

## **RUBY HURD WINS SCT APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR!**



Lycetts

Ruby Hurd was crowned Stubbing Court Training Ltd (SCT)'s Apprentice of the Year 2023 on 3 July. The final judging for this prestigious award took place during a Masterclass by Chris Bartle - coach to the senior British eventing team, former Badminton winner and dressage Olympian - at Pickering Grange EC, Leics. Ruby, 18, is apprentice for BDA Equestrian near Sleaford. She and fellow Apprentice of the Year finalist Alissa Jackson, from Alderwood Stables near Doncaster, were nominated by their employers and then put through their paces with Chris Bartle and during an interview with Anna Goodley, director of Lycetts Insurance. To be nominated for the Apprentice of the Year final, apprentices have shown exceptional commitment to the apprenticeship and their job, such as having completed voluntary 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. Ruby said: "I am absolutely delighted to have won the title of SCT's Apprentice of the Year 2023! The final judging was during a fantastic Masterclass day run superbly well by Belinda Turner and her team at Stubbing Court Training. I really enjoyed learning from the

Olympic coach Chris Bartle and picked up numerous great things to take away to work on. I will be forever thankful to SCT for helping me to further myself in my career. I have been lucky enough to be able to visit a few different world-class competition yards throughout my apprenticeship and been able to learn so many new things, from the health side of the care of competition horses to understanding what it takes behind the scenes to run a business in the equine industry, which I am aspiring to be able to achieve. Thankfully my apprenticeship with SCT and new contacts I have been able to make are helping me fulfil this. I look forward to the rest of my time with SCT and cannot wait for the exciting opportunities that they give us." Ruby added that her mantra has become: "Learn from everybody, copy no one and be the best version of yourself."



Chris, who had flown back from managing the British eventing team in the Nations Cup competition at Aachen, Germany, to coach SCT apprentices and their employers of varying degrees of experience and ambition at Pickering Grange, said: "Having been involved for many years with SCT's Apprenticeship scheme, it is very gratifying to see the enthusiasm of employers and apprentices and to see them learn and progress. I very much enjoyed seeing their enthusiasm and willingness to learn, and it was great to see the improvement within each session because of their engagement and aptitude.

Ruby received a cash prize of £200 kindly provided by Lycetts, to whom SCT are very grateful for their continued support and generosity. Anna Goodley of Lycetts said: "Lycetts are proud to sponsor the 2023 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." SCT also really appreciate the support of everyone who attended and Pickering Grange Equestrian for the use of their superb facilities.

#### **CHARLOTTE BERRY - GROOMING AT MY FIRST INTERNATIONAL SHOW!**



have worked at HK Horses, with Morgan Kent and Richard Howley for 8 months. They are a show jumping yard which produces high quality competition horses. The horses range from foals and broodmares to Grand Prix horses.

In May I had the opportunity to work at my first 4\*, which was the Montefalco 4\* in Italy. We took 5 horses that Richard jumped, starting at 1.35 and went up to the Grand Prix. My jobs included mucking out the horses morning and evening, making evening feeds, making sure that they always had hay and water, making sure that their non ridden exercise such as lungeing and hand walking was done and making sure that the horses were bathed and that they went to the ring looking well turned out.

When I was at Le Lame, I learnt a lot. Ranging from the after care of the horses after they had jumped, e.g. bandaging and feet packing, to how the collecting ring works. I learnt that every rider has a different way of warming up their horse and this can also change depending

on the horse that Richard was jumping. I also learnt many different skills and tips from the other grooms that were out there with me which I have been able to bring home to make the horses that are going to local shows look better. I would say that I enjoyed being at the ring the most at Le Lame because I felt as though that is where I learnt the most and got most involved with the horses. It was also where I got to get one-on-one advice from Richard!

# **KING'S TROOP VISIT - CHATSWORTH COUNTRY FAIR**



As part of our aim to promote career opportunities following the Advanced Apprenticeship we have organised a visit to The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery during their stay at Chatsworth Country Fair on Friday 1 September 2023, to enable easier access for apprentices from the East Midlands and Yorkshire. The day is designed to give an insight into the ceremonial aspects of the British Army and to help you develop an understanding of the qualities required of a Mounted Gunner.

Each year the The King's Troop recruits people, 18 years and over, as farriers, saddlers, tailors, riding instructors and soldiers. All successful applicants become soldiers, completing Basic Training, followed by 14 weeks artillery training, and are then based at Woolwich as a Mounted Gunner. The King's Troop is currently actively recruiting and seeks mature, responsible and reliable people with a high level of initiative and attention to detail. Applicants that have completed their Apprenticeship and worked full time employed with horses will have a significant advantage in recruitment.

