

SIAN HAWKES

ex Petersfield member So five years on from persuading 'Darling Hope' (and the father) to get into the trailer and do our bit for Petersfield Puffin/ Pink team, I am even more glued to the sport.

After my A levels, I decided horses were the career path for me. I was very fortunate to make useful connections at a small event yard with rider Zac Heydon, This led me up to the beautiful setting of Leicestershire to one of my riding style idols Piggy French. I spent two great years there. It has engraved in me what I feel is the successful, professional and enjoyable way to do what you love and run a business.

Piggy (real name Georgina) is a genius of a rider really. One can learn so much just by watching the way she trains her horses and keeps them so confident and happy whether they are 4 years old or 4*.

With up to 30 horses in the yard it was a big operation to keep it running smoothly. I was one of 3 working pupils; we rode all morning then did yard duties in the afternoon. I managed to get my first OWNER (telling my non horsey parents I had an owner took a bit of explaining however!) in my first year, who sent me a little ex-race horse to compete. She was a little jumping bean and peaked at the RoR (Racehorse to Riding Horse) Championships at Barbury. This said owner then got the bug too and bought me a youngster. So I had two horses at Piggy Frenchs, EPIC! Piggy then offered me the ride on her European Silver Medallist 'Some Day Soon!!' I think every Christmas came at once. He was a legend. All the tricks at the touch of a button. We even got a photo in the 'Nag and Dog'! He taught me a lot and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

If anyone has a hunger for eventing, there aren't many riders as naturally talented as Piggy to learn from, But also to learn the concrete foundations of managing event horses that I now use every day. As some of you might know Pig had a disastrous lead up to the London Olympics which was gutting for us all. I really hope she will be on the podium at Rio!

January 2013 - It was time to put what I had learnt into practise. So, I said my farewells to team French and my amazing friends in the Shire and headed to my new base in Berkshire; right next to BCA. I have a lovely five box yard owned by my original owner. I also love racing and alongside eventing I am now schooling National Hunt horses for Lawney Hill and re-training the youngsters to become eventers. They are perfect for the job and it gives you such a buzz when they go well.

Currently this season I have four exciting horses eventing :

Up Till Midnight - a lovely 6 year old who will be going to the Young Horse CIC* Championships in October.

Hey Ho - we call her the 'big bird' at 17.2hh She has endless scope and will be aimed at CCI*/ Intermediate.

Mr West - a stunning Grey 10 year old who will be going Intermediate then CIC2*

Trove - my newest addition. 4 year old ex-racer, who will be doing his first event soon.

I'm so glad I walked round to Julie Gordon's to hand deliver my Petersfield Pony Club membership all those years ago. I was a proud pony geek and couldn't wait to fill out my next rally slip or entry form. Petersfield have always been happy to help too. I'm lucky to have a lorry to travel around in now, but I used to rely on lifts or borrow Penny Briggs's trailer which she kindly let us borrow.

I'm making use of being stuck in traffic on the M25 to write this coming home from a very hot day at Eridge horse trials. I hope everyone is having a lovely summer and bring home lots of rossies for Petersfield Pony Club.

Kick on!

Sian Hawkes

You can follow Sian and her horses at : <http://www.bdwp.co.uk/>



PPC Novice Champs SJ Winners 2005



Sian standing at back; Piggy centre fore

