

# WHEN THINGS DON'T GO TO PLAN

*Every ride teaches something*



One of the hardest parts of endurance riding, or indeed in horse ownership, is accepting when things don't quite go right

That might mean having to downgrade your planned distance because fitness isn't quite there yet, withdrawing at a vet gate, or even not passing a vetting. None of these feel good in the moment, especially when you've put so much time, effort and hope into the day

But things do happen. Our horses always come first, and sometimes that means making a sensible decision rather than the one we'd hoped for.

It's easy to put pressure on ourselves when plans go off piste, but remember – there is just as much to learn from the rides that don't go to plan as from the ones that do

Every experience builds knowledge, confidence and understanding, even the disappointing ones. If you're unsure what to try next, feeling disheartened, or just need a bit of guidance, remember you're not on your own

We have a hugely supportive community, and the chances are someone else has been exactly where you are and can offer help, advice or reassurance

Endurance is a journey – not every step is straightforward, but every step counts