



STUBBING COURT TRAINING LTD.

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

TO ALL APPRENTICES, PARENTS & EMPLOYERS

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PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICES GET A TASTE OF WHAT SCT OFFERS...



Thirty young people, parents and teachers got a "taster" of what it means to be an SCT apprentice during the Masterclass on 4 April. The day also encompassed an exclusive SCT Masterclass with top British international showjumper William Whitaker, and the first "taster" session of the day involved watching William coach a group that comprised current apprentice Evie Revell, former SCT apprentice, HOYS and Royal International Horse Show champion Craig Kiddier, top producer and SCT employer Caroline Barnes and former SCT Apprentice of the Year Emily Hobson, herself now an employer. After lunch, the young people, parents and teachers met current Level 2 apprentice Laura Turner and found out more about what an equine apprenticeship with SCT - Britain's leading provider of apprentices to the equestrian industry - involves and its many advantages in establishing a solid, long-lasting career. They also met Craig Kiddier and Jo Burns Firth, who spoke to them from the employer's point of view, and current Level 3 apprentice Grace Houghton. Grace discussed the many, varied opportunities an SCT apprenticeship offers - which include attending the much-praised Masterclass Series of training opportunities with world-class coaches and riders - and the qualities needed to be successful in the equestrian world.



Alongside this, William Whitaker, a long-term supporter of SCT, gave Masterclass coaching sessions to eight groups of apprentices and employers of different levels of experience and ambition. "We had a great day - it was nice to see distinct improvements from previous Masterclass participants, and also to meet lots of new apprentices just starting out. As usual, there was a very high standard of turnout and enthusiastic apprentices and employers keen to learn and improve."



One attendee commented: "I loved seeing the excellent and highly effective training exercises delivered by William in such a nice and encouraging way." Giving young people starting out on their employment journey access to this sort of invaluable training is just one of the many benefits offered by SCT that enrich and inspire young people in seeking a lasting and well-rewarded career with horses. SCT has outstanding contacts with a vast range of employers, from the world's top riders and trainers to livery yards, rehab centres and studs. SCT's equine apprenticeships offer young people an outstanding chance to achieve the highest standards of horse care and horsemanship by learning from the best practitioners in the equestrian world.

RUBY THOMSON CROWNED WINNER OF THE SCT ENTERPRISE AWARD 2025!



The final judging of the SCT Enterprise Award 2025 took place during the Masterclass at Parklands EC yesterday. We were extremely privileged to have leading international showjumper, Team GB member for the European and World Championships, Gold medallist Junior and Young Rider European Championships and SCT employer William Whitaker to carry out the final judging. The finalists were Ruby Thomson (Hargate Equestrian Centre, Derby), Grace Houghton (Brook Farm Stables, Warrington) and Evie Revell (Cottagers Plot Equestrian, Grimsby). They had all produced a Powerpoint portfolio followed by an interview showing the work they had done with their employer on the Business Plan over the last four months, and



the contributions they had made to the business success. William said: 'The finalists were all of such a high standard, it was an extremely difficult decision to pick the winner. They had all made a huge effort and showed a massive commitment to the businesses they are employed with, as well as an impressive insight into what makes a business successful. It was very interesting to hear the differences between the types of yard and the comparisons between a riding school, a livery yard and a competition yard. The eventual winner was Ruby Thomson of Hargate EC near Derby. Ruby was very thorough in her interview, had clear ideas about the improvements she could make to help the business and then had put them into action'. Congratulations to Ruby for all her hard work, commitment to learning and business success and the great contributions she has made to support Hargate EC! Ruby received a £150.00 cash prize.

### TEAGEN CROWE: SPRINGFIELD HORSES



I am 9 months into my Level 2 apprenticeship with SCT, based at Springfield Irish Horses - a competition and producing yard - with Caroline and Steve Barnes.

The top three things I have enjoyed working at Springfield Horses are:

- Caring for the top show and hunt horses. Learning to care for top show and hunt horses is rewarding, as I have been allowed to learn various skills, from grooming and training techniques to understanding the nutrition, health, and physical conditioning that go into preparing a top-tier show or hunt horse.
- Watching the production of young horses. Since working at Springfield Horses, I have watched many young or green horses come in for schooling by either former SCT apprentice Craig Kiddier or Caroline Barnes. I have watched horses slowly being broken in and watched them train their sales/schooling liveries up to high levels.
- Getting to know new people. Working in the equine environments, I have enjoyed meeting new people with different experiences and skills. This has given me the opportunity to exchange knowledge, techniques, and advice, which has helped me grow and improve my skills.

The top three things I have learnt so far would be:

- Understanding different horses' body language. I have learnt that horses communicate a lot through their body language, and I have gained an appreciation for how horses show discomfort through their expressions and movements.
- Training techniques. I have gained valuable experience in training all types of horses, ranging from unbroken to top show horses, whether this be lungeing, long lining, breaking them in, or training up to high levels.
- Time management. Working at a professional yard requires managing multiple tasks at once, from feeding and mucking out to getting horses ready for exercise and maintaining the yard. I've learnt to prioritise tasks and be efficient in a busy, fast-paced environment.



## EVIE REVELL - WORK EXPERIENCE WITH SAYWELL EQUESTRIAN

Recently I completed work experience for three days at Saywell Equestrian showjumping and Rehabilitation Centre near Newark. This is a top class showjumping yard with a variety of horses from top level showjumpers to youngstock, they also have a Rehab centre with a water treadmill. I got to experience many things whilst being there such as: training off the yard, day-to-day jobs, the water treadmill and much more.

