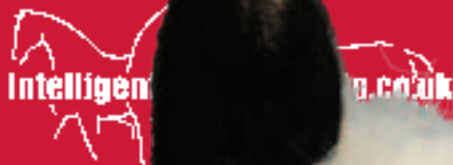


Summer 2014



Carl Hester

The Big Interview

IH TRAINING
A HELPING HAND
OUT HACKING

The March IH Demonstrations

Attachment – is your
horse's cup full?

Taking it to the Max
The success story of a survivor

HORSES & HEROES

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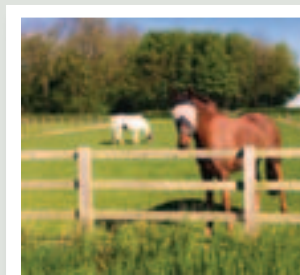
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Welcome to Summer

Dear Readers



Welcome to our summer issue – as I write this, the sunshine is pouring through my office window and the horses are all enjoying the weather in the paddocks beyond. Long may it last!

There are few things nicer, if you are lucky enough to have access to safe hacking, than to go off for a ride with your four-legged friend on a summer's day. For some of us, that pleasure is sometimes spoilt by the 'monsters in the hedge' syndrome – it can be hard to relax when you're waiting for your horse to jump out of his skin.

If you fall into that category, make sure you have a look at our guide to building confidence in spooky horses while hacking out on pages 21-24. This issue looks at using a helper horse, but we will be looking at other methods in future issues.

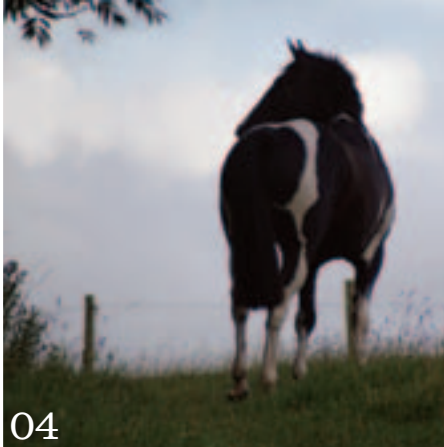
If you're a lover of autobiographies, don't miss our review of Carl Hester's new book *Making It Happen* on pages 12-15. I got to chat to him about the book and his life with horses for this issue and it was a fascinating insight into the highs, lows and all-round pressures of being top of the dressage tree. We've also got a competition to win a signed copy.

If you have been to a Monty/IH demo recently, you'll have seen the Horse Sense and Soldiers programme in action. Don't miss pages 34-35 for a write-up of a unique event held in association with Help For Heroes, which made the national headlines as well as continuing the fantastic work we are doing to help those who are dealing with the effects of serving their country in war zones.

As usual there are lots of great stories and pictures from you, and we've also got a special report on Bransby Imp, the rescue horse now making waves in the dressage arena with IHRA Carrie Davies.

Enjoy the summer!

Liz Falkingham, Editor



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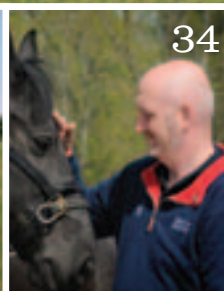
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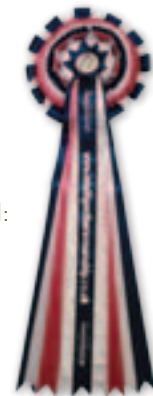


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Do you have a contribution for Intelligent Horsemanship Magazine?

Please phone, email or send your carrier pigeon to the IH office!

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ON THE COVER: Hugh Forsyth with Ele Milwright's Badger. Photo courtesy of Clare Kendall.

Find us on 

Whilst we endeavour to ensure that all articles in the Intelligent Horsemanship Magazine are compatible with broad IH principles, it should be noted that the views expressed by contributors to the Intelligent Horsemanship Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or Kelly Marks.

By KELLY MARKS

Corky enjoying some well deserved time out after the March demonstrations

My World

“With heavy heart... I've decided it's really time for Corky to go to his forever home...”

The March demonstrations

Changing the February tour to a March one proved a good decision with no need for 10 layers of thermals and heat pads – positively luxurious! Although all three demonstrations in March had interesting horses and great learning points, I have to admit The Hand Equestrian Centre demonstration at Clevedon in Somerset was my favourite (more on that later).

There's always something new to learn; at the Intelligent Horsemanship Recommended Associate meeting earlier in the year, when we got together to share experiences and new learning, one of the topics was different techniques people use to load a horse. One technique we discussed, whereby the handler asked a horse forward from a rope around the belly and then between the front legs, was seen as something we weren't ever likely to use – although we didn't consider it inhumane.

However, by great coincidence (or synchronicity?!) while I was enjoying working with a particularly flighty (and beautiful) Welsh Section D, Monty showed me a new (to me) technique of desensitising that area, which was exactly the rope-tying method we'd previously rejected for loading. There are various methods we might use for a 'girthy' horse, involving tightening and loosening a long line around the horse's girth area, and this is one step on – actually leading the horse from here so he feels the tightening and loosening as he's led.

The downside is obviously one needs to be careful leading a horse that is likely to 'goose' and jump forward. It's one more option to consider anyway.

TEARS AND LAUGHTER AT THE HAND, SOMERSET

As you will see from the photo spread on pages 16 and 17 in this issue, the demo at The Hand was a particularly enjoyable and emotional one for everyone. Last year I loaded Carol Negus's great character Molly (a mare with opinions) at The Hand and have since become good friends with Carol.

Not only did she provide more delicious cake for all the helpers than we could possibly manage. but Carol also provided her three-year-old, Gracey, to be our starter. Gracey proved a great character, with the odd buck and squeal, but although a lady with opinions, she accepted Jake Harris gracefully at the end and will be going to Jake and Ian Vandenberghe this September to continue her ridden education.

Sparky, the aptly-named Welsh Section D spooky/unmountable horse proved quite a challenge for Monty, but the improvement was obvious. I went in to hold her for Monty

for a minute or so and was astounded at the width of her chest; absolutely not the sort of horse you want to barge into you!

There was only one difficult loader on the evening. Polly, owned by Stephanie Jones, generally took three to four hours to load and had always been worse coming away from other horses.

After the pre-loading exercises Monty took her straight in the lorry. Corky was also brought in to see if she would be happy to walk away from him and, even though she was quite smitten by his handsomeness, she even left him to walk in with her owner.

Carol and Stephanie have both been on the IH Horse

Psychology course since the demonstration and I'm pleased to say the good work is continuing.

The only horse not used in the actual demonstration was Lexi, a horse with feet-handling issues who previously had to be sedated to have her feet trimmed and would still rear and cow kick uncontrollably. It was thought she may take too long to show progress to be a good demonstration horse.

Instead, she was left to one of our newest IH Recommended Associates, Gillian Bradley from Monmouth, to work with during the afternoon. Within 20 minutes, Gillian had made amazing progress with Lexi, and not only her owner but even Monty was amazed!

Of course I'm biased but I always love having my own horses at a demonstration. Corky is such a jolly character that he was ideal for Martin Clunes to use to demonstrate 'how to get your horse to line up at the mounting block' (with a little direction from Monty as well).

Somehow, whatever Martin is doing, everyone ends up in fits of laughter and this night was no different. After showing the perfect mounting block technique, Martin cantered Corky off around the round pen in the Dually, showing off their paces to much applause.

Next was George's turn in the spotlight with war veteran, Mark. (see pages 34 to 35 for Ele Milwright's article about Horse Sense for Heroes). I know I wasn't the only one to shed a tear when George gently walked towards Mark at his moment of Join-Up; it's amazing what these horses can teach us about trust. **IH**



“The demo at The Hand was a particularly enjoyable and emotional one for everyone.”



Clockwise from top: Corky is looking for his forever home; George is coming on in leaps and bounds; Kelly using the roping technique at The Hand demonstration, Somerset.

CORKY AND GEORGE

George is coming on in leaps and bounds, although I'm in no hurry for him to compete. We've spent so long doing our best to get everything right for him, why risk pushing too fast now, when it's taken us two-and-a-half years to get this far?

With heavy heart, however, I've decided it's really time for Corky to go to his forever home now. I've put an advert on my Facebook page Kelly Marks and Intelligent Horsemanship and on the online advertising site Horsequest; rest assured we will do everything we can to find him a great human who will treasure him.

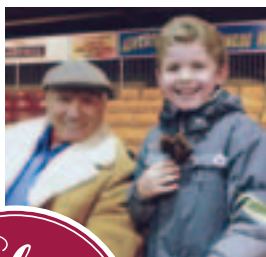
Photos (clockwise from top) courtesy of Ele Milwright; Simon Palmer into The Lens; Kelly Marks

Straight from the horse's mouth...

A copy of *Perfect Confidence* by Kelly Marks worth £16.99 goes to the writer of our Star Letter



LETTERS & FEEDBACK from our members



Alfie's dream comes true

Martin and I just wanted to say huge thanks for allowing [our son] Alfie the privilege of attending Monty's demonstration at The Hand [on March 15 in Somerset].

For as long as we can remember, Alfie's dream has been to meet Monty so when Kim from Horserworld said she had arranged it with yourself there were no words to describe Alfie's happiness. Alfie sat mesmerised throughout and was totally moved by Monty. His wish now is to do Join-Up himself because he wants to feel how special it is! I think having this happen is going to be tricky, although I am sure he's not going to let me forget.

Alfie's love, respect and understanding of horses amazes us almost daily; we don't have horses ourselves but Alfie has had a love for as long as we can remember and has been fundraising endlessly for Horserworld since he was five years old. The highlight for us was seeing him nominated for the National Animal Hero award last year in the Young Animal enthusiast category. Alfie was shortlisted to the final three and although he didn't win we all had a great time – he doesn't think any of his fundraising has been amazing; he's just done it because he loves horses and wants them to be happy. *Hayley & Martin Waker, via e-mail*



HORSE BOY ARTICLE RESONATES

The article Horse Boy Goes to High School (IH Magazine, spring 2014), resonated with me on so many levels. I'm a supporter of a small horse charity in Cairo called Prince Pluffy Kareem (PFK) which does amazing work with working horses over there, and which recently shared a link [online] to Miracles.

This Sudan Hippotherapy Program, run by an English expatriate, uses rescued horses to help children with autism and other disabilities. I should probably say at this point I have a personal interest in learning about Asperger's Syndrome and Autism as I share a lot of the traits (and much prefer talking to my cat and horses to most people!)

I was over the moon to read that Rupert [of Horse Boy] uses the Portuguese style of classical dressage as developed by Nuno Oliveira and others to develop his work with autistic children. Sylvia Loch is another of my idols – I was very lucky to see Sylvia at a local demo last year; she is fantastic at explaining things in such a simple common sense way.

She has, of course, had critics over the years, just like Monty, for being radical and 'anti-establishment' when all she was trying to do was improve things from the horses' perspective. Seeing how all these different areas interlink has been fascinating.

Rachael Dronfield
via e-mail

Inspired by The Hand demo

I have to say that The Hand was one of my favourite demonstrations I've been to of yours and Monty's. First thing this morning I was practising the mounting block exercise with my 3-year-old Arab colt, Taita, who I haven't backed yet but thought it would be a great time to get him used to it – he was a star! It has made me even more excited about working with veterans this year with Midge and the rest of my herd. *Izzy Salo, via e-mail*



ARCHIE'S TALES by Sharon Stephens Archie has a sleepless night



IH Out & About

Ever wondered what keeps Kelly and her IHRAs busy when they're not working with owners and their horses? Here's an insight...

Help for Heroes day

Monty Roberts and Intelligent Horsemanship teamed up with Help for Heroes to hold a special, ground-breaking event for serving and veteran British Military personnel at Tedworth House earlier this year.

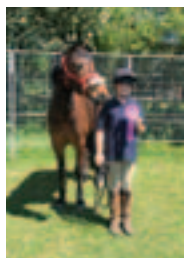


Photo courtesy of Elin Milwright

Monty Roberts and IHRA Jim Goddard (back) pictured with participants at the Horse Sense and Soldiers day at Tedworth House

A number of combat veterans suffering from PTSD after serving their country in recent conflicts including Iraq and Afghanistan took part in an introductory day to Join-Up, the first event of its kind in the UK (see pages 34 to 35 for the full report).

Perfect Ponies in the Summer holidays



Rosettes are on offer as part of the Perfect Ponies summer courses

With summer holidays looming, IHRA Sandra Williams has come up with the perfect way of keeping pony-mad children entertained (and educated).

She will be running Perfect Ponies courses at her new facilities in the lovely Buckinghamshire woodlands.

"I thought it was a great way of kids having

fun and learning to be safe with ponies at the same time. We'll be working on things like body language, what makes a good leader and obstacle agility," says Sandra.

There will be rosettes on offer, which the children can earn through achieving a good knowledge about equine behaviour, as well as showing various levels in good ground handling.

• Prices start from £30 (£25 for parties of four or more); see www.hearinghorses.com for more details.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Weston

"The Household Cavalry need to know how to react under the critical eye of the general public and apparently-knowledgeable horse people."

Helping to train the Household Cavalry

IHRA Sarah Weston enjoyed what she described as a rather rowdy afternoon as part of the 'Rent a Crowd' crew for a Hampshire Fire Service Animal Rescue Team training day recently.

The ART were providing training for the Household Cavalry using dummy horses to replicate an accident and rescue in a central London scenario surrounded by crowds.

"The Household Cavalry need to know how to react under the critical eye of the general public and apparently-knowledgeable horse people. They might also be asked to provide assistance in other people's catastrophes," says Sarah.

The scenario involved two carriage horses, with one trapped and injured beneath the carriage and the other straddling a fence, and a ridden horse caught in a crowd barrier with a member of the public underneath him. The ART worked with the Household Cavalry participants on sedating and moving with injured horses, treating human casualties and dealing with the crowd.

Rocking IHRA Stef's world

Proving that IH methods not only work but bring success at the highest level is Fascinating Rock, a three-year-old racehorse started by IHRA Stephanie Heeran. Rocky, as he is known, will be competing in the Epsom Derby in June.

"Rocky has featured in my articles [in *IH Magazine*] on gentle weaning and starting young horses. Last year he worked quietly in training, getting plenty of time as he is a big horse and wasn't going to be a racing two-year-old.

"He had one, no-pressure race at the end of the season and showed promise. Rocky then came home to his '5-star hotel' for the winter and enjoyed playing with his pal, Stewart, again before going back into training in January," says Stef.

