

C* and K Certificate Newsletter

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Welcome everyone,

Late notice as it is, there will be a **two day clinic** held at Ringwood Pony Club on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th January. You may keep your horse at the Pony Club and sleep over in the Club rooms. There are 14 small yards, plus the menage (if there are some horses who normally share a paddock) and the Jumping lane, which may be closed up, into two separate yards.



If you live locally, you may not wish to sleep over, but the camp is full on with activities, including practical and theory work during Wednesday Evening. In fact

we are intending to be as flexible as possible and if it is really really hot, the Wednesday afternoon will be spend covering various K Certificate Options (some are compulsory for C*), and we will be having our riding lessons in the cool of the evening, after an early tea.

You will need to bring all your **K certificate option sheets**, as filled in as possible. If you haven't started your options - we will help you begin. We will certainly be covering Pace Work, and some members should be ready to have their final testing (on the Thursday).

I also hope to have a **Dressage** Examiner and if you have completed the requirements for the Dressage Option, make sure that you bring all the relevant dressage Tests and worksheets with you.

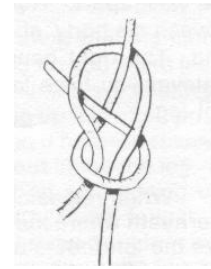
A REMINDER THAT THE EXAMINERS CAN NOT BE OUR CLINIC INSTRUCTORS, AND YOU WILL NEED TO PAY THEM AN EXTRA FEE (\$10) TO COVER THEIR TIME AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.



If you are sleeping over you will need to bring a sleeping bag, and sheets, pillow, air mattress or folding bed, etc. There will be food available at the canteen, but it must be ordered on the day and **paid** for in advance. (Especially those who would like STEAK for tea!)

Parents are invited to stay (and if they are a member of the HRCV or EFA, they may also book in to participate in the instruction - if numbers are low and they are of a suitable riding standard).

I have just received some fantastic books on **Knotting** from Ron Edwards, Rams Skull Press Publications. They include Knots for Horse Lovers, Knots, useful & ornamental and Knots for Beachcombers & Mariners. As well as that Ron has published several books on Bushcraft. Volume * in the series focuses on Leatherwork, and has heaps of ideas for those thinking of doing **Leatherwork** as an Option. I will bring the books and price list to the two day clinic.



Included in this newsletter are notes from veterinary expert, Dr Lindsay Williams. These came from a talk he gave a Ringwood Pony Club. He brought along his **BIG** computer and was able to give a "videos" of various **lame horses**. It was our job to decide what the problem was, cause and cure. All very interesting, and if you missed out - you really did miss something good.

I have also included **Part 2 on Course Building for Show Jumping**, notes from a course by Jenny Muir, from the Melbourne Show Jumping Club. If you use these notes, from this newsletter and the Oct/Nov Newsletter, you will be well on the way to completing the written side of your K Certificate Option on SJ Course Design and building. At the Clinic, we will build a Course and, hopefully, have it assessed by a K Certificate Examiner. If you have a suitable course and have written up the notes on the assessment sheet, as well as helped other people build Show Jumping Courses, you may be the lucky one to be tested (and hopefully pass). See me if you are game - but everything must be fully prepared.



Congratulations to Pauline Hill, pictured left, who won the Two Round Championship on Gypsy at the recent Zone Qualifying day at Yarrambat. This round could be used as part of her Show Jumping Option in Section A, as the height certainly went over 90cm.

At the Clinic, on the Thursday, you will be given opportunity to jump a course (0.9m), which may be used as part of your K Option. Those riders wishing to do more for the **Show Jumping Option**, will have a chance to jump at least two 90cm courses in the open section at the Ringwood Pony Club's Show Jumping Day, to be held on Sunday 29th February. We will be holding an

OPTIMUM TIME Competition and **TOP SCORE**. There is also the under 21 Two Round Championship, of which the starting height is 0.975m - not recommended for everyone.

I have included a Show Jumping Program in this newsletter. For those who have never entered an Optimum Time SJ Competition before, the winner is the rider who completes a clear course, closest to the time allowed for the course, which is worked out according to the distance and the travelling speed for the various heights (Grades). The fastest rider will not necessarily win!

If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter in 2004, please ring Kerry on 9722 1416 and have your name put on **the mailing list**. Come February I hope to be able to publish all the 2004 Exam dates - Written and Ridden for C* and K Certificate. If you have any Areas that you would like more information about, please let me know, so that we run Clinics in those areas, publish information, etc.

A reminder - Now is the time to start training for **the 40 K Ride**, if you hope to complete this option in February next year. If the weather is hot, plan to ride early in the morning. It is quite light at 5.30am, and the traffic is quite good then as well. You will have completed your day's riding by 8.30 and have heaps of time to socialise.

