



STUBBING COURT TRAINING LTD.

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021

TO ALL APPRENTICES, PARENTS & EMPLOYERS

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### MASTERCLASS WITH JOE WHITAKER



“Every single person was keen to learn, improved dramatically, had great enthusiasm and a fantastic attitude,” said a delighted Joe Whitaker. The top international showjumper was speaking after delivering nine coaching sessions to SCT apprentices and employers at Parklands EC on 23 April at the latest in SCT’s acclaimed Masterclass Series. The day, conducted in brilliant spring sunshine, was the first SCT Masterclass of 2021 - and the first since July 2020 due to Covid-19 lockdowns. Joe is a former SCT apprentice himself and understands the value of a route into employment that allows young people to receive high-class training in a broad, structured manner with excellent support while earning a wage, with the benefit of a well-recognised qualification at the end of it. He added: “I really enjoyed the day. I highly recommend the SCT Apprenticeship programme for giving people the best possible start to a successful career with horses, or to progress their career in the horse industry further. The programme is unique in providing apprentices with superb opportunities to learn from many of the leading professionals in the world.”



SCT Chief Executive Belinda Turner MBE said: “We so appreciate everyone’s support, and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the day and improving so much. Joe is a truly gifted coach. We would also like to thank the Parklands EC team for their super facilities and horses.” SCT believes passionately that its apprentices deserve every opportunity to learn from and be inspired by the best riders, trainers and coaches in order to develop skills and confidence. Its Masterclass Series - which continues with training from another top showjumper, William Whitaker, at Parklands EC on 8 June - is part of the way SCT delivers this, as is its extensive library of online learning resources filmed with leading figures from all areas of the equestrian industry. These include British senior Olympic eventing team coach and Badminton winner Chris Bartle, who will also be giving an exclusive SCT Masterclass at Speetley EC on 5 July.



### GRACE TODD: EDWARD YOUNG SHOW YARD



I am a level 2 Apprentice working for Edward Young at Whitelands Farm, you will have seen him on the SCT Online Learning! The yard is set on the edge of the Peak District. We have 26 horses and ponies at the moment, which we produce for the show ring. We have a variety of horses including hacks, cobs, riding horses, Hunters, Intermediate show ponies, Show Hunter ponies, First Ridden, retraining racehorses, broodmares and young stock. My job is to look after the horses and all yard duties including lungeing and grooming. We are starting to prepare the horses for shows by trimming, pulling manes and tails. We hot cloth or oil them everyday to help maintain their coats. I also use a mechanical grooming machine to help remove all loose hair, dust and dirt. I am really enjoying working here and I have learnt a lot, I am looking forward to the shows where I will be preparing horses to go into the ring.



### VICTORIA SIMPSON: GROOMING AT MY FIRST EVENT!



I’m an apprentice at Waterford Equestrian in Durham. Breckenbrough was the first BE event I have ever groomed at, I found the whole experience greatly beneficial as I learnt a lot of skills that are needed, such as time keeping, preparation, organisation and being neat and tidy as we are representing sponsors, for this we need to ensure the horses are looking smart, as well as the lorry. The whole experience was a positive one for both the horses and I, as grooming can be stressful job, and it showed how rewarding the job is by watching the horse that you have brought back into work go out on to the cross country course and try their hardest for you. I found certain tasks harder than others, such as doing studs and turning out to a higher standard, as I have never really had to present horses to this standard before. Amy and Jamie gave me plenty of helpful tips about my turn out in order for me to perform to a higher standard at the next competition. Since then, we have been to other events, and they continued to support me in things that I am not so confident about. I also watched and learnt how to do the quarter marks for the dressage and showjumping. When preparing for the dressage we use Devoucoux dressage saddles. Once tacked up we unloaded from the lorry where I proceeded to put studs in. As this was our first event of the season the horses were excited to be out, so we lunged before the dressage. After the dressage we changed tack for the showjumping and cross country. For these disciplines we use the Devoucoux showjumping saddles, along with a grackle bridle with a French link pelham with a curb chain or Flash bridle with a pelham and an elastic curb. Once the horses’ return from the cross-country, the first piece of tack removed is the boots in order for their legs to cool down, they are then untacked and washed thoroughly. After that I led the horses around until their heart rate has lowered to the correct level. Once they are dry they have their rugs back on to stop them catching a chill. I offer them a drink and then they are allowed a haynet. I thoroughly enjoyed watching different riders as well as speaking to other grooms about how they keep their horses fit and prepare their horses for competition. I got lots of advice and took this home.