"On March 30 he ran in a maiden race and won at a canter; I was so excited I was shaking! Two weeks later he ran in the Ballysax Stakes, a Group 3 race won in the past by Galileo and High Chaparral and one seen as a trial for the Epsom Derby.

"We were excited to just have him run but passing the finishing post first was beyond words – there were tears. He is now entered in the Epsom derby in June. Better get my dress sorted!"



Fascinating Rock celebrates his win

SUCCESS WITH SHAUN MANDY

IH member Susy Escuder was the lucky winner of our spring competition to win a lesson with dressage rider and trainer Shaun Mandy.

Positive, ethical training methods sit at the heart of Shaun's training, and Susy says she and horse, Blondie, really benefited from their lesson.

"My main goal was to get Blondie going forward more, as he is nappy and rears. Shaun showed me how important it is to keep a bend, coming from the inside leg into the outside hand.

"When Blondie gets straight he can get himself into a position where he can stop and then rear, so keeping him on a bend and circling him when he tries to spook to get his focus back on me was something we worked on. He also pointed out some bad habits I didn't even know I had which was massively helpful, such as my lower leg sliding back.

"The overall effect was a much more forward going and relaxed horse who felt completely different to ride at the end of the lesson to how he felt at the beginning," says Susy.

• Shaun will be back for another clinic in June this year. Details at Shaun Mandy Equestrian on Facebook.

Members PICTURES

Throughout the year, we will be publishing a selection of our members' pictures.

In each issue we'll be awarding rosettes for the best member stories, feedback and pictures – snap and send to editor@ihhq.net. This issue, Amy Dell and her rescue cob, Buckthorn, win one of our fabulous rosettes.



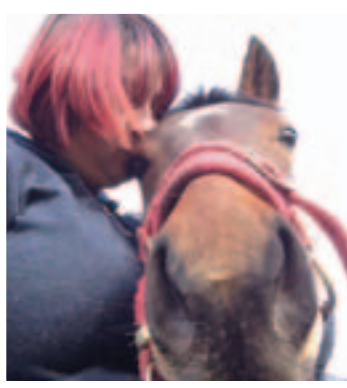
>> Here's Amy Dell working on some desensitization work with her beautiful rescue cob, Buckthorn. "Buckthorn was found as a foal, emaciated and neglected, in a field with many other horses. He was thankfully rescued by the RSPCA but remained very un-trusting and scared of people for quite some time. I re-homed him last October and he has come on in leaps and bounds using intelligent Horsemanship methods! He has changed my life and taught me so much in the time that I have had him and I couldn't have asked for a better horse," says Amy.



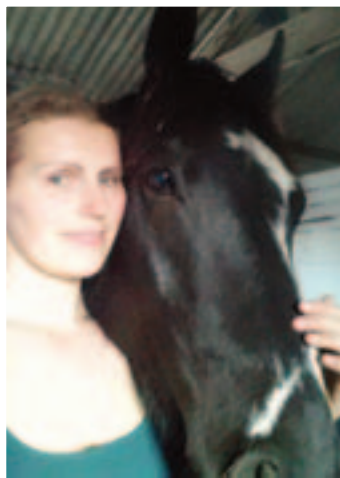
>> Here's Debbie Ware and her handsome cob, Dillon, enjoying some spring sunshine over on the Isle of Wight.



>> Andrea Durham's horse Magnus takes a rather relaxed approach to life! Andrea says both she and friend Debbie Ware have 'benefitted hugely' from visits from IHRA Sarah Weston.



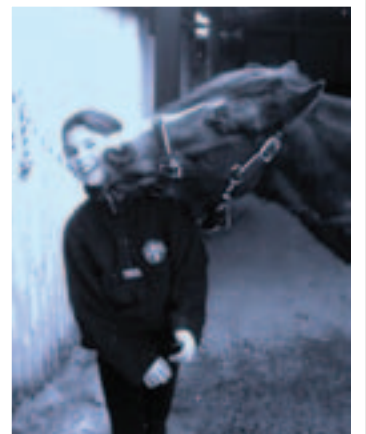
>> Lockerbie-based Beth Williams and her horse, Dan, indulge in the selfie craze! Five-year-old Dan was a rescue horse from Wales; he's now around 16hh, and a complete gentle giant, says Beth.



>> Another selfie from Rachael Marson and Echo, who is just two but 'so laid back'. "We've had him since he was born and nothing bothers him."



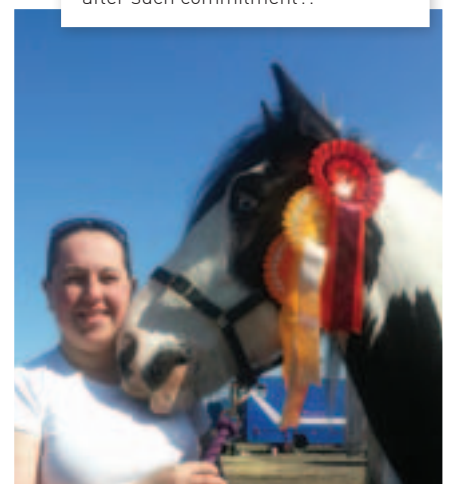
>> Arrow watches his owner Hayley Dale enjoy some refreshment.



>> Pictured are Elize Stephens-Parker and her pony, Sam, after a fun day at a local show in Cambridgeshire. Grandmother Sonya, also an IH member, says Elize is an avid Monty and Kelly fan and IH member. "She saved up the money to buy Sam out of pocket and birthday and Christmas money since the age of five, having dreamed of owning her own pony. How could her parents refuse after such commitment?!"



>> Five-year-old Duke and owner Clare Webb made a winning start to their showing season with red rosettes in both his classes at the local Winter Woollies In-hand show. Clare says she was a "very proud mummy". "We can honestly say we wouldn't be where we are today without her!" says Andrea, who is looking forward to seeing Monty and the IH team at Guildford later in the year.



>> This is Amanda Neale and her aptly-named Bobby Dazzler at their very first show. "He behaved amazingly and gained a first in Novice In-hand and a third in Ridden Novice," she says.

The language of Equus...



Meet a MEMBER

Natasha Herman, a pet sitter from Mill Hill, London

How did horses come into your life?

My soul mate cob gelding, Ebony, came into my life when I was 10 after a few years of lessons and pony days. My family was not horse-minded at all so I decided to keep putting 'pony' on the shopping list in an attempt to get my Dad to take note!

Ebby and I developed such a strong bond, albeit through trial and error on my behalf. This led me to working with horses on the livery yard where I kept him after I left school.

I worked with all sorts of equine characters and I found that one of the things I enjoyed doing was loose schooling horses; I found it rather comical that some of them would often come trotting over when I was walking away from them! Often, if I turned my head to talk to someone while lunging a horse, he would suddenly turn to face me and stop, which I had been taught I should not encourage the horse to do!

How did you first hear about Intelligent Horsemanship?

I always felt that there were limitations to my understanding of my equine friends and that I could be doing different things to achieve better results with them. In the early 90s I began hearing about the Monty Roberts' demonstrations and decided to go along to one locally at Patchetts Green in Herts.

Watching Monty and Kelly work was such a revelation – a Pandora's Box and treasure trove of knowledge about horse behaviours. It left me realising how little I had really understood the language of Equus and all those behaviours I had encountered previously now began to make perfect horse sense!

When did you become a member and what benefits has it brought you?

I read Monty's book *The Man Who Listens to Horses* and Kelly's *Perfect Manners* and joined Intelligent Horsemanship in 2009. Being able to gain early access to Kelly's

section of the demos was a real treat and it was incredible to witness how the techniques Kelly used gained such trust from her horses in such a short space of time especially with regards to clipping.

My boy was rather phobic about umbrellas and by getting him to follow me as Kelly had demonstrated, I was able to desensitise him over a period of time. This came in very handy on a particular day full of downpours at a show; I confidently cantered him past a crowd of colourful umbrellas without there being a risk of him leaping into the next continent!

Kelly's online videos were also a source of inspiration – I found the exercises Kelly used in Pie's Le Trec training really helpful for my pony's responsiveness and Kelly's methods for encouraging Harry to gallop worked very well with Ebby.

Just doing a basic Join-Up with Ebby really increased the bond we already had. I am so pleased that I practised some of the IH methods with him before he died, as I had spent so many happy days with him throughout my younger life.

What's the best thing about being an IH member?

I learnt so much as a volunteer at the demonstrations and it was wonderful and fun being able to see Monty help the nervous horses transform. Working as a team with a group of such like-minded people who have their horses' best interests at heart was immensely rewarding.

While assisting on a foundation course last year, it was absolutely fabulous to witness the breakthroughs students had with their horses when being instructed by Kelly and IHRA Sandra Williams, who has clearly developed a deep wealth of knowledge and skill. Being a member of IH is also a marvellous means of staying in touch with a supportive network of passionate, gifted and dedicated people who are able to help horses and their owners in remarkable ways.



Top: Monty and Kelly's insights have helped Natasha when dealing with behavioural issues; Above: Natasha with Ebony – her soul mate.

“Working as a team with a group of such like-minded people... was immensely rewarding.”

What do you hope to do in the future?

I currently work as a pet sitter and am often caring for horses, some of which have behavioural issues. I am so grateful to Monty, Kelly and their team for all the insights I've gleaned from them over the years.

Bearing in mind that horses are flight animals, I feel that the IH methods are of paramount importance with regard to the safety and success of all concerned. There is always something new to glean – we can never stop learning with horses and the opportunities for evolving better partnerships with them and ourselves using the IH methods are unsurpassable! 🐾

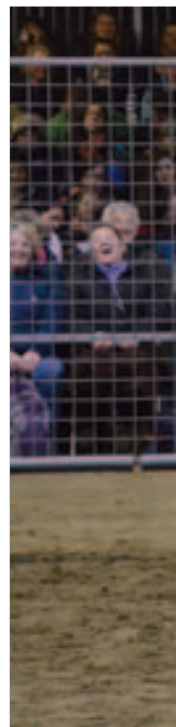
Pleasure or pressure?

Does adding an element of competition to horsemanship demonstrations have any value, or does it simply put additional, unwarranted pressure on both trainer and horse?

KELLY MARKS gives her thoughts on the issue



Kelly was pleased to have the opportunity to take her young George to The Hand demonstration and the Help for Heroes day



Doing demonstrations is nothing new for Intelligent Horsemanship; along with Monty Roberts, the IH team and I have been on the demo circuit for years. Recently, however, there's been a growing interest in adding an element of competition to 'horsemanship' demos.

At Your Horse Live last November, IH did a demo which featured two teams of IHRAs 'competing' against each other. The progress of the two IH pairs working with horses difficult to load, clip and stand by a mounting block kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

In this case they had added involvement because it was the audience who were to vote for the winner each time. I was particularly pleased it brought about a lot of discussion amongst the audience which I felt must add to the educational element.

As it happens, it was impossible to find 'a winner' as both sides did such good work and were so evenly matched. I think if these other competitions do their job then, in a few years' time, all competitors will show exemplary work with it impossible to choose a winner.

In two separate events of this kind in Australia with three people competing, I watched two excellent examples of horsemanship and one really disappointing example each time. One would hope the obvious losers will go home, watch film footage of themselves and the other competitors, and make some smart decisions about how they need to change.

There is an opinion that these competitions are some sort of 'race' and therefore unduly stressful for the horse. At Your Horse Live,

the IH recommended associates found the 45 minutes more than enough to show their skills and bring about remarkable improvements in the horses without any undue stress.

'How do you really know the horses didn't have undue stress?' someone may ask. I think it's fair to remind people how often we've worked with heart rate monitors (and even in one instance cortisol tests) and have found very encouraging results.

HORSEMAN'S CHALLENGES IN BRITAIN

In 2014, the inaugural, large-scale British 'Horseman's Calling' event in Buckinghamshire, which billed itself as 'the ultimate test of natural horsemanship', featured three pairs of horsemen (yes, it was all men) competing to show their methods with horses. The competition was actually judged on 'how calm and relaxed the horse's training proved to be' and 'their approach to the horse's learning and not on specific set targets'.

It was also stated that the judges will 'penalise trainers who look to have over-faced a horse or intimidated him at any time'. The judges were:

- Jane Rixon – Veterinary surgeon and Director of Equine Development on the British Equine Federation Board.
- David Deptford – Well-known Western trainer, competitor and breeder
- Doug Smith – Equine Committee Chairman for Riding for the Disabled Association

Respected judges and ethical guidelines aside, however, the event resulted in some interesting mud throwing afterwards. Certain factions put forward the argument that 'all competitions are bad', rather than developing constructive criticism of each trainer and his methods.

'COMPETITIONS ARE BAD'

Is it the case that all competitions are bad? Personally, I think these 'competitions' can be incredibly useful to the horse world, as it means people can watch different people's work and decide what they do and don't like.

There are so many horror stories of people sending their horses away to be trained and coming back ruined, I feel if more trainers were honest (and brave) enough to show their work in public this could be avoided. Trainers who were shown to be ineffective or clearly stressing the horse (or even both) would be sent fewer horses and so would be forced to examine and improve their training methods.

There are many people on the internet who 'talk well' but offer no practical advice. Personally if I were sending a horse away I'd rather have someone show me how good they are rather than tell me.

AND THE WINNER IS...

As it happens, former Monty riders, Grant Bazin and Dan Wilson won the competition at the Horseman's Calling event. The competition included starting and loading two different horses with 1 hour 30 minute sessions (with compulsory 15-minute break) over two days.

They used techniques that are well known to readers of this magazine including, as part of the loading demonstration, plenty of pre-schooling before going towards the horsebox. They also stayed calm and relaxed throughout (as you would expect).



“ There is an opinion that these competitions are some sort of ‘race’ and therefore unduly stressful for the horse. ”

I spoke to the person who selected the horses for the competition afterwards and, interestingly, her opinion was that Grant and Dan actually had two of the ‘feistiest’ horses. When the internet critics who put negative film footage of the two other competitors on their website were asked ‘so what about Grant and Dan?’ they replied that the way they worked ‘wasn’t relevant’ because ‘they had two really quiet horses’. I rest my case!

THE CASE AGAINST

The case against competitive demos is predominately put forward by ‘positive only’ trainers. I know myself that food training can be addictive to the human as much as the horse; there’s nothing nicer than having a horse very happy to see you.

It seems great when your horse starts to perform behaviours before you’ve even asked for them; however this is not without its downsides (For more on this read *Perfect Partners* available from the IH Office). While it has its place, food training can create problems and has limitations with equines.

