horses are the foundation of what WES is about. We talked about social licensing at the AGM and the article from Pauline Norton helps bring that to life with some practical tips.

Finally, looking ahead to next year, we have three centrally organised camps; Scottish, Northern and Southern locations. Plus, our National Show at Oakridge and our AGM in Coventry and online. We are also getting our Pros and Judges together so they can share ideas and help us all become better. Plus, as ever many events as our Area reps and the wider team can organise.

Rob Painter

Chairman



Issue 20, Feb 1999 WES News, 'Inspiration and founder' of WES, Bob Mayhew on Sensational Keeper.

BORN IN **1985**

Celebrating 40 years of the
Western Equestrian Society

40

In 1985 Bob Mayhew, who had been learning all about western riding and had previously bought the Avenue Riding School, got together with several friends to discuss starting a new 'Western Club'.

After many months of work, with valuable input from other interested parties (Roger Wells, Mick and Barbara Carder, Thea Lloyd, Lawrie and Liz Langan, Sheila Parrot, Pat Dyke, Jim Chapman and Evelyn Dash, Bill and Julia Sheppard, Joan Andrews, Donne Cox, and Jean Frye – 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 by using the subtle aids developed by American Ranchers, which was originally taken to the Americas by the Spanish Conquistadors. To achieve this, the Society's constitution lists the following:

- ★ Promote throughout the British Isles true high standards of Western Equitation as practised in the United States of America
- ★ Stimulate growth of this riding discipline to the detriment of the movie image and to maintain its acceptance within the British Isles
- ★ Actively discourage ridden games or rodeo events that act to the detriment of the image of Western Equitation in the British Isles
- ★ Define and enforce Rules for the conduct of equestrian competitions approved by or affiliated to the Society
- ★ Approve Judges to officiate at shows approved by or affiliated to the Society
- ★ Encourage tuition in all aspects of Western Equitation by means of demonstrations, lectures and training clinics
- ★ Encourage Members to train their horses to a high standard whether for pleasure or competition and for the latter to such a standard as to become eligible to compete at International level
- ★ Organise and approve such other activities of all or any kind whether equestrian or social as may be deemed appropriate for the general benefit of the Society
- ★ Assess instructors for inclusion on the Society's List of Approved Instructors

40 years on WES continues to promote the sport for enthusiasts at all levels – whether pure beginners or seasoned competitors.





Photography by Alison James

2025

WES Nationals

The Western Equestrian Society's 33rd National Show held at the Oakridge Arena in August 2025

By Rob Painter, Chairman

Another year, another National Show – our 33rd and what a show it was. Last year, the heading of the Nationals section in the Journal was ‘Trust and Teamwork’. This year, two words sprang to mind as I started to write this: Commitment and Camaraderie. Why? Well because I witnessed so many members, who made the commitment to come to show, choose their favourite or best classes, and perform at their very best. Plus, it was great to see members at the show who, whilst not competing, came to support and sponsor and catch up with friends. I realise that it’s difficult for all members to make it to the show and I wanted to thank all of you that have sent in valuable feedback as part of the post show survey. This year I expanded that survey beyond those who attended to all members (more on that later...).

Not only did you take part in our normal show classes, but once again we had fantastic participation in what could be regarded as fun classes, our Charity Pleasure and Freestyle Reining. Plus, of course, a showcase of versatility in the Special Versatility Horse Jackpot. As well as your commitment to being the best you and your horse can be, I also witnessed and received feedback about the camaraderie at the show, and how members helped and supported each other both inside and outside of the show pen. That supportive environment, which you created, really helps elevate a show beyond just scores and placing to something much more. It creates a positive community which is what WES is all about!

I also want to thank our other Society friends and, in some cases, joint members of British Reining (BR) and European Reined Cow Horse Association UK (ERCHA UK) for supporting our show. A big thank you also goes to the Show Team as well as the WES Council and Extended Council for their commitment and camaraderie in the weeks and months ahead of the show and during the post show activities. I'm not sure if you noticed, but (almost!) all of the Council were supporting, working or competing at the show too.

So how did all this culminate in numbers?

Here are some headlines:

- We had more horse and rider combinations than in 2024 (101 total)
- More entries overall (465 starts/runs, 73 ranch runs, 124 trail runs, 33 BR runs)
- More sponsors (full list in this Journal)
- We raised over £600 for our charity, World Horse Welfare (WHW) and I was privileged to personally pass on the news to the WHW team at their HQ in Snetterton (pictured along with the western saddle!)



I mentioned the post show survey earlier. Thank you to the 56 members that replied (40 attendees and 16 who could not attend for all sorts of reasons). Along with the multiple-choice questions we sent we also received over 200 items of feedback – amazing! Overall, you were generally happy with the whole show experience, however, we need to do better with class timings – not running so late or starting so early. As I said, we have over 200 of your thoughts and ideas to work through to make next year and future years better and better. I hope you're looking forward to the 2026 WES National Show as much as I am!

Thank you to all

WES NATIONALS SHOW RESULTS

August 2025
The Oakridge Arena

Photography by Alison James



Gunner Be A Rooster, Janet Amir

Ranch Trail

Youth 13 & Under (6 entries):

1 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 2 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; 3 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; 4 **Freckles**, Jemima Keeping; 5 **Winnie**, Cecily Keeping; 6 **Dolly**, Cecily Keeping

Youth 14 -18 (4 entries):

1 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 2 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; 3 **Glittered Montana**, Alisha Steele; 4 **Rivals Golden Rose**, Nancy Cook

Intermediate Horse (8 entries):

1 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 2 **Magnus Rex At Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 3 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; 4 **Harley Boy**, Charlotte Ruffett; 5 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 6 **A Lil Bit Of Whiz**, Cheryl Hewson; D/Q **The Greatest Smoke**, Yvonne Newbegin, D/Q **Mr Lover BB**, Michael Allsworth

Amateur (6 entries):

1 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 2 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 3 **Dressed For Jazz**, Louise Parker; 4 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; 5 **Smart Flash Shiny**, Cat Diggines; 6 **Whatta Chic Olena**, Zoe Saari

Open (4 entries):

1 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 2 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 3 **Magnus Rex At Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 4 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre

Novice Rider (10 entries):

1 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Alison Cheetham; 2 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; 3 **Colonels Sweet Peppy**, Lisa Pickworth; 4 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 5 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwalter; 6 **Wilden Sundance**, Lara Mackendrick; 7 **Whiz I Was Shiny**, Julie Middleton; 8 **Stepping Out To Win**, Tilly Pilkinton; 9 **Santa Cruise Baby**, Tim Baxter; 10 **Topsail By Night**, Hermione Keeping

Novice Horse (10 entries):

1 **Santa Cruise Baby**, Tim Baxter; 2 **Staroakraddicalvadoo**, Deborah Hugh; 3 **A Lil Bit Of Whiz**, Cheryl Hewson; 4 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwalter; 5 **Magnus Rex At Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 6 **Mizter Electric Code**, Jane Whitehead; 7 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; 8 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 9 **Glittered Montana**, Alisha Steele; 10 **Mel's Private Dancer**, Lee Rutter

Ranch Trail Championship (8 entries):

1 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 2 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 3 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; 4 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; 5 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 6 **Magnus Rex At Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 7 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 8 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien



An Interesting Flirt, Amy Barlow

Showmanship

Youth 13 & Under (4 entries):

1 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; 2 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 3 **Molly**, Jemima Keeping; 4 **Winnie**, Cecily Keeping

Youth 14 -18 (3 entries):

1 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 2 **Rivals Golden Rose**, Nancy Cook; D/Q **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry

Amateur (5 entries):

1 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 2 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 3 **Zip & Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 4 **Revin An a Whizzin**, Lily Sloan; 5 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre

Open (4 entries):