## CHARLOTTE KITCHIN: FIR TREE FARM EC



'Lockdown was a difficult time for us all especially at Fir Tree Farm, in Moss near Doncaster. Before the 3rd lockdown the yard was flooded with familiar faces and lots of new customers which was great.

Unfortunately, it didn't last as long as we had hoped and we sadly had to say goodbye to our customers until we could open again due to Lockdown. However, liveries were still able to come and see their horses at a selected time slot. With lessons being cancelled, all staff were part furloughed as we didn't know when we would be able to reopen. We only had minimal jobs to do; our main tasks were feeding, mucking out, turning out and tidying up the yard and ponies. It was strange not all working together and seeing each other every day. The hardest job was keeping the horses and ponies ticking over for when we could reopen, whenever this was going to be! This job was even harder as the fields were still unusable from all the wet weather. I was responsible for helping turn the horses out in the turnout arenas. I also lunged some of the horses who needed to be kept in work. Some of the horses were given this period to have time off. However, even with the effort we could tell they were all missing seeing all the faces in the yard and the attention they receive from customers.

Even though we were sadly unable to do any teaching, it gave us a lot of time to improve the yard and get a lot of jobs finished that we were not able to do before. During the lockdown we managed to do a lot of DIY, including a great renovation to our reception and shop and also the classroom. We also managed to do a lot of repairing and cleaning up on the yard ready for when we were able to re-open. We also got the time to do a lot of tidying up of the ponies and horses, making them look smart for when we were finally able to open. This gave me the chance to have a go at pulling manes and clipping. We already had COVID signs and sanitisers around the yard from the other Lockdowns but I made sure they were all up to date and kept the sanitisers full. We also bought plenty of face masks so we had them ready for when we were able to open. Then after what seemed like forever, we finally got the good news of us being able to open back up on 29 March... how exciting!!! The first day felt amazing for us all to be able to welcome everyone back and for us to slowly get back to normal! Another great thing was the Masterclass with Joe Whitaker. I found it really exciting, and it got me out of my comfort zone! Everyone was really lovely and even though I have been riding for a long time, Joe taught me lots of new things'.



### WELCOME TO:



Victoria Storey, Charlotte Carney, Jaimie Porter, Mya Petitjean,  
Daniel Towers, Courtnie Marriott, Meghan Attenborough, Jazmin O'Hara,  
Angel Tomlinson, Karla Hudson, Maya Foster-Mills, Kasey McDougall, Leah Simpson,  
Maisie Nash, Daniel Bailey, Ellie Rusling, Alice Lomas, Chloe Edwards, Cerys Jones,  
Louis Pern, Chantelle Berry-Foley, Scarlett Lawrence, Ellie Croucher, Esther Bould, Megan  
Armitage, Emily Butler, Naomi Clay, Lucinda Camsell, Imogen Horsley,  
Evie Wallace, Mia Allam, Daisy Collyer, Casper Goldson



