

Hatchett Kestrel Y49/406 (2007)

I have owned Kestrel since 30th of September 2017 and what an amazing adventure we have been on together so far.

We travelled him home to Newcastle from Bristol, a long 5hrs drive. The following day I took him on the Blagdon Pleasure ride and oh my goodness he was brilliant...we did it twice, once just my mum and me and as we finished my friend had arrived so we did it again and he loved it! Next we did some unaffiliated dressage and placed 2nd in our first ever dressage for us. We have trained a lot, had our struggles but we persevered and got there in the end. After trying dressage we went to a XC schooling day and that was brilliant (he loves water!) not one refusal...AWESOME. The season changed so we decided to try out winter series eventing at a local equestrian centre. This was tough we had to ride a dressage test in the arena, then immediately prepare for show jumping and simulated XC course...we weren't so good at the start, but then we did get better.

A local riding club put on a show jumping day and we jumped 60cm as pairs and 70cm alone, placing 2nd in both and now we are jumping 85cm to 90cm. We entered Dressage for Pony Club grass roots but unfortunately we didn't get placed for champs. We did make it onto the Pony Club show jumping and eventing team, however I had an ingrown toenail which was so painful I couldn't put on my riding boots so we didn't get to compete at grass roots, but I'm not too worried as we have next year.

We complete lots of 21K endurance rides with our local group. Now we have these marked up on our Pony Club cards and our aim is to qualify for the grass roots competition, as our time has never been greater than 10kph. We often go to the beach, we are very lucky we live 20mins to the beach and 20mins into the countryside. We recently went to Cumbria on a mini break and we all went swimming on our ponies...now that was unreal! We also went to intermediate Pony Club camp for a few days, which was great fun.

Over the Winter we will attend some unaffiliated dressage as this is not Kestrel's strength, but each test he does improve and is becoming less hollow (always in the comments! We are going to give a one day event a try and continue to show jump - our favourite pastime. I have just turned 11 years old so I will be looking to complete my C Test with Pony Club too. I love this pony ridiculous amounts, he is my best friend and I'm looking forward to the next few years to see where we go...I hope I don't grow too much!

Evie Prosperini