

JUDGES COMMENTS

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). Trot Out – Judges Shannon Oedenkerk and Michele Payne

Listen to instructions and look where you are going. Most people held their horses lead ropes too close to the halter – if your horse pulls back it can look lame. Don't haul on the lead rope if your horse won't run out; it only makes it pull against you.

I was looking for a good soft even trot and a nice top – you stop – the horse should stop!

2). Presentation & Offside Mount – Della Briaris; Penciller Helen Knight

All riders mounted block from the offside but a lot of riders gripped the back of the saddle instead of the front. Some stirrups were left down during presentation. Most riders were always on the same side during presentation. The majority of horses weren't prepared standing square to mount. A lot more practice to have the horse stand still please. Overall riders had a good time. Well done.

3). Teeter Totter – Joan Wilson-Jones

At this judge point I was looking for calm confident riders and willing responsive horses. People who did well prepared their horse well and were mindful not to rush.

Some things to be aware of are ensuring hands and legs are in “partnership”. When leg aids are applied it is important to not hold onto the reins as this gives conflicting messages (need to allow horse).

Everybody tried and were focused on completion. Riders were encouraging and supported their horses when horses got anxious.

4). True Blue (one handed weave) – Kate Mathias

This judge point rode extremely well. Almost all horses were unconcerned about the flag and all riders rode calmly and quietly.

Only recurring concerns were riders reins too long at the start and leg aids were not in evidence.

An easy judge point to replicate at home.

It was a pleasure to judge today.

Thank you riders and organisers.

5). Sidepass over a “V” to the right – Robyn Homan; penciller Bev Downing

It was pleasing to see more riders giving their horses time to understand what was asked of them.

Riders please have your minds clear of what you are wanting before asking the horse.

As always an enjoyable day.

6). Wind the clock – Sue Beattie – Phil and Felicity Raar

Scores ranged from low 20's to high 40's. This was a very enjoyable judge point to judge. Some horses were very worried – others not at all. Riders who approached with a 'plan' in place of how they were going to complete the task were successful and scored well. A reminder to all riders to take their time and allow their horses to relax and “look”.

7). Backing in a circle – Brian Hampson

The task was as follows:

- a) back up – lead with reins and reinforce with legs
- b) bend through the rib cage and outside leg
- c) yield hip – outside leg
- d) tip nose to outside of circle
- e) Use nice “flow” and soft aids to achieve top marks

Error by some competitors:

- rushed task
- poor hip control
- poor coordination of hands and legs

- several examples of hard hands on soft gear (halters and nose bands)
- several horses distracted by presence/absence of other horses

Good points:

- some nice flow and light aids
- some attentive horses

Tips:

1. Go slow / use control
2. Watch outside hip
3. Practice moving all four feet and four parts of horse

Eensy-weensy spider – Leanne Jones; penciller Heather Boreham

This judge point was designed to test the rider's confidence in their horse and the horse's confidence in their rider. Some horses surprised us (and their riders) by not even looking sideways at our spider and the spider probably spooked more riders than horses at the end of the day.

Maximum points were given for those whose horse kept walking through the obstacle, however we acknowledge those riders who preferred to give their horse the time they needed to stop and satisfy themselves that the spider was OK before walking through it. Only one cat leap over the spider :)

Carousel – Debbie Angell; penciller Michael Wallace

Good attempt by all riders. Most horses were calm and tried hard. Some riders did not do the halt. Important to listen to instructions. Horses did find pushing with the nose easier than with the chest.

Gate over ground pole – Judi Sell; penciller Rene Isnani

Everybody handled their horses well but most need to learn the correct way to open and close a gate – i.e. have your horse stand parallel to the gate when opening with hinge at rump. Step through then turn the hind quarters so the horse is again parallel with head facing the hinge. Back-up if necessary to latch the gate. Many people need to adjust their reins so they can complete the manoeuvre successfully. Be careful to take your legs off the horse when he responds.