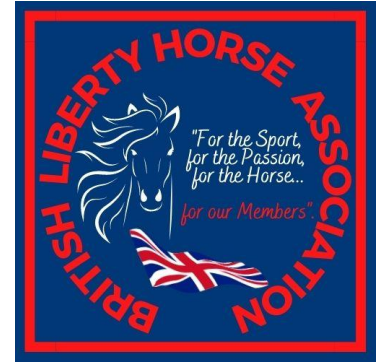


British Liberty Horse Association presents

Professional Spotlight on...



Fliss Bell



Introduction

Fliss has contributed to the BLHA with Monthly Member Challenges, usually showcasing the beautiful relationship she has with her horse Ari. She is based in Gloucestershire and offers superb training at her home yard as well as travelling to deliver clinics. Fliss has studied with many well known and skilled trainers including none-other than our own Arran Parker who was our Spotlight Professional last month.

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

How old were you when you decided on a horsey career?

I was in my 20's. I hadn't planned on having a horsey career, although I dreamt of it when I was little.

What are you working on with your horses right now?

We're working on our liberty in open spaces, on the ground and ridden. I believe it's important to work outside of the arena and explore different places. It's a great test of trust and also encourages me to be even more captivating to my horse, especially when there is grass around.

Who is the most amazing person you have met as a result of working with horses?

I have met SO many amazing horse men and women on my way. If I had to choose one then it'd be the oldest; Jack Brainard (How to Train a Horse). I met him at the very start of my journey into horse training and he made such an impression on me, it was a pivotal moment. He was well in to his 80's still training his own young horses and travelling all around North America sharing his wealth of knowledge. There's something really special about learning from someone who has so much experience on this planet. He was an incredible horseman and person and a legend in his field. It was such an honour to spend time with him and learn a better way to work with horses.

What is the most unusual place you have worked?

The Rocky Mountains. I lived and worked with horses in Valemount BC in the Rockies for about 5 years. It was beautifully unusual especially when meeting a bear eating wild strawberries on your young horse's first ride off the ranch.

What have you learned from making a mistake?

I've learned that mistakes are ok, as long as we learn from them. Making mistakes is how we learn and how we form our character. My last mistake was probably rushing too much, and learning to be more patient

What is the best advice you've ever had?

Lean in to change and the unknown.

Who is your horsey hero and why?

Clemence Faivre. I have always loved her mix of haute ecole (advanced classical dressage) and liberty. She has a unique way of charming her horses, notably her stallion Gotan. It inspired me to study more and to

understand the inner workings of the horse in order to develop them physically as well as mentally. I find that when the horse is using himself to the best of his ability he is more happy and willing to play and show you himself. Clemence pushes the boundaries of what's possible and has always inspired me with her theatre and Art. Her uniqueness is something I have always admired.

If you could own a horse from history, who would it be and why?

Oh it's got to be the white horse from the Never Ending Story right?

What do you do in your spare time?

I'm a keen salsa dancer and surfer. I dance at least twice a week and thanks to the Wave in Bristol I surf once a week, but I prefer to go to the coast when possible. Both of these hobbies help me to stay fit and healthy and also develop my balance and strength. I think my horse appreciates it too!

If you weren't doing what you are now, what other career might you have done?

That's a hard one. I can't imagine doing anything else. I love outer Space and understanding the planetary system. I have a great telescope and often take pictures of the moon and planets. It would be awesome to be an Astrophysicist and work for Elon Musk!

What is the one thing that irritates you most about horse people?

People who have too many opinions of others.

What career aspirations do you still have, or are you living your dream?

To keep teaching and grow this awesome network of horse people who are doing things a bit differently and seeing the horse for who they truly are.