

Cross Country Courses – a Review by Diane Hunt.

Venue: Crown Farm Equestrian Centre & livery yard.

Website: www.crownfarm.co.uk

Address : Crown Farm, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon, OX7 6AB
Just off A40. Between Burford & Chipping Norton.

Course heights: 90cm – 1.10cm

Comments:

This is an all grass course is set on the hill side with stunning views over Oxfordshire. BE standard course with a very good variety of fences: Drops, ditches, castle & wall, hedges, raised logs, boxes, water complex with carved fish in front of water. A good bank with steps & drops.

Venue: Twesledown Race Course

Contact: The Secretary

Website: www.tweseldown.co.uk

Address: Aldershot, Surrey. Directions see website.

Pre booking is compulsory.

Course heights : 80cm –up to intermediate BE level.

Comments: This course is laid out inside the racecourse. Ground condition are perfect all year round with sandy soil, course is mostly on level or slightly hilly ground. There is a very good selection of fences including: boxes, coffins, double of hedges, lots of combinations, water complex by trees, sunken roads, horse shoe jump, etc.

Unaffiliated & British Eventing horse trials are held here during the year.

Venue: Aston-le-Walls

Website: www.aston-le-walls.co.uk

Proprietor: Nigel & Ann -Marie Taylor

Address: Wash Brook Farm, Aston-le-Walls, Daventry, Northants, NN11 6RT

Course heights: 90 – 95cm – 1.10cm

Comments: This course has two sections, a training field full of lots of different fences: ditches & rails, corners, log & ditch , double logs, large carved walnut, a good bank with steps up & down, run up & jump down,. A good water complex with fences before & after the water, drops in & out.

The main course covers several fields with groups of jumps in each section. There is a round shallow water complex with jumps around the water side, lots of banks with fences before or on top of the banks. There is a section with two hills idea for practicing riding up with jump at top & again at the bottom. Doubles & treble combinations & there is a double of large cricket stumps or a jump like a rugby posts!!

Prepared take off & landing on most fences.

Venue: Foxhill Farm

Website: www.foxhillhorses.co.uk

Proprietor: Keith & Lesley Smith

Address: Foxhill Farm, Eydon, Daventry, Northants, NN11 6RT

Course heights: 2'3" – 3'6"

Comments: All grass course with corners at 2'3" & 3'6" sizes, arrow heads, sunken road, good bank with steps, training ditches, trakehner, water complex with options jumping in & out.

Venue: Milton Keynes Event Centre.

Website: www.mkec.co.uk

Proprietors: Steve & Fiona Grifkin

Address: MKEC, Hanslope,

Course heights & comments on the Mini course: is in smaller field beyond the field stables is 1'6" - 2' . Some times these fences are in with the training XC fences, which includes a bank, straw bales telegraph poles, small tyres, mini pheasant feeder, log pile etc.

Course height & comments: Main course heights are from 2'3" – 3'6", This is an all grass course one large flat field with other undulating fields & a hill.. Large variety of different types of XC fences at different heights side by side including: double of tyres, roll tops, step up & roll tops, combinations, raised logs, ditches, coffins, sunken road, canter through water, banks, coral combination, pheasant feeders, Water complex with steps & a wooden carved otter fence, hedges, high steps, arrow heads etc. All fences have prepared take off & landings.

Venue: The College EQ.

Website: www.thecollegeec.com

Address: The College EQ, Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford, MK44 2JP

Course heights: 70cm – 1.05cm

Comments: This course is laid out over several fields with lines of fences, at different heights. There is a good water complex with drops / out, run in / out, plus an island type part so that you can jump in two strides – jump up then one stride & drop into the water & then jump out again!! There are fences around the outside of the water too.

Drop & ditch jumps, coffins, telegraph poles, roll tops, another water with steps beside. There is also a training field with various fences to warm up on.

Venue: Hill House, Carlton.

Website: www.hillhousecrosscountry.com

Proprietors: Sara & Jane Tusting

Address: Hill House, Pavenham Road, Carlton, Beds, MK43 7ND

Course heights: 80cm – 1.05m

Comments: This course has been laid out around the hill & valley, with a flat field at the back. There is a variety of fences including: rails, logs, ditches & rails, hanging logs, palisade fences, hayracks, steps, hedges, drops, & a small canter through water. www.ultimateimages.co.uk Has a course walk section in the EB Carlton listings with all the fences on the course.

Venue: Swalcliffe Grange.

Website: www.swalcliffegrange.com

Proprietor or Contact: Polly Tompkins

Address: Swalcliffe Grange Equestrian Centre, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 5EX

Course heights: 2'3" – 3'6"

Comments: This course has approx 50 – 60 fences at various heights & 3 water complexes. We haven't been to this venue yet, but Louise is hoping to compete at BE horse trials there in March. As this is a new BE Horse Trials venue, we will be able to give a clearer report then.

Venue: Primrose Hill Farm

Address: Primrose Hill Farm, Gawcott, Buckingham.

Proprietors: Mr & Mrs Strangeman.

Course heights: 2'3" – 3'3" with some fences at 3'6".

Comments: This course has been built around a hill & valley area. There are fences that are jumped down hill & up a steep slopes in the hedge lines. Sunken road, coffins, hedges, steeple fences & tables in an open field. A nice new set of steps, good water complex with narrow steps in to the water & steps out, a trot in & trot out area, a log & drop in to the water for the braver rider.

This whole course is well cared for.

Venue: Plum Park Farm

Website: www.plumparkfarm.co.uk

Proprietors: Mr & Mrs Temple

Address: Plum Park Farm, Watling Street, Nr Towcester, NN12 6LQ

Course heights: Mini course in one field with jumps 1'6" – 2', Main Course is 2'3" – 3'

Comments: Main course has fences in different fields including: rails, banks, steps, narrow roll tops, logs, small water, brick wall. There is a running stream water jump with step in or out & a gentle slope into & out for horses & ponies who need to get confidence with water.

Venue: Great Westwood Park

www.greatwestwood.co.uk

Proprietors : Neil & Rosie Thornton.

Address: Great Westwood Park, Old School Lane, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 8RS

Course heights: 2'3" – 3'3"

Comments: This course covers a large area with lots of XC fences positioned around the out site edge of the field, Some fences are in the woods too. A good mixture of all types of jumps. Parking is near the entrance & the start of the XC course is about a 10 minute walk away.

Venue: Park Farm.

Website: www.parkfarmfisheries.co.uk

Proprietors: Peter & James French

Address: Park Farm, The Rye, Eaton Bray, Nr Dunstable, Beds, LU6 2BQ

Course heights: 2'3" – 2'9"

Comments: This course of 25 fences has been built around their fields, to give a 4 mile ride including a mixture of fences, including: logs, rails, running stream, coffin, small water jump, log piles etc.