

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



NEWSLETTER • MAY 2008



OUR VERY SUCCESSFUL APRIL FUND RAISING RIDE

THOUGHTS ON HORSE RIDING

I thought I'd write about a problem some of our members have experienced when having to tackle riding a new pony. Unfortunately, our ponies don't live forever and the day comes when we have to acquire a new one.

Everyone, whatever their age, gets used to riding the same pony. We know exactly what that pony will do in any situation. We feel safe and comfortable and don't realize there is a problem until the new pony reacts in a different way to a situation.

This uncertainty begins to eat into your confidence in your riding ability and the main aim is to prevent your body landing on the floor. Some of us don't bounce like we used to. We then begin to worry about a rear, shy, buck, bolt, not going forward – a particular one with natives who have minds of their own and leave their rider looking like an inexperienced beginner, especially if there is an audience.

What I say to you all is keep on persevering and riding out as much as possible as the confidence gradually returns and only do what you want to, not what all the others are doing – e.g. galloping over the moors.

If I can do this at 70 - you young ones can certainly win the day!

EVE HALL

Please send all contributions for the November Newsletter to sheena@creativemarketingsolutions.co.uk - thank you.

WHITTINGTON CHARITY RIDE

Sunday 14th September 2008

By kind permission of Lord and Lady Reay 15 or 5 mile routes over bridleways and quiet lanes in the picturesque Lune Valley near Kirkby Lonsdale £15 entry fee. **Starts between 10am and 11am**

Entries with large SAE to **Liz Davison**

38 Beech Road, Halton, Lancaster LA2 6QH
Cheques payable to NLBS £15 pre entry £20 on the day

Tel: 01524 – 811029 klmjdavison@btopenworld.com

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY LIZ DAVISON THE HORSEWEAR WASH-BAG

Brilliant to put everything in - girths, numnahs, halters, tail guards etc - loads of room for everything and no more complaints about horsehair in underpants!!

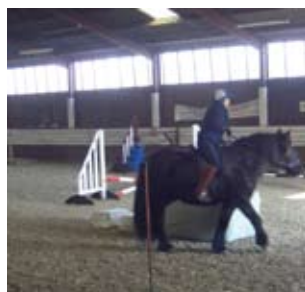
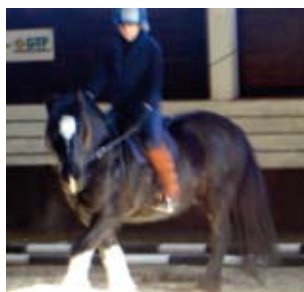
Available in three sizes - RRP £9.50 - Lots of suppliers - Google it!



WILLIAM'S THINK TANK

On a cold crisp February Day William was pottering around his paddock thinking what every good Dales pony would be thinking (not enough to eat around here), and expecting nothing more than another day of hunt the blade of grass - little did he know, this was the day of his first Le Trec competition! William was about to become a Treccie, well he's got the pointy ears, no space ship Enterprise though, just Steve and Linda arriving at 10am with their horse box. William happily goes into the trailer and we set off for Bigland Hall, he copes well with the travelling and there is just time for a quick guided tour of the course before the competition starts. We have been practising low branches (bamboo canes), gates (lunge line attached to swing ball stand), ditches (heavy plastic trailer cover to walk over), s-bends (round the raised beds in the veg garden) and going up and down the garden steps. The neighbours think we've gone slightly mad but we feel prepared for all eventualities, that is, until we walk the course and realize

there is very little that we have practised! However after a short warm up we enter the indoor arena. 'Ooh, looks a bit apprehensive' said the judge, not sure if that's me or William, probably both. 'Have a good walk round and get settled first' she advises so we have a walk round and then start our canter, William slips and we do an ungainly trot and then canter- no points there then. We then do an extremely wobbly rein back; no points there, and then negotiate a very difficult wooden gate gaining our first couple of points. We are now getting confident (or past caring) and complete the rest of the course with a high score. William stood patiently in the circle, stood still while I had to scramble over the lime green silage bale and flew with style over the coloured poles. We break into trot during the walk so another zero means that we come 10th overall so no rosettes this time. I realized that William is very good at coping with all sorts of hazards, but not too good at plain old forwards and backwards! So if any one wants any hints on Le Trec best ask Liz Davison who won this competition (well done Liz), William and I are just off to do a bit of basic schooling.



FOR SALE RIO

13 year old registered Welsh part-bred, 13.1hh chestnut gelding, show pony. Kind nature, forward going 2nd pony. Needs bringing back into work.

