

## SEBC ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ONLINE COURSE

The SEBC Accredited Professional Training can now be taken online!

The Course is suitable for experienced equestrians interested in learning more about equine behaviour and the safe and humane management of challenging behaviour, either to augment an existing equestrian career, help their own horses or with a view to working as a professional Equine Behaviour Consultant.

The online Course is taught by Dr Debbie Marsden, a SEBC Registered Senior Consultant and other equestrian professionals (saddlers, physios, lawyers etc), each of whom are experts in their own field and covers all aspects of equine behaviour consultancy work and managing 'difficult' horses.

There are 10 Modules, which have each been transformed into a series of 'bite size' lectures and teaching exercises for individuals, each taking around 20-30 minutes or so, using recent experiences of remote teaching and especially designed to facilitate home learning.

Students receive links to the recorded lectures and exercises to listen, watch, pause, rewind, listen, watch again and go over or redo as often as they wish, so everyone can learn at their own convenience and their own pace.

You just pay for one 'set' of material at a time, covering one Module and when you feel ready, you can request the next one, which will be sent to you once payment is received, so there is no pressure of time to complete any section. You can take as long as you need or whizz through if circumstances permit.

Module fees (provisionally £85 per Module) include 1:1 'mentoring' ie bespoke guidance to assist understanding, via telephone, Whats App, text, email or Zoom as desired, by prior arrangement with teachers to suit you both.

All of the material required to complete the Course will be sent to students, so there are no additional expenses for reading material etc.

If you are not sure if this is the Course for you, you can try it one Module at a time and anyone with particular interests can 'pick and choose', so you don't have to take all of the Modules if you don't want to. There is also a discount for members of a variety of equestrian professional societies and registers (see later) and who may not need to take the elements relating to their particular discipline.

For anyone wishing to proceed to the professional exam, required for registration as an Equine Behaviour Consultant with SEBC, a Portfolio is required, with a series of elements per Portfolio piece and one Portfolio piece per Module, to demonstrate the knowledge and skill taught in that Module in order to be able to take the exam. So when you feel ready, similar 1:1 bespoke guidance on

preparation of Portfolio pieces is also offered by Dr Marsden (provisionally around £25 per piece).

There are 10 Modules and 10 corresponding Portfolio pieces, each made up of several elements. The Portfolio briefs are sent and assessed by the Society, and there is an assessment fee (around £25-30) payable to the Society for assessment for each piece. Where any element is assessed as not yet of the required standard it may be resubmitted and an additional fee is payable to SEBC for reassessment (around £15-20).

There will be no deadline for Portfolio submission (other than the SEBC requirement for, ideally, all 10 to be completed within 3 years of submission of the first piece - although consideration will be given to anyone taking longer due to extenuating circumstances), again to allow everyone to learn and progress at their own pace. Some people may find some Modules take more or less time than others, depending on their previous experience etc and the Portfolio assessment system factors this in for maximum flexibility.

The SEBC Professional Training Certificate (PTC) exam is also being restructured, so that candidates who have a Portfolio completed to the required standard, can take it individually, on a remote basis, whenever they feel ready and take each of the elements separately, so you will not need to wait for an 'exam day' and sufficient other people to be 'ready' at the same time. For more information on the Portfolio briefs and exam elements please email [secretary@societyofequinebehaviourconsultants.org.uk](mailto:secretary@societyofequinebehaviourconsultants.org.uk)

For anyone keen on a 'real life' group session, there will be a few (3 - 4) optional additional College weekends from 2022 (depending on numbers and the Covid situation) taken by experienced SEBC Registered Consultants, each covering a few Modules, for a chance to revise, discuss and socialise!

Please scroll down for the current more detailed 'blurb' on Course content below and an enrolment form, which can be completed online or printed and posted.

You can complete and return the enrolment form at any time and enrolled students will receive a detailed list of each set of lectures and exercises to work through per Module and information about how to pay etc., starting from September 2021.

It is hoped that this will be much better than the traditional classroom teaching, making the Course more accessible and affordable and, best of all, allowing everyone to fit it in around all the other commitments of horses and everyday life, with less time pressure, less travelling, less time away from home etc.

The 1:1 tutoring, which, although 'remote', should allow students the best possible help, privately and directly to meet everyone's individual needs.

Please just get in touch with SEBC or Dr Marsden directly ([mdmequestrian@gmail.com](mailto:mdmequestrian@gmail.com)) if you have any more questions about the Course.

## **Further Details**

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)). For those wishing to proceed to the Professional Registration, each Module has a corresponding piece of Portfolio work to be completed as ongoing continuous assessment and preparation for the final exam.

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 using only humane techniques to solve 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 with SEBC, 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 equine behaviour elements of the Course are taught 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 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 with optional additional weekend practical days or group sessions under the guidance of other qualified and experienced SEBC Registered Equine Behaviour Consultants.