Although seemingly entirely positive, the withholding of food can cause horses to become frustrated and a tense horse won’t even be interested in food. As with all training, it’s about reading the individual horse, skill and timing

To make a proper judgement, though, it would be good to see more food trainers exhibit their training, which they seem reluctant to do. This is a shame; it would give more people a chance to make informed choices if all the methods could be honestly shown in public.

CAN HORSES LEARN IN A LARGE-SCALE DEMO ENVIRONMENT?

The alternative point of view, which I’ve also seen on public forums, is that of having ‘fundamental, ethical reasons for not participating’. Catherine Bell of the Thinking Horsemanship forum writes “Horses learn best when in a place they feel safe, close to their companions and with a trainer who will allow the horse the time he needs. So, arguably, a large, strange environment with lots of people and loud commentary, plus strange horses and a potentially long journey beforehand, isn’t ideal. Add to that a trainer who has a set amount of time to ‘prove himself’ to the audience, let alone a competitive element... all these factors make the event stressful and not conducive to learning before you even start.”

A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THE WORLD

While I respect Catherine’s point of view, personally, I’ve always jumped at the chance to take one of my boys along to a demonstration as a fabulous opportunity for them. The more they can get out in a safe, yet sufficiently challenging environment to see a bit of the world, the better they will be for it, is my opinion.

That’s why I was pleased to have the opportunity to take our young George to The Hand demonstration and after that the Help for Heroes day. When Corky did a recent One Day Event, George also ‘went for the ride’ and was led around at first and then ridden and jumped in the warm arena, before. He’s also been to different properties to have a jump

round, and importantly relax and feel safe and secure. In each case, after he had taken everything in and was on low adrenalin he loaded and travelled home happily.

These were learning opportunities without unwarranted pressure. There are many roads to Rome though; I feel as long as people have the genuine interest of the horse at heart then exploring these differences of opinion can bring us all benefits – and let us hope, most importantly, that means it will benefit horses.

HOW DO STARTERS COPE?

IHRA Rosie Jones believes starters tend to cope well in demo situations and are less stressed by the audience than one might expect – as shown by heart rates and perhaps partly because of feeling secure in the round pen.

“If the training is right they should settle into the environment well. The first trip out has to happen at some point and there is unlikely to be such a safe, structured environment where the training will be appropriate to the horses needs and stress levels (if the trainer is going to have any chance of winning).” IH



By LIZ FALKINGHAM

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Carl Hester

MBE

“Turning our horses out isn’t what makes them win medals.”

Taking the silver medal at the European Dressage Championships in 2011



He's the mischievous boy from Sark who turned his talent into Olympic dressage gold. Carl Hester now has his autobiography out and it's an intriguing insight into the people and horses which shaped the man. LIZ FALKINGHAM talks to him...

Novelist Jilly Cooper has never brought the dressage world to literary life in one of her blockbusters but I suspect, after reading Carl Hester's new autobiography *Making It Happen*, she might well be tempted. Carl's life could have sprung straight from the pages of *Riders*; the son of a non-horsey single mother, a wild childhood on Sark, learning his trade at a riding centre then under the wing of a larger-than-life dealer, before his shining talent earns him a place on the yard of the great Dr Bechtolsheimer.

In there too are the practical jokes, the unrideable horses and the kind owners who lent him a horse or cash. There's even tangled romantic tales and a gut-churning mention on a radio show as a heartless cad; it all sounds far away from the serious business of dressage.

Perhaps it is this innate sense of fun and his unwillingness to conform to what is expected that has set Carl Hester apart in his chosen sport. In a discipline crowded with talented and starkly ambitious riders, he has largely escaped the negative press around training methods that dogs some of his fellow competitors.

His determination to give his horses a normal life is well-publicised, as is his engagement with online critics of the sport. Both are subjects he raises during our chat.

"Look, the turnout issue has become this major question and yet no-one would think anything of it in the eventing or showjumping world. Turning our horses out isn't what makes them win medals; training is what does that," he says.

Yet when we talk about some of the horses in the book, in particular the talented but sensitive Escapado, Carl points out that, without turnout, this horse would have struggled to achieve what he did.

"There's no doubt that, in Escapado's case, no field would probably have meant no horse. He would have had to have far more work and it could have broken him before reaching top level.

"One of my current horses, Nip Tuck, is living out and just comes in for work because that is what suits him. We were flooded over the winter and had no turnout for six weeks and the difference in him was very obvious," says Carl.

When I ask whether the decision to treat them as normal horses becomes harder as their value skyrockets, he does not hesitate in his response.

"You could put Valegro's [value] at between £2 and £10 million, but I paid £6,000 for him and he goes in the field. It still gives me a mega buzz to see them out grazing;

it's such a basic thing. It's also a weight off my shoulders. It's a reminder that they're still a normal horse."

Making It Happen details Carl's involvement in eventing, initially as a rider and more latterly as a trainer. As part of this, he has travelled to Australia and New Zealand and credits his opportunities to see how top level event riders managed their horses with giving him a wider perspective.

"They kept their top three-day event horses living out at events; I saw them build a pen beside the wagon for them. It opened my eyes to that way of thinking."

He is aware, of course, that while his way of managing horses is fundamental to their well-being, it also pays PR dividends. Towards the end of the book, Carl notes that 'we have to keep them, physically and mentally, in good environments, put them in the right spaces' and follows this with 'the horse world needs positive images, positive people and positive training methods that are kind.'

He's dismissive of the idea, however, that controversial training methods such as rollkur (hyperflexion of the horse's neck through force) are widespread.

"I don't think there's as much of a problem as people make out; when you investigate who is behind the online stuff, a lot of the time it is trouble makers. Having said that,

there are methods that need to improve and the welfare of the horse is much more important now."

While many riders refuse to engage with online debate over training methods, Carl has done so because, he says, 'they need to hear [the truth] from people actually doing [top-level dressage].'

"I've decided, as a competition rider, to lay myself out for everyone else to see. To be honest, it's not a very nice way to be; worrying that if your horse goes overbent for a stride then you're going to come in for a lot of criticism.

"The art of competition is far more difficult [than training at home] – you're trying to get 30 perfect movements, which is impossible. I'd like to see the people in the horse industry more united; you would never see a forum of competition riders where they're damning those who don't compete."

The book references the Dressage Convention, which Carl and fellow Olympian Richard Davidson held last year in a bid to 'encourage people...to use horse-friendly methods', and its aim of 'getting across the basic philosophy of horsemanship'. I ask Carl what that means for him in terms of training both horses and people.

“The welfare of the horse is much more important now.”



Finding ways of working in partnership with hot, sensitive horses has been key to Carl Hester's success – here, Uthopia has 'a moment' after the prize-giving at the FEI Nations Cup Dressage at Hickstead

Photo courtesy of Jon Stroud, Jon Stroud Media

Carl Hester

"I always relate it to how you deal with staff: praise, criticism, praise. The rider needs to be relaxed to start, so you work on something that they can do; then you start to tackle the problem.

"The session needs to end with them going away with a good feeling, and wanting to come back for the next step. The same applies to horses; we structure the session around warm up, with stretching and relaxing, then the lesson, then the warm down.

"That finishing-off step is often forgotten. The horse needs to stretch again and then perhaps go for a hack before getting turned out."

Being under constant scrutiny is clearly not easy, though – in the book, Carl notes that 'sport is demanding' and that 'a horse doesn't get to the top by feeding it apples and asking would it mind doing grand prix'. But many times he stresses that fair training methods and a true partnership are essential, noting that 'you have to develop a relationship of trust and mutual respect with each individual horse', something which has led to success with some sensitive, sharp horses.

"Seeing your horse as a partner and making allowances for its individual needs has made a huge contribution to that success. It's common sense that a healthy, happy horse will train better."

In the book, Carl relates how Escapado, known at home as Peanuts, was super talented but managing his tension was the key to results at the highest level. Summers spent living out helped, but Carl also had to make allowances for his insecurity and nervousness, choosing shows where he would have time to relax and develop a routine before being expected to perform.

Nor is he afraid of giving his horses an unconventional prep for a test – his Olympic ride Uthopia ('Uti') was given a spin up



Photo courtesy of Jon Stroud/Jon Stroud Media

Carl's involvement in finding and training Valegro, partnered by his protégée Charlotte Dujardin, has helped put British dressage on top of the world

the gallops provided for the eventers at Greenwich to keep the horse's mind fresh. There are other interesting training techniques he's used in the past described in the book, including using walking in water to encourage the first feel of passage for a horse.

"Ah, I do miss that sort of thing," admits Carl. "My life is a job now and I only ride four days a week as the rest of the time

I'm training or doing something else.

"I still try and build in things like doing a line of changes around a field to encourage a more forward aspect. My riding has progressed from the old days, though, so I feel I can do what I need in the arena, as I know what I'm supposed to be feeling."

Reading the book, I sometimes felt that the pressure and scrutiny of not only riding at the highest level but being responsible for Valegro and rider Charlotte Dujardin has taken some of the joy out of competition dressage for Carl. The steely cool that characterises the 'non-tactile, untouchable' Charlotte is in stark contrast to Carl's tears of tension or anguish as he watches them compete, or contemplates the sale of Uti.

When I ask him the final question of what the future holds, he answers that he still feels lucky to be a rider where 'you know you can keep getting better', and his website lists the up and coming stars under his expert tutelage.

But the horse that ends the book is not the amazing Valegro, or Uti, or any of his other dressage stars; it is Mitch, a carriage horse from Sark that he brought over to England in an adventurous escapade to start a new life. Hopefully there are more Jilly Cooper-style adventures ahead for this talented rider who has done so much to put British dressage on top of the world. 

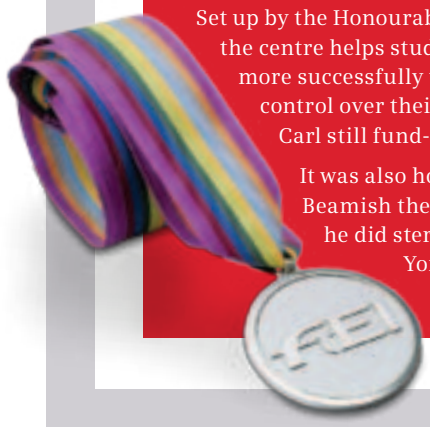
“By two-and-a-half, you're starting to see their form as a horse, what their topline will be and if they are naturally uphill – I leave breeding right to the end.”

DID YOU KNOW?

That Carl's first job in England as a teenager was working at the Fortune Centre for Riding Therapy in the New Forest.

Set up by the Honourable Mrs Baillie and Mrs Nelson, the centre helps students with special needs relate more successfully to others and have greater control over their lives via horse-based therapy; Carl still fund-raises for the centre today.

It was also home to IH member Ele Milwright's Beamish the cob for a number of years, where he did sterling work before heading north to Yorkshire to live with IH Magazine editor Liz Falkingham!



BUYING THE NEXT SUPERSTAR

Carl describes his first impressions of Peanuts (Escapado) at Michel Assouline's yard thus: 'I can't remember being wild about him when I tried him, but he had an excellent hind leg and a lovely trot'. I ask him what he looks for when considering horses for purchase.

"I'm normally buying at two-and-a-half because they're so much cheaper at that age, and I don't worry about whether they have been ridden because we can do all that at our end. It can be hard to judge temperament at that age – these tend to be well-handled animals that have gone through grading, so it's hard to see into the future on their trainability.

"What you can do is look at the mechanics of how the horse moves; it's not so much about it being a great big mover, but more how it can use what it has. By two-and-a-half, you're starting to see their form as a horse, what their topline will be and if they are naturally uphill – I leave breeding right to the end," says Carl.

“It’s common sense that a healthy, happy horse will train better.”



The smile says it all: Carl and Uthopia after their brilliant performance in the Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle at the London 2012 Olympic Games

Carl Hester's SUCCESS BY NUMBERS

4 The number of times Carl has represented Team GB at Olympic Games, including the 2012 London Games where he was part of the gold-medalling winning team

2 The number of times Carl has won the World Championships

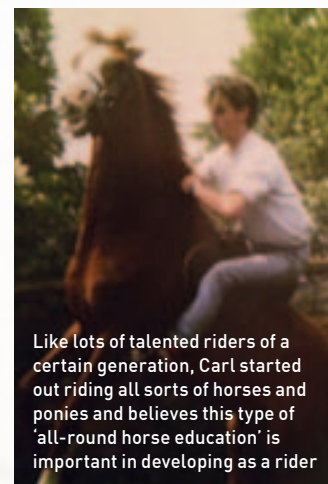
7 The number of times Carl has won the European Championships

66 The number of national titles Carl has won



WIN A COPY OF
'MAKING IT HAPPEN'

See page 31 to see how you can be in with a chance of winning a signed copy of Carl's book *Making It Happen*



Like lots of talented riders of a certain generation, Carl started out riding all sorts of horses and ponies and believes this type of 'all-round horse education' is important in developing as a rider

Photo courtesy of Carl Hester

THE MARCH DEMONSTRATIONS

The Hand

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

If you've read the letters page of this issue (page 6), you'll have seen that the demo at The Hand in Somerset in March was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Here's a flavour of the laughter, tears, bucks, hugs and horses from that night...

01 Coloured love: It must be love! Corky and Polly (and Monty!) share a moment

02 H4H and Monty: War veteran Mark shares a special moment after Join-Up as part of Monty's Horse Sense and Soldiers programme

03 H4H hug: Horse therapy has brought relief to many war veterans and their families, giving them hope for reconnecting after the trauma of PTSD

04 Emotional: Tissues at the ready: watching their horses be transformed by Monty can be an emotional process for owners

05 Martin Clunes: Grin and bear it: actor Martin Clunes looks like he enjoyed the evening!

06 Rodeo: Wearing a saddle for the first time doesn't always go smoothly!

07-12 Starting out... Monty puts one of the starters through his paces

13 Cob loading: Owner Stephanie Jones was astounded by how easily her 'non-loading cob' Polly went on the wagon

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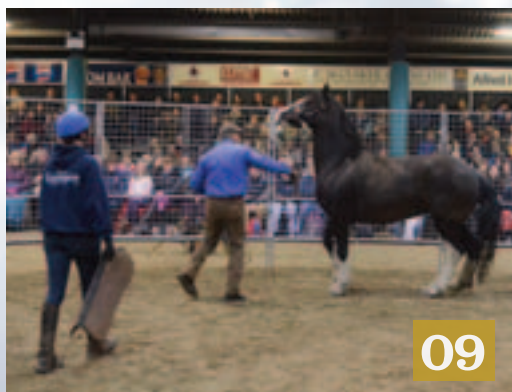
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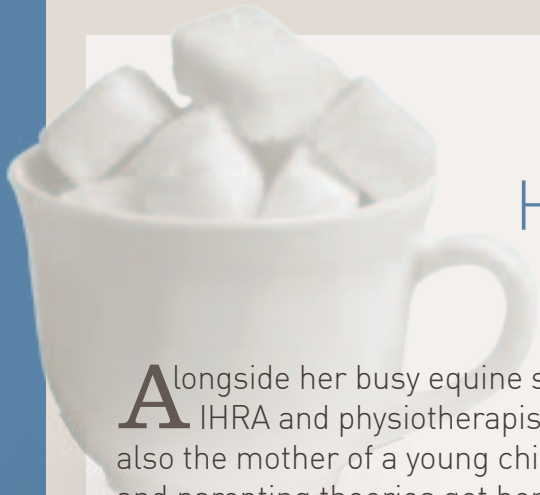


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12

Photo courtesy of Eile Milwright



IS YOUR HORSE'S CUP

full?

