

By Sue Beech

Pepe and I have spent our training voucher with Peter Hales, concentrating on our activity, impulsion and suppleness. Activity can be a problem and I can find I am putting in far more effort than Pepe. It is amazing how supple and active Pepe is after Peter has ridden him so I know what I am aiming for.

I have come to appreciate how important it is for Pepe to carry out what I ask of him immediately rather than him thinking about it and then deciding to politely ignore me!

After warming up with plenty of turns, shoulder in and leg yielding to try and improve our suppleness whilst ensuring we maintain the activity and impulsion we have progressed to quarters in (I find this much easier on the L rein than the R rein) and we are trying to master the half pass (again I find this much easier going to the left than the right). I think we have a little while to go yet before this is established!

Pepe really enjoys walk pirouettes and who knows one day we may be able to do them in canter! We have been practicing walk canter walk transitions which really help Pepe to step under more.

I have found the training extremely helpful and informative and would like to thank Rutland Riding Club for the training voucher scheme, and to Peter for all his time and patience.