For sale/loan - £1000 Tel 015242 73953

WANTED HORSE TO RIDE.

14.2 hh or over. I would love to help exercise someone's horse in the Farleton / Kirkby Lonsdale / Casterton area. I am in my late thirties, like to keep fit and have enjoyed riding since an early age. I have insurance with the British Horse Society.

Gillian Bland Garden Cottage, Underley Grange, Casterton, Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2 LE
07843093119 or gillianbland@btinternet.com.

FOR SALE THOMAS (Silver Moondance)

Thomas is safe, sound and genuine. Unflappable out hacking, alone or in any amount of company. Good to box, shoe, clip and everything else you can think of – he is a very willing co-operative chappy

He was bought as a confidence giving schoolmaster for my daughter to jump.

My daughter has done SJ, XC, Dressage, Working Hunter, Hunter Trials and even been hunting a couple of times on Thomas. She has enjoyed every minute and I have always known she was on safe 'hooves'. We are looking for a first class permanent home for Thomas from the end of September, as my daughter will be going to University in October. He could carry on competing or would be wonderful for the bridleway rides. I have used him myself when my mare has been lame. He will come well equipped with tack and full wardrobe

If you are interested in Thomas, you are welcome to view and try him anytime, either on our premises with sand paddock or see him at the events my daughter plans to compete in this summer. Phone for a chat. Priced at £3,500 ono to good home only.

Liz Robinson (Preston/Blackburn)
Tel: 01254 878115 Mobile: 07773 165114

A MIRACLE (IN MY VIEW)

Three and a half years ago I bought a beautiful gentle bay Fell pony called Spenruss Flight for my daughter and I to share. I transported her home in a friend's double pony trailer, no problem. And for the next few months I continued to trailer her to the occasional show, fun ride etc without incident. Then, out of the blue, on arriving home after a trip one day, Flight was found to be dripping with sweat and panting heavily.

It all came to a head in September 2006, on the next journey, when as soon as I loaded her to come home from a gymkhana she started frantically kicking, stamping, and throwing herself around. What should you do in these circumstances? I drove straight home without stopping, 'to get it over with'. We arrived home to find Flight in a state of collapse in the trailer, with torn travel boots, her back shoes ripped off and cuts to her legs. It took an eternity to get her out of the trailer, and even longer to calm her down.

A few weeks later I decided it was time to reassess the situation. Out came the trailer again, out came the partition (on several people's advice) and on that first occasion it took me 90 minutes of gentle persuasion (and lots of food) to even get her to stand on the ramp. Poor Flight was, not surprisingly, terrified of loading. At every opportunity I worked on coaxing her into the trailer, until eventually she would hesitantly stand inside. But then when we tried travelling, panic stations! Rearing inside the trailer, legs over the front bar – it was terrifying, it was dangerous, and it was very very upsetting.

There is another thread to this story – Flight had always had a slight problem with her right hip and after the September incident I felt it had deteriorated. I therefore suspected that she found it difficult to balance and this was contributing to the panic as soon as the trailer moved. This was confirmed by Karen Mather, friend and brilliant Chartered Animal Physiotherapist. However, she also said that she had come across other horses with worse medical problems who had learned to travel quite happily by being able to position themselves freely and comfortably. She gave us exercises to do, and hope.

I spent a fair bit of time on the net, looking up various Natural Horsemanship systems. It became evident that practitioners would all guarantee success for loading problems, but travelling problems were a different kettle of fish and there didn't appear to be any answers. In any event, I had very little money and simply couldn't afford to consult any of these people, especially as they all seemed to be based some distance away.

At this point I did a lot of heartsearching. Here was a very special pony who was brilliant in every way, except she couldn't travel. I'm a happy hacker, who could quite happily just ride locally without setting hoof in a trailer, but my daughter had just joined Pony Club, and had high ambitions for her and Flight! After lots of sleepless nights and long discussions, we were unanimous that Flight was staying, that we would hack to as many events as we possibly could, and tough to anything else! I was quite proud of my 12-year-old daughter, Anna, for the sacrifice she was making.

But, even though the decision was made, I was still quietly determined, for Anna's sake, that I was going to exhaust every possibility before I gave up completely on Flight travelling.

A few weeks ago I phoned Jo Birkbeck, a local riding instructor and trainer, who had helped me a lot in the past. Jo is very quiet and gentle, with loads of knowledge and experience. I knew that she had recently worked in the States with Monty Roberts, and thought she might have some tips. But instead she said she was confident she could help, and would come round on Monday morning!

