

LLOC & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB SHOW

Ring Craft: Guidance for Ridden Showing

Entering the ring

When you go into the ring, try to position yourself well. Don't go in behind the horse who's won every class it's entered all season, as you'll highlight any weaknesses yours has in comparison. Also try to go in behind one of a different colour, so you stand out a bit.

Going round with the others

In trot, make sure you're on the right diagonal so your horse doesn't look stiff through corners, and don't cut anyone up. If you're getting crowded, circle away to another part of the ring. Keep an eye on when the judge is looking in your direction, and make sure you're smiling, shoulders back and head up - it does make a difference.

Keep an eye out for the steward's instructions - it doesn't look very good if they are signalling to you to canter and you're in a world of your own! Don't think you need to trot or canter immediately - you can wait for a corner to canter and that's fine.

Being pulled in

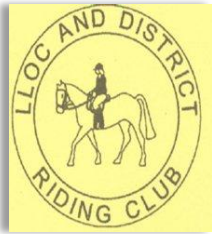
When you're being asked to come in for the first time, make sure you keep an eye on the steward. You don't want to miss your placing, and other competitors may pretend they thought they were being pulled in when you were - so if you think you've been nodded at and the person behind you zooms in, don't be afraid to ask the steward to clarify. It's bad manners to do this, and if it's noticed it won't be in the interloper's favour

The individual show

When you do your show, do keep thinking and be prepared to change it. If your horse strikes off early into canter, adapt it, stay in canter and do a longer trot at the end to compensate. Remember the judge doesn't know what you had in mind, so keep your cool if it goes a bit wrong.

In the lineup, keep paying attention. Don't let your horse rest a hindleg, try to keep him stood up well and not falling asleep. Wake him up while the previous competitor is doing their show, so you don't have to drag him out of the lineup while the judge is looking. Practice this at home, as it's common for a horse to be reluctant to come out of the line.

The in-hand section



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When the steward asks you to run the pony up inhand, have your groom come in to help. The groom should take the saddle off and put it behind the lineup (somewhere where it won't get trodden on), then groom the pony. Get any sweat marks off, comb the mane and tail, clean and mud or dust off the legs, get foam off the bit, all the finishing touches that help to improve the overall picture. When you've done the inhand, have the groom get the saddle ready to go straight back on and get you on as soon as possible. This is most important if you're near the bottom of the line, so you aren't holding the class up as you get back on.

The final walk-round

When you all go out again and walk round, don't give up and just sit there: really ride, get the best walk you possibly can - even if you are at the bottom of the line-up. Judges do sometimes have a real swap round - the top placed horses may have misbehaved in their shows, the judge may have seen things he or she didn't like in the inhand section, or your horse may have given them a super ride. Don't give up until you're out of the ring!

Just as in the first pulling-in, keep a close eye on the steward and come in smartly and quickly when you are called. Nod to acknowledge you've been pulled in, then get into your place in the line-up.

What to Wear

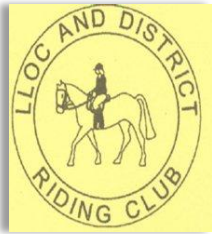
Rider (child rider)

- Navy jacket.
- Beige or canary jodhpurs.
- Brown jodhpur boots.
- Navy velvet hat, to current safety standard. Must be done up at all times when mounted.
- Shirt and tie.
- Hair tied back - often matching ribbons or scrunchie to browband and tie.

Leader of Lead Rein ponies

- Women wear a smart outfit and single hat. To complement the rider's turnout and not distract the judge!
- Men should wear a smart dark coloured suit and complement both jockey and pony with the choice of shirt and tie. A bowler hat is the most common headwear for this class.

Horse



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- Snaffle bridles for Lead Rein and First Ridden.
- Coloured browbands.
- Plaited mane and plaited/pulled tail.
- No handles on saddles allowed.
- Normal shoes only - nothing covering frog.
- Lead Rein, First Ridden and all novices must be shown in suitable snaffle bridles. If a special prize is awarded in an open show class for novice ponies those eligible must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle.
- No spurs.
- Lead-reins in Lead Rein classes must be attached to the noseband, and not the bit. They should be held loosely.
- Quarter-markers are correct for lead rein, first ridden and show ponies.

Rider

- Tweed jacket.
- Beige or canary jodhpurs or breeches (not white).
- Long boots if over 16, short boots with jodhpur clips if under 16 and small breeds if rider is over 16.
- Hat - some shows specify current safety standards and chinstrap to be done up, others don't. Velvet hat or skull cap with velvet cover. Most affiliated M&M classes do specify proper hats to be worn, regardless of the individual show's rules, so you'll never be incorrect in a proper hat with harness.
- Hair in a hairnet if long enough. Should always be neat and tidy.
- Shirt and tie - tie discreet and matching/complementing your jacket. No gaudy ones! No stock. Shirt can be plain white, some wear coloured stripy ones.
- Waistcoat is optional.
- Brown or black plain gloves.
- Show cane is correct, but not imperative. It finishes off the overall picture. Should match gloves and tack, i.e. all brown or all black. Black cane with brown tack is better than brown cane with black tack.