

## **SEBC Accredited Professional Training Course for Equine Behaviour Consultants**

This modular Course is the Accredited Professional Training for the Society of Equine Behaviour Consultants (SEBC) Professional Training Certificate examination (PTC) required for professional registration with SEBC as an Equine Behaviour Consultant in the UK (see [www.societyofequinebehaviourconsultants.co.uk](http://www.societyofequinebehaviourconsultants.co.uk)). Ten satisfactory Portfolio pieces are required for entry to the PTC examination and the Course has been structured so that each Module covers a corresponding Portfolio piece. For those who wish to proceed to the professional examination and registration, full guidance can be given on completion of Portfolio work.

The course also provides specialist practical knowledge of equine behaviour, useful to all those working in the horse industry enhancing an existing equestrian career, being particularly valuable for coaches and instructors, riding school proprietors and staff, grooms, livery and stud farm managers and staff, saddlers, veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses, farriers, physios and other professionals within the horse industry.

Combining the science of animal behaviour and learning theory with the best of traditional and modern equine training techniques, the course covers key elements of horse behaviour, including the practical application of this to managing horses, maximising safety and welfare, solving equine behaviour problems, good business practice and the required professional practice for Registered Equine Behaviour Consultants.

The emphasis of all teaching throughout the course is on the practical and how to successfully manage 'challenging behaviour', maximise safety and welfare and advise owners, riders and handlers to resolve equine behaviour problems in the 'real' world of today's horse industry, using a wide variety of teaching techniques, including problem based learning.

Trainees with specific interests and experience can select Modules to suit and, if not wishing to proceed to examination and registration, do not need to prepare a Portfolio, and can 'dip in' to brush up on existing knowledge or areas they would like to learn more about to boost or expand an ongoing equestrian career.

### **Teachers**

The on-line lectures are delivered by Dr Debbie Marsden, the internationally recognised equine behaviour expert, author of "How Horses Learn", with many years of equine behaviour research and teaching experience at the University of Edinburgh attached to the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies and over 30 years successful professional practice as an Equine Behaviour Consultant. For more about Dr Marsden see [www.debbiemarsden.co.uk](http://www.debbiemarsden.co.uk).

Students will also be taught by experienced SEBC Registered Consultants and other professionals who are experts in each of the other relevant fields including Chartered Veterinary Physiotherapists, SMS Master Saddlers and Qualified Saddle Fitters, Chartered Accountants and Lawyers.

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### Timetable

There are 10 monthly modules from September to June each year, each with an online lecture (link to watch/rewatch and learn at own pace) and one to one remote tutorial guidance from Dr Marsden and other experienced consultants throughout, by phone or email as required, including guidance on portfolio preparation for those wishing to take the professional exam. Depending on the Covid situation and demand, we may also offer a monthly practical day (Saturday 10 – 4pm) OR a 2 day group session (Sat afternoon/Sunday morning) at Colleges with horses after 3 Modules, where students will have the opportunity to revise and discuss the material and put their learning into practice in a group session. Modules will be grouped

See below for further details including dates and practical day/group session venues. These may change or become optional should the course develop to completely remote learning in response to the Covid situation.

### Course Costs per Module

Lecture £65

Tutorial help and portfolio guidance £25.

Practical days provisional fee £75 each, Weekend Groups sessions provisional fee £150 each.

Monthly practical days may become optional or change to 3 optional week end group sessions at Colleges with horses, costs available nearer the time once Colleges confirm availability etc, depending on Covid situation and demand.