On Monday, armed with a Monty Roberts Dually Headcollar, Jo had Flight happily loading and unloading, standing calmly with ramps up and windows closed, all within an hour. And on the next session Flight was so eager to load she almost towed Jo into the trailer! But what would happen when we travelled? The answer is, that a miracle has happened. As long as there's no partition, Flight now travels without incident and with minimum sweating. Whether the work with the Dually has given her confidence and security I don't really know, but I still can't believe what has happened. Anna and I still go through our little routine with the Dually every time we load, which must have people wondering what on earth we're doing, but so far so good.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who offered help and advice, it was much appreciated, but particularly Karen Mather and Jo Birkbeck, who have made the impossible possible.

Karen can be contacted on 07737401387 or karenmather@cecp.org.uk

Jo can be contacted on 01524 782515 or 07899028375

SUE CLOWES

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION

(PASSED ON BY JANET BEBBINGTON)

Your mobile phone can be a lifesaver or an emergency tool for survival – here are a couple of things that you can do with it!

The Emergency Number worldwide for mobiles is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you. Interestingly, this number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked.

Hidden battery power - Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370# - your mobile will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will be re-charged when you next charge your mobile.

One more thought – 'Sport the Band' spotted by Liz Davison. British Eventing and Goodyear have teamed up to produce safety armbands to allow riders to carry info about their blood group, allergies, family contacts and other vital information essential in the case of an accident. Visit www.mygoodyear.co.uk to get your free armband.

CHESHIRE VIEW WEEKEND RIDE 2008

Jenny and I always try to go away for a few days on a riding holiday each year. This year we were struggling to find anything that fit in with other rides we wanted to do and my school holidays. While looking on the Internet I came across an advert for a 2 day ride organised by Sport Endurance near to Crewe. We decided we would go as it was on the bank holiday weekend which gave me chance to recover before work on the Tuesday. So we sent off our entry forms and arranged to meet on Robinson's car park at Haydock, as I live north of Preston and Jenny lives at Rochdale. It took a few days of planning and packing for the horses...always a full wagon for them with rugs, feed etc! We were going to use my horse box and a tent for our overnight accommodation, while the horses would be corralled together.

Our weekend started with us setting off the alarm on the car park at Robinsons.....well we were there before the official opening time of 9am! A good journey down the M6 and then we arrived at the venue. A super field with 9" of grass.....would the horses ever want to leave this feast to go on the farm ride!! The route was varied with lots of hills and optional jumps, and luckily the weather stayed dry on the Saturday. We even got a bit of a tan on the Saturday afternoon while watching the Handy Pony and games held in honour of a lovely gelding called Sunni who was celebrating his 30th birthday. He gave all his equine friends a goody bag to take home from the party and had 2 birthday cakes with his photo on them. What a super way to celebrate a birthday! The horses had a super corral, there was easy parking for the wagon and the welcome given by the members of Sport endurance was very friendly.

In the evening we went to the barbeque and had a couple of large glasses of vino before falling into the sleeping bags, unfortunately a windy night meant little sleep.

On the Sunday morning, we got soaked giving the horses their breakfast but by the time we set off again on the farm ride it had dried up a bit. At the end of the ride we had our bacon barmes before choosing some super photos as mementoes of



a fab weekend. The rain came just as we had un-tacked, good timing once again! All the riders we spoke to, had really enjoyed themselves and it's a credit to the organisers for putting on such a successful event. It was amazing at the variety of horses and riders who took part; all shapes, sizes and ages, proving once again that all horses and ponies are capable of completing and enjoying pleasure rides. A big thank you to Sport Endurance northern group for their hospitality

**JANET BEBBINGTON AND ELLIE,
JENNY RAND AND BONNY**

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

**We are working for all riders in the area.
You will benefit. Please support us!**

The membership fee is only £5 per year

To play an active part in the Society brings with it new friends and a chance to participate in many pleasure rides and social activities and a real sense of achievement in promoting safer riding for yourself and others. Even if you do not wish to play an active part in the Society your membership fee helps to provide safer riding facilities in our area for everyone.

Please join now by filling in the following form and returning it to the NLBS Membership Secretary:

**Mrs. B E Hartley, The Cottage, Millhouses,
Tatham, Lancaster LA2 8NF**

Cheques should be made payable to:
North Lancashire Bridleways Society

Name:

Address:

Post code:

Telephone:

E-mail (optional):

Please tick here if you are happy to receive minutes of meetings by e-mail

I enclose my membership fee of £5

Signature: