

JUDGES COMMENTS - POMONA CTR 9TH AUGUST 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. Gear Hoof Check Mount – Robyn & Debbie

Practise using a mounting block. Horse must line up at the mounting block and stand still for the mount. Gear was clean. Hoof check well done.

2. Uphill Log Walk – Carol & Karen

Rider position – most riders leaned forward with good position and balance. A lot of riders looked down instinctively instead of ahead, most riders maintained good contact guiding their horse over the logs. Most riders had good leg aids with soft hands allowing their horses to balance.

Most horses stepped cleanly over the logs with a few little missteps on some logs. All horses were willing throughout with very little hesitation. On the whole all went very well, with good guidance from the riders.

3. Step Over Judge Point – Karla & Kate

Well done everyone. Top marks for horses & riders stepping cleanly over logs without knocking them. Calmly walking trail to a nice soft halt. A few riders halted and gave their horses a loose rein, horses stood calmly until asked to move off. It would have been good to see more riders give their horses more of a loose rein at the halt without contact on the reins.

4. Narrow Gate – Roz & Jo

Riders need to prepare, position horse, not rush and use your aids. Neally everyone completed this task – skills are needed and good control. Overall, a well ridden judge point, but one that requires practise.

5. Gate & Lead – Anne & Kerry

The rocks were slippery and there was grass at the side. I gave top points to a rider who chose to take the horse down the grassy edge. Most riders had western or stock saddles but only one person thought to put the near-side stirrup over the saddle to walk through the gap, special mention for rider 26! It would have been nice to see more people take a few extra seconds to show the horses the small gap they had to go through.

6. Rock Hopping – Kirsten & Scott

We were looking for a square halt. Terrain was tricky as downhill. Take full advantage of turning the horse to make the dismount level. Reins must be off the neck, lead from the shoulder, soft dismount, not jumping off. *Extra* only one rider mentioned the stirrups, asking if they needed to be run up. This was not part of the judging criteria, but still good to think about.

7. Side Pass & Back – Glenda & Cheryl

All riders were calm. Look where you are going. Maintain clear aids and steady seat. Some crossed nicely at front but back legs not crossing. Practice keeping horse parallel and head in line. Some nicely ridden, calm, connected and even rhythm. Good tries.

8. Jacket Carry

Overall, really well done. Most horses did not react to the jacket. Riders could have helped their horses with better positioning to return the jacket. A couple of riders tried to sabotage the next competitor by jamming the jacket back very tightly!

9. Rock Weave – Debbie & Nadine

Everyone did a great job!

10. Keyhole – Keith & Darren

We were looking for a smooth transition from walk to halt. Then a nice square halt in keyhole with a good seat in the saddle before engaging the reins. A shift of the weight to the hind quarters to allow the front end to walk around. A nice calm walk out.