Discounts are available for registered members of other professional organisations including SMS Master Saddlers and ACPAT Reg Veterinary Physiotherapists, Registered Farriers and BEVA Reg Veterinary surgeons. *(Additional fees are required payable to SEBC for portfolio assessment, exam and registration)*

**Dates REMAIN TO BE CONFIRMED and COURSE STRUCTURE MAY CHANGE TO GO COMPLETELY ONLINE DEPENDING ON THE COVID SITUATION.**

*Trainees are welcome to bring in video clips/DVDs of their own or friends' horses for class discussion at practical days/group week ends. Some of the most interesting questions start with "My horse....." !*

pending on their interests, students may take selected elements of the Course, and only those wishing to take the professional exam need to complete the Portfolio work, as a satisfactory portfolio is required for exam entry. Exam candidates are advised to take the whole Course.

For further information about SEBC, including portfolio briefs and assessment and exam fees call 01899 221 888 or email [secretary@sebc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sebc.org.uk) see [www.sebc.org.uk](http://www.sebc.org.uk)

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See below for details about practical day venues and module content.

For further information about the Course, contact Debbie Marsden on 01899 221 888 email [mdmequestrian@gmail.com](mailto:mdmequestrian@gmail.com).

To enrol please scroll down to the enrolment form, complete, sign and return to and return to Debbie Marsden, PO BOX 8776, Biggar, Scotland ML12 6WL or email to [mdmequestrian@gmail.com](mailto:mdmequestrian@gmail.com).

**Practical Days or Group Weekends** MAY BE RUN at Warwickshire College, Kirkley Hall Equestrian College in Northumberland and Oatridge College near Edinburgh in Scotland, depending on the Covid situation and demand.

### **Kirkley Hall**

Kirkley Hall Equestrian Centre is based at Northumberland College's land-based campus in Ponteland, just outside of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Set within a beautiful seventeenth century estate, the equestrian centre includes a 25 horse stable yard, all weather riding arenas and British Eventing approved cross country course. All teaching and practicals are held in the classrooms and equestrian facilities of the College's Kirkley Hall Campus, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 0AQ.

Accommodation is available on campus and there is a wide selection of Hotels, B&B etc nearby. For accommodation information call 01670 841 200 or email [enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk)

### **Oatridge**

Oatridge College is part of SRUC (Scottish Rural Universities) and a member of the Scottish Equestrian Association, a BHS Training and Exam Centre and popular equestrian competition venue. The Course utilises modern classrooms set in beautiful grounds, with practical sessions at the nearby teaching yard, using school horses and the fabulous indoor competition facilities all on campus at the Scottish National Equestrian Centre (SNEC).

For more directions and travel details please contact the College directly on 01506 864 800 or email [oatridge@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:oatridge@sruc.ac.uk)

### **Warwickshire College**

The Course uses the beautiful setting of the Moreton Morrell campus near Lighthorne in Warwickshire with several yards, outdoor and indoor arenas - a well known training and competition centre within easy reach of much of England.

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For more information, including local accommodation and directions see [www.warkscol.as.uk](http://www.warkscol.as.uk).

## Modules and Content

### 1. *Reading Equine Body Language*

This is one of the most important elements of horse behaviour to understand and become proficient in for any equine behaviour consultant or equestrian professional. Unconscious awareness of this is the main way in which experienced equestrian professionals become 'good with horses' and how many 'horse whisperers' impress clients. Being able to read, understand and explain this to clients is an important clinical tool for behaviour consultants. In particular trainees will be taught how to distinguish 'misbehaviour' due to pain/fear/pathology from 'misbehaviour' due to 'naughtiness' or confident pro-active learned behaviour.

### 2. *Understanding Equine Social Behaviour*

An in depth knowledge and thorough understanding of equine social behaviour is also particularly important for the successful behaviour consultant. Misunderstandings between horses and people here are a common cause of many serious problems. Equine social systems will be explained as well as how to distinguish between play, defensive aggression, proactive aggression, 'relationship issues' and other types of normal equine social behaviour, including gender-related and reproductive behaviour, an understanding of all of which can be very valuable in managing horses and solving practical problems for clients.

