

LLOC & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB SHOW

Ring Craft: Guidance for In-Hand Showing

In-hand classes will all follow the same format, apart from some Sports Horse or Sports Pony classes

You start off going into the ring and walking round on the right rein. You are on the horse's left hand side, so you're on the outside so the judge can see the horse. You need to be walking at the horse's shoulder, not at the head. It's worth investing some time into teaching the horse to walk forward like this so you don't have to drag it.

When you've walked round for a while and the judge has had time to start assessing the class, the steward will pick a pony and ask them to stand in a corner. The rest of the class stands behind them. One by one, they will trot round to the rear of the line. Practice this as well, making sure that your horse goes off smoothly and also stops easily.

When you've all trotted round, you will walk on again and the judge and steward will start pulling you in. It's normally in a provisional order at this point, but in a small class you might come in in any order.

When everyone has been pulled in, you'll all do an individual show. You come out and stand in front of the lineup, and stand the pony up for the judge. The steward will tell you where to stand and where to face - but keep an eye on earlier competitors as well. When the judge has had a good look at the horse, she will tell you to go on. You walk away, turn round, making sure you stay on the outside - so turn to the right - and trot back

Trot straight towards the judge, then go past her and round the back of the lineup and back to your place.

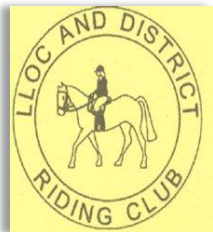
When everyone has done their individual bit, the judge will often go down the lineup again for a last look. If she's changed her mind about placings, she may want to compare the ponies again, so will have a good look.

When the judge is happy, the steward will ask you all to walk on round again - on the right rein as before. Keep an eye on the steward for being pulled in - even if you're at the bottom of the line. Don't assume you'll stay there.

When you've been pulled in and the rosette giving has been done, the first six do a lap of honour. Trot on round the ring once, on the right rein as before.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Trousers are better than jodhpurs or breeches. Black or dark if your horse has light legs, and beige or light if your horse has dark legs. This means the judge can see the horse's legs move without getting them mixed up with yours.



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- Shirt and tie - as for ridden classes.
- Tweed jacket.
- Hat. Can be 'cowboy hat' type, or riding hat. A velvet hat without straps looks neat and tidy, but of course offers less protection than a normal riding hat, which must be done up if worn. You should never be penalised for putting safety first and wearing a proper hat.
- Hair as for a ridden class - neat and tidy. No hairnet if you are wearing a cowboy hat, but tied back out of the way.
- Jodhpur boots or discreet trainers of a similar colour to the trousers. You need to be able to run in them!
- Gloves as for ridden classes.
- Show cane as for ridden classes.