



**STUBBING COURT TRAINING**

  
*Would like to wish all*  
**TRAINEES, PARENTS & EMPLOYERS**  
*A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!!*

**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2005 - [www.stubbingcourtraining.com](http://www.stubbingcourtraining.com)**

**MATT EARITH WINS!! City & Guilds Medal & Derbyshire Apprentice of the Year**

Advanced Apprentice Matt Earith, has been awarded the City & Guilds Medal for Excellence for Landbased Industries. Matt was selected by a panel of judges, from over 750,000 other Apprentices nationwide. They said: 'Matt has produced an excellent portfolio; he is clearly an exceptional, hardworking individual. There is good evidence of a high standard of assessment and Internal Verification. Stubbing Court Training clearly supports and encourages candidates in the workplace.'



Matt will attend the City & Guilds Awards ceremony in London in April 2006, to collect his award and celebrate his success. Matt has also just been awarded the title of 'Derbyshire Apprentice of the Year 2005', sponsored by the Learning and Skills Council. He attended a dinner, where David Grant from the TV show - Fame Academy, presented him with a trophy, certificate and a cash prize of £150.00.

Matt said: 'I was really proud to have been nominated for the Awards, and to actually win both is absolutely brilliant. Being selected from over 750,000 nationwide, gives me a real sense of achievement. Thank you to Stubbing Court Training and my employer for giving me all the opportunities and nominating me. It's great to be recognised for my hard work, dedication and commitment to the course, and it's fantastic that the award promotes success in the horse industry, as it can very often go unrecognised.'

**A DAY IN THE LIFE! Sam Hobbs working for European Gold Medallist Jeanette Brakewell**



2.45am - My 3 alarms break into song simultaneously, waking me from a deep sleep. It's the morning of Sapey Horse Trials. As I make my way onto the yard just after 3am, I look up at the stars in the sky and smile to myself, as I imagine my friends stumbling into bed after a heavy night out, just as I'm about to start another day as one of Jeanette Brakewell's working pupils. Jeannette has just competed at the Blenheim Petplan European Eventing Championships, winning the team gold medal for Great Britain, for the fourth time. She is also reigning World silver medallist, and won team silver at the Olympics in Athens last year.

Kerry (Brook Staples' head girl) and I get the 6 horses ready, we muck them out and leave the yard at 4.30am with Brook and Jeanette. Having slept for the entire journey we arrive at Sapey just after 7am. Kerry is left to deal with the horses, whilst I accompany Jeanette and Brook around the course.

It must be extremely difficult for summer events to get the ground right, but the going was definitely on the firm side and so we made the decision not to run any cross country. I was disappointed because I love the thrill of going cross country - there's nothing quite like it. My heart sank at the thought of how much it was costing me to do a dressage test and show jumping round! Just under £70.00 for about 10 minutes of competition riding!! For me that's fifteen and a half hours of smiling sweetly and pouring pints in my local pub on a Tuesday night.

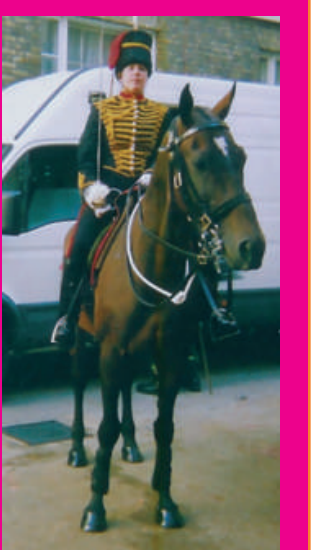


Never the less it wasn't a completely wasted trip, as I managed to improve my dressage significantly in the novice - after a bit of encouragement and advice from Jeanette in the warm up. My horse scored a 30.5 to get 3rd in his section. Hopefully this will stand us in good stead for our first intermediate (and hopefully qualification for Weston Park) in 2 months time.

So there's a quick insight into my life as a working pupil. We play hard, but work even harder, but I wouldn't change it for the world. Jeanette is absolutely brilliant and inspires me every single day. I really am living my dream.

**RUTH HANCOCK - FROM ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP TO THE RHA KING'S TROOP**

I started with the Royal Horse Artillery King's Troop after completing the Foundation and Advanced Apprenticeships with Stubbing Court Training. When I arrived at the King's Troop in April 2005 they got me into kit and working straight away. On the 2nd day I went on the Recruits Ride - which is something everyone has to do before they can ride on parade - it was good fun, but very tiring as we started at 5.30am and didn't get done until 10.00pm, I had to clean my boots, breeches, bliff my belt and clean tack ready for the next day. This daily routine lasted for about 10 days, and then we 'passed out'.



I then began riding on troop EX, which is a daily exercise for the horses - where you ride one and lead one on either side - we do this in and around the streets of London. We also have blanket EX, where we ride with just a blanket surcingle. That gives you a sore bum!! In May this year, I went to Windsor with the Troop, we stayed in Windsor Castle for 4 days where we were busy turning the kit and horses around ready for the next show the following day. I didn't ride in any of the shows, but hope to do so in the future. The Queen actually walked round to see us at Windsor, she didn't speak to me personally - but did observe me grooming!!