### 3. *Recognising Learned Behaviour Problems*

This module teaches trainees how to recognise learned 'misbehaviour' and features other than 'body language' which distinguish this from 'misbehaviour' due to physical problems. This skill is not only vital to choosing appropriate training techniques but also particularly useful when advising a vet or insurance company whether or not further veterinary investigation is required. Learning theory is taught in detail, including how horses learn in 'real life' and how learned behaviour problems develop. The benefits of ruling out 'learned misbehaviour' or early positive diagnosis of this and associated safety and welfare issues are discussed.

### 4. *History Taking*

This module covers case history taking, from first contact with potential clients, with essential safety and welfare advice for interim management, to procedures for assessment visits. Teaching includes key facts required, cross presentation of handling, ridden and other problems, interview technique, assessment of information from clients, safety do's and don'ts, procedure and methods of note taking and record keeping. Trainees will have the opportunity to conduct interviews on practical days,

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discovering their strengths and areas where improvement is required when reviewing and discussing their performance.

### *5. Practical Training Techniques*

The most useful and practicable humane and effective training techniques are explained, expanding on Module 3, along with how to select which techniques are most appropriate for individual horses and clients, depending on the nature of the problem and their attitude, ability, time and facilities available. This module emphasises safety and welfare issues, and discusses the pros and cons of taking horses in for 're-schooling', the value of a training diary and covers the development of bespoke training programmes and follow up procedure.

### *6. Evaluation of Alternative Training Systems*

Opinions vary on the benefits or otherwise of alternative training systems, but these are increasingly popular today, especially amongst those relatively new to horses. Many clients experiencing behaviour problems with their horse will have 'had a go' and will ask about these. Trainees will be taught how some of the most popular of these systems actually work (i.e. not always as promoted), how they can lead to problems and how some elements of some systems can be useful when dealing with some kinds of behaviour problems. The safety and welfare issues involved will be discussed. Trainees are welcome to bring promotional material or DVD's/ videotapes of any system they are particularly keen on or interested in for class discussion on practical days.

### *7. Husbandry, Handling and Travel Problems*

Trainees will be taught the importance of environment and handling practices in the development of behaviour problems and how to diagnose and resolve these kinds of problems, such as loading, travelling, catching, clipping, leading and other handling problems including standing for the vet, or farrier as well as 'stable-vices'. Knowledge from previous modules is brought together and applied to specific problems.

### *8. Saddlery, Tack and associated Problems*

Incorrectly fitted or inappropriate tack is the most common cause of fear and pain related equine behaviour problems. Trainees will be taught how to recognise unsafe equipment and poor bridle and saddle fit in particular from Society of Master Saddlers Qualified Saddle Fitters and other signs that referral to a Veterinary Surgeon or further Veterinary investigation is required when dealing with these kinds of problems, including the role of Veterinary Physiotherapy, Corrective Farriery, Riding Instructors and the benefits to horses of a multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation here.

### *9. Ridden Problems*

This module expands on Module 8 and covers procedures for assessing and advising clients to resolve ridden behaviour problems. Safety and welfare issues will be discussed, and trainees will be taught how to assess riders, good coaching practice and the benefits of training people and horses 'on the ground' before mounted training. Trainees will be taught how to advise clients to resolve a wide variety of the most common ridden problems, including rearing, bucking, bolting, napping, spooking, difficulties mounting or cantering, various 'evasions' as well as common jumping and performance problems, bringing together knowledge from previous modules and applying this to specific problems.

### *10. Professional Conduct and Business Practice*

This module includes record keeping, follow up, tax and marketing, as well as the pro's and con's of running your own business and how to avoid some common pitfalls. Trainees are taught by lawyers,

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accountants and psychologists about professional conduct, including veterinary referrals and liaison with other professionals within the equestrian industry as well as report writing, customer service and dealing with difficult customers including bad payers. This module also covers insurance, legal responsibilities and legislation applying to equine behaviour consultants e.g. relating to Contract, Professional Negligence, Duty of Care and Trading Standards etc, and the benefits of professional registration and CPD.

