



Don't miss the Jo Hinneman clinic on 17th November – call 01342 833317 for tickets or www.oldencraig.com

LOCAL RIDER VISITS

OLDENCRAIG EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Setting off to meet Ian Winfield at Oldencraig Equestrian was, I must admit, something of a daunting task. Ian has a reputation that goes before him and whilst his journey from Barnado's boy to successful business man is well documented, I was slightly unprepared for face to face with the affable and extremely likeable man who greeted me in the calm surroundings of Oldencraig Equestrian Centre.

Oldencraig is now one of the leading indoor and outdoor venues in the South East but it wasn't always so. Ian's army background and astute head for business equipped him perfectly to invest large amounts of time, energy and cash to turn the previously poorly maintained riding school into the polished venue we see today. Ian maintains and runs the premises with a team of highly motivated experienced staff and of course his fiancé Olympic dressage rider and trainer Vicky Thompson. Vicky spent over 20 years working and training with one of the chief riders of the Spanish riding school, Franz Rochowansky, and together they make a great team having transformed a run down riding school into a centre of excellence for dressage.

Buying from Oldencraig

Oldencraig offers unrivalled experience if you are looking to buy a competition horse with a large number of carefully selected horses always for sale. Ian has adapted his business insight into a complete package for buyers and the benefits from buying from Oldencraig are numerous:

- ◆ Horses come from well known breeders on the continent: Novice to Grand Prix
- ◆ Each horse owned by Oldencraig Equestrian Centre is guaranteed.
- ◆ They come with full pre-purchase veterinary check by a Dutch Olympic team veterinarian (equivalent to 5-stage UK vet check)
- ◆ Automatically insured by Shearwater Insurance (no further UK vet check required)
- ◆ Full after-sales support is available to get you and your horse on the road to success.

Shows and events

The dressage shows both affiliated and unaffiliated are incredibly well run with an efficient team making it a complete pleasure to compete at the centre. Ian has now completed the 2 new blocks of permanent show stabling making the whole experience less stressful for horses and riders travelling to shows held there.

You can even join the OEC Riders Club, which offers great benefits to its members, including privileged rates for use of the facilities, reductions on show entry fees and up-to-date information about planned activities at the Centre.

Oldencraig run a great unaffiliated Championship as well as the BD shows with super prizes to be won each year and very generously sponsored by the shop at OEC and Jaguar Equestrian.

Livery

Whilst it may appear from the glorious surroundings that livery is only for the giddy heights of the equestrian elite Ian assured me this was not the case. All types of horses and ponies and riders of all abilities are welcome at Oldencraig livery. The indoor school was recently resurfaced by Bill Kear and with slight adjustments made over the summer months the new surface is near perfect and with a team of grounds men working around the clock to make sure the indoor and outdoor surfaces are foot perfect 24 hours a day nothing is left to chance. The liveries have not only unrivalled stabling and facilities (where else do you cast off your saddle cloth and bandages for a groom to wash!) but on show days one of the outdoor schools is allocated for your exclusive use!

All of the staff are friendly, helpful and polite and Ian attributes this to the fact that they all have to work hard to maintain his incredibly high standards. The net effect is happy horses and happy owners, enjoying riding at all levels – no small achievement.

For more information about OEC visit www.oldencraig.com



Main: Ian Winfield
Top: Liveries at OEC
Above: Relax in the bistro
Below: Vicky Thompson on *Enfant* at the Atlanta Olympics