After Windsor I was put on a detachment ride, where you are taught to ride with a sword, and draw and return a sword - this was in preparation for the Queen's birthday parade. I rode as a Horse Holder - in the middle of the 3 horses at the back of our sub's gun. It took lots of practice to get it right - we even had early morning rehearsal where we were mounted at 3am.

I have been riding in draft parades - where we rehearse the drives - it's hard work, but really good fun galloping at top speed with a sword in your hand! I am a No.3 on the right hand side of the Horse Holder. When we drop the gun off, I have to help turn the gun, jump into the seat and pull the trigger! I then have about 7 seconds to vault back on my horse and sort my stirrups and reins - it's very exciting. I was involved in an all female sword guard for the Queen to commemorate the end of World War 2, and joined the Life Guards in August. The Kings Troop take over from the Household Cavalry - so I was on horse back outside Whitehall having my photograph taken by lots of tourists. I have also just passed my HGV Theory test.

I am having a fantastic time in the King's Troop, it's hard work, we usually work 7 days with 1 duty included so it has been a shock to the system. But it's getting easier as time goes on - and it's definitely worth it!!

**Welcome to.....**   

Welcome to all Apprentices and Employers now transferred to Stubbing Court Training Ltd. from the former Blacup Training Group. The Apprentices are based with employers in Yorkshire in competition yards, riding schools and livery yards. 

**LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!!!**


**Foundation Apprenticeship:**  
 Andrea Walker, Rhianna Harris,  
 Laura Buxton, Laura Kulczyckyji, Amanda Wood,  
 Kerry Hunter, Klara Robson, Kelly Moore,  
 Charlotte Armiger, Katie Walker, Adam Yeomans,  
 Michelle Frost, Laura Cundy, Louise Williams  
 and Nikita Packham

**Advanced Apprenticeship:**  
 Vicky Greenhough, Natalie Slater

**Key Skills External Test**  
**Level 1 Application of Number:**  
 Loiuise Williams and Ben Winfindale

**NVQ Level 2:** Cherine Gardner  
**NVQ Level 3:** Holly Bunford, Emma Cudworth



**WELCOME TO:**

Emma Beresford  
 Philippa Stubbs  
 Megan Brooks  
 Hannah Osborne  
 Katherine Lingard  
 Catherine Betts  
 Rosie Hardstaff  
 Laura Watson  
 Emma Connolly  
 Louise Moore

## ADAM WHITELAM - WORKING FOR MATTHEW WRIGHT

In July 2005 I started working for Matthew Wright, a top class international event rider. In September, Matthew and his own skewbald Park Pilot were part of the Great Britain squad competing at the Blenheim Petplan European Eventing Championships. They came 13th, individually, we were thrilled with the performance.

I went to Matthew's as I had decided I wanted to get some valuable knowledge working on an event yard. The yard is really well laid out with 46 stables all under cover. We also have a horsewalker, 2 outdoor schools, cross country schooling fences, a solarium and gallops. We usually have approx. 46 horses in, including 5 liveries, 2 hunters for Matthew's mum Jane (who whips-in for the Grove and Rufford Hunt), about 19 horses in for breaking and schooling, and 20 eventers from pre-novice to advanced international level. There are 9 staff, 4 of us live-in.

On a typical day we start at 7am. We feed, hay, turn out/bring in, put the first lot of horses on the walker, muck out, water, and tidy the yard. We then put the second lot on the walker then have breakfast about 8.30am. At 9am we change over horses in the field and bring the first ones in and put the second lot out. Matthew starts riding then, usually riding about 4 in the morning. I tack up the horses ready, do practice jumps if needed, wash off or groom each one after it is ridden and put on the walker to dry off. We skip out throughout the day. If we have an event the next day the lorry is also prepared during this time. At 12 we feed, hay, skip out, water and tidy up.

Lunch is 12.30 - 1pm. After lunch Matthew will ride about 3 horses, and I will do yard maintenance jobs, lunge or long-rein and help with youngsters being broken. All the tack is cleaned every day. At 3.30 we start the yards again, skipping out, water, hay, sweep everywhere, sweep the walker and re-sand (so the horses don't slip). We then turn out the last lot of horse who will stay out til 7am the next morning. At 5pm the horses are fed. Depending on the weather we might change rugs later on that night.

On an event day the lorry might not return til 11pm. When they get back we go onto the yard to sort the horses out - change rugs, remove equipment, unload and skip-out the lorry, and re-fill the lorry with water.



