

INDOOR CROSS COUNTRY JUMPING

Hoplands 22nd November

If you have seen this training advertised and fancy having a go next time....it really is great fun and the good thing is, the jumps are not solid!

It's Saturday and I can hear the Trailer coming down the track-We must be off somewhere? Hoplands I hear them say.... Indoor XC Jumping?

We arrive in time to watch the first group jump the whole course 1 at a time, we stood and watched carefully, only from where we stood I couldn't see the whole course – I was thinking more about the height they were jumping and with such ease!, both of them enjoying themselves. They finished and we went into the school to the welcome words of Heather our Instructor “ don't worry Dexter, you wont be jumping that height!” and I thought to myself ‘or that amount of jumps?’

What a lovely bouncy surface we had to ride on, a huge school, with 7 jumps!, some with odd shapes, at odd angles and 1 were they had forgotten to put a decent stride in between? All became clear after our warm up...

First jump – A Tiger Trap – needed to be jumped on an angle as instructed, otherwise you met the next 2 jumps-cross poles also on angles -incorrectly- always pays for my rider to listen to Heather!

After that combination came the Brush, then a right turn to the Arrowhead-a narrow jump which had poles coming from it to stop you running out!

Then across the school and onto The Bounce- not quite sure who was supposed to bounce? So I stopped in between the 2 jumps just to check- then found out it was supposed to be me – jump the 1st jump then bounce straight out over the 2nd! (Got the hang of it).

After that confusing jump a sharp left turn to The Corner- not to stand though sadly – but a jump- we could jump slightly to the right which meant we had more of a spread to jump or to the left and jump the narrow end.

Then back over The Brush again. Once we had the idea, off we went to jump the whole course, not once but twice! It really wasn't as straight forward as it seemed, if you got the angles wrong or not enough impulsion!! I'm more suited to pulling a milk float but, once I got the hang of it, it was great fun – next time I shall have a word with my stable mate and get her to knock some jumps down when she goes round first, that way I shall get more of a breather in between rounds!!

Great fun!!

Dexter