Alongside her busy equine schedule as an IHRA and physiotherapist, Sue Palmer is also the mother of a young child. Motherhood and parenting theories got her thinking about what our bond with children has to teach us about our relationship with horses.

While listening to a book called *Playful Parenting*, I heard an interesting description of 'attachment parenting'. Please note that I'm describing this in my own words and not quoting but, as I recall it, the author Lawrence Cohen talks about the child having a cup which needs to be refilled often with attention, love, support, encouragement, warmth, hugs, kisses, and all the good physical, emotional and spiritual things that a parent or care giver can give a child.

When upsets happen, the child is hurt or their energy is drained, the cup empties a little, and they'll need to return to the parent for a 'refill'. Some children have leaky cups that need refilling even more often, and some children have broken cups.

If a child's cup becomes empty, he will find it difficult to cope, and will often show this through undesirable behaviour. It can be hard as a parent to see that behaviour as a request for a refill of love and caring.

Attachment parenting, a phrase coined by paediatrician William Sears, is a parenting philosophy based on the theory that the child forms a strong emotional bond with caregivers during childhood with lifelong consequences. Sensitive parenting helps the child to form a secure attachment style which fosters a child's emotional development and well-being.

Andrew McLean, of the Australian Equine Behaviour Center, and Paul McGreevy, professor of animal behaviour and animal welfare science at the University of Sydney in New South Wales, Australia, and colleagues recently linked horse training to the concept of attachment parenting. The suggestion is that what is commonly known as 'horse whispering', and many types of touch therapies, might actually be 'horse attachment'.

McLean and McGreevy put forward the idea that success or failure in horse training is related to the horse's state of 'arousal' as well as his level of 'attachment' to you, his owner/ rider. The term 'arousal' in this content relates to how alert the horse is at any given moment; too aroused/alert and the horse cannot learn as effectively in a reward-based training exercise.

So, for example, trying to teach your horse to stand still (and be rewarded for standing) at the mounting block is less likely to be effective if he's watching other horses playing in a nearby paddock and wishing he was with them instead of you. McLean believes that horses with a stronger attachment to their owner are less fearful (or aroused) and more likely to respond and learn.

I've been thinking for a while about attachment theory in the parenting world in relation to working with horses. This description struck a chord with me, because author Lawrence Cohen talks about how if you make a mistake – perhaps for example you yell at your child when you really shouldn't have – then the cup is emptied a little and you will need to refill it.

A couple of years ago I was lucky enough to do a course walk around Gatcombe Horse Trials with Harry Meade, where he described his relationship with his horse when he was jumping around the cross country in terms of banking. He said that when he got things right and helped his horse out, it was like putting a deposit in the bank.

When he got things wrong and his horse had to help him out, it was like making a withdrawal. The aim was always to keep in the black!

I think this can apply equally well to the leisure rider who is simply looking for a trusting relationship with their horse. We all make mistakes, have bad days, and take our feelings with us to the yard on occasion. But if the rest of the time we can balance this with oodles of time, affection, and as much understanding as we can manage, then hopefully we can keep our horses' cup full. ☒

“McLean believes that horses with a stronger attachment to their owner are less fearful...”



WELCOME TO THE IH TRAINING SECTION

This issue we're looking at boosting confidence out hacking, why conformation is about more than looks and the debate over lungeing vs long lining.

There's also a handy guide to applying a field poultice for horses living out



Long lining can be particularly useful where the horse needs building up physically without the added complication of a rider

Photo courtesy of Sarah Weston

One line or TWO?

LONG LINING VS LUNGEING

By IHRA Rosie Jones

If you're a long-term IH member and veteran of Monty demos, you will probably know that Monty and IH generally advocate long lining rather than single-line lungeing. IHRA Rosie Jones looks at why and whether there are times when lungeing is preferable.

The IH preference for long lining, where two lines are used – one of which runs round the outer edge and rear of the horse – is based in the fact that it is better physically for your horse. The action of moving around in a consistent circle is strenuous on a horse's body.

This particularly so when the weight of the lunge line hanging on one side of the horse's head causes a tilt in the poll, which has a knock-on effect right down the horse's spine. Long lining means the weight on the horse's head is even on both sides, and the horse can move in a variety of shapes including straight lines and circles and turns of different sizes.

“Long-lining is great for developing top-line as well as for teaching aids from the ground before putting them in place for ridden work.”

Long lining also makes better use of your body language; when you are stood in the centre of a circle lungeing, your body language tells the horse to move away from you. The lunge line stops the horse from doing that and, in order to keep the horse moving round, a lunge whip is often needed as a forward aid.

When long lining, the handler can take up a position behind the horse and walking forward, he/she can then use body language to change speed or direction. This is much easier for the horse to understand.

While lungeing can feel like a fairly limited activity, on the long lines there is no end to exercises that you can work through. Long line dressage tests, grids of jumps, transitions up and down through the paces, long lining round obstacle courses or in different spaces – out round fields or tracks if safe to do so.

It is a great way to get your horse fit and confident without being on his back. This is great for developing top-line as well as for teaching aids from the ground before putting them in place for ridden work.

WHEN LUNGEING HAS ITS USES

Working the horse in a circle using one line still has some uses, however. This is particularly true if the handler adopts a more 'long lining' type position so that body language can help the horse understand where to move, and so that the shape the horse is moving in can be altered as he/she is working.

When beginning a young horse's education without a round pen

If I only have an arena to use, then I find working from one line a useful stage of training before introducing both lines. Having already completed some leading work, I will use body language to gently introduce the horse to the idea of moving away from me and yet staying connected through the line.

This gives me a chance to work him at faster paces than I can do on the lead line, and to introduce him to the idea of moving forward with me in a driving position behind. Once he has the idea of this, then I can begin introducing a second long line through some incremental steps to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Continued overleaf >>

One line or TWO?

LONG LINING VS LUNGEING

“You never know what is going to be thrown at you as an IHRA, and working off one line is a tool that has proved useful in a couple of scenarios for me in the past.”

When introducing new tack or equipment

I might revisit this single line work when the horse is getting used to new equipment such as a roller or saddle. While I would want to long line in full tack before riding, working off one line for a little while gives me a chance to check the horse is happy moving in the tack without adding too much at once.

Since the line comes straight back to my hands, rather than through the roller or stirrups, this gives a very simple, ‘open’ rein. This can be invaluable in the event of a worry or panic.



Photo courtesy of Jo Monk

Long lining is far more versatile than lungeing – you can introduce horses to poles, jumps and even spooky objects like ditches and water trays this way



There are times when a single line is useful; a starter horse can find the additional guidance provided by the handler's line helpful in the early stages of being ridden

Photo courtesy of Liz Falkingham

When beginning to work with a rider on board

This simple one-line work can then give the horse and rider support during early ridden work. It would not be safe to have the horse attached to long lines with a rider on board but, particularly when working in a bigger space, the line helps the handler keep connected to the horse and helps the horse know what he should be doing and feel secure.

The handler and new rider will gradually introduce the aids to the horse and phase the handler out, ditching the line when it is no longer needed. Eventually, the presence of the ground handler can also be phased out entirely.

As an extra tool for the kit bag

You never know what is going to be thrown at you as an IHRA, and working off one line is a tool that has proved useful in a couple of scenarios for me in the past. On one occasion, I had travelled out to help a lady with leading her 3-year-old colt.

He had had a long break in the field since last being handled, and had grown pretty big and strong, as well as attached to his field mates. She had tried to handle him a couple of times and he had run at her and then got away.

She had managed to get him into the stable through luck and food and several people's help; now he had been in for over a week and she didn't dare lead him out again. I put the dually on and taught him to back up in the box, which went smoothly, and he seemed to quickly understand the concept of pressure and release.

But once he was out of the stable, he just needed to move and I could tell that trying to back him up was only going to get me run over. If I tried to restrain him or get close to him at

all he just flattened his ears and looked like he would really run me flat.

I decided the only thing I could do was get control of his feet from a distance and let him let off steam at the same time, so ended up working him on one line, using my body language to gradually get more control of the speed and the size of circle. This worked really well and before long he was looking at me in a totally different way; I was able to turn his hindquarters away and carry on with the leading work without further problems.

On another occasion, I was asked to help with a horse who shot off when let go in the field. I found working off a single line really useful; at first, it might have looked to a bystander like a bit of lunging work, but there was something specific I was trying to achieve.

In this situation, I aimed to show the mare how to walk gently away from the handler, using the line to turn her to a stop if she went back to the running pattern. Essentially, I really wanted to practise lungeing at walk – especially the beginning of the process where she moves away from the handler.

I practised the gentle ‘send away’ at the walk with the line on several times before repeating the process with no line on, and hay presto, there was no running off.

I am sure there are other scenarios that single line work might be useful. The key thing to the success of either method is to get really confident with your body positioning and line handling, and then to feel free to experiment with the tools.

• Do you lunge or long line? Tell us what method you use and why at editor@ihhq.net



Photos courtesy of Liz Falkingham

Hacking your horse out (in a safe environment) is one of the most beneficial things you can do for his physical and mental well-being. It can – and should – also be great fun for you too; but lots of us have difficulties with ‘spooky’ horses while out hacking.

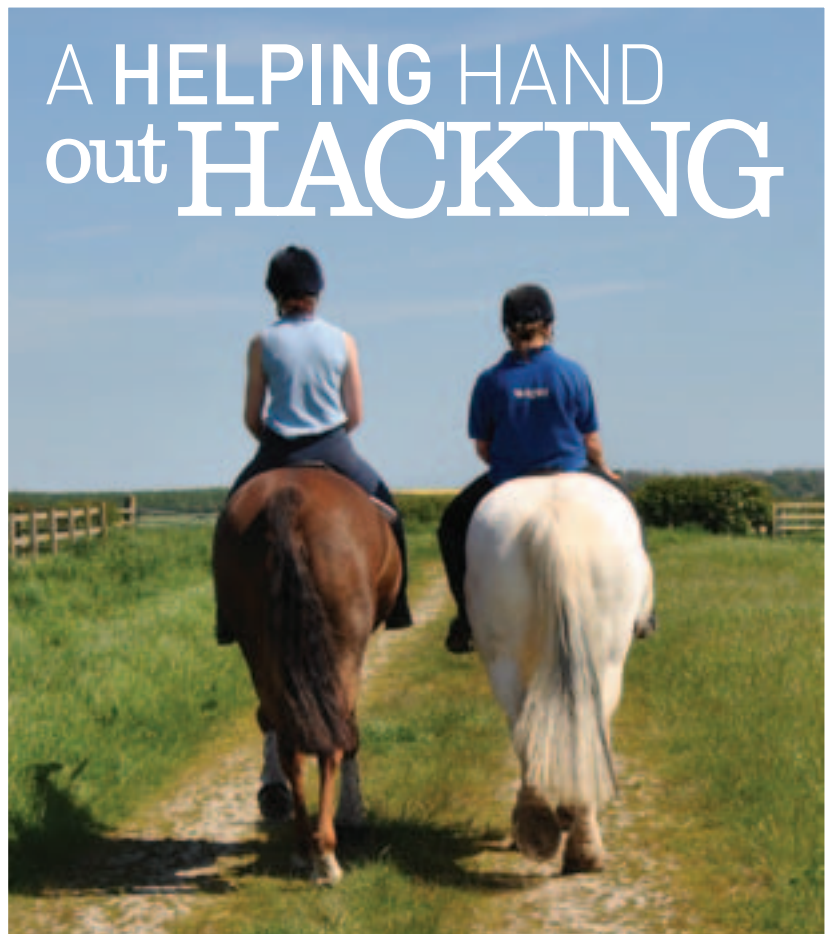
IHRA Rosie Jones looks at getting a helping hand as part of building confidence out hacking.

“Teaching confidence out hacking is a training session like any other; you’re just doing it out of the manege.”

One of the very best ways to encourage a young and/ or spooky horse to be more confident about hacking is to use an older, unflappable lead horse.

The right lead horse, one who is steady and does not kick, plus a sympathetic, calm rider on his back, can help overcome spooking issues in the long term.

If you can find someone to help in this way, the next step is to choose a hacking ‘training venue’ which is safe. Ideally this means somewhere off-road, where you have space to manoeuvre safely – it certainly doesn’t mean a busy main road!



Hacking out in the countryside can be one of the great joys of having a horse



Young and/or spooky horses need help building their confidence when it comes to dealing with unexpected hazards out hacking

THE AIM OF THE TRAINING

Teaching confidence out hacking is a training session like any other; you’re just doing it out of the manege. Think about what it is you want to teach your horse – with a young and/or spooky horse, ideally you are teaching him to be brave in confronting unknown objects or situations.

To do this, you need to put some time into setting up a situation where he is practising a different pattern of behaviour. Getting past scary objects is really only the beginning of good training; he needs to learn to do so calmly – it is vital you finish the exercise with a low adrenaline, relaxed horse. >>

A HELPING HAND out HACKING



Step 1. Go past the spooky object in the easiest way possible – however you can! That probably means with the young spooky horse behind and to the inside of the lead horse (away from the scary object).

“Once you have got past and your horse realised he survived, the real training begins.”



OPTIONS: If the young/spooky horse won't take the lead from the other horse, there are two options. **1.** You can dismount and lead him past with a long lead rope, which can give him confidence as you will be by his side. **2.** Alternatively, you can have a lead rope attached to a Dually under the young/spooky horse's bridle and tied safely out of the way round the neck. Check the lead horse is comfortable with this in a safe place (above) first then, when out on a training hack, the rider can pass the lead line to the lead horse's rider and be led past.

Step 2. Once you have got past and your horse realised he survived, the real training begins. Ask for a lead back and forward past the spooky object/area until you have some signs that your horse's heart rate is dropping.