Why are some horses better than others?

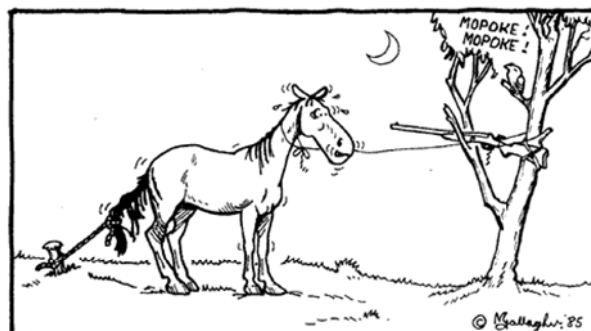
This article has been taken from "Horsewatching" by Desmond Morris. It has been altered to suit the Pony Club reader.

After most competitions a little ritual is performed between the owner, instructor and rider of each losing horse. This is a "why we were beaten" ceremony and involves the search for an excuse that will persuade the owner to pay the next month's feeding bills and the rider's instructor, instead of selling off the disappointing horse.

The simple truth is taboo during this ritual. The most obvious comments must not be uttered: that the horse is no good; that the other horses were better; that the rider is no good, or that the instructor failed to adequately prepare the horse. It is also forbidden to mention the fact that horses are not machines, but living beings susceptible to occasional inconsistencies in their behaviour. This is where the inventiveness of the instructor and rider are called into play. The same excuse will not do after each poor competition. New reasons have to be found.

Here is a modified and simplified selection of excuses:

1. The horse swallowed its tongue (or put it above the bit).
2. The horse stepped in a rabbit hole on the far side of the arena.
3. The horse lost a shoe (has a loose shoe).
4. The horse disliked tight bends
5. The horse was stung by an insect.
6. The horse was distracted by the photographer.
7. The horse did not like the rain.
8. The horse had an abscess in its mouth.
9. The horse had a sore foot.
10. The horse did not want to go past the tie-up yards.
11. The horse suffered from muscle spasms
12. The horse did not like the high winds.
13. The horse was lazy / was too keen.
14. The horse was bumped by another horse.
15. The horse was kicked by another horse.
16. The horse jumped too carefully / over-jumped.
17. The horse did not like the hard ground / the soft ground.
18. The horse was under-worked / was over-worked.
19. The horse's saddle was slipping / was too tight and was pinching.
20. The horse was too inexperienced / was too experienced.
21. The horse bolted in the cross country.
22. The horse travelled badly during the trip to the event.
23. The horse suffered from exhaust fumes inside the float.
24. The horse has had a bad night's sleep.
25. The horse's girth-strap broke.
26. The horse had come into season.
27. The horse was off its feed.
28. The horse needs stronger handling / should be whipped.
29. The horse may have a low blood count.
30. The horse's champion sire did not reach peak form until he was much older.
31. The rider mistakenly thought that something was wrong and pulled the horse up.
32. The rider dropped the whip.
33. The stable has a virus.



Right: One way to teach a horse to stand still



Show Jumping Course Building Notes

Part 2

Competition Guidelines:

1. You have 45 seconds to warm your horse up before going through the start flags.
2. You can go through the start flags backwards during the warm-up time. (This is a technical point and not all jump judges will know this and allow for it - warn the judge, if you are intending to do so).
3. Once you have been through the start flags and jumped the first fence, the start flags then become inactive - no longer exist.
4. The Finish Flags are only active after you have jumped the last jump

Note line of jumping Course:

This is supposedly, technically to be OK, as you have not approached the jump, but some judges will mark this as a run-out.

It is always better to start the course in this way:

- ◆ It would be better to check your options with the judge before you start.
 - ◆ You may be limited if they have electronic timing on the course, unless you have organised it beforehand.
 - ◆ Electronic Beams - the finish beam doesn't get turned on until the rider is approaching the last jump.
 - ◆ This form of timing is becoming more affordable - using cordless units.
 - ◆ Usually there are two people timing the course - one using a hand-held stop watch (manual).
5. If the start/finish flags are not in the Judge's line of sight, a time keeper can stand on the course and walk from the start to the finish to get a more accurate time.
 6. Ground Poles
eg:

In competition, these are illegal.

eg: Horses will tread on them
Fences that are rebuilt may have the pole put in the wrong spot.
People may roll it forward (as they walk the course)
as this will give them a better ground line.

In Pony Club - no loose poles are allowed on the ground in competitions - at jumps or near jumps.

However, Ground poles are useful for training horses.

7. Poles, in fences, high from the ground are hard to judge, eg:
8. Try to make fences attractive and pleasing. No spooky fences.
9. Watch out for fence materials (eg. tarps) for flapping, which has the potential to flap on windy days
10. Avoid Hay Bales.

