

Buck Brannaman IS BACK!

Following the success of Buck Brannaman's clinics in 2015 and 2017, Tina Griffen of Total Horsemanship has successfully secured his return to Aintree International Arena on the 7th - 9th June 2019. Kate McLaughlin explains what makes this such a special event.

Buck is back! Come to Aintree International Arena from Friday 7th June to Sunday 9th June 2019 to watch one of the world's most talented horsemen conduct his third UK clinic, in conjunction with Total Horsemanship. Buck Brannaman is a horse trainer and leading practitioner within his field. He is someone who I've had a great respect and admiration for, for many years. I've read his books, watched his documentary & DVD's and I've tried to improve my horsemanship over this time with his help. He was the inspiration for Nicholas Evans' best-selling novel 'The Horse Whisperer', and the subsequently successful film starring Robert Redford, Kristin Scott Thomas and Scarlett Johansson. However, it wasn't until I first rode with him in 2015 that I really understood how special he is as a horseman, and human being. Buck often conducts a variety of clinics, predominately across the USA, and has also been to mainland Europe and Australia. However, he had not conducted a clinic in the UK until 2015, when the persistence of the wonderful Tina Griffen of clinic sponsors 'Total Horsemanship', finally paid off, subsequently leading to another successful clinic in 2017. Therefore, we are thrilled to welcome Buck back for the hat trick this year!

Buck has a way with horses and people that I have yet to see anyone replicate. He has an innate talent and authenticity with both species. He will guide you to the root of your horse's people problem, and then help you see a practical way through it, in which both the human and the horse win. Bucks' skills in the saddle, and with a rope, are matched only by his ability to teach safe and effective horsemanship to riders of all abilities, and his teaching is applicable to riders of all disciplines. George Morris, Chef d'Equipe and Olympian for the US show jumping team, says: "Buck is a horseman's horseman, who is a world-class rider, teacher and trainer. The horse world, in general, cannot say enough about this man." At Aintree this year, there will be 2 horsemanship clinics each day - H1 in the morning and H2 in the afternoon, with riders

"FEAR HAS TO DO WITH HELPLESSNESS. THE ONLY THING THAT CONQUERS IT IS KNOWLEDGE. IF YOU LEARN ABOUT HOW A HORSE THINKS AND MAKES DECISIONS, THAT HELPLESSNESS GOES AWAY." - BUCK BRANNAMAN



learning directly from the main man himself, and from each other through fellow participant developmental learning. This allows for a progressive format, and you will be able to see the clear journey being taken by the same horse and rider partnerships over the duration

of the clinic. The morning H1 session is predominantly for those who have not ridden with Buck before or who have green horses. The afternoon session is for more advanced combinations who have ridden in a Buck Brannaman clinic before, either here or overseas. Buck will also be riding 2 different horses during the three days, one in the morning and one in the afternoon sessions, to demonstrate the exercises in a practical way to the riders and spectators. A true advocate for the horse, Buck will help us all understand a little clearer what comfort and peace look like in a horse, whilst still being able to achieve excellence in the saddle. Your horse's serenity and understanding can go hand in hand with competitive success or high level movements. Buck shows that these two concepts are not mutually exclusive and that actually, the clearer and lighter the communication becomes between you and your equine partner, ultimately the more success you will have. "There is a piece of the horse, the best thing he has, that most riders will never use, let alone find. Depending on the rider's personality, that piece of the horse can wind up dead, and you will never get that piece, that made him special, back. When it is gone, it is gone forever. So even if you can't find it, or don't use it, whatever you do,



don't kill it in that horse. You can have an Olympic eventer that wins a whole host of gold medals, but it doesn't mean that special part isn't dead. I don't like bullies, I don't like when you operate a horse with fear. I know what is possible to achieve with a horse without troubling it, and it's a lot. Offer him the lightest touch you can, lighter than you think... I'm talking about a 'mosquito landing

on the horse's butt' light, and if he doesn't respond be consequent. Make it happen punctually, and then release. Pretty soon you will have a horse that responds to the weight of a mosquito and he won't be troubled at all. What you have to understand is that your horse wants to please you. The release is his peace and he will seek that peaceful situation." - Buck Brannaman - Aintree 2017 This event is not one to be missed! Along with top quality horsemanship, there will be a variety of exhibitors present to meet all of your shopping and culinary needs, including the team from Western Horse UK/Horsemanship Journal, so do come and say "hello"!

I will be participating in the clinic with Archie, who some of you may remember as Buck's demo horse back in 2017, and with kind permission of Mr Brannaman and Total Horsemanship I will be covering the event for a future feature for WHUK. Words cannot do justice to what you will take away from this event. Not only the breadth of learning from Buck himself, but also the infectious atmosphere and sheer joy of being around spectators and participants looking to be better for their horses. We look forward to seeing you there! ❖

Tickets can be purchased via www.totalhorsemanship.co.uk



totalhorsemanship are proud to host and sponsor Buck Brannaman's UK clinic
www.totalhorsemanship.co.uk email: sales@totalhorsemanship.co.uk phone: 07961 829900

Buck Brannaman Horsemanship Clinic

Aintree International Equestrian Centre
 Ormskirk Road | Aintree | Liverpool | L9 5AS

7 - 9 June 2019

"That absolute pure honesty of the horse, man, that's just the greatest thing there is"