Look for lower and softer neck and ears flicking onto other things rather than focussed on the danger; chewing, blinking, sighing are all good signs. Under the saddle, his back should begin to soften and his feet will hit the ground in a more rhythmic stride. When this starts to happen, you're ready to move on to...





Step 3a. Now you are ready to build towards going past the spooky object on your own. First swap the young/spooky horse to the inside, nearest the object, as the next step to building his confidence.

“...use your imagination to think of ways to ‘stretch’ your horse’s confidence without breaking it.”



Step 3b. Work through Step 2 again, getting the horse to relax while being closer to the scary object. Once he has started to relax, you can use your imagination to think of ways to ‘stretch’ your horse’s confidence without breaking it.

REPEAT, REPEAT

All the time, you should be looking to repeat the exercises until the young/spooky horse relaxes and lowers his adrenalin.

Just getting past the scary object/area while still spooking is not enough; all you are doing is practising spooking!

Continued overleaf >>



Step 3c. Next, ask the lead horse to go past the scary area without you and wait for you on the other side; if this is too much, get the lead horse to go half way through. Then ride on your own to catch him up.





A HELPING HAND out HACKING

“It may take several sessions with a lead horse to really make headway with a very spooky horse.”



Step 4a. Once the young/spooky horse is confident with step 3, you are ready to try going past on your own. Start by asking the lead horse to wait at the very spookiest point while you ride past him, forward and backward, on your own, gradually increasing the distance.



Step 4b. Walk past very slowly, or trot past – whichever is more challenging for your horse! Finally, go past giving the lead horse a lead and, if it feels appropriate, ask him to wait until you are all the way past before trotting to catch you up.

BE PATIENT

It may take several sessions with a lead horse to really make headway with a very spooky horse. Often, you will need to find different ‘scary areas’ to train in – remember, horses are not good at generalising their learning, so need to learn to cope with spooky things wherever they come across them.

All of this takes time and effort, not to say a helpful friend and her horse (remember to set aside funds for a ‘thank you’ ice cream or pint!). But it is an investment well worth making to develop a more confident horse who is enjoyable to hack.

WITHOUT HELP?

LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT ARTICLE ON SPOOKING...

We know not everyone has access to a helpful friend and their lead horse to try these training exercises

In a future issue of IH Magazine, we will be looking at other ways of dealing with spooking, including using schooling methods to improve softness and manoeuvrability. IH



Conformation:

WHY IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN JUST LOOKS

Conformation is a word that most horse people are familiar with but, for some, it can be a confusing subject.

What makes it good or bad, and why does it even matter?

LIZ FALKINGHAM
investigates...

“For many riders, judging the seriousness of conformation faults is related to what the horse will be required to do.”

If you're a showing enthusiast like me, you'll be more than familiar with the concept of good (and bad) conformation. Beyond the aesthetics of the showing, however, how a horse is put together has a direct impact on its health and even behaviour.

According to Wikipedia, conformation 'evaluates the degree of correctness of a horse's bone structure, musculature, and its body proportions in relation to each other'. Furthermore, the author warns that 'undesirable conformation can limit the ability to perform a specific task'.

McTimoney-trained animal physiotherapist Dani Paizis concurs with this, and says she sees many horses with problems related to poor conformation.

"Take a horse with a long back, for example, which is generally considered a conformation fault. Being long backed makes it difficult for the horse to engage and connect with the



Good conformation isn't just about aesthetics; it's an important part of what makes a horse an athletic performer that will stay sound

hindquarter, which in turn makes it hard for them to strengthen through their core.

"Consequently, the hind limb isn't given any stability and the horse has to work extra hard with every stride. This increases the risk of soft tissue injuries to the lower limb and can eventually lead to articulate changes in the hock and arthritis," says Dani.

An excessively upright shoulder is another conformation fault which is commonly considered unacceptable. IH member, show rider and judge Catherine Pickering says both this and being 'back at the knee' (also known as 'behind at the knee') are big no nos for her.

"An upright shoulder creates a short length of stride, which is uncomfortable to ride. I don't like 'back at the knee' because it puts a lot of strain on the tendon at the back of the leg and indicates a misalignment of the joint."

She also believes horses which are 'short of front' (also known as lacking in length of rein) can struggle to flex correctly at the poll and through the throat. Dani Paizis says this is an issue for horses with a lack of space between the 'wing of the atlas' and the edge of the cheekbone.

"Where these bones meet there should be a gap of at least two inches; if there isn't, and the cheekbone is too near the wing of the atlas, the horse will struggle with poll flexion in both the upwards and downwards movement and in lateral flexion. In my experience, this kind of fault can be related to forelimb lameness, as the horse compromises his natural movement pattern to give the rider the requested poll flexion."

For many riders, judging the seriousness of conformation faults is related to what the horse will be required to do. West Yorkshire-based rider Roger Craddock says 'fit for purpose' is his general rule.

"For working horses, though, there are some issues which would put me off: behind at the knee, cow hocks, bad feet and long pasterns would all be leg faults that might be a weakness. Having said that, I did once ignore all that and bought a horse with amazing presence but rubbish legs and he stayed sound hunting and competing the whole time I had him," says Roger.

Continued overleaf >>

Conformation: WHY IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN JUST LOOKS



Photo courtesy of Liz Falkingham

Excessively sloping and/or long pasterns can place strain on the tendons and joints of the limb

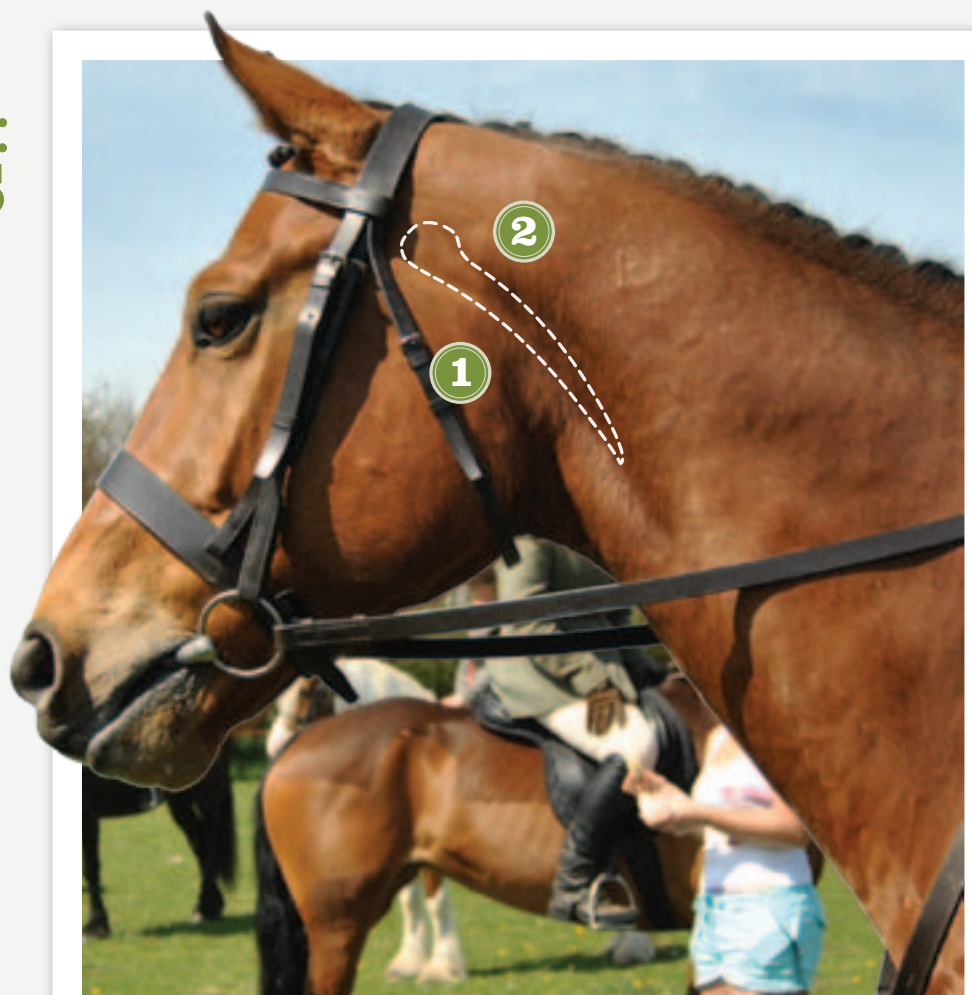
“For many riders, judging the seriousness of conformation faults is related to what the horse will be required to do.”

As the pastern acts as a kind of shock absorber for the weight of the horse as it is transferred downwards while moving or jumping, the length and angle has a direct impact on how the horse moves and how sound it stays. The normal front pastern angle is considered to be 45-51 degrees (which should be reflected in the 45-degree angle of the shoulder); hind pastern range is 50-55 degrees.

Long pasterns are considered weak and will put increased stress on the tendons and ligaments of the leg. Short, upright pasterns are also a fault, as they increase the concussive effect of the stride which can lead to problems like navicular and ring bone.

Eventer and professional competition horse producer Caroline Thornton is clear when it comes to such faults: “This sort of poor conformation will always catch them up in the end.”

There are other faults, of course, which fall into the ‘ugly but not disastrous’ category. Poor neck set, including being ‘ewe-necked’ where the neck appears put on upside down,



Insufficient space in the area indicated between the back of the cheekbone (1) and the wing of atlas (2) can make it difficult for a horse to flex correctly at the poll

Photo courtesy of Liz Falkingham

looks unattractive and can mean a high head carriage, but isn't necessarily a problem in leisure horses.

Splints are another common issue for horses and the cause of great debate for buyers. Small, hard splints not too close to the knee (often caused by riding on hard ground) wouldn't be a problem, says Catherine Pickering, but those caused as a result of poor leg conformation should be seen as a warning.

Equestrian photographer and rider Sally Coles has had thousands of horses pass in front of her lens; she says very straight hindlimbs are a personal dislike.

“It makes for a very uncomfortable, jarring ride, whatever you want to do with them.”

IHRA Rosie Jones says these sorts of conformation issues can also be at the root of behavioural issues.

“Fellow IHRA Ian Vandenberghe teaches on IH courses about how various leg conformation

issues can have effects on foot handling problems. For example, horses which are ‘over at the knee’ struggle to stay supported by only one front leg; those which have a very straight hindlimb struggle to flex the hindleg high under their body.

“Certainly, conformation has an effect on both handling and ridden problems IHRAs are likely to encounter. Incorrect neck set and consequent high head carriage can mean Friesians with their heads in the air walking right over you, and cobs with short front legs are more likely to be running on to the forehand,” says Rosie.

At the end of the day, however, it often comes down to what the potential buyer wants – and likes, says IH's Ele Milwright.

“I've seen some extraordinarily odd looking horses do well at showjumping, but they probably wouldn't last more than a season or two hunting. Most importantly, the horse should please the eye – after all, it's you who is going to look at him, ride him, feed him and love him!”

NO FOOT, NO HORSE

THE OLD ADAGE 'NO FOOT NO HORSE' IS AS TRUE TODAY AS IT EVER WAS, SAYS LICHFIELD-BASED VET RICHARD STEPHENSON, OF POOL HOUSE EQUINE CLINIC, STAFFORDSHIRE.


"The fore feet are particularly important as these act as the horse's 'shock absorbers' enabling it to work on firm ground. Poor front foot conformation can lead to abnormal force distribution and potentially lameness in later life."

The soles of the front feet should be almost circular and symmetrical, and it should be possible to draw a straight line parallel to the hoof wall through the pastern and fetlock joint.

"This is called the hoof pastern axis but make sure that the horse is standing with the limb directly under it to get a true impression," says Richard.

A common question is whether the front feet should always be an identical pair and while in an ideal world the answer is yes, the reality is that over 60% of horses have front feet that vary in size and shape. Therefore a slight difference between the fore feet should not be considered either abnormal or alarming.

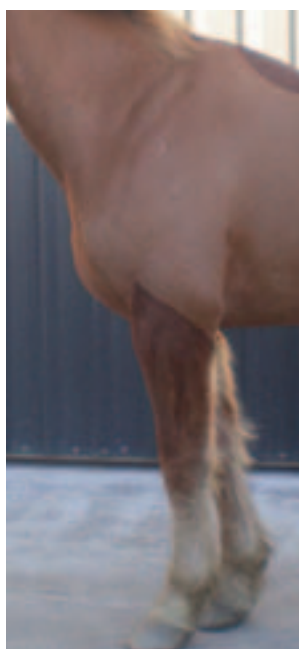
"When buying a new horse look at the feet first. It doesn't matter what you intend to do with it if it has poor quality feet you will not be successful," he warns, adding that the next step is to check the front legs are straight when looked at from both the side and from the front.

• Do you agree with our contributors' assessment of conformation faults? Tell us which faults fall onto your lists of 'definitely no' and 'maybe if everything else is ok' via editor@ihhq.net 

“When buying a new horse look at the feet first. It doesn't matter what you intend to do with it if it has poor quality feet you will not be successful...”



Standing a horse up square, without tack or bandages to obscure the picture, is a good way of starting a thorough conformation assessment



Above: (left) Many riders look to avoid buying horses with upright shoulders, as it can mean a short, choppy stride which is uncomfortable to sit on; (right) An upright pastern, combined here with a boxy hoof, can cause jarring

Photo courtesy of Liz Falkingham

Photos courtesy of Liz Falkingham



FIELD poultice GUIDE

There are many ways to poultice a foot, says IH's Louise Austin. Here she shows one method which she and husband IHRA SAM AUSTIN have found to be successful for field kept horses.

Poulticing can be tricky at the best of times ie when a horse is on box rest or limited turnout, but what about when, ideally, you would like to be able to keep the horse turned out and moving while an abscess heals? We have had success using the following method:

Pus in the horse's foot may often present as him being very lame on one leg; sometimes you will be able to see or smell the pus if the abscess has already vented. If you can't, and unless you're experienced, it is important to have the vet or farrier diagnose an abscess as the cause so you can be very sure there is not something else wrong.

With an abscess, one foot will be noticeably warm and the horse will react to hoof tester pressure. The aim of poulticing is to draw out the infection so that the abscess can heal properly.

This 'tape boot' approach can be used for an absolute maximum of 12 hours, after which the poultice should be removed, the foot cleaned and re-poulticed. Eight hours is the ideal time between poultice changes as it leaves enough time for the drawing agents to have an effect.