*(Note Modules may be taught in different order than 1-10, these numbers being used here for identification)*

### ENROLMENT FORM

Please complete Sections 1-4 and the optional Sections 5 and 6 if you wish, select the elements you require and sign and date the declaration at the end and return to  
Debbie Marsden. PO Box 8776 Biggar, South Lanarkshire ML12 6WL  
OR  
email to [mdmequestrian.com](mailto:mdmequestrian.com)

#### 1. Personal details

*(Please write name in full as you would like it to appear on your certificate)*

Surname .....

Forenames .....

Date of Birth

#### 2. Contact Postal Address

##### **Email address**

*(essential for online sessions)*

*Please indicate your preferred form of written contact*

#### 3. Contact Telephone

*(please include a landline if you have access to one)*

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Office hours

Evening/weekends

Mobile

*Please indicate your preferred contact number.*

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### **4. Qualifications and Practical Experience with Horses**

List any horse related and any academic or professional qualifications (including non horse related) and briefly summarise your practical experience with horses;



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**6. Any known medical conditions, allergies or particular challenges (eg diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, mobility issues, dyslexia etc) or anything else which you would like consideration for and/or help with;**

*(You are not required to disclose any such but are welcome to do so here if you feel that this would facilitate your participation and care while taking the Course)*

**Please indicate briefly below the nature of any help or consideration you require;**

**Please select any of the following;**

I wish to receive the link to online Lectures for all 10 Modules  
*Fee £65 per lecture*

I wish to be entitled to tutorial guidance by email and by phone at times suitable for both me and tutor  
*Fee £25/ Module*

I wish to attend all 10 monthly Practical days at Kirkley Hall / Oatridge / Warwickshire College

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(venues to be confirmed depending on Covid situation and demand in that area)

*Fee £75/ day*

I wish to attend all 3 Week-end group sessions at Kirkley Hall / Oatridge / Warwickshire College

(venues to be confirmed depending on Covid situation and demand in that area)

*Fee £150 / weekend*

I wish to receive the link for selected online Lectures

*Fee £65 per lecture -please circle which - Module 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10*

**Tick below if you are entitled to discount;**

I am entitled to discount as I am a registered member of;

ACPAT / SMS / WCF / BHS APC / BEVA / BGA (circle which)

*Fee for online lecture £55, practical day £55, online tutorial £20*

*Saving £150 for all lectures and tutorial guidance and £10 per practical day/group weekend day*

***Maximum saving £250***

**Payment of Fees**

**DO NOT SEND PAYMENT NOW.**

**ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS WILL BE CONTACTED REGARDING PAYMENT ONCE DATES ARE CONFIRMED.**

**Please note payment must be received before links are sent and fees are non refundable.**

**Finally, please read the Code of Conduct and Terms and Conditions below and if you are happy to accept these, please sign and date, where indicated, to enrol on the Course.**

