

JUDGES COMMENTS - IMBIL CTR 16th JULY

Our very warm thanks to all judges for sharing their time and expertise with the riders. They have also provided us with a brief overview of how the riders and horses fared at their particular judge point, and suggested improvements that riders can strive for.

1) Red Box Step Up - Debbie and Shauna

Good attempt and encouragement by all riders. Most riders gave their horses time to assess the box. Some horses were a little distracted. Only one horse and rider stood on the box with all four hooves. Most riders did get some hooves on the box, however some horses would not step on to the box at all.

2) Walk Trot Walk Trot Walk - Robyn and Helen

This was a good judge point for people who practice mounting off a mounting block and transitions at markers. All competitors did a good job.

3) Teeter Totter - Lisa-Marie and Veronica

Very few riders announced their rider number costing themselves one point. The key to the teeter totter bridge was to allow the horse to observe the bridge and the rider giving direct aids at the right moment. (The window of opportunity, when the horse is most likely to go over the bridge). Remember to look up and forward and ride forward with your seat.

4) Side Pass to the Right - Michele and Shannon

All riders were too rushed. Everyone needs to practice hind over. It's no good if the horses head and shoulders are leading and leaving the hind legs behind. Set your horse up before you begin, get its attention first. Don't reward a bad try, reward a good try. You cannot straighten a horse's behind if you pull back. Use your legs and body to push the horse over.

5) Zebra Bridge - Michael and Ron

It was noticeable the number of new young riders that came through the judge point and have obviously joined SCATER. It was great to see the quality of horsemanship on show for such young riders. Although the judge point seemed a bit daunting for a few most completed the task, and those that didn't only need a bit more time.

6) Keep That Swag Try - Keith and Jude

A good judge point, all horses and riders did a good job. Riders and horses lost a little focus and go forward in the water. Overall good job.

7) Shamrock/Clover Leaf - Chrissy and Marilyn

Overall the obstacle was approached with calmness for both horse and rider. Riders giving the horses nice calm directions - encouragement. Just a few need to practice getting their horse to go on tarps and to listen and trust them. Generally most riders approached the judge point in a calm manner taking their time to complete.

8) V Back Up - Hilary and Paul

The riders who took their time and broke the exercise down had the best success at this judge point. Some riders need to use more leg and less hands. Majority didn't do too badly and it was lovely to see everyone praising their horse.

9) Green Box Step Up - Ian

Many horses did not understand the task required and were hesitant. One horse completed the task. Four horses refused to step on the green box. The majority of horses placed one or more hooves on the box. Patience and practice for the future.

10) Roundabout - Della and Catrina

Riders who took their time and assessed the obstacle achieved this judge point. Most horses were rushed then some became spooked. Only some riders talked to their horses. Everyone attempted this judge point and had fun. More clearer aids to the horse when just using one hand, some horses were confused when kicked, more neck rein could have been used. Was a fun day, great meeting new pencilers and such happy riders.