With an abscess, one foot will be noticeably warm and the horse will react to hoof tester pressure



Pus in the horse's foot may often present as him being very lame on one leg



Equipment needed

- Cut to size Animalintex (or similar poultice material) large enough to more than cover the area being poulticed. In the case of a foot poultice, large enough to cover the entire sole
- Cut to size Gamgee (or similar padding material) to cover the entire foot all the way up to the fetlock
- Hot water, in a clean bucket or similar container, which is cool enough that you can keep your hand in it without discomfort
- Roll of Gaffer/ Duct/ Elephant tape
- Corner of an Alfa-A, HiFi or similar, sturdy plastic bag
- Good quality (not supermarket!) plastic carrier bag or similar
- Scissors for last-minute dressing size adjustments

STEP-BY-STEP TURNOUT POULTICE

Step 1. Collect all you need nearby (see equipment list above) and have a helper on hand to pass you equipment as you need it.



SOAK the Animalintex in hand hot (not scalding) water

Step 2. Apply the Animalintex (non-shiny side against the foot) and press down to squeeze out some water and ensure it is in contact with the foot.



Ensure the Animalintex is placed non-shiny side against the foot

Step 3. Wrap with a plastic bag to help retain warmth and moisture. This will help to soften the horn and draw out infection



Wrapping in a plastic bag will help draw out infection

Step 4. Cover with a large piece of Gamgee. Place the centre of the Gamgee over the centre of the sole and pull the edges up to the fetlock.



Cover with a large piece of Gamgee



Pull the edges of the Gamgee up to the fetlock

Step 5a. Hold the Gamgee on with one hand and apply the Vetwrap with the other.



Step 5b. First secure the Gamgee with Vetwrap around the pastern and then apply the Vetwrap in a figure of eight pattern and across the foot to cover all of the Gamgee.



Apply the Vetwrap in a figure of eight pattern



HOT TUBBING: It can also be beneficial to 'tub' the foot in order to draw out pus and help clean the affected area. Tubbing involves persuading the horse to stand in container of warm water/Epsom salts solution (one tablespoon per pint).

Step 5c. Squeeze all around the bandage to ensure that the Vetwrap has adhered well to itself to stop it unwrapping.



Ensure that the Vetwrap has adhered well to itself

Step 6a. Use sturdy 'Elephant/ Gaffer/ Duct tape' to create a boot over the Vetwrap working in a similar way to the way you applied the Vetwrap.



For extra protection you can put a sturdy piece of plastic bag (Hi-Fi or Alfa A bags are ideal) between the Vetwrap and the Duct tape

Step 6b. It is more important to have more layers over the sole and especially at the edges of the hoof wall as this is where it is most likely to wear through.



Ensure you add more layers to areas that will wear

Step 7.

Run your finger round the top of the tape boot to ensure it is not too tight beneath the horse's fetlock, against the pastern.



Once the poultice is no longer productive (i.e. no pus or black smelly areas on the removed animalintex) this can be followed by a couple of days dry poulticing. Remember, if in doubt, always call your vet. 📞

The idea that only high level competition and racehorses get ulcers is outmoded – even broodmares at grass have been found to have mild gastric ulcers



LEARN & WIN

Gastric ulcers

Gastric ulcers are just a problem for high-stress racehorses, right? Wrong – new studies suggest up to one in three leisure horses are also affected. So just what are they and how should they be managed? IH Magazine reports

You might have read articles before which describe how up to 90% of racehorses in training are affected by gastric ulcers which, given their lifestyle of lots of hard feed, exercise and restricted forage, is hardly surprising. What might be more of a surprise, however, is that everything from foals to ‘happy hackers’ can be affected.

As the name suggests, a gastric ulcer is a lesion on the inside of the stomach wall, caused by gastric acid (used to digest food) eroding the stomach lining. As horses are ‘trickle feeders’ designed to eat forage for up to 20 hours a day, there is a continuous secretion of acid within the stomach; horses which go without forage for long periods don’t have food in their stomach to neutralise gastric acid.

This can be made worse by feeding grain-based products, as the volatile fatty acids (VFAs) produced during the

fermentation of these feeds in the stomach exacerbate erosion. Intensive exercise also plays a part – blood flow to the stomach (which helps to remove acid) decreases with exercise and acid is also pushed up into the sensitive upper part of the stomach.

Nicola Tyler, nutrition director at TopSpec Equine, says trying to identify specific causes of ulcers is tricky, however.

“Certainly there are factors which make a horse more likely to suffer from ulcers, such as insufficient forage, large feeds and feeds high in starch, strenuous exercise and stress. But research has shown even broodmares at grass can have mild ulcers.”

Physical stress and illness also play a role; traumatic injury and shock, for example, can lead to the formation of ulcers. Travelling is also a risk factor, says Nicola, as it has the ‘double whammy’ of low forage intake and direct physical stress.

“But for all this, frustratingly there is still a significant, but low, incidence of gastric ulcers in horses and ponies which live out at grass. Evidence suggests that many horses are able to tolerate their ulcers without problems, though.”

What should I be looking for?

The symptoms of gastric ulcers can be vague, which is why most horses need to be ‘scoped’ to see whether they are present and how severe they are.

POSSIBLE INDICATORS INCLUDE:

- **Going off their feed and generally looking unthrifty with a poor coat**
- **Colic (where severe ulceration is present)**
- **A grumpy attitude and poor performance**
- **Various types of stereotypical behaviour, notably crib-biting and/or windsucking**
- **More specific symptoms include ‘grunting’ when girthed-up or stretching out over a jump**
- **Teeth grinding**

Where a horse is suspected of having ulcers, the vet will pass an endoscope up the horse’s nose to look inside the stomach. Any ulcers present are then scored on a scale of 1-4 (where four is the most severe).


How do I treat them?

"In the short term the best treatment remains the veterinary-licensed drug, Gastrogard, which is a proton pump inhibitor," says Nicola Tyler. "It reduces the amount of acid pumped into the stomach, which results in a less acidic stomach environment and hence healing of the ulcers."

Once a course of this treatment has been administered, the emphasis needs to be on managing the horse to avoid a re-occurrence.

"In the long term there are several feeding/management practices that can be helpful in reducing the impact that ulcers have on any individual horse. Central to that is ensuring good quality forage is available ad lib; horses produce saliva when eating forage, which acts as a buffer to stomach acid," advises Nicola.

THE BENEFITS OF USING A CALMER...

"Because stress has been highlighted by researchers as a major factor in predisposing horses to gastric ulcers, calmers with a broad approach to calming horses can be useful. Probably the most important ingredient in this situation would be tryptophan, as it boosts serotonin levels in the brain to effectively relieve anxiety." 



The camera in the endoscope gives a good view all the way along the oesophagus and down into the stomach

OTHER TIPS TO PREVENT AND MANAGE ULCERS INCLUDE:

- **Feed forage before a hard feed**, as this creates a 'mat' of fibre in the stomach to help prevent acid splashing up the stomach walls
 - **Avoid hard exercise within an hour of a hard feed** to avoid disturbing this 'mat' and allow access to hay or alfalfa chop before riding
 - **Alfalfa, because of its calcium and protein content, has been shown to help reduce the severity of ulcers**, so feeds containing these ingredients should be beneficial. Some research has indicated that soya oil may also be helpful
 - **Feeds high in protein** (taking account of the individual horse's requirement) oil and fibre, but low in starch, should be helpful
 - **Avoid feeding cereal** or cereal-containing compound feeds
 - **Minimise stress** in a horse's daily routine and make appropriate management changes where needed e.g. turn out first if watching other horses turned out causes stress
 - **Feed 'little and often'** – trickle feed haynets can be useful
- "Other feed products worth recommending** would be pure unmolassed alfalfa chops, Speedbeet, feed balancers, low-starch cubes with a good digestible energy but formulated without cereal grains; and soya oil," says Nicola.



The endoscope is passed up the horse's nose to allow the vet to diagnose gastric ulcers definitively

COMPETITION WINNERS!

Here are the lucky winners from our spring competitions:

Neue Schule Jumpers Choice bit: **GLENDA FOLEY**

CaymanHavana book: **SARA GOZNEY**

IH starter kit: **HILARY AND GRAHAM LIPSCOMBE**

WIN!
a signed copy of
Carl Hester's
'MAKING IT HAPPEN'

WIN A SIGNED COPY OF 'MAKING IT HAPPEN'

If reading the article on pages 12-15 has whet your appetite to read Carl's autobiography Making It Happen, now's your opportunity to be in with a chance of winning a signed copy. All you have to do is answer the following question:

Q: Where did Carl spend his childhood?

TO ENTER send your answer to editor@ihhq.net, with 'Carl Hester book' in the subject line.

If you can't wait to own a copy...

If you want to buy your own copy immediately, you'll find 'Making It Happen' on Carl's own website at www.carlhester.co.uk/_shop/ or on Amazon, priced at £20.





“ I know that IH methods and philosophies have made this happen. ”

IH Success Story

IH methods plus a good farrier have helped Shuna Cameron and her horse, Max, to overcome his early health problems and achieve competition success



Photo: Colin Davidson Mudsports



Photo: Andrew Desmond

Left and above: Max and Shuna competing

Taking it to the Max

We met Max, our 16.3hh ID x TB, while we on holiday in Ireland and he was just four. He is now 13 years old and we are lucky enough to have had him with us since then.

He's won prizes in British Dressage, British Showjumping, Le Trec, and hunter trials as well as trail hunted where he field mastered and has even hunted hounds. He has also helped me escort children and young/problem horses out on hacks.

He has also recently won two BD Elementary Summer Qualifier classes and we wonder if we might just manage to qualify for the Regional Finals if we manage to gain a few more points. Max also went to the Riding Club Championships last year with our South Wilts Riding Club in dressage and show jumping – you can safely say he is an IH success story!

Overcoming early problems

But he's also something of a health success story too; in his early years we had to overcome a big problem with foot imbalance and degenerative hock disease (DJD) in his hocks. We eventually found a farrier who could balance Max's feet so we could start to work him, to build his muscles and keep him as toned and flexible as possible.

This led on to encouraging Max to work correctly forward and swinging through his back in self-carriage. This work has all been done out on hacks, doing leg yield to shoulder in and now half pass along the tracks, fields and woods – with the odd log and hedge to hop over to liven things up.

As he got fitter, he began to really enjoy himself and show off his medium trot; this took a bit of time to manifest as he re-founded his innate, naturally-beautiful movement. I believe all horses move beautifully but it is all too often diminished through incorrect riding or pain (or both).

Schooling while hacking

Max never went in a school, all the work has been achieved out hacking. The work helps him remain fit and strong, which I am sure helps manage the DJD in his hocks, but I am careful not to overload him, so hence why schooling on hacks is so much better. Endless circles would not be good for him (or me).

Max has found doing flying changes from left to right very difficult due to a bone spavin. I never asked for this until I was sure he was pain free; I then started asking him to do this on the way home on a particular corner, just after the final hill home.

If he got it wrong, I would turn around and go back down the hill and start again. As soon as he got it right we went straight home – Max worked this out very quickly and is now good at flying changes!


He finds half-pass very difficult (as do I) but can do it well on the way home, so this is where we practice. I do not ride with spurs as I don't think I have a secure enough lower leg to wear them; I also do not usually carry a whip but have waved a 'giddy-up' rope to encourage Max to be quicker to react to leg aids.

Doing dressage with a smile

Our intro to dressage was via a British Dressage 'Have A Go' day, which we thoroughly enjoyed. We then started doing the odd competition – to start with, he was very exuberant with squeals and the odd buck, but it was all because he was having fun!

Our dressage sheets usually refer to a "happy, jolly and confident horse" and a "harmonious partnership". I know that IH methods and philosophies have made this happen.

Max is a middleweight hunter who is not purpose-bred to do sport horse-standard dressage, but by being correctly schooled in an incremental fashion he has learnt to really enjoy showing off his moves. We also do not compete in dressage that often, so it all stays fun.

My goal is to see if we can get to Medium level (and in my dreams perhaps we can make Advanced Medium as he loves showing off his flying changes). I have found British Dressage to be fun and inclusive, and there are now a variety of breeds taking part, so Max the middleweight Irish hunter is not totally on his own! 

Shuna, from Wimborne, Dorset, describes herself as 'a very ordinary rider with an over-worked back from working with sheep', which she takes care of by going swimming once a week or so.

"I don't have a trainer but have read books and articles like *Cobs Can* by Omar Rabia. I have just started to have a regular lesson every six weeks with a UKCC Level 3 British Event and Show Jumping Coach; this has been of the best help and is lots of fun – cross country and show jumping with a Level 3 coach has improved our dressage."

THE HORSE I WOULD CLONE...WOULD BE

RYE

By IH member **Mary Tappin**

I first heard about Rye when a dealer came to my daughter's school riding club. One of the girls was looking at a dark bay mare and I was immediately smitten.

With the spectre of middle age looming large, I had begun to think about buying a horse of my own and I figured that I'd done the 'pony thing' with my children for years. Now it was my turn.

Sensing my interest the dealer mentioned she had a gelding look-alike at her yard. "He'll never be as ambitious as this one, but he's a perfect gentleman," she said.

Although I had never seen the horse, I couldn't get him out of my mind. Tracking down the dealer proved challenging but we eventually made contact and – surprise, surprise – I couldn't afford the asking price; then fate took a hand.

A prospective buyer then had him vetted and he failed the spavin test; the buyer backed out and the price came down – still substantial but maybe do-able. However I still had a pony to sell first; in the end, we made a straight swap.

I called him The Romany Rye which means 'gypsy gentleman'. As I was in the death throes of a particularly toxic marriage, the name appealed to me; it encapsulated the freedom I so desperately craved.

Rye was delivered one Sunday morning and, as I led him out to the field, I had a momentary crisis of confidence. Stumbling in the ruts made by a tractor, with Rye looming above me as he walked on the raised area in between, I wondered if I'd bitten off more than I could chew.

His elevated route along the lower slopes of Lansdown gave him a panoramic view over the city of Bath and he let out an ear-splitting neigh. I thought 'Oh my god, what have I done?'

I needn't have worried. As we got to know one another better, Rye became my confidante and best friend during some of the most traumatic episodes of my life.

Cynics might claim that flies were to blame but he would nod his head sagely as I poured out my heart as if to say 'Yes I know – tell me about it'. We would go for long rides together, deep into the countryside, and I would chat or sing to him while he flicked an ear on my direction.

He seemed to like Irish songs – not the rowdy type but lilting, soothing ballads. Occasionally he would stretch his long neck to peer through the windows of cottages along the way; his curiosity (nosiness?) was legendary.

“...his curiosity... was legendary.”

Having learned to ride in another era, when instructors put (old) pennies between your knees and the saddle and woe betide if you dropped one, I resolved to take lessons to help bring my technique up to date. After all, this horse had been trained by more modern methods and might not understand what I was asking of him.

