



STUBBING COURT TRAINING LTD.

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

TO ALL APPRENTICES, PARENTS & EMPLOYERS

www.stubbingcourtraining.com



## MASTERCLASS WITH JOE WHITAKER



If there was ever an example of just how far hard work and excellent all-round horsemanship can take you, it's the Whitaker family. The legendary showjumping clan have proved that time and again in the past half-century, and, through their close links to leading apprenticeship provider Stubbing Court Training Ltd, they take every opportunity to help inspire young people wanting to work in the equestrian industry.



For the second time this year, top showjumper and former SCT apprentice Joe Whitaker gave an exclusive Masterclass to SCT apprentices and employers on 17 September at Parklands EC, Sheffield. Joe coached 10 groups of varying experience and ability in the autumn sunshine, and each rider finished with a big smile on his or her face. Lots of the attendees were new to SCT after a huge influx of apprentices since July, and this was their first experience of the exceptional opportunities the East Midlands-based training company provides to its apprentices and employers. Joe said: "It was a pleasure to work with groups of enthusiastic apprentices. Their willingness to try new techniques and systems is a great credit to them and to their employers, and makes it enjoyable to teach every single one of them. It was fantastic to see the improvement and the progress they all made throughout the sessions."



The feedback from apprentices and employers was excellent. "It's great to be able to benefit from such world-class training and knowledge," said one employer. "We had such a good day and were so well looked-after by SCT," said another. 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's acclaimed Masterclass Series with internationally renowned riders and coaches continues with a Masterclass delivered by Chris Bartle, fresh from coaching the British eventing team to Olympic and European gold medals, on 15 November at Vale View EC, Leicestershire. 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. As well as the Masterclass Series and opportunities for apprenticeship placements with highly successful yards and equestrian businesses, SCT's extensive online learning library contains videos of top figures from the equine world demonstrating best practice in all the skills necessary to help young people succeed in their chosen careers.

## COMING SOON! MASTERCLASS MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2021 WITH CHRIS BARTLE

The next Masterclass in the 2021 Series will be on Monday 15 November 2021 at Vale View Equestrian near Melton Mowbray with one of the world's leading coaches Christopher Bartle. Christopher is the Team GB Olympic eventing coach, and has coached riders to win gold medals at Olympic, World and European Championships. We are extremely privileged to have his support once again. Please return nomination forms by 25.10.2021. Limited places available.



## VICTORIA SIMPSON: GROOMING AT BURGHAM INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS...



'I'm an apprentice at Waterford Equestrian which is based about 4 miles out of the centre of Durham. We currently have 8 horses in work, two of which are currently competing. Burgham is one of our local events, at this event we just had the one-horse, Hugo running. Grooming at these competitions gives me great experience and teaches me valuable skills such as time keeping, preparation, organisation. These are key skills when representing sponsors, this means that the horses need to be looking smart as well as the lorry. Grooming can be a stressful job, but it is very rewarding watching the horse you work with everyday go out and try their hardest for the team. My employer Jamie Atkinson and Amy continue at each event to give me plenty of helpful tips and advice about my turn out in order to help me improve for the next competition. When we went to Burgham, Hugo was the only horse running, for this event when we arrived, I set the lorry up and then plaited Hugo up ready for the dressage. Once the horse was plaited, I put studs in and prepared him for the dressage. For dressage Hugo uses a Devoucoux dressage saddle, with a flash bridle. After he was tacked up, I unloaded him from the lorry and walked him around until Jamie was ready to get on him. Whilst I was doing this Amy proceeded to put quarter marks on to make him look smarter. Once the dressage was completed, we returned to the lorry for a tack change, the tack is different for each discipline. We use a Devoucoux jumping saddle and a flash bridle with a breastplate. The last discipline to complete is the cross country, for this we add back and front boots as well as a martingale. Once the horses return from the cross-country phase, 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 they are washed off, I proceed to lead the horses around until their heart rate has lowered to the correct speed, once they are cooled, they have their rug back on to stop them catching a chill. I offer them a drink and they wait an hour until they are allowed a haynet'.



