

Bicton Arena (May Update)

Local drivers especially those living close to Woodbury, Yettington and East Budleigh know only too well one aspect of having a leading equestrian venue on their doorstep. But when the horseboxes have negotiated the lanes and disappeared up the drive at Bicton Arena, what exactly are they all doing?

Bicton Arena boasts superb equestrian facilities, including more than 100 cross country fences located across the undulating grade one listed parkland, two superb all weather arenas along with an iconic grass showjumping arena, and a further five competition rings.

The Arena attracts in the region of 10,000 competing horses each year, Competitions are held throughout the year that are affiliated to the governing bodies of *British Eventing*, *British Showjumping* and *British Dressage*.

The Arena team pride themselves on hosting efficient and professionally run competitions, clinics and schooling hire to all levels of riders.

In addition to the largest shows attracting the top riders competing with many horses there are also numerous unaffiliated competitions across each of these disciplines. Many who use Bicton's beautiful facilities are young or developing riders at the grass roots of the sport. The venue has become a popular base for Pony Club and adult horse camps. Local riders and groups can hire the facilities and clinics and lecture demonstrations are taken by leading trainers and riders.

Many of our competitors stay overnight at the Arena, so they can see to their horses which are stabled on site. But some competitors, owners and judges stay in local B&B accommodation and all eat locally benefiting local pubs and businesses throughout the year.

In the last year, we have invested significantly in ground management to keep our grass showjumping arenas in the best possible condition. The TopSpec Arena has undergone extensive renovation with the area re-levelled before being hollow-cored, then dressed with 125 tonnes of sand and over-seeded. It has then been regularly deep spiked and aerated to ensure healthy root growth. Once the ground is de-compacted, the roots can penetrate deeper into the ground thus making better use of water and nutrients.

We are delighted to announce that our new 60m x 70m all-weather arena is complete and was unveiled at the Bicton International Horse Trials last month.

Visitors are very welcome to spectate. Most events including our July eventing show will be free of charge and the August International Horse Trials is only £10 a car. So if you've never been, do come up to Bicton Arena to watch the action.

British Showjumping

Our May Summer Spectacular Show Jumping Show takes place from 25-29 May

Dressage

Bicton will host the South West regional championships on 17-19 July for the first time. The organisers of British Dressage felt it was an ideal opportunity to locate the show further down into the South West region to better support those riders in Devon and Cornwall.

Eventing

8-9 July Grass Roots BE

18-20 August International Horse Trial

Visit www.bicton-arena.co.uk for the full events calendar and more information for visitors.