A couple of weeks after starting, I had the opportunity to go to a three day event at Thirlestane Castle, for the Scottish Championships, where I helped to look after 9 horses, tacking up for the Dressage, Show Jumping and the X-Country, this included putting practice fences up and walking horses off after they had finished the X-Country course. Whilst I was at the event I was up for about 5.30 in the morning to muck out, water and tack up, for Matthew to ride them first thing in the morning. During the season, Matthew may go to 3 events per week with up to 8 horses going to each one.

Now the event season has finished we are doing much more with youngsters for breaking and schooling, and the hunters. Overall, the most exceptional aspect of the job here is the

very high standards everything must be done to, and the standard of organisation. Everything is planned to the last detail with very strict timescales for 24 hours of every day. I'm enjoying every minute, and really appreciate what a great opportunity it is to work here. I'm learning something new every day!

## ☆☆☆☆ OFFER!!! ☆☆☆☆ CONGRATULATIONS!!! ☆☆☆☆

FREE CIEH Health & Safety & First Aid courses with Derby College for all SCT employers and their employees (19 or over).

Please phone Kelly Gibson on 01332 757570 to book your place.

To SCT trainers for achieving the Advanced Certificate in Coaching:

Georgie Barnes, Ann Hunter,  
Fiona Holton, Debbie Meakin,  
Maddy Moffett and Jeannine Smith

## LIFE AT BARLEYFIELDS EQUESTRIAN CENTRE!!!!



My name is Adam Yeomans and I wanted to share my experience of completing the Horse Care Apprenticeship with Stubbing Court Training. I found the course very enjoyable doing the practical training and theory side. The Apprenticeship offers a good variety of experience and training, if you want to gain an understanding of the specialist care required when working with horses - as well as achieving a recognised qualification.

I live and work at Barleyfields Equestrian (owned by Fiona & Robert Holton). We are a riding school and competition yard, we also offer livery. I really enjoy the job - we do get really busy as we have a superb indoor school, which means we can offer lessons throughout the year from 8am to 10pm at night. I normally finish around 5.30pm, but generally stay on at the yard because I love being with the horses and clients, and I always try to sit in and observe as many of the lessons as I can. The staff at Barleyfields are really great too! I have just completed the Apprenticeship and have decided to continue with Stubbing Court to do the Advanced Apprenticeship.

On my days off, I go to shows with Robert and his show horses. I have groomed for him at the Royal Show and numerous other high profile shows. Fiona and Robert have offered me more than just a job - they always try to give me a wide range of experiences and learning opportunities, on and away from the yard - as well as providing me with a home. Working with horses is a very demanding and physical job, but when you start to achieve and gain in confidence and ability, there are lots of rewards to be had. When Fiona and Robert go away, I get involved with other aspects of the business, such as dealing with clients, running the office, helping in the saddlery, and sometimes I even prepare dinner for me and the other live-in pupils!!

## VICKY GREENHOUGH - Perspective on the Apprenticeship Programmes



I work at a large riding school / livery. I chose to do an NVQ level 2 because I thought it was the best way for me to start my career in the equestrian world. I liked the idea of a work based training programme, as it meant no nerve-racking exams. Instead, there are regular assessments that suit me far better. I have always wanted to be a riding instructor and I enjoy the care side of working with horses too. If I had chosen to do my BHS stages exams straight away it would have entailed more theory and less hands-on work. Doing the NVQ has helped me enormously and I feel that in the long run having both my NVQs and BHS qualifications will make me more employable.

The NVQ 2 was enjoyable throughout - not too heavy on the paperwork - and I gained knowledge and experience, thus preparing me for my long-term goals. When I completed my level 2 I had to make a decision about where to go next. My boss Heather and yard manager Mandy were more than happy for me to stay on with them. I now have a large clientele and teach between 50 and 100 people a week. So, I decided the next step was to move on to do my Advanced Apprenticeship as it covers health care and the business side of running equestrian facilities, and will allow me to develop my skills as a supervisor. The AA is hard work but very rewarding. It is a big transition from level 2; the portfolio work has to be of an extremely high standard to demonstrate competence. Things have been made much easier for me by the excellent support offered by my employer and my assessor.

The AA gives me much more responsibility, which has helped my confidence. I really enjoy training the two level 2 students we have on the yard, watching them improve their skills and seeing their competence and confidence grow. I have enjoyed the extra opportunities, like taking part in the SkillHORSE competition with Ian Stark this year. The schooling techniques I learned there have helped with the horses that we have on the yard and dealing with my own horses.

I am currently head girl at my yard and I am acting manager every Friday, which is brilliant fun. This entails organising the day's routine for the horses, trainees and other instructors and dealing with any livery or school problems as they arise. I would not have known where to start before I did my NVQs. I now feel that when I have completed my AA I will be more than ready to start my BHS exams and, as my competence and confidence has grown so much, I will be more successful in the exam environment and hopefully reach my goal of being a riding instructor and yard manager.

DO YOU... want to contribute an article to the Newsletter??? We will award you with an SCT Rugby Shirt for sharing information or experiences!! If so contact Belinda on 01246 566193