

## Clair Aberdeen and JJ

I bought JJ in March 2001 from a seasoned eventer, who had taken him to novice eventing, but realised he wouldn't make the grade at int/adv level. I evented and dressaged that season up to intro level, but he kept putting his back out over bigger jumps, so looked for a primary cause. JJ was diagnosed that autumn with spavin in both hocks. He was



intermittently lame after then, which limited us to primarily flatwork and a rehab approach to his warm up and working programme. Regular Bute, once-daily, plus Adequan injections.

In spring 2002, he was diagnosed with degeneration of the corona-pedal joint. Steroid injections into the foot, plus 2 Bute per day followed, but he was still lame and suffered stiffness. I was unable to ride him for the whole of the spring and summer, despite high levels of Bute given - it was almost a lost cause.

JJ was shod with Cytek in Autumn 2002 and was sound on trotting up, and sound immediately after shoeing - I couldn't believe it! The Bute was gradually reduced over a 2-3 week period and he was still sound!

I spent the winter and spring 2003 gradually bringing him back into work, and concentrating on building him back up. We managed some affiliated dressage last year - novice level and gained 3 BD points - not much I know!

In 2004 we are now competing at intro (3ft) level unaffiliated eventing, and have placed in every hunter trial he's entered. We are show jumping on a regular basis (unaffiliated) at 3ft and competing British Dressage. The first outing of the season was yesterday and we won both classes - Novice 33 and 39, so qualified in first outing of season!!

The plan now is to work on building his British Dressage success, and try our hand at Elementary this autumn. Also I want to register for British Eventing next season - try to qualify for Intro PetPlan finals and perhaps try a couple of Pre-Novice by end of season.

Most importantly, I've got my horse back - we're now doing more than we've ever done. He's maintaining his 'sound-ness' - through Cytek shoeing and the careful build-up of work and strengthening we did. He competes for our riding club, enjoys himself wherever he goes and now has a good quality of life again - all without BUTE!!