1 **Zip & Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 2 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 3 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 4 **Awesome Iceman**, Alison Robinson

Novice Rider (4 entries):

1 **Mizter Electric Code**, Jane Whitehead; 2 **Fifty Shades Of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles; 3 **Billy Buck Hollywood**, Amy Gazala-Adams; 4 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre

Showmanship Championship (6 entries):

1 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 2 **Zip & Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 3 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 4 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 5 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; D/Q **Rivals Golden Rose**, Nancy Cook

Pleasure



Always The Best Seat, Evelyn Dash



Fifty Shades Of Jay, Scarlett Eyles

Walk/Jog Novice Rider (4 entries):

1 **Topsail by Night**, Hermione Keeping; 2 **Holster Your Gun**, Sue Painter; 3 **Fred Zeppelin**, Sarah Pilkington; 4 **Quintana Cristal**, Dawn Roberts

Walk/Jog Novice Horse (6 entries):

1 **Teddy Bear**, Nancy Cook; 2 **Lady of DNite**, Penny Connah; 3 **Quintana Cristal**, Dawn Roberts; 4 **Fred Zeppelin**, Sarah Pilkington; 5 **Holster Your Gun**, Sue Painter; D/Q **Malachite Mobster**, Emily Perry

Youth 13 & Under (5 entries):

1 **Dun Cruzin Hollywood**, Izzzi Dewey; 2 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; 3 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 4 **Winnie**, Cecily Keeping; 5 **Molly**, Jemima Keeping

Youth 14-18 (2 entries):

1 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 2 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry

Intermediate Horse (4 entries):

1 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 2 **Zip & Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 3 **Money Trail**, John McKnight; 4 **Harley Boy**, Charlotte Ruffett

Amateur (3 entries):

1 **Zippin N Chippin**, Fiona Powley; 2 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 3 **Zip & Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Locker

Open (2 entries):

1 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 2 **Zippin N Chippin**, Fiona Powley

Novice Rider (9 entries):

1 **Fifty Shades Of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles; 2 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; 3 **Stepping Out To Win**, Tilly Pilkington;

4 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 5 **Mr Lover BB**, Michael Allsworth; 6 **Southern Tonka Rojo**, Claire Hooper; 7 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 8 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwalter; D/Q **Phoniex**, Jade Allsworth

Novice Horse (6 entries):

1 **Staroakraddicalvmoo**, Deborah Hugh; 2 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 3 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 4 **Southern Tonka Rojo**, Claire Hooper; 5 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwalter; D/Q **Phoniex**, Jade Allsworth

Pleasure Championship (6 entries):

1 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 2 **Fifty Shades Of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles; 3 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 4 **Dun Cruzin Hollywood**, Izzzi Dewey; 5 **Zippin N Chippin**, Fiona Powley; 6 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham

Horsemanship

Novice Rider Walk/Jog (10 entries):

1 **Colonels Sweet Peppy**, Lisa Pickworth; 2 **Topsail By Night**, Hermione Keeping; 3 **Whiz I Was Shiny**, Julie Middleton; 4 **Genuine Mobster**, Tracey Eaton; 5 **Gwernewydd Miriam**, Toni Bendall; 6 **Heza A Cool Cowboy**, Liz Smith; 7 **Fred Zeppelin**, Sarah Pickington; 8 **Quintana Cristal**, Dawn Roberts; 9 **Teddy Bear**, Nancy Cook; 10 **Holster Your Gun**, Sue Painter

Youth 13 & Under (8 entries):

1 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; 2 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 3 **Dun Cruzin Hollywood**, Izzi Dewey; 4 **Dolly**, Cecily Keeping; 5 **Freckles**, Jemima Keeping; D/Q **Molly**, Jemima Keeping; D/Q **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; D/Q **Winnie**, Cecily Keeping

Youth 14 – 18 (3 entries):

1 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; D/Q **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; D/Q **Rivals Golden Rose**, Nancy Cook

Amateur (5 entries):

1 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 2 **Revvin An A Whizzin**, Lily Sloan; 3 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 4 **Zip N Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 5 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown

Open (3 entries):

1 **Zip N Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 2 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 3 **Lady of DNite**, Penny Connah

Novice Rider (10 entries):

1 **Fifty Shades of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles; 2 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 3 **Stepping Out to Win**, Tilly Pilkington; 4 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 5 **Mizter Electric Code**, Jane Whitehead; 6 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; D/Q **Southern Tonka Rojo**, Claire Hooper; D/Q **Malachite Mobster**, Emily Perry; D/Q **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwaller; D/Q **Ellerbeck Spangle**, Charlie Madeley

Horsemanship Championship (5 entries):

1 **Zip N Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 2 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 3 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; D/Q **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; D/Q **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry

Zip N Zeus Leaguer, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; Always The Best Seat, Evelyn Dash; RQH Electric Tartan, Kim Briggs



Ranch Riding

Youth 13 & Under (7 entries):

1 **Dolly**, Cecily Keeping; 2 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; 3 **Freckles**, Jemima Keeping; 4 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 5 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; 6 **Winnie**, Cecily Keeping; D/Q **Dun Cruzin Hollywood**, Izzi Dewey

Youth 14 -18 (4 entries):

1 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; 2 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 3 **Glittered Montana**, Alisha Steele; 4 **Rivals Golden Rose**, Nancy Cook

Intermediate Horse (7 entries):

1 **Heza Cool Cowboy**, Liz Smith; 2 **The Greatest Smoke**, Yvonne Newbegin; 3 **Money Trail, John McKnight**; 4 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; 5 **A Lil Bit Of Whiz**, Cheryl Hewson; 6 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 7 **Harley Boy**, Charlotte Ruffet

Amateur (7 entries):

1 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 2 **Revvin An A Whizzin**, Lily Sloan; 3 **Dressed for Jazz**, Louise Parker; 4 **Whatta Chic Olena**, Zoe Saari; 5 **Billy Buck Hollywood**, Amelia Ghazala-Adams; 6 **Mostly Bea Smart**, Charlie Chewedorzewska; 7 **Ellerbeck Spangle**, Charlie Madeley

Open (6 entries):

1 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 2 **Revvin An A Whizzin**, Lily Sloan; 3 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 4 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 5 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 6 **Mostly Bea Smart**, Charlie Chewedorzewska

Novice Rider (17 entries):

1 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; 2 **Colonels Sweet Peppy**, Lisa Pickworth; 3 **Stepping Out To Win**, Tilly Pilkington; 4 **Genuine Mobster**, Tracey Eaton; 5 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 6 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; 7 **Topsail By Night**, Hermione Keeping; 8 **Santa Cruise Baby**, Tim Baxter; 9 **Fifty Shades of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles; 10 **Marcella BS**, Liz Greenwood; 11 **Blazin Melody**, Andrew Viller; 12 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 13 **Southern Tonka Rojo**, Claire Hooper; 14 **Wilden Sundance**, Lara Mackendrick; 15 **Fred Zeppelin**, Sarah Pilkington; 16 **Heza Cool Cowboy**, Liz Smith; 17 **Whiz I Was Shiny**, Julie Middleton

Novice Horse (17 entries):

1 **Santa Cruise Baby**, Tim Baxter; 2 **Magnus Rex At Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 3 **Mizter Electric Code**, Jane Whitehead; 4 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; 5 **Stepping Out To Win**, Tilly Pilkington; 6 **A Lil Bit of Whiz**, Cheryl Hewson; 7 **Glittered Montana**, Alisha Steele; 8 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 9 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 10 **Whiz I Was Shiny**, Julie Middleton; 11 **Genuine Mobster**, Tracey Eaton; 12 **Gwernewydd Miriam**, Stephanie Cherrington; 13 **Southern Tonka Rojo**, Claire Hooper; 14 **Fred Zeppelin**, Sarah Pilkington; 15 **Staroakraddicalvadoo**, Deborah Hugh; 16 **Marcella BS**, Liz Greenwood; 17 **Topsail by Night**, Hermione Keeping