## **Timetable**

There are 10 modules, each with a series of online lecture links to watch/rewatch and learn at your own pace, with one to one remote tutorial guidance from Dr Marsden throughout, by phone/text email/zoom as required, and guidance is also available on portfolio preparation for those wishing to

proceed to the professional exam and Registration. Depending on the Covid situation and demand, we may also offer additional practical days (Saturdays 10 – 4pm) OR a 2 day group session (Sat afternoon/Sunday morning) at Colleges with horses, where students will have the opportunity to revise and discuss the material and put their learning into practice in a group session guided by experienced SEBC Registered Behaviour Consultants (see below for provisional venues).

Links are expected to be available from September 2021, starting with Module 1, and will be released approximately one Module per month thereafter. Students are welcome to request the next series of links whenever they are ready and payment is only required for one Module or each set of lectures and training material at a time. The fee for Portfolio assessment is paid directly to SEBC.

### **Fees per Module**

Lecture links provisional fee per Module £85 (10 Modules overall)

*(Each Module will have four to six, approx 20 – 30 minutes long ‘mini’ sessions, each with its own link, which can be bought one set at a time and the fee includes a printable handout with a summary of the key information per Module and one to one tutorial guidance from Dr Marsden).*

Portfolio guidance provisional fee £25 per Module.

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

Weekend practical days or group sessions at Colleges with horses are optional extras for those wishing to get together to practice skills under supervision, costs will be confirmed nearer the time once Colleges confirm availability etc, depending on Covid situation and demand.

Discounts on Course fees are available for registered members of other professional organisations including BHS APC's, SMS Master Saddlers and ACPAT Reg Veterinary Physiotherapists, Registered Farriers and BEVA Reg Veterinary surgeons. *(Additional fees payable to SEBC for portfolio assessment, final exam and professional registration are not discounted).*

***Trainees are welcome to offer video clips of their own or friends' horses for discussion at group week ends. Some of the most interesting questions start with “My horse.....” !***

Depending 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)

See below for details about module content and optional group weekends.

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.

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 proactive 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 and defensive or proactive aggression, hierarchical behaviour 'relationship issues' and other types of normal equine social behaviour, including hierarchical, 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, as not all of these cause pain or tension. 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. 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.

### *5. 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.

## 6. *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' or stereotypic behaviour. Knowledge from previous modules is brought together and applied to specific problems.

## 7. *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.

## 8. *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.

## 9. *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, 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.

## 10. *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 with tutors and on practical days, discovering their strengths and areas where improvement is required when reviewing and discussing their performance and preparation for the exam.

*(Some details may change as the Course is updated every year)*

## 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

### 1. Personal details

*(Please write name in full, with any preferred abbreviation in brackets)*

Surname .....

Forenames .....

Date of Birth

### 2. Contact Postal Address

#### Email address

*(essential for online links)*

### 3. Contact Telephone

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

Office hours

Evening/weekends

Mobile

*Please indicate your preferred contact number.*

#### **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;

**5. Emergency Contact Person**

Name (s):

Contact Telephone (s) during Practical Day dates:

**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 \*  
*Provisional Fee £85 per Module/lecture set including 1;1 mentoring by Dr Marsden*
- I wish to be entitled to Portfolio guidance by email and by phone/Zoom etc at times suitable for myself and tutor  
*Provisional Fee £25/ Module*
- I would be interested in attending Practical days at Kirkley Hall / Oatridge / Warwickshire College  
(venues to be confirmed depending on Covid situation and demand in that area)  
*Provisional Fee £75/ day*
- I would be interested in attending Week-end group sessions at Kirkley Hall / Oatridge / Warwickshire College  
(venues to be confirmed depending on Covid situation and demand in that area)  
*Provisional Fee £150 / weekend*
- I wish to receive the links for selected online Lectures  
*Provisional Fee £85 per lecture -please circle which - Module 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10*

**Tick (or type Y) 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 £75, practical day £60, weekend £135, Portfolio guidance £20  
Saving £150 for all lectures and Portfolio guidance and £15 per practical day/group weekend day*

**Tick (or type Y) if you are interested in proceeding to the final Exam and Professional Registration\*\***

### **Payment of Fees**

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND PAYMENT NOW.**

**ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS WILL BE CONTACTED REGARDING PAYMENT ONCE LINKS ARE AVAILABLE (expected for Module 1 in Sept 2021).**

**\* Once the online material is completed, a detailed list of each element will be sent to enrolled students as it becomes available, so that they can ‘buy’ each bit as they wish. There is NO OBLIGATION to buy all lectures if you have ticked this box – it just gives an idea of how many students are interested in the whole Course. \*\* There is NO OBLIGATION to complete Portfolio work or proceed to the final Exam or Professional Registration, this just gives me an indication of how many students are interested in doing so. If you haven’t ticked it you can still change your mind and progress to this later. 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.**

## **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 taking 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, tutors 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 for 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 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 file or data transfer item) 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 is required to receive a link or permit attendance at any online 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 the technical connection to access material (and downloading or printing where desired) 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 or faulty, 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 or rescheduling, 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 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.....