The visit will include the chance to watch a performance of the world famous Musical Drive as well a tour of the stabling to give a chance of learning about the preparation carried out to horses, tack, equipment and the guns for a parade. You will also be able to ask questions of all Military staff and ceremonial Gunners. Please email info@stubbingcourttraining.com by 18 August if you would like more information and are keen to join the visit. Thank you

#### WELCOME TO:

Evie Robson, Poppy Archer, Evie Revell, Ruby Thomson, Leah Brant, Isla Gordon, Shave Russell, Annabel Healy, Alleasha Fletcher, Harvey Cartledge, Hazel Cunningham, Kaye Smith, Connie Goodlad, James Craggs, Abigail Kenyon, Grace Houghton, Samuel Parsons, Harrison Straw, Rosie Farragher, Drew Knowles, Ella Dudley, Olivia Edginton, Megan Nielsen,





#### DANIEL BAILEY: REYNOLDS EQUESTRIAN





am a level 3 Apprentice with Reynolds Equestrian. Reynolds Equestrian produce top class show horses. They have them from being young and bring them on gradually until they are competing at HOYS and RIHS. It is really interesting schooling the horses ready for the show ring, we lunge them, school them in a ménage, take them for hacks and take them to various venues for them to acclimatise to seeing new surroundings. All the horses are schooled differently according to their individual needs.

Simon teaches me and explains what we need to do to get the horses ready for the show ring. Natalie is brilliant at tips on turnout and plaiting ready for the show ring, so she is giving me lots of useful tips on how to turn out horses for the show ring. We attend shows most weekends. The youngsters compete in the novice classes to get them used to the show ring and having different judges riding them. The older horses compete in the RIHS and HOYS qualifiers as this is the ultimate goal for all of them. We are competing at county shows which is a super opportunity for me to see all the top class horses in the country competing together.

The day before a show we bath them and make sure they are all trimmed up ready for the show. We clean the tack and check the lorry is packed with all the essential equipment. We also check what time our classes are and how long it takes to travel, so we know what time we need to leave. When we arrive at the show we find out where the ring is and collect back numbers from the secretary. We find out how the classes are proceeding so we know how long to our class. Each horse is different, some need a lot of warming up and some don't. This is the art of working out each horse's needs. We need to be ready near the ring before our class starts with the grooming bag.

At Staffordshire County Show Simon competed on his heavyweight hunter Bowland Jasper (Jasper) in a HOYS gualifier, he also had his middleweight hunter Under Attack (Harry) for the HOYS qualifier. He won on the middleweight and came second on the heavyweight which was fantastic. Simon had them both in the Championship and asked me to take the heavyweight in the Championship for him, which was such a fantastic opportunity to ride in the main ring at a county show with such a lovely horse. He looked after me so well and we had an amazing gallop. Even better, Simon came Reserve Champion on the middleweight, what a brilliant day. It was fantastic that Simon and Natalie gave me the opportunity to ride Jasper in the Championship, I felt very privileged. Being an apprentice at Reynolds Equestrian has given me more opportunities that I could ever imagine.

### LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!!

Advanced Apprenticeship: Amy Critchlow, Owen Porter, Megan Green, Lily Robinson-Holford

Apprenticeship: Mitchell Thomson-Wyer, Imogen Percival, Saffron Faulder, Frances Oliver, Jade Wilkinson, Abigail Putland, Jessica Pywell, Courtney Smith

> FUNCTIONAL SKILLS EXTERNAL TESTS Mathematics Level 2: Sophie Clark, Madison Bigley



### MIA ALLISON - GROOMING AT MY FIRST INTERNATIONAL SHOW!



My name is Mia and I have worked at Hurst Farm working for William and James Whitaker for 6 months now. They have around 70 horses ranging from Grand Prix horses to brood mares. They also have a lot of young horses that at the moment are living on the moors, and 3 stallions which compete internationally. There are about 25 horses which are in full work and competing, ranging from starting at 1.10 and go all the way up to the top level. Will also has a Derby horse who also jumps the Puissance wall.

In April I did my first 2\* international stay away show at Chard. We took 9 horses between Will and Jim and they started jumping at 1.20 and went up to the Grand Prix. My jobs included mucking out the horses morning and evening, making sure that they always had hay and water and that they always went into the ring looking well turned out.

When I was at Chard, I learnt a lot from being in the collecting ring and how everyone has a different way of warming up, I also learnt a lot from giving Will and Jim a jump before they went into the ring. I would say that I enjoyed being at the ring the most when I was at Chard because I felt as though this is when I could get most involved and when I learnt the most from other riders.

