

# Finding the balance...

*What makes a successful business? Any industry is the same, it's having the ability to strike a balance between 'work' and your own passions.*



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EQUESTRIAN

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At Sovereign Equestrian, we train, maintain, and care for our horses so that they become exceptional performers across all disciplines.



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▲ Nicola Barry of Sovereign Equestrian and Buckaroo Saddlery



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▲ Charlotte Barry of Sovereign Equestrian and Go Paws Up Dog Grooming

**At Sovereign Equestrian, our passion is for developing and producing competition show jumping horses.**

However, it's not that simple to just produce winning horses. The whole Sovereign Equestrian operation requires an all-encompassing approach that is geared towards continuous evolution and improvement. We truly believe that our passion for horses is unrivalled and the balance we have been able to find with our flexible, full-time jobs has ensured that Sovereign Equestrian thrives.

For example, Nicola Barry is the owner of Buckaroo Saddlery, which is based at Vale View Equestrian centre in Old

Dalby, Melton Mowbray. Nicola has driven business growth, which boasts a superb equestrian tack shop and mobile saddlery, for 8 years and is a qualified Master Saddle fitter. Nicola travels regularly around the country, fitting new and used saddles, repairing and reflocking whilst Georgie and Becky manage the day to day running of the shop. This experience with Buckaroo has been an invaluable grounding in the art of Equestrianism and demonstrates that deep industry knowledge that is at the heart of Sovereign.

Charlotte Barry has also had success outside of Sovereign Equestrian, as she currently runs the 'Go Paws Up' dog grooming salon at Tower House Farm, Whitwick. Charlotte has a Master's

degree and is a Qualified Level 3 City and Guild dog groomer and provides flexible opening hours to not only suit her clients but also allows her to continue to pursue her show-jumping ambitions and provide valuable input into Sovereign Equestrian.

The Showjumping aspect is also incredibly important for Nicola and Charlotte as they run a combined 9 horses at various levels in British Showjumping competitions. They also conduct a busy mare and foal breeding programme which is primarily to find the next superstar for their sport. The breeding side of Sovereign Equestrian is to use our own Mares who have all been successful showjumpers and between the Mares, foals, yearlings and 2 and 3 yr olds we have another 13 horses.

It's this ability to switch between our different passions and commitments in life that we feel really sets Sovereign Equestrian apart.

In addition to the above horses - which would be enough to scare most people off what we do - we are also extremely proud to have a number of "special competition horses" being ridden and produced with Adam and Jess Botham, Paul Barker and Andrew Saywell. These horses are achieving fantastic results around the Showjumping circuit and one day we are quietly confident that a real top class winner will be produced from Sovereign Equestrian.

Juggling work commitments and a competition career is not easy and it takes

a methodical and meticulous approach to the planning and organisation. Our planning is not just for the immediate few weeks and months, but in fact we have a long-term vision and philosophy for creating a programme for each horse and their future.

We are lucky to have fantastic help from Sam and Caitlyn at home, as they take care of the day to day yard duties of the 9 competition horses. Between Nicola and Charlotte, they produce, train and compete 8 horses regularly, whilst having 3 youngsters of each age in the paddocks. As anyone into equestrian sports will know, the facilities to produce quality competitive horses is another huge commitment and being on-top of the

game in maintenance, hygiene and safety standards all contribute to your chances of success.

We are very fortunate to have been able to forge careers that can work around National and International shows and together as a family with Mum and Dad's huge commitment we make it work, and we're not stopping here...



▲ (Left) Nicola Barry (Right) Buckaroo Saddlery



▲ Go Paws Up Dog Grooming Salon Facilities

