



## Working Hunter Training with Sheila Thom

### **When/ Where**

Series of 3 sessions 3 weeks apart, February and March. Muirmill

### **What / Who**

1-hour lesson. Groups of 4. Different types of Working Hunter fences each session from - spread, skinny, off set double, bounce, water tray etc

### **Outline of Sessions**

Lesson start with group warm up on the flat, walk trot and canter on one rein as you would have in a working hunter class. Warm up included lengthening on one side then collecting on the other, with plenty of circles, again mimicking a working hunter class where you need to make room between yourself and the horse in front. Lesson progressed to polework / trotting poles and small bounces with placing poles. Then on to jumping individual fences, cutting in to doubles at angles, jumping parts of the course then stringing whole course together. Sheila then mimicked actual obstacles again by placing a small tree at the middle of the fence to make the rider choose to jump to the left or right, angled some of the top poles.

**Ayr Riding Club says** - New training for 2017 following the BHS Ayrshire demo evening in 2016. Fabulous sessions to warm up and practice what you will find in a working hunter class, Sheila also provides feedback on what a judge is looking for and gives hints on how to avoid losing marks .

### **Feedback from a rider - Michelle Thomson**

Firstly please can you thank Sheila very much both Caley & myself had a wonderful time. I only bought Caley within the last few months and this was our 1st trip out to an arena jumping. So, I had never jumped fences or heights like that in an arena environment and have absolutely no experience of working hunter. I felt a little intimidated and out of my depth at first when I saw the class before us go out and the size the jumps had been in the prior class to ourselves. However, Sheila quickly put me at ease and started us off gradually over raised trotting poles working us gradually introducing more fences. I was just amazed at how well both myself and especially Caley did. The session really boosted my confidence, thanks to Sheila of course. I felt so proud of myself as it was a huge achievement for myself being an older, less confident rider and I am very much looking forward to coming along to another session.