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## **SAFETY/ WELFARE/ INCLUSIVITY / DIVERSITY**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Students must take reasonable care for their own safety and that of others and for the welfare of the horses involved while attending the Course and doing portfolio work. They must follow all reasonable instructions issued for safety and welfare reasons. Failure to do so will result in immediate exclusion from any session. Students who persistently fail here will be excluded from the Course, after two verbal warnings and one written warning.
2. Students are required to conduct themselves in a socially acceptable manner throughout the course. This includes being polite, considerate and helpful to fellow students, 'guinea pig' clients, college staff, teachers and any members of the public they may come into contact with whilst on the Course and doing portfolio work. SEBC operates a policy of 'zero tolerance' of racism, sexism, homophobia and bullying etc including disruptive behaviour and any conduct spoiling or hindering the learning experience of others. Any such comments or actions will not be tolerated and will result in immediate exclusion from any session. Students who persistently fail here will be excluded from the Course, after two verbal warnings and one written warning.
3. Students must not use Course teaching time, including practical days and discussion time, to promote their own business or the commercial or otherwise interests of others.
5. Students must practice only the training techniques that they have been taught on the Course during practical sessions and portfolio work.
6. When doing portfolio work, students must not charge a fee or accept any payment in kind and make clear to all involved that they are not yet qualified, and that any information gathered, including pictures or video footage taken, will be used for portfolio work, which is kept by the Society of Equine Behaviour Consultants (SEBC) and may be used by SEBC for educational or promotional purposes, and ensure that they have the full permission of all involved, including the owners of any horses involved, to do so. All portfolio work must be carried out in compliance with instructions given on the brief, current data protection, privacy and other legislation protecting those, particularly children, involved.
7. Students are required to wear appropriate outdoor and protective clothing (including footwear) suitable for the prevailing weather conditions and working with horses during all practical sessions, and demonstrate safe working practices here and when doing portfolio work. They must advise any people involved with portfolio work to do the same. This includes the wearing of a riding hat to current standards (ie PAS 015/ SNELL 2001 or higher) with chin strap securely fastened at all times and stout riding or yard work boots, ideally with steel toecaps, when around horses and this and suitable gloves at all times when handling horses. Horses must also be in good condition and fit for the activity undertaken without any signs giving rise to cause for welfare concern, be in an appropriate and safe

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environment and be appropriately dressed for activity undertaken eg brushing boots and safe lungeing equipment for lunging and appropriate protective travelling equipment for loading/travelling etc. Students not appropriately dressed may be excluded from practical sessions and students are advised that portfolio work will be assessed as not being of the required standard for safety or welfare reasons in this respect.

8. Exam candidates must register with SEBC and pay SEBC directly for Portfolio assessment. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that Portfolio work can be read or viewed readily by tutors offering guidance and SEBC, to get it in by the due date for assessment, to mark all pages (and any memory stick) clearly with their name and Module title and to keep all Portfolio Assessment sheets once returned to them by SEBC, to facilitate entry to the SEBC Professional Training Certificate.

9. Students who fail to follow this Code of Conduct will be excluded immediately from any teaching or tutorial sessions and any practical days or group weekends. Students who persistently fail will be excluded from the Course, after two verbal warnings and one written warning.

### **Terms and Conditions**

This signed enrolment form with fees paid in full 2 weeks before any element of the Course is required to receive a link or permit attendance at any lecture, tutorial and/or practical day/group weekend. Fees are non refundable.

A working email address must be provided to receive the lecture links and/or code required to access the online sessions and while teachers will do their best to advise, responsibility for technical connection is that of the student.

Should any circumstances result in non attendance, students who have paid the required fees are entitled to attend that element without paying further fees in the next SEBC accredited Course at that venue or another SEBC accredited training course, numbers permitting and at the organiser's discretion. Should any circumstances result in any online/telephone element being cancelled, or link being delayed, it will be rescheduled or resent as soon as possible. Practical days or Group weekends may be cancelled due to insufficient numbers, or other circumstances, in which case they will be rescheduled or students will be offered an alternative venue or date. In the event of cancellation, SEBC, Debbie Marsden or any teachers or tutors will not be held liable for travel or accommodation costs or other losses.

Authorship and Ownership rights on their teaching material including handouts are asserted by Debbie Marsden and other teachers in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Students must be sufficiently knowledgeable and capable to keep themselves and others safe around horses and when working with horses and to be able to handle horses safely and humanely. Students must take reasonable care and follow all reasonable instructions provided

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for their own safety and that of others and the welfare of the horses involved and abide by the above Code of Conduct while attending the course and doing portfolio work.

**I declare that all of the information I have given is true, that I am 18 years old or older and am sufficiently knowledgeable and capable to keep myself and others safe around horses and to be able to handle horses safely and that I have read, understood and agree to abide by the above Terms and Conditions and Code of Conduct.**

Signed.....

Dated.....

PRINT

NAME.....