

HORSE AGILITY
Hackland Manor, Cullompton, Devon
Sunday 1 April 2012

On 1st April 2012, the SWA held a horse agility clinic and competition. Horse agility makes you think of ponies squeezing through tunnels and whizzing over obstacles at high speed! Horse communication would be a better description, as it's all about working with your horse, to do things it would not normally do. It means you and your horse (orpony!) have to understand, trust and communicate with each other. Is that such an alien idea? So we booked Heather Seems, an accredited horse agility trainer.

Heather works with all breeds and types of horses and ponies, from the untouched to those with problems. We kept numbers to six, two Ds, one C and three As (no Bs?). Only two of the ponies had ever had any experience of horse agility, though the winner was not one of these! We had several hours training round the obstacles, with Heather showing us how to work with our ponies to negotiate the obstacles. The obstacles sound and look scary, they included jumping through a hoop and a seesaw! (which did not break under the cobs weight!). Learning to negotiate these different things shows you how to cope with anything you or your pony do, the skys the limit. It applies to all areas of equestrianism.

We finished the day with a competition, the results were;

- 1st S.Thompson Maenan Time after Time-6 years Section C
- 2nd J.Westlake Bowbells Ballistic - 8years section D
- 3rd P.Broadbelt Baytor Lightning Jack - 6 years section D
- 4th E.Andrews Polmesk Mighty Murray - 11 years Section A
- 5th S J Etherington Manwee Prince Leroy - 2 years Section A
- 6th S J Etherington Cherrytop Superted - 3 years Section A

It was a lovely day, lots of fun, which we finished with a great big picnic!

Jenny Westlake