Ranch Riding Championship (11 entries):

1 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 2 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 3 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 4 **The Greatest Smoke**, Yvonne Newbegin; 5 **Revvin An A Whizzin**, Lily Sloan; 6 **Magnus Rex at Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 7 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; 8 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 9 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; 10 **Dolly**, Cecily Keeping; 11 **Heza Cool Cowboy**, Liz Smith





He's Got Strait Assets, Dan Gwalter; A Twisted Face, Autumn O'Brien; Teddy Bear, Nancy Cook

Western Riding

Youth 13 & Under (2 entries):

1 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; D/Q **Freckles**, Jemima Keeping

Youth 14 – 18 (1 entry):

Smart Flash Shiny, Maisie Perry

Amateur (2 entries):

1 **Smart Flash Shiny**, Cat Diggines; 2 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash

Open (1 entry):

1 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs

Novice Rider (1 entry):

D/Q **Fifty Shades of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles

Western Riding Championship (5 entries):

1 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 2 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 3 **Smart Flash Shiny**, Cat Diggines; 4 **Smart Flash Shiny**, Maisie Perry; 5 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien

Little Britches

Showmanship (4 entries):

1 **Smart & Twisty**, Mollie Gwalter; 2 **Molly**, Blythe Keeping; 3 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Harry Gwalter; 4 **Dolly**, Ned Keeping

Horsemanship (4 entries):

1 **Dolly**, Ned Keeping; 2 **Smart & Twisty**, Mollie Gwalter; 3 **Molly**, Blythe Keeping; 4 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Harry Gwalter

Pleasure (4 entries):

1 **Smart & Twisty**, Mollie Gwalter; 2 **Dolly**, Ned Keeping; 3 **Molly**, Blythe Keeping; 4 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Harry Gwalter

Trail (4 entries):

1 **Dolly**, Ned Keeping; 2 **Smart & Twisty**, Mollie Gwalter; 3 **Molly**, Blythe Keeping; 4 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Harry Gwalter

Freestyle Reining

Freestyle Reining (4 entries):

1 **Gotta Nic The Gold**, Olivia Plumb; 2 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; 3 **Dressed For Jazz**, Louise Parker; D/Q **Smart Flash Shiny**, Cat Diggines

Special Versatility Horse Jackpot Payback Class

Versatile Horse (3 entries):

1 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 2 **Smart Flash Shiny**, Cat Diggines; D/Q **A Twisted Face**, Dani O'Brien

Charity Pleasure

Charity Pleasure (Walk/Jog) (7 entries):

1 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 2 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwalter; 3 **Teddy Bear**, Nancy Cook; 4 **Harley Boy**, Charlotte Ruffett; 5 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; 6 **RQH Electric Tartan** (Kim Briggs) and **Fifty Shades of Jay** (Scarlett Eyles) - entered as a duo; 7 **The Greatest Smoke**, Yvonne Newbegin

Trail

In Hand Trail – Amateur/Open

(5 entries):

1 **JCM Wildascanbe**, Alison Robinson; 2 **Lyndhurst Rooster**, Karen Warnes; 3 **Gunner Nic Steps**, Lee Rutter; 4 **Pennys Von**, Lee Rutter; 5 **Awesome Iceman**, Alison Robinson

Novice Rider Walk/Jog (7

entries):

1 **Colonels Sweet Peppy**, Lisa Pickworth; 2 **Quintana Cristal**, Dawn Roberts; 3 **Holster Your Gun**, Sue Painter; 4 **Southern Tonka Rojo**, Claire Hooper; 5 **Teddy Bear**, Nancy Cook; D/Q **Genuine Mobster**, Tracey Eaton; D/Q **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwalter

Novice Horse Walk/Jog (12

entries):

1 **Southern Tonka Rojo**, Claire Hooper; 2 **He's Got Strait Assets**, Dan Gwalter; 3 **Quintana Cristal**, Dawn Roberts; 4 **A Lil Bit of Whiz**, Cheryl Hewson; 5 **Teddy Bear**, Nancy Cook; 6 **Holster Your Gun**, Sue Painter; 7 **Whiz I Was Shiny**, Julie Middleton; 8 **Genuine Mobster**, Tracey Eaton; 9 **Lady of DNite**, Penny Connah; 10 **Malachite Mobster**, Emily Perry; D/Q **GTS Master Chex**, Sarah Watson; D/Q **Rivals Golden Rose**, Nancy Cook

Youth 13 & Under (3 entries):

1 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 2 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; 3 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle

Youth 14 – 18 (2 entries):

1 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 2 **D/Q Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry

Intermediate Horse (6 entries):

1 **The Greatest Smoke**, Yvonne Newbegin; 2 **Zip N Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 3 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 4 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; 5 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Alison Cheetham; 6 **Ellerbeck Spangle**, Charlie Madeley

Amateur (5 entries):

1 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 2 **Zippin N Chippin**, Fiona Powley; 3 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; 4 **Zip N Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert; 5 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow

Open (3 entries):

1 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 2 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; D/Q **Zippin N Chippin**, Fiona Powley

Novice Rider (7 entries):

1 **Fifty Shades of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles; 2 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; 3 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 4 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; D/Q **Wilden Sundance**, Lara Mackendrick; D/Q **Santa Cruise Baby**, Tim Baxter; D/Q **Marcella BS**, Liz Greenwood

Novice Horse (10 entries):

1 **Muy Susie Dene**, Frances Maxwell; 2 **An Interesting Flirt**, Amy Barlow; 3 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 4 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 5 **Mizter Electric Code**, Jane Whitehead; 6 **Staroakraddicalvamoo**, Deborah Hugh; 7 **Docs Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; D/Q **Mosly Bea Smart**, Charlie Chwedorzewski; D/Q **Santa Cruise Baby**, Tim Baxter; D/Q **Marcella BS**, Liz Greenwood

Trail Championship (7 entries):

1 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 2 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 3 **RQH Electric Tartan**, Kim Briggs; 4 **The Greatest Smoke**, Yvonne Newbegin; 5 **Zippin N Chippin**, Fiona Powley; D/Q **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; D/Q **Zip N Zeus Leaguer**, Michelle Surguy-Lockert

Working Western Rail

Youth 13 & Under (4 entries):

1 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; 2 **Dun Cruzin Hollywood**, Izzi Dewey; 3 **A Twisted Face**, Autumn O'Brien; 4 **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham

Youth 14 – 18 (3 entries):

1 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; 2 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 3 **Glittered Montana**, Alisha Steele

Intermediate Horse (6 entries):

1 **Magnus Rex at Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 2 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 3 **Harley Boy**, Charlotte Ruffett; 4 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 5 **The Greatest Smoke**, Yvonne Newbegin; D/Q **Heza A Cool Cowboy**, Liz Smith

Amateur (7 entries):

1 **A Twisted Face**, Dani O'Brien; 2 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 3 **Dressed for Jazz**, Louise Parker; 4 **JX Wheelie Wave**, Jo Wilde; 5 **Always The Best Seat**, Evelyn Dash; 6 **A Lil Bit of Whiz**, Cheryl Hewson; 7 **Whatta Chic Olena**, Zoe Saari

Open (4 entries):

1 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 2 **Magnux Rex at Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 3 **Gotta Nic The Gold**, Olivia Plumb; 4 **Glittered Montana**, Alisha Steele

Novice Rider (6 entries):

1 **Fifty Shades of Jay**, Scarlett Eyles; 2 **IMA Sparkling Surprise**, Nickey Smith; 3 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 4 **Colonels Sweet Peppy**, Lisa Pickworth; 5 **Does Baileys N Cream**, Stephanie Goodacre; 6 **Blazin Melody**, Andrew Viller