## MASTERCLASS FEEDBACK WITH JOE WHITAKER



**Aspect 1: What was the most useful aspect of the day?** • Learning new skills with my riding and jumping • Learning to give more with my hands • Experience jumping a course, my daughter has not had a lot of jumping experience recently, Joe explained well about getting impulsion before the fence so they could approach quietly and put leg on at the fence • Getting to meet SCT staff face to face, good to have contact and to see the riding • Riding the exercises Joe put out • The apprentices gaining valuable knowledge • Being able to watch my apprentice in a new environment under instruction • Having a lesson on something different and jumping a course with someone training me • Progressive exercises • Coaching for my apprentice with another professional • Learning new things • The different training techniques • All of it • Gridwork • Being told how to improve each time and giving tips for practicing at home • Pole work exercises • How much the apprentices were able to learn and take away from the Masterclass • Comments from Joe have helped me improve the horse and myself • Watching apprentices ride • Excellent exercise helped horses open the stride • Keeping my horse in a consistent canter • Riders learning to take pressure off • Letting the horse canter down to a big fence on his own • My first time travelling to an event, getting a horse ready and loading • Getting to meet apprentices and employers, and seeing the differences Joe made to each combination • Being able to gain more experience with my horse through different combinations • For an apprentice to be able to produce a horse for the event • Seeing the improvements in every horse and rider throughout the session - instant improvements from Joe's training, great exercises with the poles

**Aspect 2: What was the most enjoyable aspect of the day?** • Trying out new approaches and jumping a new course • Joe was very positive and encouraging to all riders • Watching apprentices ride • Seeing them enjoy themselves • The Masterclass/jumping • Watching good instruction techniques • Watching • Jumping a course • Jumping exercises • Watching my apprentice ride, taking onboard the advice and apply it • Jumping bigger jumps • Being able to train with a different coach • To be able to have fun • Watching my friends • Riding through the grids and achieving a good stride with well-balanced canter • Watching my daughter gain experience • Meeting new employers and apprentices • Everything • Meeting new people and having a fun time jumping • I enjoyed every minute! • Meeting employers and apprentices • Working with Joe - always knowledgeable, approachable and helpful • Jumping a big fence giving me confidence • Watching my apprentice gain more confidence • Getting back out • Watching all riders enjoying themselves • Great to have a lesson with Joe and be out jumping in the sun • Being able to see a strong improvement • Seeing the apprentices learn new skills • Seeing great improvements in confidence and techniques for every horse and rider

**Aspect 3: What will you do now to improve your work and progress?** • Use the advice given to me at home riding • To get my impulsion before the jump and sit steady just before to gain balance • I will set up a similar course at home and help Amy using some of the things I have learnt today • Take on board what Joe has said and work on it • Carry on with training • Use the instruction techniques • Better approach to fences • Stop rushing to a jump and work with the horse • Follow and work on points made • Opening the canter and maintaining canter in corners, don't chase for a long one • Be organised when preparing for the day • Practice the new skills learned • More jumping • Gave us new ideas to help our clients • Take on board the knowledge and do similar exercises at home • More gridwork • Continue to support the Masterclasses • Control and balance • Take on what Joe has said and use it to work on at home with my horses • Striding and control • Continue to support the Masterclasses and the learners • Practice! • Having a more balanced and stronger canter • Focus on maintaining a rhythmic canter in between fences • Keep working on keeping forward but settled • Use information learned today in future lessons • Promote future Masterclasses

**Aspect 4: Do you have any other comments about the quality of Masterclass?** • I thought it was friendly and relaxed while at the same time being instructive and informative • Everyone was friendly and welcoming • Very well organised and informative • Well organised with social distancing • Well organised, lovely horses and everyone was very informative and friendly • Excellent, thank you! • Thank you so much • Very good instruction • I liked how Joe focussed on each rider rather than use the same exercise for everyone • Fantastic day as usual • High quality, clean, well-organised and friendly, enthusiastic trainer • Really enjoyable and had a lot of fun • Great facilities available for apprentices under the watchful eye of a well known and respected trainer who was able to show improvements to all apprentices and horses • Excellent • Fab, 10 stars! • Really enjoyed being here, thank you! • Brilliant day, great facilities and excellent knowledgeable trainer who had time for everyone • Fantastic venue, well organised • It has really helped with my confidence • Extremely well organised, fantastic opportunity for all involved, gifted trainer and a superb opportunity to get horses out again under expert tuition and guidance

### LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!



Advanced Apprenticeship: **Libby Harcourt**  
FUNCTIONAL SKILLS EXTERNAL TESTS  
Mathematics Level 2: **Natasha Cowen**