Rye was alleged to have 40 BHS dressage points but, without knowing his original name, I had no way of checking. He was, however, very well-schooled and we achieved half pass, shoulder in, turn on the forehand and pirouettes – all of which were a steep learning curve for me.

Rye was also a bit of a character. At the time I was doing a lot of work with the BHS Riding & Road Safety programme, so it was natural my horse should be trained with that in mind.

My new man (now my husband) took him out for a ride one day and attempted to cut the corner at a T-junction in the lane. Rye seemed to say 'Mum doesn't do it like that; I'm telling on you' before marching straight across the road and executing a perfect right angle in true BHS style.

The saying goes that, when a horse is dying, it arranges for another horse to occupy its place in the owner's heart. Aged 32, and after 23 years as my faithful companion, Rye's time had come and I couldn't believe any other horse could fill the gap – until, that is, Basil came along...but that's another story! ☐



“As we got to know one another better, Rye became my confidante and best friend during some of the most traumatic episodes of my life.”

By ELE MILWRIGHT & HAZEL SOUTHAM



“As a one-off event it shows you what’s possible. If it changes one person’s life, it’s worth it.”

Photos courtesy of Clara Kendall

horses and heroes

Months of discussions with HM The Queen, plus lots of planning and passionate input from IH people and others resulted in a unique event in April this year...



Photos courtesy of Clara Kendall



Photos courtesy of Ele Milwright

Top: Forty-six year-old Mark Taylor said he also found the experience of working with the horses 'amazing'. Above left: A number of combat veterans suffering from PTSD took part in an introductory day to Join-Up, including James Tattingham. Above right: Working with Kelly, Monty and the horses (pictured is Pie) was an emotional experience for the veterans

At Easter this year, Monty Roberts and Intelligent Horsemanship teamed up with Help for Heroes to hold a special event for serving and veteran British Military personnel at Tedworth House. A number of combat veterans suffering from PTSD after serving their country in recent conflicts including Iraq and Afghanistan took part in an introductory day to Join-Up, the first event of its kind in the UK.

Around 100 serving and ex-British service personnel and their families gathered in a large indoor riding arena at Tedworth House to see Monty demonstrate Join-Up. He told the former soldiers that the day-long session would help them rebuild the trust that they had lost in battle.

"This is a silent language," Monty explained to the hushed crowd sitting around two round pens on fold-up chairs. "You can use this to build trust and to grow stronger; it's phenomenal what these horses can teach you."

Then it was the former soldiers' turn to try Join-Up for themselves. First into the pen was 44-year-old Hugh Forsyth, a former member of the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Team.

Hugh joined the Army at the age of 16 and was serving in Northern Ireland just two years later, but it was in Bosnia, when he fell off a roof into a garden full of landmines, that his problems really began. This terrifying incident left him with PTSD.

"I had two nervous breakdowns and attempted suicide. I didn't know about PTSD; I would be OK for a few weeks and then it would build up. The kids were scared of me as I had outbursts of rage. I had a lot of nightmares, I couldn't drive because I thought I was going to be ambushed – I became quite a recluse," said Hugh. Hugh said he felt "a bit nervy" as he entered the pen with the horse, Badger, but that the experience had been a "good buzz". "I know that it will help me to control the emotions I have with PTSD."

Thirty-one year-old Andy Askew left the Army Air Corps in March this year but says he's been battling PTSD since 2009. His difficulties – which include flashbacks triggered by seeing an ambulance – date back to an incident in Afghanistan which was so traumatic he has been unable to share it, even with his family.

"You don't want them to be thinking about it, and talking about it brings the issue to the fore and takes you back to that situation," the former sergeant said.

After working with George, a 7-year-old horse who had also experienced serious medical problems, Andy was in tears.

"Maybe George and I have a lot in common; I was really emotional. It's the most profound thing that I have ever done.

"I have tried a lot of different things to help with my PTSD but that was a real surprise. I really loved the fact that it was not just a connection with another living thing, but the fact that it was complete silence. I felt peaceful. And I haven't felt peaceful for a long time, maybe for 13 years in my early days in the forces.

It's been very special."

Forty-six year-old Mark Taylor said he also found the experience of working with the horses 'amazing'. Mark was a Warrant Officer in the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment; in 2004 in Iraq he and his colleagues were under sustained attack for six weeks.


"I came back a changed man. My wife didn't know me, my children didn't know me, I didn't know myself; I was ready to commit suicide," says Mark, known as Lofty.

"I believe this can give people hope. You are put into a position where you don't know how you are going to react, or how the horse will react. As a one-off event it shows you what's possible. If it changes one person's life, it's worth it."

Former Para James Tattingham said the event had been in marked contrast to psychiatric help he had received. "The psychiatrist patronised me but Monty and his team treated us not like we were different. It was like they understood."

Peter Smith, a Recovery Planning Officer with Help for Heroes, said, "This could be something that will just put a smile on someone's face for a day, or it could show people that they can do things again. I think it will give people hope for the future."

Following 'an extended conversation' with the Queen just days before the event, Monty said that he hoped this event might be replicated internationally with royal backing in the future, as "The Queen's support for this feels very strong".

"I would love her grandsons to get involved. They are military through and through; if they became spokespeople for this they could change lives," said Monty. 

“ Monty and his team treated us not like we were different. It was like they understood. ”



Photos courtesy of Ele Milwright

Monty said that he hoped this event might be replicated internationally with royal backing in the future, as 'The Queen's support for this feels very strong'.

WITH ROYAL SUPPORT

We are honoured that HM The Queen has lent her support to Monty Roberts' vision to help British Armed Forces veterans overcome Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), through working with horses.

Monty, who has worked with the Queen's horses for the past 25 years, has been developing his unique 'Horse Sense and Soldiers' programme in the USA, but is now hoping to make it available to combat veterans all around the world

• **Many thanks to all the IH team involved: Monty Roberts, Kelly Marks, Ele Milwright, IHRAs Jim Goddard and Ann-Marie Marek, Chris Morris MRCI and helpers Sharon Stephens, Therese Mackenzie, John Abey, Shuna Cameron and Hugh Forsyth**

GRANTED WISHES

By IHRA
Liz Pitman

It looks as though 2014 will be a year of renewal at Shy Lowen. Two makeovers should help not only to present a smarter image to the world, but also make the running of the sanctuary easier and more efficient.

The National Lottery has awarded £10,000 towards the completion of the fencing started by IH fundraising, and towards drainage and safer surfacing around the stable area. In addition to the horse fencing already bought by IH, there will be a divided paddock with real gates (!) and the perimeter fence at the back of the fields will be secured.

I'm told we won't recognise the place when we go up in July for the IH Training Day! Fellow IHRA Sarah Weston and I are very much looking forward to it and we hope to see a lot of IH members as well as people new to us on the day; tickets are selling well and there is a limited number, so do e-mail soon if you want to come.

The second big change is the new website. It was far from easy and I think I might have one or two more grey hairs than before, but the site is now up and running; I hope it conveys what Shy Lowen is – a bright and fun place run in large part by kids, and somewhere that's just that bit different.

A website we run ourselves means we are now able to keep the horse lists up to date and can make changes to the site quickly

and easily. Two of the Shy Lowen kids, Jack and Josh, are working on designing the horse pages so that we can really show off our wonderful horses and ponies for loan; they'll then set to work on the kids' pages so they can tell the world about the amazing work Shy Lowen does for them too.

A new Charmer on the scene

Of course, in amongst all of these developments, the core work of the sanctuary goes on. Horses with problems that might lead them into the downward spiral of abusive training and dealers have been signed over to the safe haven of Shy Lowen as soon as there was space.

One of the fairly recent arrivals is Charmer, who was previously cared for by IH member Portia Brewin. Charmer was bought by a friend of Portia's as a safe child's pony however, soon after his arrival, it was clear he was anything but that!

Portia took over his care but his rearing and other dangerous behaviours meant she eventually decided she could no longer cope. She then hit the problem faced by so many owners of these mis-sold ponies – selling him would mean him possibly re-entering the dealers' market, sending him to an RA for training was financially not viable, but keeping him was not really an option either.

All Portia wished for was a happy life for this special pony and this is where Shy Lowen provides such a valuable service. Although Charmer was not a rescue in the physical welfare sense of the word, he was a pony who badly needed an alternative to an uncertain future.

We're very pleased to report that Charmer is coming along very well. He integrated into the herd quickly and happily, and he's now started his ridden training – so far so good!

Another wish granted.



Intelligent Horsemanship Training Day with IH Recommended Associates Sarah Weston and Liz Pitman

at Shy Lowen, Liverpool, L29 1YB on Sunday, 27th July, 2014

A fantastic day of learning in aid of a fantastic rescue centre

The day will consist of:

- a demonstration using IH methods
- training with a couple of the Shy Lowen kids
- with a couple of their favourite horses
- technical discussion over lunch
- 2 small break out groups of hands-on students working to apply the methods demonstrated in the morning

Hands-on places £50 (last few remaining)
Spectator places £25

For more information or to book, email lizpitman@btinternet.com

For more information on Shy Lowen and venue details visit www.shyloven.com

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SHY LOWEN

From the Case files

Continuing our series looking at horses from the IHRA files, in this issue we hear how Alfie overcame his loading issues and rescue case Bransby Imp is making waves on the dressage scene



"...I then saw that part of the course was to lead Alfie through a trailer!"

Jayne & ALFIE

Seventeen months ago, the Prestwich's horse Alfie was on the point of becoming a field ornament, so bad was his loading. Step in IHRA Adam Goodfellow...

Rearing, bucking, pulling away – Jayne Prestwich's Haflinger, Alfie, was a determined non-loader. It got so bad that she and husband, Andy, felt they might have to give up on going to competitions.

"He was refusing point blank to load; I tried to help but failed miserably," says Andy. "Unfortunately quite a lot of 'friends' also tried to help and everything just got worse."

In desperation, he Googled 'horse whisperers' and IHRA Adam Goodfellow, based with wife and fellow IHRA Nicole Golding at Cirencester, Gloucestershire, was the name which popped up.

"I would have had a massive and probably unproductive tussle with him if I had just been using a dually and trying to get him in by simply having him come off pressure. It was clear that without the use of panels to block some of his options, this was going to be a long and hard job as he had learned to resist loading quite proficiently," says Adam.

"We actually spent probably as much time setting up the lorry as anything else. As there was no safe or suitable place around the front of the house, we put it in a field alongside the garden and lined it up so the ramp would come down in a gateway.

"We found things to make the gate appear more solid and to protect Alfie if he thought of kicking it. It was by closing this behind him that he was persuaded to go on the first time; half an hour of preparation probably saved two hours of struggle," says Adam.


"He was truly amazing! We cannot speak highly enough of him, not just because of his undoubted skills with horses but more so his incredible skill in giving owners the confidence to deal with their horse and to 'think like a horse'," says Andy.

For Jayne, the experience helped her to regain her faith completely in her 'talented and clever little boy' and repaired the bond between them. "We listened, watched and learned and now Alfie loads beautifully even when he doesn't really want to!"

Another session on Google led the Prestwichs to Kelly Marks' name and her involvement with TREC. From being total beginners, Jayne and Alfie have recently won the newcomers' class in the BHS TREC Winter series 2013/14.

Their league win came as a result of their performance at Asti in April 8. Husband Andy says Jayne and Alfie's improved bond helped keep them calm under pressure.

"I had a call from Jayne 25 minutes before she was due on to say she had forgotten her riding hat so had to dash over with it and got there with three minutes to spare. I fully expected her to be really nervous and stressed especially when I then saw that part of the course was to lead Alfie through a trailer!

"I asked her if she was worried about that and she replied 'Why would that bother US?!' Afterwards we both agreed she could not have done such a great performance without Adam's fantastic work in the winter of 2012." 

“...she could not have done such a great performance without Adam's fantastic work”

Jayne and Alfie competing during the summer of 2013



From the Case files

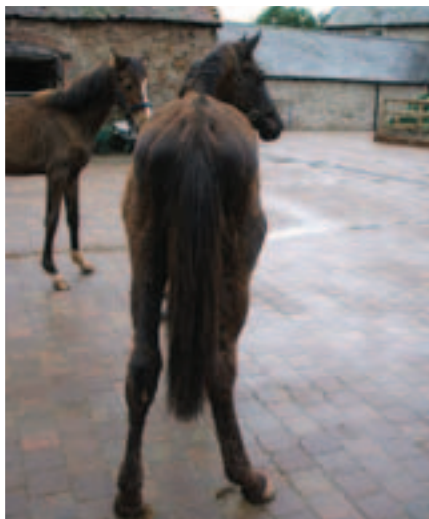
Horse rescue cases are all too common, but it's rare for those saved to 'blue-blooded' dressage royalty. IHRA and dressage rider/trainer **Carrie Adams** is helping one such horse make a big impression in the dressage arena.

Watching the powerful paces of Bransby Impressario in action, as he shows off his talent and enthusiasm, it's hard to imagine the heart-breaking start to this horse's journey. As a yearling, Imp, as he's known at home, was one of a group of Trakehners rescued by the RSPCA and equine charity Bransby Horses Rescue and Welfare from a yard in Gloucestershire in 2007.

Now an impressive eight-year-old, this 17.1hh black Trakehner gelding carries some of the best bloodlines in Europe in his pedigree, including several elite Grand Prix stallions such as Caprimond, Hohenstein and Friedenfurst. Those genes, plus the care, rehabilitation and training of a team of people, are putting Imp on the competition map.

Rescued

The owner at the centre of this high-profile case was successfully prosecuted and found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to the animals. She was given a two-year ban from keeping horses in this country but had already



Imp was one of a group of Trakehners rescued in 2007



Out hacking and meeting some of the next generation

Bransby Impressario: A survivor's story

fled to Spain, taking a further 40 horses with her, including Imp's mother Inaara, one of 16 horses to allegedly perish out there.

It cost the equine charity £120,000 to fight and win the court case and get the five horses signed over. Imp then began his rehabilitation, first at Bransby Leominster (Priory Farm), where he was nursed back to health and encouraged to grow and mature before being introduced to ridden work; he then was transferred to Bransby's base in Lincoln in the summer of 2011 to continue his training under saddle.

Discovering dressage

Recognising Imp's intelligence and ability and realising that he wasn't yet ready for a 'Home of rest', charity's then-chief executive Philip York decided to try and find him a special foster home which would develop his talent. Fellow IHRA Garry Bosworth works closely with Bransby Horses and suggested contacting Newark-based Carrie; he knew she had a passion for Trakehner horses and thought they would make a good team.

