



STUBBING COURT TRAINING LTD.

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

TO ALL APPRENTICES, PARENTS & EMPLOYERS

[www.stubbingcourtraining.com](http://www.stubbingcourtraining.com)



## A 'TASTE' OF SCT APPRENTICESHIP FROM A SHOWJUMPING LEGEND



If you - or a person you know - are thinking about working in the equestrian world, there's no better route to a well-rewarded, interesting and long-lasting career than through an equine Apprenticeship with Stubbing Court Training Ltd. International showjumping star and Team GBR member William Whitaker knows this well - he is an SCT employer and a long time supporter of SCT. William took time out of his very busy schedule to give an exclusive Masterclass to SCT apprentices and employers on Friday 17 April at Parklands EC, Sheffield. William said: "We had an enjoyable and productive day. Riders were keen to learn, enthusiastic and engaged in the sessions and the exercises we were using." Apprentice Evie Goodman said: "The best thing was gaining experience from such a top-class rider and coach."



While seven groups benefited from his superb coaching, SCT also hosted a Taster Day for prospective apprentices at the same time. Fifteen young people interested in careers in the horse world attended to learn about the many benefits of undertaking an Apprenticeship, hosted by SCT Coach and former apprentice Niamh Horobin. They watched a Masterclass with William - the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by the very best in the world - and met current Level 3 Apprentice Eve Jessop. From Eve they received her invaluable insight on:

- Careers guidance: an overview of working with horses, the importance of gaining work experience as early as possible
- The qualities you need to be successful in the horse industry
- Top tips to be successful: take opportunities, ask questions, ask for feedback, meet targets, improve standards!



Former SCT Apprentice of the Year winner Emily Hobson spoke to the group from the perspective of an employer of apprentices, explaining the qualities needed to be successful, what they will learn on the way and how to achieve a Distinction grade in this very well-respected qualification, which allows you to earn while you learn and train in a practical, hands-on manner. Finally, SCT Coach Niamh Horobin explained what an Apprenticeship involves, how to go about it and what is expected of apprentices. Huge thanks to everyone for their support and involvement!



## HOPE SPATCHER: APPRENTICESHIP WITH MACHIN EVENT YARD

We compete and train in dressage, showjumping, team chasing and eventing, based near Melton Mowbray. Boogie Machin is also very well known for retraining racehorses for dressage and eventing up the levels all the way to Advanced Medium dressage and 2-star eventing! We have 14 horses on the yard, 5 liveries and the rest being owners' horses or Boogie's horses. My favourite parts are the amazing hacking that we have which means we can get the horses fit ready for the season, the cross country fences to keep it fresh in their heads, and owners trusting me to look after the horses on full livery.

### Top 3 things I've learnt so far:

- How to longline my 4-year-old youngster using the correct procedure
- How to pull a horse's mane to competition standard
- Learning how to lead a horse for a lesson

### Top 3 things I've enjoyed so far:

- Working with the young horses. Boogie has shown me how to back and ride away a young horse and the steps to progress them
- Last week we had TopSpec to come and weigh the horses and check their diets which was very interesting
- We had the vet to give their yearly flu jabs which was interesting learning about what they need and why

I have also been grooming at shows for Boogie. We have been to Area Festivals with her ROR Crunchie in the Medium and to local shows to get her last qualifying scores at Advanced Medium and Medium. I am really grateful for this opportunity and I'm really enjoying learning new things every day!

### What's coming up?

Boogie has started running Tetrathlon training recently for the Belvoir Pony Club. We had the first rally last week and all the kids loved the bean bag throwing and running. Boogie also regularly runs ROR clinics for anyone needing help with their racehorses.



## WELCOME TO:



Leigh Goodwin, Ella Appleyard, Damzon Reeve, Lily Higgins, Gypsy Silver, Scarlet Wilkes, Holly Stone, Matilda Fairbrother, Miley Elliott, Errin Bowles, Lucie Richardson, Charlotte Kelly, Charlotte Padfield, Shelby Cook.



## LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!

L2 Equine Groom: Charlotte Lane, Ruby Fox, Shaye Russell

Distinction: Shaye Russell

L3 Senior Equine Groom: Lila Ward

## FUNCTIONAL SKILLS EXTERNAL TESTS

Mathematics Level 1: Paige Gray

Mathematics Level 2: Caitlin Wilson, Beth Mitchell

English Level 2: Lacey Frith, Shaye Russell, Ashleigh-Ann Woolley

Digital Functional Skills: Luke Marsh



## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! WINNING WAYS SEMINAR

On Monday 19 October 2026, SCT's highly regarded "Winning Ways" seminar will be held at Aston Hall near Sheffield (down the road from Parklands EC!). This Seminar aims to give a privileged insight into best practice to support equine businesses, world class coaching techniques and horse management at the highest level. We have the support and involvement of world class speakers and topics will include:

- Making horses into a successful business - Morgan Kent, HK Horses
- Reducing your insurance costs - Anna Goodley: Lycetts Insurance
- What makes exceptional Coaching? - Team GB Olympic Coach Christopher Bartle
- Attention to detail - Jack and Michael Whitaker's Supergroom Paul Collier



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? MIA KING WITH MICHAEL WHITAKER



I completed my Level 3 Apprenticeship with Sam Hobbs Eventing in September 2025, gaining a Distinction. Then through Stubbing Court Training I was given the opportunity to work alongside Michael and Jack Whitaker. I began working at the yard full time in January 2026 and over the last few months have been given more roles of responsibility. So far I have been given the opportunity to groom at some local shows but the most recent show I went to was Lier in Belgium with Michael, where I went with Michael for 3 weeks with 4 of our horses.



As it was my first time grooming at an international show I was quite nervous and didn't know what to expect, however I met some lovely people along the way who were extremely helpful and filled me with confidence. The horses we took were particularly green at this level however over the 3 weeks they all improved massively with 2 of them jumping in their first ever World Ranking classes! It was lovely to watch the horses come on in confidence over the time and it was a pleasure to be able to learn from Michael. Some of my roles and responsibilities were

- the general responsibilities for the horses' welfare
- timekeeping and ensuring everything was organised
- ensuring that the horses were in top condition to go out and compete



The top 3 things I learnt whilst being away were:

1. How to work calmly, professionally and efficiently under pressure
2. The value of communication and organisation
3. How to manage and care for competition horses whilst away from home



We are now back at home just in time for the foaling season where we have a good few mares ready to foal, and some who already have.

From my experience, my top tips to success would be to work hard, be open to learning and say yes to any opportunity that's given to you even if it might seem challenging. The skills you will take from those opportunities will stay with you and will shape your future.

## ELLA APLEYARD - APPRENTICESHIP WITH HK HORSES



Over the past couple of months of working as an apprentice with HK Horses, every day has been different, and I feel like I am constantly learning something new. Whether it is improving my practical skills on the yard or even learning more about horse care. It's a very valuable experience.

A typical day usually starts with feeding, haying and mucking out which takes us up to breakfast. After that, the yard gets much busier as the riders arrive and a lot of the day is spent getting horses ready, putting them on the walker or treadmill, and making sure everything is running smoothly. There is always something to be getting on with, from skipping out stables to helping wherever needed while horses are being worked. We hay again at midday, and the work continues until the afternoon before everything comes back in, where we prepare the stables for the night, make sure the beds are clean and comfortable. Later in the day we do the final hay round and evening feeds, where I sometimes help prepare and give out feeds, which has helped me learn more about the different needs of each horse. It's not just the routine jobs either, there's always something different to do, whether that's cleaning and tidying, sweeping, bathing horses or loose schooling. Bathing is something I especially enjoy and I'll always volunteer when there are horses that need doing. It's also really nice to get to know the horses individually and understanding the different personalities they each have.

One of the highlights for me so far was having the opportunity, even while I was on trial, to go to Arena UK for four days. We took around 20 horses, and it was a really valuable experience that helped me build my confidence, especially working under pressure and making sure everything was prepared to high standards. Most of my time was spent at the stables getting horses ready, but I also had the chance to watch some of the classes which made it even more rewarding.

The atmosphere in the yard is also something that really stands out. Everyone is friendly and supportive, and I never feel worried about asking for help if I need it. It's a busy, hard-working environment but everyone is working towards the same goal, which makes it a really positive place to be. I've also had the chance to meet different people such as vets, physios and the farrier, and it's been really interesting to learn from them and see how each horse is treated differently depending on their different needs. Overall, I feel really lucky to be in this role. It's a physically demanding job with long days, but it's also really rewarding and I genuinely enjoy being part of it. I'm learning every day, gaining confidence and I'm excited to keep improving as I continue my apprenticeship.



## 1 DAY EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK

On Monday 8 June 2026 9.30 - 4pm at Moorhouse E.C., Gap Farm, Moorhouse, DONCASTER DN6 7HA.

Special rate of £70 per person.

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

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE.

