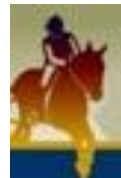




Polly Kranick, Grant Winner 2012 --- Eventing Robin Hahn Clinic at Northwind Farm, Port Orchard, November 2012

With Robin's emphasis on straightness and correct pace, one develops the tools that are necessary for varied lines and course work necessary for show jumping phase, and feeling the correct pace which carries over to x-country.



Full Report

Flatwork to Jumping: Robin has an extraordinary perspective, quiet teaching, and valuable exercises to enhance both horse and rider. Through his work on the flat and gymnastics - with emphasis on straightness and correct pace - one develops the tools that are necessary for varied lines and course work necessary for show jumping phase and feeling the correct pace which carries over to x-country.

Lesson began with Leg Yield at walk (later did at Trot and Canter) – Key aspects: Forward, Lateral with slight bend and softness in the bridle/poll.

Turn on the Forehand to disengage the hindquarters from the inside leg. In addition to creating suppleness; this exercise also improves the leg yield as it encourages the horse to keep stepping behind. The warm-up ended with Shoulder-In and Shoulder-Out. Sunday flat work included Spiral-In on a circle with Leg-Yield Out. Wrapping your horse around your inside leg, develop softness during the turn into the circle, horse yielding and accepting the bit. At the Trot horse feels comfortable and in nice rhythm, Shoulder-Out on the long side, for some he asked for a slight counter bend. To enhance suppleness he asked us to start with Shoulder-In on long side, changing to Shoulder-Out. After Shoulder-In exercise he asked for lengthening on the long side, keeping your horse pushing from behind, horse upright and shoulders free. We also did some on trot-halt transitions and Rein back from Halt, horse maintaining soft, even steps. Then added Turn-on-Haunches at walk, leading into ½ Pirouette.

Canter Exercise: Walk to Canter paying attention to the strick-off and even rhythm. Counter Bend at the canter, straighten, and lengthen. On a Circle: Canter 5 strides – halt – Canter 5 strides diminishing to 4 then 3 strides. For me it was much harder to the left. Did Canter 2 strides – Halt – Walk 1st step – Canter. After this exercise, collected canter was much improved. Robin suggested that at home I try this on the long side quietly

developing multiple changes (starting with 4 down to 2): 4 strides canter – halt- canter from walk (1 stride) – halt – counter canter 4 strides – halt – true canter 4 strides. This helps the horse's development leading into flying changes.

Day 1 Jump exercise focused on the Roll Back; the emphasis being on the canter and creating the desired pace/rhythm.

Day 2's Goal was Bounces & Lines:

Bounce – Today's bounce consisted of 7 elements, pole on blocks alternating with x rail and then vertical 10 ft. apart. Horse stays steady and round, jumps through the grid using their back nice and softly. Important that the horse maintains desired pace and the rider feel the contact throughout as desirable – all the way through, even if it's perfect so you don't fall apart or throw the reins away – be in light contact with your horse in front of your leg. Steady canter into bounce, feel and maintain light contact through the bounce, horse comes up to you. Riders' position doesn't deviate.

Lines & Bending Lines - Establish light contact, maintaining horses balance and stride needed to lengthen or shorten between jumps. Our distance of 58' is 5 strides when indoors (4 strides outdoors), may also add a stride on the bending line. The bounce helped us feel the correct riding position with body balanced over thigh, calf muscle, and foot. Each rider has their own individual style appropriate for their horse and level; rider has soft hand so horse can move smoothly with good arch.

At Canter be able to lengthen and collect. Trot-In to warm-up fence and canter away. First approach to the Line: Trot-In with lovely canter to the 2nd jump, but took it a bit long. Next time keep the same canter; increase pace slightly on landing to put in 6 strides. It will take a bit more leg to maintain 6 as the fence height moves from X rail to vertical. The results of increasing the pace made the jump feel like nothing as it was right in stride.

Day 3 Jump Turning Exercise w/ Lines

Develop Jumping Canter at a Steady Pace. Plan your strides: Open-up when needed and at others – Hold. These jumps are all at normal distances, emphasis on Keeping the Line. Pick-up the pace as height increases. Important to keep pace on the approach, especially going into the turn. To green hogback (#12 single obstacle on the far side), pace is good – keep the rhythm which will help you see the distance quite easily. Line from 2 to 3 (42'), goal is 3 'even' strides. If necessary maintain stronger contact on approach to green hogback if horse starts to get tight, keep light contact until he leaves the ground.

Thank you EI for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Robin Hahn Clinic at Northwind Farm Port Orchard November 2012! – Polly Kranick, 2012 Grant Winner

Polly was EI's Membership person for many years and routinely volunteers at EI events.