Novice Horse (6 entries):

1 **Whiz I Was Shiny**, Olivia Plumb; 2 **Staroakraddicalvadoo**, Deborah Hugh; 3 **Kernow Rhapsody**, Sally Brown; 4 **Mizter Electric Code**, Jane Whitehead; 5 **Malachite Mobster**, Emily Perry; 6 **A Lil Bit of Whiz**, Cheryl Hewson

Working Western Rail

Championship (6 entries):

1 **Gunner Be A Rooster**, Janet Amir; 2 **Cruzin The Bay**, Lee Rutter; 3 **A Twisted Face**, Dani O'Brien; 4 **Magnus Rex at Dawn**, Joe Midgley; 5 **The Greatest Smoke**, Quinn Arkle; 6 **Dun Cruzin Hollywood**, Izzi Dewey



A Twisted Face, Dani O'Brien



Gunner Be A Rooster, Janet Amir



Cruzin The Bay, Lee Rutter



Guns Little Rose, Kaia Rutter

Reining

Youth 13 & Under (2 entries):

D/Q **Hez Leroy Brown**, Zac Cheetham; D/Q **West Coast Jewel**, William Hempstead

Youth 14 – 18 (2 entries):

1 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; 2 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter

Intermediate Horse (3 entries):

1 **Santas Shining Star**, Lee Rutter; 2 (back number 198); 3 **Money Trail**, John McKnight

Amateur (1 entry):

1 **Money Trail**, John McKnight

Novice Rider (2 entries):

1 **Mizter Electric Code**, Jane Whitehead; D/Q **Stepping Out To Win**, Tilly Pilkinton

Novice Horse (2 entries):

1 **Stepping Out to Win**, Tilly Pilkinton; D/Q **Gotta Nic The Gold**, Lee Rutter

Reining Championship (3 entries):

1 **Guns Little Rose**, Kaia Rutter; 2 **Sailin To The Top BB**, Maisie Perry; D/Q **Santas Shining Star**, Lee Rutter

Hi Point Awards

Little Britches: Smart & Twisty, Mollie Gwalter

Youth 13 & Under: A Twisted Face, Autumn O'Brien

Youth 14 – 18: Guns Little Rose, Kaia Rutter

Intermediate Horse: Cruzin The Bay, Lee Rutter

Amateur: Always the Best Seat, Evelyn Dash

Open: Cruzin The Bay, Lee Rutter

Novice Rider: Fifty Shades Of Jay, Scarlett Eyles

Novice Horse: Santa Cruz Baby, Tim Baxter

Championship: Always the Best Seat, Evelyn Dash

Area Challenge: Area 3 (with an average of 72 scored)

AQHA UK: Muy Susie Dene, Frances Maxwell

Non-American Breed: Harley Boy, Charlotte Ruffett

A huge thank you to all of our generous sponsors, without whom we could not put on our National Show.

A special thank you to Fallowbrook, Neue Schule, Helen Payne, Broadway Performance Horses, Equi-Therapy, GK Horsemanship Equipment and Gill Killick for sponsoring our Championship Classes and to Pauline Norton for sponsoring the Area Challenge. Further details on page 37.



MAIN SHOW SPONSOR





The Greatest
Smoke, Quinn
Arkle; A Twisted
Face, Autumn
O'Brien; Dun
Cruzin
Hollywood, Izzi
Dewey

WES YOUTH UPDATES

By Dani O'Brien

YOUTH RIDERS AT THE NATIONAL SHOW

August 2025 saw another fully booked pre-national show youth clinic. In fact, this year we had to get a second instructor!

In the space of one morning, Jolie Cooper and Lee Rutter took the kids through confidence building exercises, show etiquette and rules, and the patterns for the following day's classes (I'm not sure how they managed to fit it all in!). All riders had a great time and were really looking forward to the show – it's great to see so many enthusiastic youth riders split over all ages now. Thursday evening we had a mass tack cleaning party and everyone was ready to start the first youth class at 7am on Friday morning!

The results for youth classes are posted alongside the rest of the National Show results but I want to express my own admiration and respect on how hard all our youth riders have worked at the clinics this year and how much improvement there was in the standard of showing – even from the 2024 National Show.

A big thank you to all our venues, instructors and also the parents who dedicate their time both bringing the kids to shows and also doing the work everyday at home. I'd also like to thank those who lend horses to our youth riders, I know how rewarding this can be for both sides, especially with the standard and temperaments of the western horses in this country being able to look after riders from the tiniest ages!

On a personal level, my highlights from the show were my daughter Autumn's (aged 10) achievements – not only nailing every single flying change in both the 13 and Under and Championship Western Riding but also for pulling a stunning performance out of the bag in the Championship 'WES 40' Trail class, gaining a respectable second place against some of the top riders in the country. It's a memory she will never forget.

I can't wait for next year!



Sailin To The Top BB, Maisie Perry

YOUTH CAMP WITH LOUISE MCKNIGHT

Our last Youth Camp of the season took place at Fallowbrook in Kent – a yard run by Pauline Norton, a WES Professional and Judge.

As usual, our WES Youth Camps are open to riders under 19 years old of all levels and from anywhere in the country. We occasionally even have horses for hire too!

This camp was taught by Louise McKnight, a versatile and experienced instructor that many people will have seen on the show circuit or bought a horse from! Louise has a passion for teaching youth riders and is great for instilling confidence as well as skills which the progress and smiles on the riders' faces confirmed.

We worked through different exercises in the arena, developing confidence and position as well as bend, lateral movements and control of pace.

On Sunday afternoon, everyone had a play with the obstacles. We also got the chance to learn about first aid and practise some lifesaving skills.

As WES Youth Officer, I've recently updated my First Aid Certificate along with some of the other Area Reps which helped us to pass our knowledge onto our youth riders. We covered calling the emergency services, the recovery position, CPR, wounds, bandaging, burns and where we might find a first aider and first aid kit at a horse event and at the school.

The youth campers learnt a lot and I hope to set up an official junior first aid course soon.

A big thank you to Matt Ayling for all his expertise and knowledge on our adult course (and for lending us the CPR Dummy!). Thank you also to Nikki Gwalter for helping teach – it was great to know we had five qualified first aiders on-site if anything happened!



WES YOUTH SUMMER CHALLENGE

This year we had a slight change to our summer challenge and introduced Gold, Silver and Bronze levels as well as weekly zoom meetings with a bonus task!

As always the summer challenge is accessible to all whether you have access to a horse or not, no matter what part of the country you are in and there are tasks for all ages - best of all it's free for WES members!

Challenges are completed mostly at home and our youth members enjoyed discussing what they enjoyed on our weekly zoom meetings and have requested monthly zoom meetings going forward which will be on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Some of our riders brought their task lists to clinics and shows to tick off tasks with their friends - it was great to see how many of our Scottish youth riders ticked off tasks on this years Scottish Youth Camp!

The adults also enjoy working with their kids through the challenges ' Thanks again for setting this up, it really helps with their motivation when they are still little!' 'Thank you for doing the youth challenge. I can't believe the difference in my daughter over the summer! She's doing so much more than I thought she would. I honestly thought she might give up after a fall over the winter, but this has helped bring the fun and confidence back'

Congratulations on the Gold Achievement to Connie, Zac, Quinn, Annabelle, Raya, Taylor, Emily, Mollie, Giancarlo, Autumn and Jasmine. Silver Achievement to Nancy and Bronze to Jenson and Devon - well done on all your hard work and learning everyone!

I am currently in the planning stages for future online and in person events and challenges - please get in touch if you have any ideas.





