

**Saturday 13th June Cross Country Schooling at Lower Peake
with Heather Lewis.**

Badminton here we come.....

We were the first group to venture out onto the course after our warm up and confidence boosting chat with Heather - The aim is to all have fun, stay within your comfort zone but, if you feel confident then just push yourself just that little bit more, but only if you feel happy to do so? Off we went-Veronica, Sarah, Sophie, Justine & me to the practise fence - cross poles and then onto the real thing!

All horses & riders took the first 3 solid fences in their stride – a couple of spooks here and there as if they had never seen anything like it before? but, once in their stride everyone completed this section, ready for more.... Next the Chair then onto Train, jumping the engine part! nicely painted brown, which appeared quite big in my opinion-Sophie, Justine & Veronica all tackled the train successfully, Sarah and myself opted for the alternative jump - the Brush, not as substantial, but a longer approach heading in the opposite direction away from the main group, which meant you did rejoin the group a little faster than you set off!

Next combination- Telegraph poles set on an angle with a canter stride in between, which could be jumped as a pair or on an angle as one jump. Some attempted the pair and managed the canter stride in between, some did the first part of the jump and thought that was it, time for a break! Some didn't like the look of the jump at all, but with some coaxing-success!

The Bank – they all enjoyed this, starting off with the low part to jump on & off, then going to the higher part –they all thought this was great fun.Onto the Water complex for more fun and a cool off. A gentle walk through to start off, then 2nd gear, then 3rd, then whatever gear is next as this really is fun! Then choose your jump - log pile or the red house to jump on your way out with the Mermaid watching over you from the middle. Most chose the red house and jumped it with ease, the log pile was for those of us who didn't want to get stuck on top of the roof!

Then put the whole course together (Train not included)....Veronica volunteered to go first, safely round, next to go Sophie another smooth round, Me next, slight hitch at the 3rd fence, he thought he would wait for Sarah to catch us up, so bounced up & down like a ball! Once Sarah came into sight over the Brush, ball released & off we went! Sarah not too far behind! Also safely round, then last to go Justine, another smooth round at a steady gallop!

Thank you Heather for one and half hours of great, safe fun with our horses, I speak for everyone- we really enjoyed ourselves.