

JUDGES COMMENTS - WAMURAN CTR 19th JULY 2026

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 – Erica & Mel

Lovely group of friendly polite competitors. Number of girths loose & keepers not in place. Please do not let your reins touch the ground when preparing to mount. Overall competent riders but perhaps a few need to ask how to mount & hold reins properly.

2. Swag & Barrel – Jo & Marsha

Riders did a great job of staying calm with the wind. Some rushed the halt and more work needed for setting up and moving into a better position without having to reach over.

3. Straddle/Side Pass – Terry & Lee

All riders were happy and extremely well mannered and treated their horses kindly. Some horses in the Teams could not handle side passing so need some practice for future rides. The standard was high in general.

4. Square – Delma & Lesley

This judge point was fairly straightforward completed by all riders. I would encourage riders to take the time to frame the horse up squarely prior to commencement and give aids using legs and body especially softer halts, some riders quite sharp with reins. Overall riders approached well and executed well for a fairly straightforward challenge.

5. Groundwork Challenge – Kate & Lieke

This led groundwork exercise challenged riders listening skills and horsemanship. Riders could help their horses maintain a trot around the cone by taking a wider route and help with backing by starting square. It was nice to see so many patient riders and calm horses.

6. Log Walk – Judi & Ella

It's really important to line the horse up to go over the centre of the first log. Many riders got too close to the logs before trying to approach straight on. More clear guidance needed from some riders. Nice to see many horses quite relaxed out on the trail and trusting their riders. Everyone needs to practice this at home!

7. Reverse Gear – Simon & Nadine

Remember to be aware of what body position is doing to your horse. A lot of people had a big look at the tree that kicked out their horse's hind in the wrong direction. Great to see so many respectful riders with willing horses with great backups.

8. Shade Cloth/Carpet Walk – Kirsten & Scott

Keeping the horse straight along the shade cloth then halting for 5 seconds. Can tell this has been practiced. Well done!

9. Downhill Uphill – Amanda & Katy

Overall a lovely judge point to judge. It was great to see so many calm willing horses partnered with thoughtful riders who approached the course with patience and confidence. Well done to everyone and their horses.

10. Trot Weave – Roz & Maddie

Prepare and focus. Easy to say but so difficult to actually do at a competition where you don't know what the task is until you are there! Take some deep breaths and try to relax before starting. Tricky task – the sitting trot can set you up for the cones and turning at the last one maintaining the trot. Not so easy returning on a loose rein but everyone had a go, several horses super keen. Several riders used seat and legs – good to see. Obviously, I was looking for a calm confident horse listening to rider and rider remembering what to do! Well done to you all for having a go. Keep practising and riding.