

JUDGES COMMENTS – WOLVI CTR 14th September 2025

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. Presentation/Mount – Joanne & Sally

Everyone did well, as we had many horses & riders new to CTRs. Riders need to focus on the task at hand and their horse, be present with horse and horse under control at all times. Using a mounting block is better for your horse's back. Lead your horse at the bit or halter – be present with them at all times. Follow judge around each side while your horse is being checked. Square horse up, have control of both reins and horse when mounting. Horse needs to stand quietly before and after mounting and move off only when asked. Place both hands at pommel when mounting so as not to pull the saddle sideways. Great effort by everyone, well done.

2. Reverse Gear – Karla & Jade

Well done to everyone attempting this judge point, some horses unsure & reluctant to back up. Some horses need more backups at home as not understanding riders' aids, but overall congratulations to all competitors.

3. Change of Pace – Kate & Sue

A lovely bunch of friendly happy riders today. Everyone had a go and riders were calm and patient. Horses found halt after canter challenging. Some riders need to help their horses by preparing for transitions earlier. Overall, a great effort from everyone.

4. Rope & Barrell – Brendan & Vicki

Listen to instructions. Horses not maintaining trot, forward motion in general. Staying 'off' rope.

5. Side Pass – Simon & Amanda

All riders held their composure, rode with a good amount of guidance, patience and direction. Congrats to all. Horses of all levels. Most were challenged by the poles, they side passed fine in most cases but once poles were added they struggled to complete the requested task. More attention needed to the 'spaces' between the side pass, eg the turn is as important as the rest of the judge point.

6. Groundwork Challenge – Kyle & Evan

Good effort by all. Practice anticipating a change in direction. Go wide around the cone to allow horse to maintain the trot. Put yourself between the cone & horse to make the horse travel the further distance.

7. Trot Weave – Kate & Lynda

Thank you everyone for lovely comments of appreciation and your smiles. Horses and riders managed the weave/sit/rising trot well. The tricky test we found was the 'halt' at the last cone. Well done all.

8. Water Crossing – Kirsten & Scott

A realistic judge point, but some horses need a little more exposure to water crossings. Horses all well managed. Good job!

9. Ball Nudge – Lauren & Tracie

A good challenge. Some horses embraced this challenge with gusto. Many riders were pleasantly surprised by how well their horses did. A big pink ball in the bush is not so scary after all.

10. Gate – Jodie & Jess

Riders overall were kind and patient with their horses which was wonderful to see. Several horses were concerned about the chain – good practice opportunity for the future. Chain should be kept in one hand and horse guided around it. Overall, a very good standard.