



Armed Forces Day Display

Arena UK, Grantham, Lincs – 24.06.17

Members of the British Tentpegging Association and the Punjab Lancers team travelled to Arena UK to give a fantastic demonstration of Tentpegging and Skill at Arms at the Armed Forces Day organised by Forces Equine.

Participating riders brought a varying level of experience, from seasoned members of the British team to those taking part in their first display. Riders and their horses were introduced to the audience, with the leaders carrying flags to show where they hail from.

The display started with several lance runs down both sides of the arena to show skills and drills to bystanders. Everyone picked up plenty of pegs, showing incredible accuracy under pressure.

Next came the challenge of pegging using swords to wow the crowd. After several runs with the sword, the riders showed off their accuracy with the overhead rings and peg.

Adrian Deane then showed how a young horse is introduced to the sound of the revolver gun by using a 'pricker' to burst balloons whilst jumping. The 'pricker' is a foot-long cane with a nail on the end and replaces the revolver for junior riders and those bringing new horses into the sport.

PC Paul Brown and Bradley Clifford-Fransman then demonstrated the same technique using their gun-trained horses Bruni and China. Both riders successfully burst balloons with revolvers, whilst jumping.

The finale came with team runs, aiming to hit streamer pegs. These pegs have ribbons attached and provide an eye-catching burst of colour as riders collect them in team formation, releasing the ribbons as they hit pegs at the gallop!

Lots of people watched our display and whilst we weren't able to offer commentary on this occasion, we received plenty of questions from spectators afterwards, including from riders interested in taking up the sport.

Thank you to all ground crew, riders and their horses for taking part and to Forces Equine for inviting us. Much appreciation goes to BTA Secretary Tina Ricketts-Smith for taking on the co-ordination of new events like this and opportunities for our sport to be seen by the public.

From here, most members carried on to Melton Mowbray afterwards to compete in the Defence Animal Centre's open day the following day. We look forward to returning to this show next year!

For more information on tentpegging, please visit www.britishtentpegging.co.uk

A photo album of the show can be viewed on the [BTA Facebook page](#)>