"I had originally been aware of the tragic story of the plight of this group of Trakehner horses in Spain as the story unfolded a few years ago. It was a desperately sad situation and everyone felt completely helpless to do anything about it," says Carrie. "Imagine my surprise when I discovered that one of the horses connected to this case was now 20 minutes up the road from me! I had to meet him and felt that at last I had the chance to put right some of the wrong that these poor horses had suffered."

So began the next chapter of Imp's life as a competition horse and ambassador for the charity. He arrived as part of Bransby's fostering scheme 'Friends for Life' at Centrelines Dressage just in time for Christmas 2011, when his dressage training began.

Fans, supporters and media interest

As might be expected with a horse which had been starved as a youngster, it took a long time to build-up Imp's topline and establish his core strength to allow him to cope physically with the training, says Carrie. "He has a very big frame to fill but his muscle development is eventually coming now. A legacy of his poor start in life seems to be his reduced appetite and compromised immune system; his healing process is slower than average and his skin easily becomes hypersensitive to things, sometimes forcing an unscheduled break in his training."

Despite this, Carrie and Imp are already making an impression, with several mentions in Horse and Hound magazine. During the past 12 months, they have clocked up numerous wins with high percentages at affiliated level, gaining 93 British Dressage points and are working towards medium level.

Stephen Clarke, Carrie's trainer and FEI 5* International and Olympic Dressage Judge, rates the horse as a top competition prospect, and the combination has also attracted interest from several national sponsors, including Emerald Green Feeds and Protexin. Support has also been provided by equine physio and IHRA Sue Palmer, of Holistic Horse Help, remedial farrier Mark Humphreys and IH supporters John and Judy Peacock.

There are now also plans to try and attract more sponsorship in an effort to help with his ongoing care and expenses.

"He's a dream horse and I feel very proud to have him and be part of this amazing story," says Carrie.

To follow Imp on Facebook, go to 'Bransby Impressario' and 'Like' his page for further updates. [\[i\]](#)

Imp during his first novice regional championship at Somerford, July 2013. He went on to contest the winter series where he finished in the top 10 at Bishop Burton in February 2014



“He’s a dream horse and I feel very proud to have him and be part of this amazing story.”

History of a noble breed

Imp’s willingness to learn and his mental strength are likely to have been inherited from his exceptional bloodlines, in a breed that history has proved to be among the toughest in Europe.

Originally bred by King Wilhelm I as an elite cavalry mount for the Prussian army in the 19th century, the breed was prized for their soundness and comfortable, ground-covering paces.


During World War I, however, the breed was halved before being dealt a further, near fatal blow during the last stages of World War II when orders came to evacuate the horses from the Trakehner Stud as the invading Soviet forces closed in. About 800 of the best Trakehner horses were hastily transferred both by rail and by foot, but most of them, together with all their documentation, fell into the hands of the Russian occupation forces during the worst of freezing winter conditions.


The East Prussian breeders were determined to save their valuable horses and fled with the rapidly decreasing

herd, which included broodmares heavy with foal. Together they travelled towards the German border on a gruelling 600-mile trek pursued by Soviet troops.

The high-risk journey forced them to cross the frozen Baltic Sea ahead of advancing troops, where many horses died after sinking into the freezing water. Only the toughest survivors made it to the safety of West Germany; less than 100 pitiful skeletons, many carrying wounds from shrapnel.

The next decade was spent re-establishing the breed and in October 1947, the Trakehner Verband was formed. The horses which had survived the flight to safety became the founders of today’s Trakehners, continuing to inspire breeders throughout the world with their noble beauty, courage and friendly, gregarious nature.

Carrie Adams traced more of Imp’s ancestry and discovered that his name, *Impressario*, begins with the letter “I” because he descends from the mare family of *Isola Longa*, one of the brave mares to survive ‘The Flight’. 



“ It was the best thing I ever did and has completely changed my life. ”

SPOTLIGHT ON IH Recommended Associate

Sheila Reed

Former chef Sheila Reed is an IHRA based near Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire. As well as her IH work, Sheila is a Horse Agility Accredited Trainer and craniosacral therapist – she describes herself now as ‘living the dream’

How long have you been involved with horses?

I had a few lessons when I was at school as horse riding was one of our PE options. I started riding with friends when I was about 16 and didn't have my own horse until I was 23; I still have her, she will be 26 this year and she was the best thing I ever bought!

Why did you decide to qualify as a Recommended Associate?

I was lucky enough to be able to work with IHRA Sarah Weston on a regular basis quite a few years after I had done the stage one courses. I learned so much from working with her and gained a lot of great experience; she persuaded me that I should take my stage 2 and work towards becoming an RA, so it is all her fault! Seriously though, I can't thank her enough for pushing me in the right direction. It was the best thing I ever did and has completely changed my life.

What is a typical day for you?

I don't really have a typical day as, living on a working farm, each day brings different challenges. I start off first thing feeding the dogs, chickens, cats and my own three horses. After mucking out, I have breakfast and then make sure I have the equipment that I will need for the day's clients before setting off to help people to understand their horses and to work through problems. I also help the horses to understand their people!

What's important to you when you see an owner and their horse for the first time?

The most important thing when I see an owner and their horse for the first time is for them to feel comfortable with me and how I am going to work with their horse. I think it is good for clients to know that it is a great thing that they have asked for help and that they are not alone.

What are the common challenges you face in your work as an RA?

One of the most common challenges that I come across is that people expect me to come along, wave my wand and 'fix' their horse for them. They do soon come to realise that they are a huge part of the training process and most are happy to embrace this.

If you could change one thing in the world of horses what would it be, and why?

If I could change one thing in the world of horses it would be aggressive behaviour towards them from humans. All too often I see people getting angry when horses don't do what they are 'supposed' to do. I would love more people to look at themselves and think whether they have asked the right question before telling the horse off for not giving the right answer.

What would be the first piece of advice you would give someone looking at buying/loaning their first horse?

I would recommend that people really know about horse behaviour and how to look after him or her properly before considering buying or loaning their first horse. Taking Kelly's Horse Psychology course and at least a weekend Perfect Manners course would be a great start.

What is the most common issue you have to deal with when working with horses?

Probably the lack of leadership from the human in the relationship; once we have established some ground rules and explained to the horse that we can move his feet, and not the other way around, lots of problems are on their way to being solved.

What are your plans for the future?

To continue helping as many people as I can to understand their horses and to make their lives better, as well as keeping going with my Horse Agility training days and competitions. They are a great way of helping people to build their relationship with their horses, donkeys and mules and have fun. We are hoping to be running days specifically for donkeys and mules in conjunction with the Donkey Sanctuary so watch this space... 🐾

More info at www.sheilaredequine.com or 07780 668136; also via Facebook on Sheila Reed Equine Behavioural Training.

IH RECOMMENDED ASSOCIATES

client feedback

While working with your horse to solve problems and build a better partnership is very satisfying, sometimes a helping hand from a professional can be essential. Here's what clients are saying about IHRAs:

▼ IHRA SALLY HAMILTON Berkshire



“I was having issues with bucking and bolting”

Sally was very understanding and sympathetic to our problems. She came over very confident in what she was doing and I instantly felt comfortable working with her.

She explained what she was doing extremely well and has been responsive to further queries and providing advice since her visit.

Laura Donnelly, Eversley

▼ IHRA SARAH WESTON Hampshire



“I read Sarah's book 'No Fear No Force'”

I needed Sarah to show me the basic techniques and to help me understand my two-year-old Exmoor pony. She was of great help and gave me the confidence I needed to continue Happy Heather's education.

There could have been a language barrier but I noticed my French friends understand more than they speak. Everything was perfect.

I loved the written reports which helped me go back and understand certain points I might have missed. During one week we achieved a lot; I can now approach Happy Heather and pick up her hind feet with less adrenalin.

Joyce Mrozielski, France

▼ IHRA GILL BRADLEY Monmouth



“Needed help with behavioural problems”

Gill is absolutely amazing; we had only owned Bronte for a couple of weeks and only did she have behavioural issues but was also settling in to a new environment. Gill is always on the end of the phone if I need her and that goes a long way.

She is kind, sensitive to both horse and owner and really understands my three year old. I am over the moon with our progress so far. Still a long way to go but we are certainly getting there. Many thanks.

Mrs Vikki Waite, Caldicot

▼ IHRA JULIA FISHER Hertfordshire



“I was a nervous owner with a nervous Welsh Cob”

Julia was extremely helpful as well as being extremely knowledgeable, kind, friendly and sensitive. I have never worked with an RA before but I am so

glad I chose Julia as I felt she completely understood me and my horse. She is a credit to the organisation.

Emily Wright, Hertfordshire

▼ IHRA ROSIE JONES Bristol



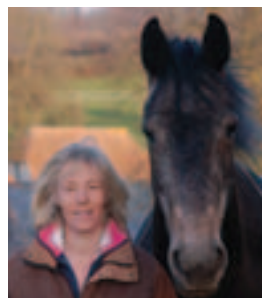
“I received a session with Rosie Jones as a present, to work on our skills”

To have Rosie around for a day is a dream. She is lovely, knows what she is doing, explains well and is so very passionate, but we knew that already

– that's why she became a Christmas present! If only there were more Rosies in this world!

Martina Egeler, Craig Cefa Parc

▼ IHRA LYNN CHAPMAN Hampshire



“My 22-year-old New Forest pony was taking off when turning him out”

I was extremely satisfied with the work Lynn carried out; she was super, really understood and was very positive. When I e-mailed her she realised

how stressed I was and rang me for a very good chat.

We arranged for her to come and work with Amber and myself. I now have both horses in Duallys and recommend all my horsey friends to do the same. Fabulous!

Sharon Allmark, Long Sutton

IH Training

“Such a brilliant week: huge thanks to Kelly and all the RAs who came and taught us. I can't believe how much I learnt – I'm still buzzing now!”



RECOMMENDED ASSOCIATES COURSES & EVENTS

Suffolk courses

IHRAs Bridget Colman (formerly Hughes) and Liz Pitman have two courses at Kelsale in Suffolk coming up:

Groundwork skills course
September 13

Longlining/De-spooking day
September 14

Each day costs: £110 (discount for IH members) or **£210** for two days.

PLEASE NOTE that participants on the longlining/despooking day will be expected to have attended a practical IH course where basic groundwork skills have been learned. The groundwork skills course is suitable for students of all levels.

For further information, contact Liz on 0772 9629022 or at lizpitman@btinternet.com

Confidence boosting

IHRAs and IH course tutors Julia Fisher, Dido Fisher and Linda Ruffle have a Perfect Confidence course coming up:

Perfect Confidence Course
August 30 and 31

The two-day course costs: £260 for members and **£285** for non-members

For more information contact perfectconfidenceinfo@gmail.com or call 07950 965099



INTELLIGENT HORSEMANSHIP COURSES 2014

Come and have the experience of a lifetime in 2014 with our expert tuition in the art of 'horse whispering' and equine behaviour. It will change the way you view not only your relationships with horses, but also the people around you and the relationship you have with yourself.

Perfect Manners 2-Day Course, £325
June 21-22, July 19-20, July 26-27

The following dates for this course are currently fully booked, but add your name to the waiting list for cancellations: June 7-8

Horse Psychology, £170
August 16-17 (Travel Saving Course)

Foundation Course, £575
June 23-27, July 7-11, August 11-15 (Travel Saving Course), August 18-22

The following dates for this course are currently fully booked, but add your name to the waiting list for cancellations: June 2-6

Stud Practice / Handling the Young Foal with Ian Vandenberghe, £170 (£85/day)
August 7-8 (Travel Saving Course)

Feeding For Good Behaviour and Health/Maintaining Your Horse's Physical Health for Life With Ian Vandenberghe, £170 (£85/day)
August 9-10 (Travel Saving Course)

Intermediate Course: Leading and Loading the Less Easy Horse, £250
30 June - 1 July
The following dates for this course are currently fully booked, but add your name to the waiting list for cancellations: 28-29 June

Intermediate Course: Handling the Untouched Horse, £250
Dates TBC

Stage 2, £575
September 8-12

Reservations can only be made on receipt of a 50% deposit. You are also required to be a member of the Intelligent Horsemanship Association, which costs £25 per year and can be joined at the same time as booking a course. We accept Credit Cards and Switch/Maestro. You can phone us on 01488 71300 with your number.

Please telephone the office on 01488 71300 to confirm availability on courses before sending in your application. (Forms are available on the website: www.intelligenthorsemanship.co.uk)

I have been extremely impressed with your company in terms of efficiency, courtesy and professionalism

Sue Webb, Bristol

quality equestrian buildings



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6no 3.6m x 3.6m Loose Boxes / **from £11,500**



Elite Stabling / 3no 3.6m x 3.6m Loose Boxes
1no 3.6m x 4.8m Corner Boxes / **from £9,200**



Mobile Shelters / 3.6m x 7.2m Intro Range
2no 3.6m x 3.6m Bays / **from £2,725**



Garaging / 7.2m x 5.4m incorporating
2no 3.6m x 5.4m Bays / **from £3,500**

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AUTUMN TOUR 2014

and **Kelly Marks**



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Fri 10th Oct	Easton College , Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5DX
Thurs 16th Oct	Arena UK , Allington, Lincs NG32 2EF
Sat 18th Oct	Myerscough College , Preston, Lancs PR3 0RY
Wed 22nd Oct	The Grange , Okehampton, Devon EX20 3DA
Fri 24th Oct	Hartpury College , Gloucester, Glos GL19 3BE
Thurs 30th Oct	Greenlands EC , Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 0RR
Sat 1st Nov	Gleneagles , Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1NF

Main demonstration 7.30pm - 10.30pm. Doors open at 6pm for the IH Members' Private Audience.
ADVANCE TICKETS £30, TICKETS ON DOOR (IF AVAILABLE) £35

"This was my first time seeing Kelly and Monty, and I can say it was the most inspiring event I've ever been to." – LD

"I'll NEVER get bored of seeing horses transformed through Intelligent Horsemanship" – MB

"It was a remarkable demo and I learned such a lot, it's wonderful to see horses and owners find the answers they need." – JH

For tickets and more information go to

www.intellighorsemanship.co.uk

or call 01488 71300

Please have your Membership number ready to ensure you get access to the Private Audience (and the best seats!)



Join Kelly Marks and
Intelligent Horsemanship
on Facebook

Would YOU like to be part of the Tour Team?

We need volunteer helpers at each venue. See what goes on behind the scenes and help make the tour a success!
Apply at intellighorsemanship.co.uk or call 01488 71300