Safeguarding the **SPIRIT OF WESTERN RIDING**

By Pauline Norton

WES Animal Welfare & Health and Safety Officer

There's something addictive about western riding – the creak of a saddle, the dust rising from an arena, the steady rhythm of a horse's stride. For many, the sport is more than competition; it's a lifestyle rooted in trust, respect, and partnership. But behind every safe ride and every good show lies something essential: safeguarding.

Safeguarding isn't just a buzzword borrowed from sports policy. In western riding, it's about protecting both riders and horses so they can do what they love in a safe, supportive environment. From the youngest child learning to neck rein to the seasoned reiner chasing their best score, safeguarding shapes the culture of the sport.

Western riding attracts all sorts of people: kids fresh out of pony

club, adults rediscovering the saddle, and families who spend weekends on the show circuit. For every rider to feel welcome and safe, clubs and coaches must put people first.

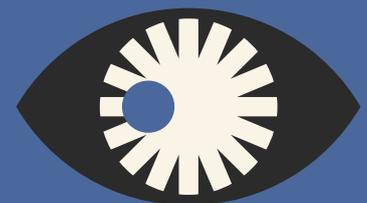
That means keeping a close eye on bullying, unsafe behaviour, or harmful training practices. It means making sure young riders are never left unsupervised in barns or showgrounds. It means giving parents and participants the confidence that concerns will be listened to – not brushed under the carpet. When riders feel secure, they're free to focus on what really matters: growing their skills and deepening their bond with their horses.

Of course, no safeguarding conversation is complete without talking about the horses themselves. Western riding has always celebrated the horse as a partner,

whether in the working traditions of the ranch or the bright lights of the show pen.

True horsemen and horsewomen know that welfare comes first. A sore-backed horse, a poorly fitted bit, or an overworked lesson mount isn't just an ethical issue – it's a safety risk for everyone involved. Good welfare means horses get proper veterinary care, rest days, turnout, and tack that fits. It also means Judges reward soft hands and correct training, not shortcuts or harsh methods.

When we look after our horses, we safeguard the very soul of western sport.



Safeguarding doesn't have to be complicated. It's about everyday choices:

- Making sure lesson horses aren't overused
- Checking saddles and headstalls before every ride
- Ensure riders have the right horse for their size and skill level
- Encouraging junior riders to speak up if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe
- Celebrating good sportsmanship in the arena, not just blue ribbons

Little things like these build a culture where both horses and riders thrive.

Western riding carries a proud legacy of respect, patience, and partnership. Safeguarding is simply a modern way of honouring those traditions. By protecting people and horses, we protect the sport itself – ensuring future generations can experience the same freedom,

trust, and joy that keep us coming back to the saddle.

So, the next time you cinch up, whether for a trail ride or a sliding stop, remember, safeguarding isn't just policy. It's good horsemanship. Every WES Professional will have attended a Safeguarding workshop, so if you are in doubt, ask to see their certificate.

“Every safe ride begins with respect: for the rider, for the horse, and for the tradition of western horsemanship.”

Safeguarding courses can be accessed via various organisations such as **The British Horse Society** (Safeguarding for Equestrians Course, £39.99), **Smart Horizons** (Safeguarding for Equestrians Online Training, £30 +VAT), and **British Dressage** (Safeguarding in Equestrian Sport, £25).

TOP 5 SAFEGUARDING TIPS FOR EVERY WESTERN RIDER

1. Check Your Tack, Every Time

A quick look at cinches, headstalls, and stirrups can prevent accidents before they happen.

2. Match Horse to Rider

Keep lessons and rides safe by pairing horses with riders of suitable size, weight, and ability.

3. Respect Rest Days

Even the best show horse needs time off – healthy horses mean safe rides.

4. Speak Up, Don't Bottle Up

If something feels unsafe – whether in the barn, arena, or show pen – say so. Safeguarding starts with open voices.

5. Model Good Horsemanship

Be the rider who rewards softly, rides fairly, and treats every horse and person with respect. Others will follow your lead.



Spot Shines at Sudbrooke Park



By Joanne Prestidge-King
Photography by Your Moment Photography

"This was our very first show at Sudbrooke – we don't train Western full-time, but Spot gave it his all. I'm in awe of him!"



The recent Versatility Show at Sudbrooke Park Cattle Company was a celebration of grit, grace, and good horses and none more so than Spot (Zand Edition), who made a dazzling debut in the Green category with rider and owner Jo Prestidge-King.

Standing at a towering 17hh, Spot was hard to miss. His size drew plenty of admiring and "wow he's big", comments from spectators and fellow competitors alike, especially given that most of the horses in

the Western classes were considerably smaller. But Spot didn't just stand out, he delivered.

Jo and Spot took part in five classes in the Green category:

- Dummy Roping
- Ranch Trail
- Ranch Riding
- Cow Cutting (2nd place with a score of 67.5)
- Team Cow Sorting (2nd place with Claire Smith)

They also secured a 3rd place in Ranch Riding, rounding off an incredible debut performance.

What makes Spot's success even more remarkable is his versatility. He is not only a rising star in Western disciplines but also an established show jumper and dressage horse, regularly taking part in British Show Jumping and British Dressage shows and is also a four-time ApHC UK National Supreme Ridden Champion.

Spot and Jo are also volunteers for Northamptonshire Police in the Rural Crime team – often conducting duty patrols and attending large noisy events!

Balancing training across these disciplines is no small feat, and Jo's dedication to a rigorous and varied schedule is a testament to her commitment and Spot's adaptability.

Jo expressed heartfelt thanks to Tom Wilkinson and Chloe Wilkinson for helping make the dream a reality, and to a host of supporters including Claire Shepherd, Louise McKnight and Andy at Naturally Light Equitation, for their training and encouragement.

The show itself was a triumph, well-run, welcoming, and full of camaraderie. Special thanks also went to Joe Midgley of Joe Midgley Horsemanship for his expert tuition throughout the preceding clinic.

Spot, an Appaloosa, stood as a proud testament to the breed's versatility and spirit. "These horses never say no," Jo said. "They're fabulous at everything."

Congratulations to Jo and Spot for an inspiring performance that truly embodies the heart of Western riding in the UK.



Joanne and Spot at Sudbrooke Park Cattle Company Versatility Show



Team Gwalter

OUR YEAR IN THE WESTERN WORLD

By Dan Gwalter

“If you’d told me at the start of 2025 what this year would hold, I might not have believed you. We set out to throw ourselves into the western world fully, and what has unfolded has been nothing short of extraordinary.”

For me, this year hasn’t just been about classes, clinics, or show schedules. It has been about riding alongside my family, finding our place in a show family that feels like an extended network, and learning once again that in western riding, success is measured not in buckles or rosettes, but in trust, connection, and memories.

Riding as a Family

The real headline of this year isn’t my own progress in the saddle, but the pride I feel in

watching my wife and children carve out their own journeys. My wife has been the steady heartbeat behind Team Gwalter. Without her, none of this would have been possible. She has lifted me when I’ve been frustrated, encouraged me when I’ve doubted myself, and supported every late night in the horsebox or long day in the arena.

And this year, I’ve had the privilege of watching her step into her own western journey.

From the first moment she picked up the reins differently, she’s accelerated with a determination and passion that makes me immensely proud. Standing at the rail and watching her ride, knowing how far she’s come, has been every bit as fulfilling as any achievement of my own.

Our children too have taken their place in the ring, riding in Little Britches classes and making memories that will last a lifetime. To ride alongside them

and see the smiles on their faces, to feel the atmosphere of the arena as a family – that is what Team Gwalter means to me.

Our Show Family

Western riding isn't just about your own horse and trailer. It's about the people travelling the circuit with you, sharing early mornings, laughter over coffee, and quiet words of encouragement at the in-gate.

