

#### AMY HUNT - SUNSHINE TOUR WITH HK HORSES $\mathbf{0}$



HK team had a very busy 6 weeks at the Sunshine Tour with 21 horses!! The first week was all abo getting the horses exercised and gradually increasing the workload as required and getting their feeding plans in order. Throughout the first week we also built up the stable decoration and equipment. In the second week of the Tour I completed by first trot up. This is where we present the horses to a vet and they assess their health status is good enough for them to compete that week. They had to be done every week This year the Trot Ups were separated into different areas for different stable blocks to reduce risk of injuries and unnecessary spreading of horses around the grounds.

The Sunshine Tour has some amazing facilities: 19 arenas: 11 sand and 8 grass. They all vary in size and surface. They also have 3 lungeing areas and grazing paddock areas. The stables are split into lower stables and the higher ones. Each stable area has its own warehouse, cafe, spa, veterinary centre, treadmill and walker. There are also amazing grounds to hack in too. I was grooming for one of the HK riders Conor McMahon. Throughout the 6 weeks we had 4 young horses compete and 3 older horses. The younger horses typically compete Tuesdays to Thursdays and the older horses from Friday to Sunday. My horses jumped from 1.25m classes to 1.45 Grand Prix classes. I groomed for Conor and Fame in my first 145 GP class. I really enjoyed learning how to stud up for the first time and watching mine and the teams hard work pay off as they canter into the main ring all plaited and smart :)) They jumped 2 amazing in rounds and finished in second place Throughout the show I used lots of equipment to enhance the horses performance. The main ones being: the magnetic rug, which has multiple benefits to the horse's muscle warm up and muscle recovery, the Beamer rug which helps warm up the horse's back muscles before I put the saddle on, ice boots and clay on the horse's legs. One of my older horses also used a titanium hood which creates a natural calming effect to help him focus more on his task. I also spent lots of time maintaining the horses' appearance throughout the show, including clipping, trimming, keeping manes pulled and tidy, grooming and bathing.

Throughout the show there were very strict COVID-19 measures in place. We had to wear masks at all times! No social gatherings were allowed in any circumstances and when we were sitting to have lunch no more than 4 could be at the table at one time and we had to be socially distanced! If anyone was seen to be breaking these rules you were banned from the show immediately. Also in the first two weeks of us being at the Sunshine Tour the town we stayed at, Vejer de la Frontera, was on 2 weeks Lockdown. We had to have proof of our villa contract and proof of accreditation of the Sunshine Tour to be able to get in and out of the town. Also while at the show you had to provide a negative COVID test every 10 days to be allowed access. On the final week of the show news broke out about the EHV-1 - Equine Herpes Virus outbreak at the show in Valencia. To stop the risk of spreading, the Sunshine Tour stopped any new horses coming. In our yard we made sure that all buckets were cleaned thoroughly and that horses all had their own equipment. We made sure our hay was stored in our aisle so that no other horses could touch it while passing by. We also took our horses' temperatures twice a day to monitor their health. Then on the 2/3/21 we decided it would be safer to get the horses home before it made it's way to the show. So we made a plan and packed up and set off home. We had all the health papers filled out and completed by the vet at the show. We made sure all the horses' passports were checked and sorted and all documents needed were filled out. We also had to use stopovers for the journey back that were approved by the FEI. We also had to provide a COVID test at the ferry port in Calais before being able to board the ferry. When we arrived back in the UK we again had to provide negative Covid tests, and also had to go to Border Control to have all our documents checked and the horses had to be checked against their records to make sure everything was all safe and proper. Now that we are home we have to take two COVID tests 10 days apart and quarantine. We have disinfected everything and have disinfectant to dip boots in around the yard. We also make sure we don't wear any of the same clothes twice, everyday we place everything in the wash to be extra cautious. The horses have to be isolated for 28 days, temperatures taken twice a day and all records sent to the BEF to prove the health of the horses before they can attend any shows.

# COMING SOON! SCT 'APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR 2021' AWARD





Lycetts

Insurance Brokers

Final judging for the SCT 'Apprentice of the Year' Award will take place during the Masterclass on 9 July, at Parklands EC.

Apprentices have to be nominated by their employer, with the finalists being put through their paces during an interview with their portfolio, by a leading international rider, with the winner being awarded the prestigious title of 'SCT Apprentice of the Year 2021'.

To be nominated apprentices must have shown exceptional commitment to the Apprenticeship and their job, for example completed voluntary work experience, produced an article to promote their yard and the organisation they work for, and completed all modules on target. They must have demonstrated performance to world-class standards.

The victor will receive a £250.00 cash prize, very kindly provided by Lycetts Insurance. SCT really appreciate the generous support of Lycetts at this very difficult time.

Anna Goodley of Lycetts Insurance said: 'Lycetts Insurance Brokers are once again delighted to sponsor the 'Apprentice of the Year' Award for Stubbing Court Training. This award is the culmination of a year of hard work and professionalism, although we hope it marks only the start of a long and successful career! It has never been more important to recognise the dedication and commitment shown by those working in the horse industry, and Lycetts are delighted to support this initiative. Our congratulations extend not only to a very worthy winner of the award, but also to all those who have recently completed their apprenticeship, a huge 'well done' to you all'.

Nomination forms will be emailed shortly, to be emailed back to SCT by 24.6.2021. Obviously we will follow the Government guidance at the time re the Masterclass. Thank you.

