



Schooling course now partially open

Residential weekends

I'm working with a local livery yard to offer residential weekends with hacking, instruction in their sandschool and cross country and show-jumping instruction here at Blackdown Hills Cross Country.

If you're interested, please give me a ring and I'll tell you all about it.

Finally, Issue One. I'm sorry it has taken so long for the first newsletter to be published - building jumps is so much better than sitting in the office!

It has been a very busy winter, with course building just starting in December 2003 getting the course to stage it's at now has been a lot of work.

The idea of this newsletter is to keep everyone up-to-date on work on the course and what competitions and training we've got planned.

As plans expanded through the building stage, the grand opening date has kept on being pushed back and now probably won't be until late July. I've had so much interest from local

riders keen to use the course, that I've decided to *partially* open. There are about 40 fences finished and ready to jump and another 20 half built. Once fully open, there will be 65-70 fences ready to jump.

At the moment, there are shallow schooling ditches, steps to jump up and down, jumps into water and run-throughs and a wide variety of portable fences from 18" to 3'3" arranged into interesting complexes including a double of corners.

Because the course is only partially open, I've cut the schooling rates to £10 for adults and £8 for under 14s.

Walter Burrough

Mini bits:

- Publicise your events - just email us a copy of your show schedules and we'll put them on our website for free.
- British Eventing Intro and Pre Novice - we've been assigned June 12th 2005 for affiliated competition.
- If you've received this newsletter in the post and have an email address, we'd love to send it by email - it's quicker and saves a lot of money. Just send an email to Register@BHXC.co.uk



Jump of the month

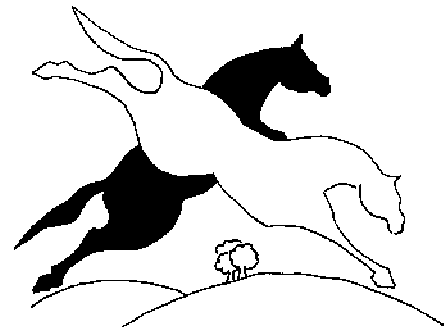
For the next few months I'll be showing you the latest jump complex that has been completed and how it was built. For this issue, I thought I'd just give some idea of what's gone into the course so far with the highlights of the last 6 months shopping list:

750 tonnes of stone and sand, 43 cubic meters of treated timber (about 33 tonnes), a large butyl pond liner, 18400 woodscrews, 200m of large bore pipe, 50kg of nails, 25 telegraph poles, half an acre of membrane to go under

the all-weather takeoffs and landings and half a mile of steel bars to reinforce banks and ditches.



Blackdown Hills Cross Country



*Blackdown Hills Cross Country
Sheldon Grange
Dunkeswell
Honiton
Devon EX14 4RW*

Phone: 01823 681450

Mobile: 07712 489750

Email: info@BlackdownHillsCrossCountry.co.uk

Riders so far

The first riders on the course arrived on 15 April, a cross country rally run by East Devon Hunt Pony Club. About 35 horses and ponies arrived just minutes after we applied the finishing touches to the course and many thanks go out to David Evans and his team who took time off from building the Advanced course at Bicton to help me.

Riding in 4 groups, they found plenty of room and really enjoyed "so much choice from small, novice fences to the 3'3" double of corners".

They came back again in May for flat work and show jumping for another good rally.

Cotley Hunt Pony Club came in June for a cross country rally

and after warming up over some showjumps went out on the course and had a great time. I watched Claire Burrough teaching the smallest riders who just wouldn't stop! They really enjoyed the little 18"-2'3" fences. The larger group found plenty of challenges too in the combinations and skinny fences.

There has been a steady stream of individual riders with both young and experienced horses and there are several local event riders who use the course very regularly.

If you'd like a tour before you bring your horse, I'd be delighted to show you around. Just give me a call on 01823 681450.

Pre-opening schooling rates

With the course only partially open, I've cut schooling rates.

Cross Country schooling

Adults: £10 Juniors (under 14s): £8

Show Jumping

£5 for up to one hour

Combined Cross Country and Show jumping

Adults: £13 Juniors (under 14s): £11

*These rates **will** increase once the course is fully open in 6-8 weeks.*

Please call and book before arrival. All riders must be accompanied by an adult and riders must wear body protectors while on the cross country course.