



Bill
Thomson
Bursary



British Eventing Regional Cross Country Workshop 2007

During the 2007 season cross country workshops have been set up across the regions. These days are designed for all BE Field Staff, Designers, Builders and for the first time Coaches from the Development Group have also been invited.

The series got underway in the Southern Region at Mattingley on the 18th May, our thanks must go to Richard Clapham and his team at Mattingley Horse Trials for hosting a wonderful day. The chance to walk a cross country with live action is always worth while as often we are so busy at events that we fail to consistently watch and learn from horses jumping. With the cross section of delegates each with their own expertise the group was able to look at the fuller picture and discuss their findings.

The group were spectators for the day and a great deal was learnt about stringing, course crossing points and the importance of awareness. What good fence judges Mattingley had they kept us well under order and were very good with their information about the fences. A great deal of discussion came from the coaches who have a lot to learn about the other side of the sport. This is a vital link into education of our riders and must be encouraged. The appreciation from all sides of the roles that make up this complex sport will go a long way to smoothing out the frustrations that some times lead to misunderstanding and discontentment.

Lunch was a real treat hats off to the Mattingley caterers who coped with our hungry band on the return from the course walk. In the afternoon groups were drawn up to investigate hot spot areas which are the same at all horse trials. Their observation of allotted areas covered signage, lorry parking, horse walks, secretaries, vaccination control, dressage and show jumping collecting areas, XC start and finish, control and fence judge radios. Each group reported back with comments and explanations of suggested improvements, again this was quite an eye opener this time for the designers and builders some of whom had never even been in control.

One of the groups had a project to re design part of the track ready for the next event when the 80cm training sections will be introduced. I must say they came back with some great ideas in a very short time when I think of how long I scratch my head when I am trying to have a new look at a course. Both Simon Bere and Michael Munden had clear thoughts and were able to incorporate the organiser's demands to utilise certain fences and join the old course to make the most of the mature features.

The final discussion had quite a buzz it is amazing how eventing gets the adrenaline going, experienced or not each member considered the thoughts of others, developed the conversation and moved the subject on in a responsible caring way. We are so lucky to have the guiding hand of the mature statesmen along side the enthusiasm and developing minds of the next generation with a little guidance our sport will flourish.

Dates for your diary BE Regional Workshop

Wales & CN
Central

Sunday 23rd September Moreton Morrell
To be advised

