

LICI HAWKER

I joined Kings Leaze when I was 8 years old as a junior member on my pony 'Henry'. I am now 19 and on my second gap year to Event full time. I am lucky enough to have a lovely talented team of horses to event and train. I started eventing in pony club, moving onto British Eventing competition when I was 12. I completed through FEI pony trials, on to Junior's and I am currently about to start my second season as a 'Young Rider'.



A fantastic pony called Seren Goch, who was found by Jo Lees, took me to the National Pony Eventing championships when I was 14. My first horse, Nankin des Ruettes (Nonky), really kick started serious eventing. We were longlisted for the Junior European Team in 2011 and First Reserve in 2012. He has helped me gain many top 10 placings at National level, including; Reserve National U18 championships at Weston Park, two consecutive top 8 placings at the National Junior Championships and 7th at the National Novice championships at Gatcombe Festival of British Eventing when I was 16. We completed our first 2* with a double clear in 2012 and was invited to become part of the Young Rider winter A squad in 2012/13. Unfortunately this season we missed the National trail due to a minor injury therefore could not be considered for the team selection. Next year Nonky will be aimed for the Young Rider Nationals at Houghton, and 2015 at the CIC** European squad. I have a lovely 8 year old mare called Anthe, who has proved to be an exceptional talented, moving from BE90-Intermediate in less than 2 years very successfully, recently coming 10th in her first CCI* at Hartpury International followed by 11th in her first CIC** at South of England. She was being aimed at Advanced 8/9yo classes and Blenheim CIC***8/9yo in 2014, however she sustained an injury while on holiday and will miss next season which is a massive disappointment. Highs and very low lows that go with horses!

My grandfather used to breed and train racehorses, and was desperate for me to have a point to point horse. I persuaded him an Event horse would be a much better idea! 6 year old Charles RR (Charlie) belongs to him. Next year he'll be aimed at Intermediate, 2* and the 7 year old championships. I have high hopes for him as he really is exceptionally talented.

Last year I bought a 5 year old project horse in April. Lawa (Torres) I intended to sell at the end of the season to fund the others, however he surpassed all my expectations and coupled with Anthe's injury I have decided to keep him for the winter. He finished the season with a win at BE90.

Peter Coote's and Vicky Cole's Magical Spirit (Merlin) joined us in September. We did a few runs at the tail end of the season and will be aiming for 1* in May next season. Mum and I were really sad to see Poppy and Belinda Ralph's Vanir Jensen Busted leave us. Jensen competed successfully at Novice throughout the season, he finished with 11th in his first CIC* and gave me one of the best xc rides I've had all season. Also Caroline Payne's McGuigans Lad was sold to a lovely new home. I started riding Jamie in 2010 and we soon realised he was very special. At only 15.1hh he was so quick and agile he whizzed round, rarely finishing outside the top 10.

Over the past few years I have been/am part of Sports Aid, TASS, Excel Talent, AASE, Equilibrium's Rising star programme, and Junior/Young rider A squads. Joining the Regional BE100U18/ONU18 and Pony/Junior programmes is a fantastic way to be seen and gain invaluable experience and training.

All the horses are very much part of the family, and are treated as individuals.

The support I received from Kings Leaze at an early age and being given the experience to ride in teams gave me an amazing start. The riding club gave me the opportunity to ride at the Nationals in Lincoln when I was 10, something I won't forget. I also did a huge amount of dressage tests at Elmleaze on ponies and took part in showjumping and hunter trials. Everyone has always been so friendly and encouraging, Riding Club is a fantastic way to make friends, train and start competing.

