

OPEN RIBBON DAYS

These days are divided into mornings and afternoons. In the morning there are the flat events which are judged on the pony's paces, manners, general obedience and your riding ability. In the afternoon, jumping events are run. These are judged on your ability and your pony's ability to negotiate fences. Most riders attending a ribbon day will attend both the morning and afternoon sessions but you are able to do a half day if you wish.

Terms used at a Ribbon Day

Beginner: A pony/rider or combination that has won less than six firsts in a corresponding event.

Novice: A pony/rider or combination that has won less than six firsts in a corresponding event. (Once you win your way out of Novice you may only complete in open events.)

These definitions may vary so you should always check your programme.

Ribbon Day Variations

Kindy and Geriatric Ribbon Day: The kindy ring is for riders 12 years and under, the geriatric ring for riders 21 years and over.

Beginner and Novice Day: These days are for beginner and novice horses/ponys and riders. Open combinations may not enter.

The dress code for ribbon days is your riding jacket, shirt, light coloured jodhpurs, (gloves and lapel flower are optional) or Pony Club Uniform. Plaiting the mane and tail is optional.

ODE (ONE DAY EVENTS)

There are three phases in an ODE, they are:

Dressage: You are required to ride a test from memory in a roped arena. Books with the various tests are available at various horse shops. The test you have to ride is specified in advance so you have a number of days to learn and practice it. On the day, you must remain 20 meters away from any arena until it is your turn; once the horn/bell has sounded you have one minute to enter the arena; once started if the judge sounds the horn an error has been made, halt and listen to judges instructions, do not leave arena.

Cross Country: There will be a cross country course with numbered solid obstacles set up across the pony club grounds for you and your pony to jump. There is a set time to complete this course in. Hint - three refusals at any one jump means you are eliminated but in most cases you will be allowed to finish the course; if you are having difficulty at a jump you must give the rider approaching right of way.

Show Jumping: The last phase of an ODE is the show jumping. It will consist of eight to 12 painted jumps that are not fixed (ie. the poles will fall off if your pony touches them). This course of jumps is in a roped off area and must also be completed within a set time. Hint - course walk can only be on the day and must be in full uniform, ie. hat, jacket, tie, boots and crop. You must wait for the bell to sound before commencing round; jumps must be ridden with red flags on the riders right; three refusals at any of the jumps means you are eliminated and you will be required to leave the ring without completing the course; when jumps are flagged as A and B combinations, a refusal at either element means you must start the completed combination again.

There are different levels of ODE's, Pre Introductory, Introductory, Pre Training, Training and Open.

When you have been placed first, second or third overall, three times, in all but Pre Introductory (which is one overall placing) you must then move onto the next level. You can complete above the level you are at but not below, however if you are placed you cannot go back. If you get a new horse you can start again.

DRESSAGE AND SHOW JUMPING DAYS

This is run along the lines of an ODE but does not have the Cross Country phase.

DRESSAGE EVENINGS

You will have a choice of how many tests to ride. You may have someone standing outside the ring to call out the movements of your test.

FEI SHOW JUMPING

Different show jumping events are run throughout the day.

SHOW HUNTER

This is similar to show jumping but the emphasis is on style.

Massey Pony Club runs closed events every season, these events are only for Massey Pony Club members. It provides a good opportunity for everyone to learn about the rules and how the events are run and to participate and learn. Before any of these events ask your instructor if he/she thinks you are ready to enter any of these competitions.