

Jane Bartel-Wilson Clinic

Jane Bartle-Wilson brought her special brand of humor as well as her vast knowledge of horsemanship to San Juan Bautista, on March 14 and 15 for a riding clinic at Osierlea.

Jane represented Great Britain in the 1984 Olympics, and gives clinics internationally, specializing in dressage and eventing. She is based at her family's Yorkshire Riding Centre in England. (for more information on Jane: <http://yrc.co.uk/instructor/jane-bartle-wilson-bhsi>)

As is often the case with instructors that have a good understanding of biomechanics and good empathy, the work was purposeful, but not strenuous. Her approach sometimes seemed casual, or even random at first, and then in quick progression, the horse would look more light, active, and in good self carriage.

Jane was very determined to convey to the riders the importance of an approach that was not muscular and managerial - not using a lot of 'driving aids' or a strong seat or pushing against the hands - to get the horses softer, more accessible, and nimble as the work progressed. In this way, Jane did not address the biomechanics of horse and rider by talking about it specifically, but she addressed it in practice.

It was especially enlightening to see Jane ride a horse whose owner had fallen ill. For the knowledgeable observers, it was especially interesting to watch her work, and bring the horse into increasing rideability and readiness.

For the riders, and the auditors, it was a positive learning experience, and all too brief. We are looking forward to another clinic with her in the fall - date to be announced.