On day 1 of my work experience we went training to Arena UK. They took about 30 horses in the morning ranging from Grand Prix horses to upcoming youngsters and in the afternoon about 10-15 freshly broken in youngsters went for their first outing. The day started at 6:30am and we started by brushing off all the horses and putting their fleeces on, travel boots and tail guards. Once they were all ready around 6:50am we started to load the horses onto the three lorries and at 7:00am we left for Arena UK. They started straight away with jumping the horses, my main job was helping the Head Groom tack up the horses ready for the riders to jump them and helping put fences up and down. All the morning groups were done jumping by 1:00pm and we headed home, they did a straight swap over with the horses and got all the babies loaded and they went straight off back to Arena UK to ride those horses whilst I stayed back. It was really great watching some top-level showjumpers like Andrew Saywell and him explain to me what went wrong or what was really good about each horse.

Day 2 was a bit of a quieter day. Most of the horses had the day off due to jumping the day before. We started at 7:30am this day and we did the yard jobs such as haying, mucking out, turning out and we also did tack cleaning to much sure it was all still usable and clean for the next day. After lunch I was allowed a ride on a lovely schooling livery called Bob. Bob was a 17HH chestnut gelding and I started off by schooling him to make sure he was all warmed up and supple, then Andrew came out and gave me a short jumping lesson on him. We worked on trying to get him back to me in between fences by using my seat and not my reins. He was a really great ride. After riding Bob, I was able to watch a small 14.2HH Connemara called Max go on the aqua treadmill, this was a great opportunity for me as I was wanting to get involved with the Rehab side and see how it all works. It helps them build muscle more evenly and helps with fitness. We ended the day by rugging up horses, and haying them for the night.

Day 3 was back to being busy as they had all the horses to ride, this time I was allowed to help ride a few more of them. I rode Paddy who was a 7 year old and we were working on trying to shorten his canter so then he can be more uphill, Stony a 4 year old who was just having a schooling session to build muscle so we did a lot of canter work to try to strengthen his canter, and then Bob who I was allowed to jump with Andrew again and whilst still trying to regain Bob by using my seat after the jumps but also trying to get him to land on the correct leg. I then was able to help with the aqua treadmill again and this time we had Amy on and she was a little bit unsure at first but soon got the hang of it, she was on there to try to regain more fitness and strength after coming back from an injury.

I would highly recommend doing work experience at a different yard to where you are currently at as it gives you an insight into other roles, how other yards run and could open up so many more different opportunities. It was an amazing experience, I learnt a lot and now it has opened my mind up to possibly being a competition groom as well as I loved making sure the horses were all cleaned before being ridden and caring for them after their work.



## CAITLIN WILSON...THORNBERRY ANIMAL SANCTUARY



Thornberry Animal Sanctuary is a rescue centre based in South Yorkshire. Founded in 1988, and has since rescued thousands of horses, goats and pigs at the farm at Ravenfield. Thornberry Animal Sanctuary is an animal rescue welfare registered charity, caring for and rehoming horses, pigs, goats, and sheep. Animals that are unable to be rehomed remain permanently with us for the rest of their lives. No animals are put to sleep unless it's to end their suffering or the animal has become too dangerous.



At Thornberry Animal Sanctuary we take in horses with all different backgrounds which can affect their working levels. That is why at Thornberry we work with the horses individually, allowing them to progress at their own pace, ensuring that all the work that is done with the horses is successful and leaves a positive experience for them, this all goes into preparation to find these horses a forever home as well as being able to find out the horses' limits so that we can begin to form a bond of trust with them.

This yard also allows everybody the opportunity to experience the yard life through volunteering, giving them free access to learn about the animals up at the farm and gives everyone who volunteers an amazing work experience which can also be used towards education or job applications.

## ESME TUCKER-McAULEY: MY FIRST BE EVENT!



Me and Sabrina went to our first BE event on the 23 March competing in the BE80 at Northallerton. All the training I've been doing at home with Jeanette Brakewell and Katy Mousdale has made this experience possible for me. Sabrina and I managed a score of 36% in our dressage, room for improvement but still amazing. We also had a clear in the showjumping and cross country with a few time faults cross country which left us in 8th place out of 26 competitors. The atmosphere was amazing and Sabrina and I have definitely got the eventing bug and can't wait to get out to our next competition!



## 1 DAY EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK COURSE

On Tuesday 13 May 2025 9.30 - 4pm, at Pickering Grange Equestrian, Ellistown, Coalville LE67 1EZ. Special rate of £70 per person.

Please email [info@stubbingcourtraining.com](mailto:info@stubbingcourtraining.com) to book.

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE.



## LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!

Apprenticeship: *Lucie White, Beth Peach, Maddison Maddocks*

Advanced Apprenticeship: *Cawley Bassford, Abigail Kenyon, Georgia Smith*

## FUNCTIONAL SKILLS EXTERNAL TESTS

Mathematics 2: *Laura Turner*

## WELCOME TO:

Joseph Thomas, Emily Hiley, Kadie Cooper, Charlotte Lane, Luke Marsh, Charlotte Smith, Lila Ward, Lucy Arbon, Megan Appleyard, Ethan Russell, Charlotte Murphy, Ashleigh-Ann Woolley, Sarah Powell, Cameron Matthews, Katy Heffernan.

