

Sovereign Equestrian: The difference is in the detail...



Visit www.sovereignequestrian.co.uk for more information about us and our horses.

Tips for Building a Horse Friendly Property from Sovereign Equestrian

At Sovereign Equestrian we are obsessed by detail and precision. We have been working from our base for over a decade and have established some world class facilities to enable us to produce, nurture and eventually refine some of the best show jumping talent in the country. This article will outline our facilities but also highlight the importance of continuous improvement.

The importance of moving forward

Our facility and location are draped in history and whilst it's important to remember the past, what has helped Sovereign Equestrian

continue to develop over the years is the acceptance that having the very best facilities and equipment can provide that extra 1% which can be all the difference when producing quality horses.

The 1%

It's well documented that when Sir Dave Brailsford took charge of British Cycling in 2002 he placed a huge emphasis on 'marginal gains' and that philosophy helped transform the team from one with no track record to one of the most successful teams in British sporting history. This mindset is very much replicated in how Sovereign Equestrian approaches its business. By investing in the latest technology and ensuring that every last detail is examined and worked on, we are putting ourselves in the very best position to produce quality



Sovereign Equestrian: Finn W / Adam Botham

horses. This constant progression can be seen in the development at Sovereign Equestrian HQ and the state of the art facilities are a perfect personification of Sir Dave's 'marginal gains' theory.

The facilities

Sovereign Equestrian has been based at its current location since August 2007 where the facilities included 7 stables, a hay and feed barn with a 40 x 20 ménage. To help ensure that Sovereign Equestrian kept at the top of its game, just two years later these perfectly respectable, but not world class facilities were upgraded. The ménage was dug up and a new installation of an Andrews Bowen designed 55 x 35 arena was completed. Since then we have added a 5-horse walker, professionally built muck heap with

separate drainage, lorry standing a concrete trot-up area and a further 4 mobile stables. The existing paddocks were reassessed and today there is a stallion turn-out with 9 fenced paddocks all with electric fencing and water drinkers. Of course it's also important that we are able to keep connected in today's online world and also protect our facilities. Therefore, we have introduced 24/7 CCTV monitoring for security and a necessity to monitor horse stables for both ill or injured horses. We find also that camera's around the property allows us to know who is arriving at the electric gates, or what is happening in the ménage or in the paddocks. The need to have full time Internet access and social media links is today an easy upgrade for any house or equestrian property and this gives everyone full time internet access from their mobile devices.



Sovereign Equestrian: Tonica / Charlotte Barry



Sovereign Equestrian: True Blue / Nicola Barry

The planning

Of course it's easier said than done to just go ahead and establish top class facilities. It has been a long process, but our meticulous attention to detail has ensured that we've managed to deliver on budget and within our agreed timescales.

Our advice when making big decisions to enhance or change the physical structure of your buildings or land is to use knowledgeable contractors. Our choice of using a combination of Andrews Bowen for installation and materials for the landscaping and arena areas. Then Tony Pearson Property Developments and his specialists has been vindicated by the successful outcome of the finished scheme and transformation from the old place to something very special taking into account the

paramount nature of both horse and rider welfare.

However, budgeting is another part that needs close attention from the very start, as you start to design aspects of the scheme you need estimates and firm costings to prevent any overspend. Each area of an Equestrian property usually has an audacious price which has the ability to exceed anyone's budget. Control with checks and balances are needed, always get a couple of estimates to double check on prices against the quality and scope of the requirements. Be realistic on your scheme and spend more on important items, the structure and foundations, not the fancy nice to haves.

During the scheme build it will be necessary to become realistic, decide on phasing of the project,

ours has taken around 6 years to complete because of budgets and the space always in use for training, producing and competition preparation. We have always been busy producing our own young stock and getting the horses going well has been our priority, but, over this time we have built a good all round facility that also now houses a washroom and solarium, all stables with rubber matting, secure tack room with toilets and blanket storage facilities.

The future?

As mentioned previously we don't stand still at Sovereign Equestrian and even though we may have completed the large scale project we are well aware that we need to stay focused on the small details



Sovereign Equestrian: BE Caprivi / Nicola Barry

to ensure that our 8 years of continuous improvements don't go to waste.

Should anyone want any advice following this article then Sovereign Equestrian would always be willing to answer your questions, contact Charlotte Barry in the first instance on, +44 (0)7762 880800.

Sovereign Equestrian will be sponsoring several Show Jumping events throughout 2018 at Bicton, Northcote and SCOPE, if anyone wants to involve us then again call Charlotte.

About Sovereign Equestrian

At Sovereign Equestrian, we train, maintain, and care for our horses so that they become exceptional performers across all disciplines. We know that a fit and healthy horse is a happy horse, and a happy horse is a successful horse. We want to share some of our techniques with you because, with the right care your horse can reach its true potential.

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