



BHS Ireland Adult Camp at Castle Leslie Estate, Co Monaghan 14 to 16 February 2020

The first BHS Ireland camp of 2020 is at Castle Leslie Estate, Co Monaghan from 14 to 16 February 2020.

We are privileged to have as our celebrity coach Eric Smiley FBHS. Eric is a Fellow of the British Horse Society and has competed in the equestrian sport of eventing at the highest level. He thrives on keeping things simple but effective and loves to develop all levels of horse and rider.

This is a great opportunity to get 2020 started in the best way for you and your equine best friend!

What could be better than indulgent accommodation in the Village Houses for you, luxurious stabling for your horse and superb instruction with state of the art facilities?

The facilities include a large modern indoor school, compact out door and a 100 acre cross-country field with a wide variety of fences to suit most levels of horse and rider. Of course there is also access to accompanied rides through the 25 km of pathways on the estate.

You will eat delicious food, laugh and chat and exchange stories and valuable information amongst long standing and new friends!

What is provided:-

* Stabling, mucking out, feeding and ad lib hay for 2 nights

*Luxurious accommodation in the Village Houses.

*All meals

*5 lessons or one lesson may be replaced by an accompanied hack on Castle Leslie Estate, which has 25 km of paths.

*Also on offer is access to the Health Spa at The Lodge, treatments can be booked directly.

Spaces are limited so book quickly. The cost is £599 per person or the equivalent in euro (Please note that a minimum of 10 paid up places are required for a camp to take place).

Pre-booking is essential - *You may pay by Paypal to s.irwin@bhs.org.uk.*

About Eric Smiley FBHS ...

Born and educated in Ireland, the son of a Thoracic surgeon and a General Practitioner. With two brothers doctors and uncles and aunts in the medical profession, Eric decided that he would take a different route.

Having spent nearly ten years in a Cavalry Regiment he decided, at the age of 28, to take up a professional career with horses. Whilst in the Army he trained with Ben Jones, who was Equitation Officer at Melton Mowbray. Ben Jones represented G.B. in the Tokyo Olympics and won team gold medal at the Mexico Olympics. Of Eric, Ben was to comment,

"He has a great natural flair for equitation. When jumping he has that gift of rhythm and timing on any type of horse". He trained at the world famous Talland School of Equitation achieving his British Horse Society Instructor qualification before being asked to return to Ireland to start up an equestrian establishment specialising in bringing on and competing event horses.

Shortly afterwards he and Sue decided to 'go it alone' and they set up an establishment at Fir Tree Farm, Ballynahinch, Northern Ireland where they stayed for 32 years. They moved to their present home in Dorset in 2013 where Eric teaches in the UK and around the globe, especially in the United States and Denmark.

In 1982 Eric became Irish Field Event Rider of the Year. For the next few years he built up a string of horses and gained his first team selection in 1985 for the European Championships at Burghley. Since then, he has represented Ireland at two European Championships, gaining team bronze medal on each occasion. Three World Equestrian Games and been on four Olympic Teams competing at Barcelona and Atlanta. A consistent and regular participant at Burghley and Badminton, he has also represented Ireland at all levels of International competitions throughout Europe.

A passionate and enthusiastic teacher, Eric has conducted clinics around the world from the continent of America to Dubai and South Africa to Denmark. In 1995 he took the Fellowship of the British Horse Society examination. The highest teaching qualification in the world with only 59 so qualified. He brings a unique blend of competition experience and education to an audience of all levels. In 2014 he was the recipient of the Pat Smallwood memorial trophy voted by Fellows & Instructors of the British Horse Society to the member who contributes to the Association with their expertise, encouragement and is an ambassador for the sport and Association.

Eric is also an FEI International Judge who regularly acts as a Ground Jury member and is Director of the International Eventing Forum (IEF).

He was Team Coach to the Belgian eventing team for the London Olympics 2012 and the European Championships 2011.

For 18 years Eric was Director of the Golden Saddle Scheme, identifying talented children in all equestrian disciplines and coordinating their training bursaries.

He has been Chairman of Eventing Ireland (Northern Region) for a total of 5 years throughout the last 15 years. His many interests and talents keep him extremely busy but he still manages to find time for them all and regularly competes up to Novice level and brings on his homebred young horses.

For more information on anything contained above contact:

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