



STUBBING COURT TRAINING LTD.

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

TO ALL APPRENTICES, PARENTS & EMPLOYERS

www.stubbingcourtraining.com



COMING SOON FOR 2026....



Stubbing Court Training Ltd has an exceptional variety of exclusive opportunities to offer its apprentices and employers in 2026! Its celebrated Masterclass Series, which gives apprentices and employers the chance to learn directly from the very best coaches and riders in the world, kicks off on Friday 17 April at Parklands EC, Sheffield with leading international showjumper and SCT employer William Whitaker. William's achievements include being a member of Team GB at the World Equestrian Games and European Championships, with numerous prestigious wins around the world including the Hickstead Derby; Olympia, Mechelen and Stuttgart World Cup qualifiers, Olympia Puissance and the Sunshine Tour Grand Prix, and gold medallist at the Young Riders and Junior European Championships.

On Wednesday 29 April, SCT's highly regarded "Winning Ways" seminar returns in 2026 at Aston Hall near Sheffield (down the road from Parklands EC!). The Seminar aims to give a privileged insight into best practice to support equine businesses within the current economic and horse industry pressures. We are privileged to 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 an exceptional Apprenticeship? - Peter Stacey, former Ofsted inspector
- Best Practice Update on Health and Safety and Employment Law - Peninsula

On Friday 12 June, Defender Bramham International Horse Trials will host the final judging of the SCT Enterprise Award, which rewards SCT apprentices who contribute to the success of the organisation by which they are employed. The Enterprise Award is very kindly sponsored by Lycetts Insurance.

There is another very special Masterclass scheduled for Tuesday 14 July at Pickering Grange Equestrian, with world-renowned multiple Gold-medal winning Olympic coach Chris Bartle, trainer of the senior British eventing team and former Badminton winner and Olympian. The SCT 'Apprentice of the Year' final judging will also take place that day, with judging by Anna Goodley and Chris Bartle, with a £200 cash prize for the winner! To be nominated apprentices must have shown exceptional commitment to the Apprenticeship and their job, for example completed work experience, written articles to promote their yard and Apprenticeships and completed all modules on target. They must have demonstrated performance to world-class standards.

Anna Goodley of Lycetts, sponsors of the Award, said: 'Lycetts are proud to sponsor the 2026 'Apprentice of the Year' Award. Once again Stubbing Court Training Ltd are recognising and rewarding their best apprentices, and Lycetts are very proud to be associated with this initiative. Attracting good grooms and riders in horse sport is crucial, and these apprentices are getting the very best start to their careers'.



## INTRODUCING OUR NOMINEES FOR THE SCT ENTERPRISE AWARD 2026...

Stubbing Court Training Ltd is delighted to introduce the three nominees for its prestigious 2026 Enterprise Award who have been nominated to take part, with the aim of reaching the final judging by Lycetts Insurance Director Anna Goodley at Bramham International Horse Trials on 12 June. The winner must have contributed to at least one of the key criteria for the organisation they are employed by: • Promotion/communication • Management systems/procedures • Training and developing others • Finance/Fundraising/sponsorship • Improving facilities/equipment/services. Each nominee is working on aspects of the Business Plan with their employer, putting together their Enterprise Award portfolio. The winner will receive a £150 cash prize!

**AMELIA GARBUTT: BRIDGEFIELD STABLES** - Rebuilding, Developing, Giving back Bridgefield Stables is a friendly, community-focused equestrian yard where I am currently completing my apprenticeship through Stubbing Court Training. The business has demonstrated resilience and determination following a devastating fire at the stables in December 2022, which caused significant disruption and damage. As part of my apprenticeship, I am working closely with my employer on several areas of the business plan, focusing on business development, promotion, sustainability and community engagement. A key area of improvement is the planned transformation of an existing concrete area into a small petting farm. This development aims to create a safe, calm and inclusive environment to support autistic children, offering positive, sensory-based experiences with animals. Bridgefield Stables is also in the process of registering as a Community Interest Company (CIC). This will allow the business to apply for funding and grants to support under-privileged children and broaden access to animal-assisted activities, education and therapeutic experiences. Through my apprenticeship, I am gaining valuable hands-on experiences while contributing to meaningful projects that promote inclusion, recovery, and long-term growth. Bridgefield Stables continues to move forwards with a strong commitment to rebuilding, supporting the local community, and creating positive opportunities for future generations.