## REBECCA MURFIN: APPRENTICESHIP WITH TEAM BRAKEWELL ★



I started my Advanced Apprenticeship here at Team Brakewell in January this year. Jeanette is an Olympic silver medallist, World silver medallist and four times European gold medallist in eventing. She runs a professional event yard near Uttoxeter and we currently have around 25 horses that are a mix of event horses, schooling liveries and staff horses. My general duties include grooming at events, mucking out, feeding, turning out, lungeing and keeping the yard tidy. I have been lucky enough to have two horses here, my first one did not work out but with Jeanette and the team's help I was able to find my new horse, and we are going to compete at Kelsall BE80 in a few weeks time. Everyone here has been really supportive and I've gained a huge amount of experience in a short space of time. I'm really enjoying working here with a great team and I can't wait to get out competing and learning more about the competing side of the job. I would definitely recommend the apprenticeship to anyone thinking about starting one.

## EMILY BUTLER: THE STABLES, WOODBARN FARM



'I'm a level two apprentice, working at a small livery yard in Woodborough near Nottingham. Our yard consists of thirty-two horses, ranging from show jumpers to hunters. The yard owner also offers a range of different horses for loan and often these loaners are children. Every year the yard holds a summer BBQ where everyone on the yard, livery clients and loaners, are welcome to come and enjoy the day. Due to COVID-19, last year the yard BBQ couldn't happen because of all the restrictions so



this year it was a big event. I had an idea of holding a yard event, consisting of three parts: an In-hand part, a Dressage part and a show Jumping part. My employer, the owner of the yard Laura Shreeves, thought that this would be a good idea and tasked me with the planning of the event. The first thing I did was post on The Stables page and ask who would be interested in participating in the show and the prices that people would have to pay to be entered. There was only a small fee, as food and entertainment would also be provided on the day. Once I had an idea on how many people would be taking part, I could start to work out the timetable together on how the day would run. The fifteen riders would be split into three groups, all starting on a different discipline. Group 1 would start on dressage, Group 2 would start on In-Hand and Group 3 would start with Show Jumping. There was also a Championship Event happening, where the best rider of the day would get The Stables 2021 Trophy. Once the sheets were all made and printed, it was time to pick the Judges for each discipline. I would be judging the show jumping, Chloe the Dressage and Tracey the In-Hand. Everyone was given the dressage test to be learnt and advice was given on how to show In-Hand, but the rest was up to the riders to figure out. On the day, when everyone had arrived, it was hectic. Everyone was rushing around to get ready, but I made sure to gather all the riders so that they could get their numbers and be placed into the groups. When everyone knew what they were doing, I went out to help put the course up. A group of four of us were putting the jumping course up in the little field, as there is more room in the field than there is in the school. The school itself was being used for the Dressage and the bottom of the little field was being used for the In-Hand. Once everything had started, everything ran smoothly, and it was an overall great day. When it came to organising who the

winners were, I was in charge of tallying up the scores and finding out the overall winners for each discipline as well as the overall Champion of the day. This took about twenty minutes, and eventually I had it all figured out. Everyone had gathered outside and I handed the results off to Laura who then announced the winners. I was then in charge of handing out rosettes and medals to those in the top three of each discipline. The champion was then announced and the trophy awarded'.



### LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!

Apprenticeship: *Ruby Shaw*

Advanced Apprenticeship: *Baren Major, Sophie Jeffries*



### WELCOME TO:



Evie Wallace, Jasmine Fewster, Maya Foster-Mills, Emily Hobson-Pratt, Jodie Morley, Karla Hudson, Tina Suthern, Kasey McDougall, Angel Tomlinson, Heidi Samson, Olivia Roebuck, Tabitha Goodwin, Molly Gwalchmai, Caitlin Cook, Jasmine Liddelow, Mollie Glover-Brace, Mia Allam, Madison Burrow, Jennifer Daykin, Kenadey Smeaton, Rebecca Stanton, Sophie Raven, Elli Clark, Charlotte Watson, Abbie Rawlinson, Gracie Williams, Chloe Ford, Jazmin Heseltine, Immigen Angell, Darcy Markham, Amelia Foster, Brooke Martin, Heather Bristow, Cecily Flexen, Carley Fletcher, Rowan Morgan-Paulson, Calli Hall, Caitlin Hutchinson, Charlotte Richardson

## MEGHAN ATTENBOROUGH: CARRIAGE DRIVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



I am an apprentice with Karen Bassett Carriage Driving based near Worksop. Karen has competed as part of the British Team at 8 World Carriage Driving Championships! She has won the National Pony Team Championship 8 times and the National Horse Team Championship 5 times. In August we went to the British Carriage Driving National Championships at Ashfields Carriage and Polo Ground in Essex which was a fantastic experience. When we arrived at the showground the first thing we did was set up the side stabling for the horses



over the weekend. We did this by getting all the bars out of the side lockers, and bar by bar the stabling was put up and the water buckets filled and hung up. We unloaded all five horses, unbooted, tail bandages off and tied up in the side stabling. The next job was to clean out the lorry. Straw bedding was put down, haynets put up to keep the horses busy whilst we unloaded dressage and marathon carriages. After both carriages were safely unloaded, we had to put the big, heavy cover over the carriage to keep it dry, clean and safe from any scratches.

Friday was Dressage Day. It was an early morning start: mucking out, filling water buckets, haynets then feeding the horses. Karen went to walk the marathon obstacles while the grooms began to make the team look presentable. I studded up all four of the dressage team and Nat the other groom plaited. The horses have the thread in their manes for the colours of the Union Jack flag. Then we brass the harness, clean and chalk the white socks to make sure there are no stable stains on them. Then all the horses have their standard groom, show sheen and unplait the tails. Then we harnessed up with the full brass collar harness on the wheelers as Karen prefers to warm them up before putting them as a team because the wheelers need a longer warm up as the leaders. Then the grooms get ready. We wore white shirts, white jodphurs, black tall boots, black top hat, and navy long coat so we match the horses with their fly bonnets and the dressage carriage - I also had a white stock. Then we put the wheelers ready for their warm up, one groom with Karen (me) and the other groom (Nat) stayed behind to tack up the leaders. After the dressage we untacked, washed off, sweat scraped, gave them a drink and filled up buckets and nets, gave them their evening feeds and put them to bed, ready for us to have our tea.

Saturday was the Marathon. We had the same morning routine. I put the studs in and filled buckets for when we got back from the marathon. We put the boots on: wheelers have front and back brushing boots on and front overreach boots. The leaders have all four overreach boots on, they have them on the backs, so the wheelers don't catch them, with front and back brushing boots as well. Once the boots have been taped on it is then time to harness up. We then exercised the whole team together for 15 minutes then they went off and did section A and I filled all haynets and waters again. When it was time, I went down to section B - the obstacles - to video them. Once it was all over, we untacked again and showered the horses then put them to bed, gave them their evening feeds and then last but not least cleaned the Marathon harness. On Sunday it was the Cones. We had to clean socks, chalk them, groomed, show sheen and fly-sprayed them. We washed the tails then plaited them, brassed the breast collars on the brass harness and changed the bits. After the Cones, we headed into the reward ceremony for team drivers and we became Reserve Champion! Overall, it was a lovely experience. I learnt so much as well as being able to help. It was lovely spending time with different people than I usually would but still enjoyed every second of it and I would happily do it all again without a second thought. Even though taking five horses away could be stressful we still did and had a laugh all weekend, and many memories made.