For us, that community has been everything. Dani O'Brien and her daughter Autumn feel like the foundations of our extended show family. Andrew Viller has been part of my journey for over five years, a friend and competitor who has shared the ups, the downs, and the long miles between. Charlotte and Caroline Ruffett are always there at shows, cheering from the sidelines or lending a hand when it's needed most. And the list goes on, because the truth is the people we've met this year have been countless – and priceless.

There have been moments that only a show family understands. Horsebox repairs done in the middle of a field, hands greasy but spirits high. Gazebos flying across the showground in the wind. Eating KFC in the cab of the lorry because torrential rain made cooking outside impossible. The silence of the middle of the night when the last lights have gone out, or the

bleary-eyed early starts with like-minded souls who also wouldn't be anywhere else.

We've stayed up late just to welcome friends arriving after a long drive, making sure they had company and a warm hello. We've helped each other in the collection pen when nerves started to fray. First to arrive, last to leave – that has felt like the norm at most events, and we love that feeling. We've celebrated birthdays together. We've shared the joy of great performances and the laughter (and learning) that comes with not-so-great ones.

And perhaps the most special sight of all – our children, and everyone else's, playing together as equals, outdoors, away from screens, building the kind of friendships that will last long after the ribbons are forgotten.

The Venues and the Voices

The places and people that have hosted us this year deserve their own recognition. Oakridge, with its familiar comfort and warmth. Sovereign, where the atmosphere always seems to lift horse and rider alike. The incredible Pauline Norton, who opened the gates of Fallowbrook with generosity and encouragement.

And of course, Tanya Rowe – no longer formally teaching, but whose pride, encouragement, and quiet corrections continue to shape me every time I ride. And then there's Fabi Jones, who hasn't just been part of our show family but has gone further, supporting me beyond the arena and helping me become a better rider and horseman. Her friendship, like so many others, has been one of the great gifts of this year.



Lessons from the Saddle

George and I have had our battles – that elusive right lead lope among them – but the breakthroughs, the ranch riding patterns where everything clicked, and the decision to step out of a class when it wasn't right for him, have defined our growth.

My biggest lesson hasn't changed from day one. I don't measure myself against who else is in the class, or what names are on the score sheet. My competition has always been me. Every ride is about not repeating yesterday's mistakes, about being a fraction better than I was last time. And my benchmark

for success? It couldn't be simpler. Have we, as a family, created lifelong memories? Absolutely.

A Community in Bloom

There is a bigger story too, beyond Team Gwalter. Western riding in the UK has not only seen a resurgence in recent years, it has experienced an explosion of interest and passion. Show entries are growing, clinics are filling, and the energy is unmistakable. At the heart of this movement is not the pursuit of silver buckles or championship banners. It is the relationship between horse and rider. One person, one horse, working together in

partnership and trust. That bond is what keeps us all coming back.

Looking Ahead

As I look to 2026, I don't measure success by the number of ribbons we might bring home. I measure it by the time spent together as a family, the friendships we continue to build, and the horses we learn from and love.

This year, Team Gwalter lived the western lifestyle fully. We worked hard, we laughed harder, we grew as riders and as a family. And above all, we made memories that will last forever. That is our story. That is what this journey has been about.

Dot Joins the Area 8 Summer Challenge

By Dot Ross

I started Western riding on a whim, over a decade ago. Beginning with a synthetic saddle, I did a couple of clinics before buying a beautiful equiflex saddle which I loved. Sadly, over time, my horse became ill so I sold the saddle as it was too good to sit around unused. In time, that horse died and when I bought my current horse, Hazel, I hoped to continue riding Western but she turned out to be hard to fit. Hazel has had six saddles so far (the last of which is a South African Trail Saddle – essentially a basic Western without a horn) and continues to be a difficult fit!



In fact, she's difficult in many ways. Her main problem is, she plants. Won't go forward at all. In the first few years, I'd get a bit tough with her. Force her to move forward. I regret that now. In recent years, I've changed my mindset – embracing the barefoot and bit-less positive reinforcement camp. I've allowed myself to understand that Hazel finds certain tasks difficult. If she says no, we do something else. Sometimes nothing at all. This year we've pottered around, doing whatever Hazel is comfortable with, and managing a few hacks as long as we have company. When I found out about the Area 8 Summer Challenge, I didn't hesitate to join. Here was something I could do, picking and choosing my tasks with no pressure. Although there's no-one nearby that rides Western, I had some help from a friend as well as the Area 8 Facebook Group who were all so very friendly and welcoming. This gave me confidence to continue, even though my patterns were rubbish and my side passes almost non-existent!

One task that really opened my eyes was to “teach your horse to self-load in a trailer”. When I first read this, I thought it would be easy. Hazel loads and travels no problem. Confidently, I hitched up my trailer and put it in the indoor arena. But as soon as Hazel saw the trailer, she grew a couple of hands in height and planted herself, rigid with fear. She spun at the end of my lead rope, eyes wide, staring at the trailer as though it may attack her at any moment. I tried to lead her towards it, but she was so anxious she towed me along, trying to get as far from the trailer as possible. She dragged me along so fast I was in danger of losing my footing, so before that happened, I let her go. She shot away, trying to put as much distance between the trailer and herself as possible. Round and round the arena she went, for so long I started to worry how I'd catch her again. When she eventually slowed, I managed to entice her with a bucket while she was standing at the arena doors, willing them to open. This aspect of the challenge opened my eyes to a problem I didn't know I had: Hazel was terrified in the trailer. In the past, she'd load without fuss, but she wouldn't move. Wouldn't eat her hay. Pooped loads. Sometimes sweated. She was literally frozen with fear in the trailer. So when I gave her the choice to go in or not, she chose not.

With the Summer Challenge, I've tried to improve her relationship with the trailer. We haven't achieved self-loading yet, but she's much more relaxed about the box and will come over of her own free will. I think if I continue training I'll eventually get her to go in, but this isn't going to happen overnight. So I will carry on – riding Western, being kind to my horse and trying to help her as best I can. I'd like to be able to take part in some more competitions to satisfy my own competitive drive but for the moment this work will need to be at home until I can persuade Hazel that the trailer isn't that bad. I'm so grateful that I joined the Summer Challenge. For one, it's given me purpose, motive, and incentive to do more with my horse. It's opened my eyes to Hazel's difficulties that I wasn't really aware of. I've had an absolute hoot doing things I'd never have dreamt of, like roping or dragging logs around. Yes, it's very good to expand one's horizons. Thank you Area 8.



AREA

Area 11

We've had a fairly busy year this year! Area 11 hosted two youth clinics which were very well-received and lots of fun. The youth riders are developing their skills nicely and there were fantastic examples of brilliant horsemanship and empathy which made me very proud! We've also had three clinics with Jo Midgely (organised by Seonaid Doherty) which have been busy – often with non-Wes members too which is great. We held a small summer show at Blackford Glen in June. The weather on the Saturday was awful and we were doing classes in between rain showers but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits. Our judge (David Hudspeth) was a great sport and despite soggy score sheets and only a few riders everyone learned loads and had fun. Many thanks to Seonaid Doherty and Ali McCrickard who went above and beyond! On the Sunday we had some different riders who tried different classes to what they were used to and had fun doing it. We're hoping to have a summer show at a bigger venue next year, however, we need riders and people turning up! So please let me know if this is something you'd like to help or ride at – we can't run the area without you. A few members took part in the Area 8 challenge organised by Area 8 Rep, Nikki Gwalter, it was great fun and really pushed people to try something different these events are open to everyone no matter what area. I volunteered to scribe at the WES Nationals and what a great event! Everyone was so friendly and welcoming – lovely to see Area 1 and Area 11 members there as well. Perhaps we can get a wee convoy going down in 2026! Apparently I got a fee for scribing which I sent to the Area 11 account which is looking healthy so give me your ideas! The autumn pole work challenge is in the works and kindly being judged by David Hudspeth. We'll be breaking down the fantastic trail pattern designed by Mick Carder and ridden in the WES nationals so watch this space as an email will be coming out shortly. I'm currently planning for 2026 and would love to hear from you about anything you may be interested in!