**EVE JESSOP: MOORHOUSE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE** - We are a full livery yard with schooling livery, onsite competitions and an onsite instructor. Our facilities host lots of opportunities to better our horses' welfare. We have a large indoor school with schooling mirrors, a small arena next door, often used as a warm up. We have a wash bay with hot shower and solarium, a lunge pen for lunging and gradual turn out for rehab, field turn out, stabling and an onsite cafe and viewing area when competitions are held. We often host competitions, clinics and lessons and I plan to promote these opportunities and the facilities we have to hire. How will I do this? Through social media and marketing... Social media will play a key role as I will use this as a platform to advertise our facilities and promote competitions. I plan to tag and involve sponsors in these posts and equally promote their business in return for them hopefully sharing the posts I have created. I will research into similar existing accounts to see what is currently trending to gain engagement on our own social media platforms. Additionally, I will look into ways to further utilise a website for promotion of the business.



**ISABELLA HOLMES: NEWARK EQUESTRIAN** - I am proud to have received an Enterprise Award nomination for my project at Newark Equestrian, a small and friendly riding school and livery yard home to around 37 horses and ponies that cater for riders of all ages and abilities. The focus of my Award is to improve the quality of livery services while placing horse welfare at the centre of everything we do. One key part of the project is introducing more engaging and varied exercises for horses during their rides. These fun, structured activities will help prevent boredom while encouraging correct way of going, balance and strength. By working the horses more effectively and thoughtfully, they will build muscle properly, improve their fitness, and maintain better long-term soundness and well being. Alongside this, the project includes the creation of a clear livery Code of Conduct. This will set standards for care, behaviour and yard responsibilities, ensuring that horses, equipment, and facilities are consistently looked after. The code will also help promote respect, safety and shared responsibility among liveries and staff. Overall, this Award aims to enhance daily routines at Newark Equestrian, support horse welfare, and create a positive, professional environment that benefits both horses and riders alike.



# BETH MITCHELL: APPRENTICESHIP WITH HUNTERS ★★

I am doing my Level 2 Apprenticeship at Boiling Wells Farm, which is a competition and hunting yard in Lincolnshire and holds 15 working horses, 3 of which are event horses, and 2 who are being broken in. The other 10 horses are for hunting. The yard is a quiet yard, with 4 people working here, 2 of whom are full time, and the other 2 are freelance grooms.

We hold lots of events throughout the year, such as Barbecues. This attracts people from the hunting field and makes everyone feel welcome which is beneficial to promote the yard, as then more people will see what we do here. The owners of the yard hold events like this at their house and yard and so everyone is able to see the work that goes in. We also hold hunt meets here and this draws in the hunting community and we take lots of photographs of the horses and riders and followers and publish them on our Facebook page. I am lucky to work here, it has fantastic facilities and is all undercover, so when the weather is bad, we don't have to be out working in it. We have lots of land to ride on and hack round too.

We hunt and take hunting horses twice a week during the season. The hunting season starts in October and lasts through the winter. Riders follow hounds tracking a live or artificial scent trail. A group of riders follow the Master of Foxhounds (MFH) and hounds. The meet is the gathering point before the hunt begins, which is usually a social occasion. Our horses need to be fit, well trained and able to navigate varied terrain and fences. Horse and rider need to be well turned out and turning horses out to a high standard is one of my main jobs. We have to be really organised and keep all the tack clean and tidy.



## EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK COURSE

On Tuesday 12 May 2026 9.30 - 4pm, at Pickering Grange Equestrian, Ellistown, Coalville LE67 1EZ.

Special rate of £70 per person.  
Please email [info@stubbingscourtraining.com](mailto:info@stubbingscourtraining.com) to book.  
LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE.

## LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!

English Level 1: Paige Gray, Madison Ashford,  
Amelia McKenzie-Garbutt

English Level 2: Ellie-May Heeps  
L2 Equine Groom: Lola Carpenter

Level 3 Senior Equine Groom Distinction: Charlie Needle

## WELCOME TO:

Lucy Walker, Paige Freeman, Lily Parrish-West,  
Caitlin Morrison, Thea Rose Achilleos, Emma James.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ... NIAMH HOROBIN... ★★

I started riding when I was 9 years old. I am very lucky that my parents have always been supportive and encouraged my career with horses. I started working with horses at the age of 14, where I had a weekend job working for Jane Portas in Chesterfield, mucking out stables. I also took a Level 2 Equine college course while I was at school.



After I left school in 2016, I was certain that I wanted to work in the equine industry, and that's when I started looking for an apprenticeship. I saw that Stubbing Court Training had a vacancy and applied. I knew I wanted to be hands-on with horses and work at the same time as training so I felt that was the best way forward rather than college.

I completed my Level 2 and Level 3 Apprenticeships with Belinda Turner at SCT. Throughout my apprenticeship, I learnt how to look after horses to the highest standard, as well as many new skills along the way. Working at SCT helped my confidence massively, as we always had Masterclasses, Seminars and Induction days running. I was given lots of opportunities and made sure to take up every one of them! I regularly went to shows, including stay-away shows. Some of the venues I visited were Beaver Hall, Arena UK, Epworth, Hargate, Speetley EC, Moorhouse, Sykehouse, Great Yorkshire, Field House and Burghley. I also helped set up Chatsworth International Horse Trials for several years running, completed work experience with top showing producer Edward Young (including a day at Chatsworth HOYS qualifiers), and spent a few days at the Sunshine Tour in Spain with HK Horses!

### Top 3 Things I Learnt

- How to plait and prepare horses for presentation.
- How to clip horses and the reasons for clipping.
- How to look after horses to the highest standards and the importance of doing so.

### Top 3 Things I Enjoyed

- Seeing the horses I prepared for shows compete in their classes.
- The opportunities to ride at Masterclasses with Matthew Sampson, Chris Bartle and Joe Whitaker, regularly attend shows, help set up Chatsworth Horse Trials, work experience with Edward Young and HK Horses
- Learning new skills and using them at work.

### Where Am I Now?

After my apprenticeship, I went on to work at a hunting yard for a year. After I had done that my parents had a DIY livery yard which we decided to expand to offer part and full livery. I spent five years looking after 20 horses daily, whilst also working a few hours at SCT. Since October 2024, I have been training apprentices, Study Programme learners and work experience students on how to look after the ponies, ensuring they are in top condition, help to exercise them and clip and prepare for shows. I also work in the office, focusing on new starts, Induction Days, visiting schools, speaking to applicants and helping to prepare for Masterclasses and events. I have completed qualifications in Health and Safety, First Aid, Safeguarding, the Prevent Duty and had training on supporting Maths and English. I'm also training to be a Coach, where I go out to check apprentices work, help them to improve standards and knowledge of horse care, gather evidence for their portfolios, and prepare them for their End Point Assessments.



### Future Plans

To gain my Coaching qualification, continue taking opportunities, support apprentices with their careers, encourage people to start a career within the horse industry, take every opportunity that comes my way, and keep expanding my knowledge!

### Top Tips for Success

- Take every opportunity you are given
- Gain as much work experience as possible
- Be hardworking, flexible and reliable
- Ask for feedback so you know how you can improve
- Most importantly, enjoy and make the most of every minute!