#### WELCOME TO:

Alarna Webb, Grace Barber, Kerry Jameson, Paige Craggs, Sophie Shreeve, Mya Petitjean, Gemma Adams, Rosie Jones, Chloe McChrystal, Emily West, Maya Foster-Mills, Aimee Waite-Whittle, Daisy Buckley, Daisy Collyer, Jessica Gilby, Cameron Anderson, Angel Tomlinson, Louis Pern, Kacey McDougall, Jodie Morley, Erin McSloy

### LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!!

**Apprenticeship:** Francesca Brightwell, Charlotte Snow Advanced Apprenticeship: Luciana Randall, Phoebe Hughes

## FUNCTIONAL SKILLS EXTERNAL TESTS





#### **BEST PRACTICE IN TRAINING**





Ofsted inspections have found that training is most effective when it is carefully planned and structured; suited to the individual, their competence and experience; where the progress of learning is regularly checked; and the training is used to prepare the apprentice for assessment. Over many years, SCT has worked with Ofsted inspectors and leading international training advisers on the quality improvement of training delivery. They have visited yards to observe employers delivering Practical Skills training sessions with the aim of:

- Identifying and promoting best practice in training / coaching
- Ensuring consistent, high quality training for all apprentices
- Encouraging effective and efficient coaching to enable apprentices to progress and achieve
- Continuously improving the standards of apprentices' work
- Providing Professional Development for employers in Coaching

Examples of best practice that have been observed include: • Scheme of Work, Skillscheck and Action Plan used to plan, monitor and structure training, appropriate for the month, level and targets Clear structure to the session including introduction, objectives for the session, recap on the previous session, training activities, recap on what has been learnt and planning for the next session • Well organised, good planning and preparation, time allocated for the session, in the diary. Well-prepared resources including photos of world-class standards from magazines / internet • Well managed sessions that include excellent preparation and explanation to the learner of what is to be undertaken and achieved • Particularly good demonstrations and coaching to develop learner's knowledge and practical application • Sessions begin with establishing the current level of expertise and knowledge • Opportunities are used to develop Maths and English skills e.g feed calculations, measuring distances and sizes of fences, calculating timescales and costings • Training sessions used as preparation for assessment •Excellent working relationships, being purposeful, focused and based on trust • Targeted questioning and guidance on writing key learning points down and taking notes • Effective trainer questioning to extend learner understanding and check on learning throughout the session, with probing questioning relating to the job and experience • Use of work performance - strengths and areas for improvement - to focus attention to key areas that require further training • Sound practical knowledge and experience of the trainer, enthusiastic delivery, to challenge and inspire further learning and improvement • Accurate and up-to-date technical knowledge • Good demonstrations of the most efficient way to do the task with step-by-step explanations •

High regard for safety e.g use of suitable horse (size and temperament), clean and tidy work environment, attention to hygiene, risk assessment and PPE • Note-taking encouraged • Trainer gives timescales for all practical activities • Variety of teaching methods: demonstration, questioning, research, practical tasks under supervision • Very good rapport, relaxed and encouraging manner, praise given • Clear, constructive and encouraging feedback • At the end of the session the Skillscheck questions are used to check learning and record the training provided, and the apprentice is given homework to complete and bring back to the next session and provides a good link to what is to happen next • Session concluded with trainer and apprentice agreeing a plan for improving skills e.g. more practice, new targets for speed of work, new responsibility given

I really enjoyed my crazy experience at the Sunshine Tour 2021! I have learnt so much on travelling horses abroad, rules for FEI competitions, care of international showjumpers, grooming, COVID regulations, information on EHV-1 and what to do to avoid it. It has been an experience of a lifetime and I'm very grateful to Richard and Morgan for the opportunity. It was very difficult and challenging for the whole team at times but we all stuck together and got each other through it.



#### WATERFORD EQUESTRIAN - APPRENTICE VICTORIA SIMPSON







Waterford Equestrian is based about 4 miles out of the centre of Durham and boasts around 30 acres of land. Within this facility we have a cross country course which is available for hire and WATERFORD outdoor arena with show jumps. The COUESTRIAN hire all year round with the set price of £20 per horse, with this price you can spend as long on the course as you would like. The course has a range of jumps from 65cm up to some of the biggest techincal fences. Most of the jumps are built by my employer Jamie Atkinson, these are based on problems that have occurred to Jamie when competing at events. The course includes a well put together range of fences which includes a fantastic water complex that provides many different routes to accommodate all levels of riders. The course also includes combinations, drop fences, barrels, logs and gates etc. Jamie also provides clinics which range from showjumping to cross country. The techniques and exercises are all used by Jamie himself when he is riding his own horses at events. Within the showjumping clinics all distances and lines to fences are covered so that both rider and horse can improve confidence and performance ready to take to an event or take on in their riding. Another clinic that Jamie provides is the cross-country clinic, this clinic caters for all levels of riding with fences ranging from 65cm to high level, so with the range of fences there is something for everyone. Jamie also provides combined clinics with Will Murray, this includes a one hour jumping lesson with Jamie covering all the lines and distances that could be found eventing, and then a one hour cross country lesson with Will Murray, covering the combinations on the xc course. Also on the yard, Jamie provides competition livery for owners that want to enjoy the thrill of the eventing world. This gives the owners the opportunity to experience their horse competing with a top rider at a series of events. The horses get the full use of facilities at the vard.