Best wishes,
Kayreen Jones



Area 6

As the long summer days start to shorten, Area 6 has been buzzing with activity — and it's been lovely to see so many members out enjoying their horses and the beautiful weather. Our recent clinic was a real highlight, bringing riders of all levels together to learn, share ideas, and fine-tune those Western skills. A big thank-you goes out to everyone who helped organise the day and to the patient instructors who kept us all inspired (and smiling!) Back in July, we had a fantastic turnout for the trail ride — a perfect chance to unwind, explore some stunning countryside, and spend time with fellow members. It's always a reminder of what makes our group so special: good friends, great horses, and plenty of laughter along the way. Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that our final clinic of the year will be with the fabulous Lee Rutter, who needs no introduction! It will take place on 13th December at Dodderhill Equestrian Centre in Droitwich. The clinic is already full, but we're delighted to welcome spectators for a small fee — it's a brilliant opportunity to pick up tips and enjoy a great day of Western riding.

For details, please contact Tracy Haynes

An Update From Harry Scargill (Area 5 Rep and Area Rep Co-ordinator)

It's been another fairly good year for Area 5, with many clinics across the Area, as well as our huge Easter Camp, and two Approved Shows, though a few clinics were cancelled due to numbers. The large events were all well supported – even having to expand out to three instructors for Easter camp. We've had some changes, saying goodbye to three County Reps – Su, Nickey and Caitlin – but thankfully already have one replacement in Emma Lonie for North Yorkshire. In January, I'll be stepping down as Area Rep, though I'll still be around to support, and will probably be heavily involved in 2026's camp and hopefully a planned two-day show in June. Areas 1, 4 and 9 are currently without an Area Rep or County Reps so if anyone is interested in taking on these positions please contact me and I can provide you with information on the role and support you in taking it on! Rob Painter has recently stepped in for Area 9 and has taken on the role of Area Treasurer, as well as recently passing his Event Manager Training so he's hoping to run some events in the new year – perhaps with some support from a neighbouring Rep! Keep an eye on the Area 9 Facebook Page and contact Rob if you'd like to join the Area 9 WhatsApp group.

ROUNDUP



Area 13

Well it seems the summer is now well and truly over, although when I remind myself it's almost December it's not surprising, I don't know where this year has gone, it seems only yesterday it was the New Year. However, lots has been going on throughout the year, four Area 13 clinics, WES nationals and clinics, AGM, first aid course. Yvonne and I are now planning events for 2026, so let us know if there's anything you might like and we will see what we can do. Beginning of October Lee Rutter came down again for the day. It was great to see a good number of participants all having a great time. Some having attended the previous clinics with Lee and some new to the 'Lee Experience' which was very encouraging for the future of western riding, WES and Area 13. As usual Lee put everyone through their paces, working as a group and as individuals, it's always impressive to see the improvement made by everyone throughout the day and the fun everyone has riding and watching what everyone else is doing. It amazes me how much you can learn by watching alone, this is why I keep spectator places free, so come along and see what it's all about at our next event and meet likeminded people. This year both Yvonne and I have updated our first aid training, Nickki Gwalter and Dani O'Brien from Area 8 also joined us. This was an incredibly informative course covering far more than the required syllabus, taught in an interesting and at times amusing way by the excellent Matt Ailing. I can highly recommend this course to anyone, and I feel everyone should do one, you never know when this might be of use, not only in the horse world, but everywhere. A few days after her course, Yvonne had to deal with a deep gash on a ladies leg where a horse had kicked out (sliders on) and I had to deal with a dog after it managed to pull a claw out and I had to stop the bleeding, not on the same scale as Yvonne's I know, but the knowledge I had gained gave me much more confidence to try and help. If anyone would like to Get their Emergency First Aid at work qualification, let me know and I can see if we can organise another course sometime. Through this course Yvonne meet Ed Hanker's who own's EJ's Motoring Services, based in Fareham. He asked why Yvonne was there and after explaining that as a WES Area Rep it is highly recommended that she has a first aid qualification and that we need to have a first aider at each event to allow it to run, the conversation moved onto the importance of defibrillators being available. Ed, feels that having a Defibrillator for his company was extremely important and having talked with Yvonne, realising what we did, thought it was important that we had one too. Ed has been extremely generous and sponsored a Defibrillator for Area 13, we cannot thank him enough – but hope we never have to use it! Area 13 now has a new fully kitted first aid kit and defibrillator which will come to all Area 13 events in the future. Looking now to 2026, our first clinic will be on 31st January, at the Quob, if you would like to join us please let me know. We are also hoping to get David Deptford down again after his successful clinic earlier in the year, we're waiting confirmation on a date, hopefully towards the end of March, and will let you know as soon as I have it. If you would like to provisionally book on this clinic let me know and you can confirm fully once date is arranged. Please note, for either clinic, if you mentioned interest in either one or both of these clinics, when briefly discussed at clinics this year, please confirm your interest again as I can't remember who wanted a place, without, preferably an email to confirm, I can't put you on the list. It's been great going to a number of shows this year and seeing so many from Area 13 competing, both seasoned and new competitors. There were some excellent results at all levels, I was very proud to see Area 13 doing so well. On that note we are in discussion with Area 8 trying to organise a joint WES Show, possibly in August or September. So, get planning and come out to show in 2026, maybe your first show (help will be available), possibly last show of the season, who knows, just come and have a go. We will also need some volunteers to help run the show on the day, so if you can't compete on the day, come and give us a hand – let me know if you're interested.

Anne Batley



UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



NATIONAL EVENTS

AGM

14/03/2026 WES AGM

The WES AGM at Coventry Holiday Inn

Contact: Rob Painter - westernequestriansociety.chair@gmail.com

CAMP

02/04/2026 - 04/04/2026 WES Northern Camp

A weekend camp at Bishop Burton

Contact: Harry Scargill - harry.wes@outlook.com

CAMP

30/04/2026 - 02/05/2026 WES Scotland Camp

A weekend camp at Highfield Equestrian at Howe

Contact: Kayreen Jones - kayreenjones4@btinternet.com

CAMP

22/05/2026 - 24/05/2026 WES Southern Camp

A weekend camp at Oakridge Arena

Contact: Nikki Gwalter - nikki@happyontheplanet.com

SHOW

13/08/2026 - 16/08/2026 WES National Show

WES 2026 National Show at Oakridge Arena

Contact: Helen Payne - helenmpayne@outlook.com

AREA EVENTS

CLINIC

13/12/2025 Area 6 General Horsemanship Clinic

One day clinic with Lee Rutter at Reinhill, GL14 1HQ

Contact: Tracy Haynes - thaynes63@msn.com

CLINIC

3/01/2026 Area 9 General Horsemanship Clinic

One day clinic with Lee Rutter at Anvil Park Stud, NR16 2QT

Contact: Rob Painter - westernequestriansociety.chair@gmail.com

CLINIC

24/01/2026 Area 13 General Horsemanship Clinic

One day clinic with Lee Rutter at Quob Stables, SO32 2AR

Contact: Anne Batley - a.batley@ntlworld.com

SHOW

27/06/2026 Area 5 Approved Show & National Qualifier

Two-day show at Bishop Burton

Contact: Harry Scargill - harry.wes@outlook.com

As a WES member you are not restricted to your home area – you're welcome to travel and meet new people and horses at any WES event nationwide.

