



## The Horse Section

It's Stithians Show once again, but not quite as we know and love. It's a virtual show this year, and as Chairman of the Horse Section, I wonder what would the folks of years gone by make of it all. With judging being done online, I'm wondering if that might raise a few of their eyebrows?! I can just imagine going back 50 plus years, when I first started helping 'the older guys' as I affectionately call them and I think the conversation would go something like this...



"Now Gents, we don't have to spend several evenings prior to the show this year taking down hedges to make new walkways to access parts of the showground for the thousands of people arriving at the showground. Nor do we have to have a debate on how big the main ring was last year - was it further left than that? Surely it didn't go that far down the field?"

Usually William Prowse, the then Horse Section Chairman, had the casting vote and he was generally right.

"Also, we don't have to meet the Cornwall Farmers lorry at Praze on Sunday morning to load the horse jumps and bring them back to Stithians unload and build the jumps under the watchful eye of our course builder."

There would be total confusion with the old timers now, as I'd continue, "No lorries to park, no straw bales around the ring for seating, no Horse Stewards required." Then the head scratching would start from William Prowse, Ben Dale, my dad Geoffrey Vague, Freddie Hain, David Nicholls, John Williams, David Reed and Ted Collins (apologies if I have forgotten anyone).

I can see all these Gents faces (sadly most are no longer with us); local farmers they were and they would all saying the same thing "The world has gone mad!" and they are probably right.



We're doing the best we can in the situation with which we are faced. The Horse Section has received excellent support and with entries from as far afield as Sweden & Canada being welcomed, I'm sure that 'the older guys' would be quite humbled to think our village show had reached such far flung corners of the world. So, here we are with a virtual show; it's not the same and couldn't ever replace our real event but it'll do for the time being.

Let's hope that in 2022 we can get back to the show we all love, as generations have done before us.

**Nigel Vague**  
Chairman Stithians Horse Section & Show Vice Chairman.

