

Training Grant Report

Sue Holroyd

In late January this year I purchased a nice young Irish horse who was very nervous in the stable but lovely and sensible to ride.

When he arrived he was unshod and very difficult to have his feet and legs handled to the point of needing to be sedated to have his first set of shoes on. We persevered but without much improvement so thought it was time to seek professional advice.

My sister Pauline told me that one of her ex-stable lads, Grant Bazin, had been trained by the famous Monty Roberts and after explaining our problem to him, he duly arrived at Langham and was introduced to Larry. My sister, Terry and I watched with great interest for the next two hours. Grant never uttered a word to the horse but gently and slowly gained his confidence by picking his front feet up first by standing facing the horse's head – not how we would normally pick up feet by facing the tail. When he eventually got the foot off the ground, instead of holding on to it for grim death, he gently rotated it until the horse relaxed and accepted him holding the foot off the ground.

It took two hours to get Larry to give up all four feet but give them up he did. It was fascinating to watch and was not an immediate cure as we then had to practice this procedure daily to gain his confidence.

I have always been somewhat sceptical in respect of this type of work when watching it in an arena but when seen in our own yard with your own horse the method cannot be questioned.