PROUD SPONSORS OF

HORSEMANSHIP

THE HORSEMANSHIP EVENT OF THE YEAR



SHOWCASE



WES are once again excited to be working with the team at the Horsemanship Showcase 2025. We'll be in our gazebo shouting about WES Membership and promoting our WES Professionals – Lee Rutter and Joe Midgley are demonstrating at the event again so let's all support them! WES will also have its own specific demonstration so watch this space.

We're pleased to be able to offer 10% ticket discounts to WES members until tickets are sold out. Use code **WES10%OFF** at checkout.

With an extra day added, this is set to be a wonderful event yet again!



28th - 30th November 2025



Bury Farm, LU7 9BT

WES MERCHANDISE

Our WES Apparel Supplier is Emma Moore at EM-E. Emma is happy to personalise items and we love the range on offer!

Everything is great quality and looks fantastic from bobble hats to gilets, backpacks and teddy bears. Visit www.wes-uk.com to place your orders.

Once you have your items, we'd love to see photos of you wearing them! Feel free to share any pictures on the WES Facebook page.



WES YOUTH LEARN TO SHOW

A series of monthly zoom meetings based around learning the rules, tack, attire and classes for western showing

Open to all WES Youth members and Parents or Guardians

Hosted by WES Youth Officer Dani O'Brien

Thursday 6th November - 7pm

General youth rules, tack and equipment

Tuesday 2nd December - 7pm

Showmanship and Horsemanship

Tuesday 6th January - 7pm

Trail and Ranch Trail

Tuesday 3rd February - 7pm

Pleasure and Working Western Rail

Tuesday 3rd March - 7pm

Ranch and Reining

Tuesday 7th April - 7pm

Ask the WES Professional with Kayreen Jones



CONTACTS

COUNCIL

Chairman:	Rob Painter	westernequestriansociety.chair@gmail.com
Secretary & Webmaster:	Dan Gwalter	dan@wes-uk.com
Treasurer:	Danielle L'Oste-Brown	danielleoste@hotmail.co.uk
Membership Co-ordinator:	Kayreen Jones	kayreenjones4@btinternet.com
Event Co-ordinator:	Helen Payne	helenmpayne@outlook.com
Area Rep Co-ordinator:	Harry Scargill	harry.wes@outlook.com
Health & Safety Officer:	Pauline Norton	chloe276@aol.com
PR & Press Officer:	Rob Painter (temporary)	westernequestriansociety.chair@gmail.com
Youth Officer:	Dani O'Brien	daniobrien1987@hotmail.com

EXTENDED COUNCIL

Trail Awards:	Claire Shepherd	westrailaward@yahoo.com
Education Officer:	Lee Rutter	westerntrainer82@yahoo.co.uk
News Editor:	Lydia Voice	westernequestriansociety.editor@gmail.com
Judges Committee Chair:	Mick Carder	mick@carder.me.uk

WES PROFESSIONALS

Bedfordshire:	Jolie Cooper	Level 2	07765 329563
Cambridgeshire:	David Deptford	Level 5	-
Cheshire:	Scherie Dermody	Level 2	07930 410128
Denbighshire:	Tim Keeley	Level 2	-
Dorset:	Martina Drabkova	Level 2	07775 729942
Dorset:	Michael Langford	Level 3	07834 956900
East Lothian:	Kayreen Jones	Level 2	-
Hampshire:	Tammy Greaves	Level 4	07824 664795
Herefordshire:	Bruce Lawrence	Level 5	07791 323192
Kent:	Pauline Norton	Level 2	07860 868022
Lincolnshire:	Joe Midgley	Level 2	07588 412702
Lincolnshire:	Lee Rutter	Level 2	07736 430111
Oxon:	Catherine Wright	Level 2	-
Surrey:	Kirsty Feist	Level 2	07961684201
Surrey:	Janet Burwood	Level 3	07715 833349
Worcestershire:	Louise McKnight	Level 2	07495195603
Yorkshire:	Emma Chapman-Lonie	Level 3	07964 932877
Yorkshire:	Adam Yates	Level 2	07795 624074

For more information on the WES Professionals requirements please visit www.wes-uk.com/wes-professionals

AREA REPS

Area reps are listed in **bold** and county reps are listed in plain text. For further details visit www.wes-uk.com/areas-and-reps

Area 1:	Grampians, Highlands	VACANCY
Area 2:	Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffs	Linda Clancy - linda-clancy@btconnect.com David Brindley - david.brindley1@outlook.com
Area 3:	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire	Anne Webster - annequus@aol.com Sara Brandolese - brandolesesara@gmail.com Jane Brain - j1412b@hotmail.com
Area 4:	Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	VACANCY
Area 5:	Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Yorkshire	Harry Scargill - harry.wes@outlook.com Nickey Smith - nickeysmith.wes@gmail.com Charlotte Madeley - madeleysrus@gmail.com
Area 6:	Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire	Tracy Haynes - thaynes63@msn.com Bruce Lawrence - office@valleyviewranch.co.uk
Area 7:	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire	Kate Wensley - k8st.km@icloud.com Stephanie Goodacre - stephaniegoodacre@btinternet.com
Area 8:	Berks, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex	Nikki Gwalter - nikki@happyontheplanet.com Alison Cheetham - alison.cheetham@yahoo.co.uk
Area 9:	Essex, Herts, Norfolk, Suffolk	VACANCY (contact Rob Painter for enquiries on westernequestriansociety.chair@gmail.com)
Area 10:	Bedfordshire, Bucks, Cambs, Northants, Oxon, Warwickshire, West Midlands	Claire Shepherd - claireshepherd101@gmail.com Abbey Brotherton - brotherton499@btinternet.com Melissa Packer - mpackervet@gmail.com
Area 11:	Borders, Central, Fife, Lothians, Tayside	Kayreen Jones - kayreenjones4@btinternet.com Seonaid Doherty - curly1508@gmail.com
Area 12:	Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde	Patricia O'Mitchell - barbarelalababy@hotmail.com
Area 13:	Dorset, Hampshire	Yvonne Newbegin - yvonneneewbegin@gmail.com Anne Bately - a.batley@ntlworld.com



Neue Schule, renowned for its innovative approach to equestrian bit design, proudly sponsored the WES National Show. Known for using advanced materials and ergonomic engineering, Neue Schule bits offer superior comfort and communication, enhancing performance for horse and rider alike. Their support underscores a commitment to excellence in equestrian sports, aligning with the high standards of the WES community.

As a family-run business, we offer a comprehensive horticulture service, tailored to meet the unique vision and needs of each client. Whether you're looking to enhance an existing garden border with a new planting scheme, add a standout feature like a garden pond or raised bed, or completely redevelop your outdoor space, our team is here to bring your ideas to life with creativity, attention to detail, and exceptional quality.

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Please contact westernequestriansociety.chair@gmail.com with your WES membership number to claim your discount code.

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Creating handmade, high quality horsemanship equipment designed to support both horse and handler. With a focus on practicality and quality, our products are made to be durable, functional and a pleasure to use everyday.

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Thanks Equus Journeys!



Lee Rutter is our WES Education Officer, a WES Professional and a WES Judge as well as being a UKCC level 3 coach and UKCC Coach Assessor. LR Western Horses services include taking horses for training at Oakridge Arena, rider coaching, clinics and judging.

25% off Durango Boots UK for all WES members

Please contact westernequestriansociety.chair@gmail.com with your WES membership number to claim your discount code.

Boots can be purchased here:
<https://www.durangoboots.co.uk/>



We sell top quality handmade leatherwork (by Joe) & braiding (by Laura) including (but not limited to); Hackamores, Romal reins, Belts, Knife pouches, Spur straps, Head stalls, Paracord mecate reins, Neck ropes, Halters & lead ropes.

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WES