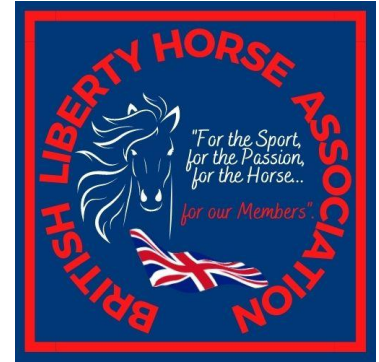


British Liberty Horse Association presents

Member Spotlight on...

Fiona Clubb



Introduction

Fiona lives in Ayrshire (just to the west of Glasgow for those of us who were wondering...) and joined the BLHA in February 2021. She constantly demonstrates perfectly how you can still learn and participate fully even when you are a long way from clinics and private lessons at the Central Hub and is a very active and enthusiastic member on our Facebook groups.

Here's what we found out about Fiona...

Do you own, loan or borrow a horse and how many do you have or work with?

My wee herd consists of 10 ponies and 1 horse; 5 which I own, 6 who are covid rescues on indefinite loan.

How old were you when you started working/training/riding/owning horses?

I started riding at age 5 after my mum asked me if I wanted a birthday party or a pony ride. It was a no brainer! I didn't start serious training until I was in my late 20s when I finally got my very own Highland Pony.

Why did you decide to learn liberty and how long have you been doing it?

I came to liberty by accident. I was a member of the Scottish carriage driving eventing circuit and I started on a cross training journey of dressage, endurance, cross country, western riding and Parelli, which in turn led me to Liberty at Level 3 in 1999.

What are your horsey/liberty aspirations?

A major milestone for me would be to achieve the liberty flying change on a canter circle. This was the only task not completed for my Parelli Level 3 in 1999.

Nevertheless, my true aspiration for liberty is to have it solidly underpin all my other equestrian activities.

What's the biggest challenge for you/your horse and liberty?

I am an auditory dyslexic so I struggle to understand instruction either from horse or professional. I tend to zone out while I process, thus I miss subtle cues which are important.

What's your greatest horsey achievement to date?

Apart from being Scottish Western Champion in 1999, my greatest achievement has been in helping people who have bought and fallen in love with unsuitable horses. Seeing horses and people finally connect is the best feeling for me, because I know the joyous effect is lasting.

What do you do when you're not with your horses?

I love to walk the hills and scout for new and exciting routes to ride.

Who is your horsey hero and why?

I have 2 horsey heroes from my Western days. First, Bob Mayhew who taught me the meaning of subtle practice. Second, Ray Hunt inspired me enormously at a seminar by telling us all to dance with our horses and give them a job.

And finally...what would you say to someone who may be thinking about giving liberty and the BLHA a go?

At nearly 60, my 22 year journey to liberty has been a long bumpy road, partly because it was all driven through distance learning. I recommend getting as much hands on professional training as you can afford. In February 2021, my liberty light finally came on full beam, and that is entirely due to the BLHA.