

It is with great sadness and regret that I have to announce the sudden death of Wings of the Apache. Patch died on Sunday 9th August 2009 from a heart attack while travelling home from Southview VHS regional final in Cheshire.

He pulled out all the stops to the end, always put his best foot forward, even while squealing round the arena in hand, he could always draw a crowd, Patch gave me the ride of my life the day before he died, taking 2nd in his Olympia qualifier, his lap of honour felt like sitting on a young horse again!

I will always treasure our time and achievements together, not only did you prove all the sceptics wrong about being a plod and a cart horse you proved to be the best friend, confidant and soul mate for me for our 15 years together. I will never forget all the troubles you made pass so quick; my school bullies, breaking my back and teaching me to ride again, seeing the family through dads cancer treatment and mums chemotherapy and every customer complaint at work that left me in tears. But who would have thought our highlights would be so high, to go down to Olympia in 2004 and sit 2nd reserve last year to go down, I've run out of room down the staircase for all the champion sashes, I've had to start putting rosettes up in the dining room! I will never forget how it felt to attend VHS 2 day show in 2007, you blew me away that weekend, never a foot out of place, I can still remember the feeling when we were chosen as Rob Buckleys Ridden Champion, that will always be my favourite thought, I have never seen you look and feel so good, you knew you were in a league of your own. I can still remember everyone coming up to us saying ' you were my choice too'.



When I got Patch for Christmas in 1995, I knew there was something special about him, never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined he would become as well known and adored by all who heard his name. A comment was made at his show last weekend which will live with me forever ' Patch knows there is so much love surrounding him by his family, he knows where every one of you are while he's in the ring, he is an inspiration of how a horse of 31 years should look and move'.

Although I will never understand why you had to leave so suddenly, I understand that this is the only way you could leave with all the family around you who you loved. I'm so sorry I could not save you, the way you had always saved me, you were my reason for getting up in the morning. Thank you for being my best friend, and soul mate, there will never be any one else like you, be safe until I can find you again. I love you, sweet dreams xxx