When building Jumps, take into account the wind, as it may blow down poles, infill, and potted plants.

Plan the course, so that a jump or pole cannot be knocked into the pathway of a later jump. If this may happen, have someone stationed nearby to clear the course before the rider gets there.

Course designers can compete on their own courses!

Timing the course:

Grades A, B & C	350 metres per minute
Grade D	300 metres per minute
Grade E	274 metres per minute

The course builder and Jump Judge must:

- ◆ Know the required speed of travel
- ◆ Have a measuring wheel
- ◆ When measuring, follow the track, starting in the middle of the starting flags, following a "fair" track through the middle of each fence.
- ◆ The track measured doesn't cut corners or cut inside fences.
- ◆ It must be measured fairly and generously.
- ◆ *NB - HRCVA manual has a table of speed and distances to make it easy to calculate the course time.*

Additional Factors:

- ◆ Allow extra time for wet weather (add 10 seconds to time)
- ◆ Note: After 3 competitors have ridden, and it is obvious that the time is not suitable, the Judge has the right to adjust the time, if the horses have been riding a fair and sensible course.
- ◆ Indoor Arenas - Times may need to be slower (especially for C Grade)
- ◆ Riders shouldn't have to gallop to complete a course.
- ◆ Courses cannot be altered during Jumping a section, but remember safety factors. Fences can be changed between 1st Round and Jump-off.
- ◆ Be prepared - try to avoid the unsafe or dodgy ground areas when setting out a course.

Striding:

- ◆ Distances may need to be altered for different strides, different grades, different ground conditions (boggy).
- ◆ eg: if the ground is heavy going (wet and boggy) allow for shorter strides. Also allow at least 6 to 7 strides between each jump, so rider can make his own tracks.

- ◆ When riding up and down hill, shorten distances between jumps.
- ◆ Try to have combinations with related strides going across the hill.

Special Considerations on planning your Course:

- ◆ When jumping indoors and on small arenas, keep fences away from walls, edges, etc. so horses can have an easier path and make wider turns. This is much better for greener horses,
- ◆ Beware of giving your plans to other people to draw, the result may be quite a different interpretation.
- ◆ Don't put two fences in a straight line (except combinations), keep the current curved track between jumps, so riders can plan their own curved lines and striding.
- ◆ When planning a competition course, find out in advance what poles, infill, etc are available, so you can plan the course more effectively.
- ◆ In doubles, spreads can be either on the front or back fence. However, it is better if the spread is first in the combination, as if they mess up the first half of a combination, the second jump will be easier to cope with if it is a simple upright. But there is NO SET RULE on which jump in a combination should be a spread.

Building your course:

- ◆ Before the work force arrive, put at least the jump numbers down on the ground in the correct position. Then people can start immediately, getting out the wings, etc for each numbered jump, according to your course requirements sheet.
- ◆ Make the first and second jumps (and the first in a combination) in the course not too scary. They are generally a little lower, as warm up fences (may even be below the minimum height requirements).
- ◆ Make sure that combinations are square - that all lines up. You must measure (inside measurement - from the back pole of the first jump to the front pole of the second jump). You can check the squareness by measuring the diagonals. Any more than 10 cm on diagonal measurement is not acceptable.

- ◆ If there is a combination in the first round, it must be included in the jump-off.
- ◆ When altering the spread jump in a combination, the inside distance between the two jumps in the combination must remain the same. Eg: if the spread was the first jump, then the front element of the spread must be pulled further forward.
- ◆ In a combination, don't make the second jump too eye-catching, don't put in an infill, unless you have an infill on the first as well, as the horse's lose their concentration on the first jump.
- ◆ Put combinations across the arenas, certainly away from the edge.

You will need

- ◆ Tape measure
- ◆ Measuring Wheel
- ◆ Ruler for height

A Handy Hint:

Use electric tape to label the top of the jumping poles. You may have a special code.
eg:

Top pole, front of spread

Top pole, back of spread.

Then the correct poles will get put back into position, if the jump is demolished and needs rebuilding.

Suitable Infill:

- ◆ Use 19mm ply, with edges rounded off. It may be lighter in weight if it has holes cut out in the middle. If placed on the ground, use shelf brackets, screwed to pine (4" x 1" x 12") to support the infill.
- ◆ Don't use hanging infill as a top element of a jump - they need to have a rail above them.

Starting Flags

The minimum width between the two flags is 3 times the width of the poles on the first jump.

The Distance between the start and the first jump must be no less than 10 metres and no more than 15 metres.

Measuring the course:

- ◆ Measure the Course on reasonably generous terms, going where the optimum course for the horse is.
- ◆ Come into each jump at right angles to the poles.

Jump Off Course:

- ◆ Allow for Changes of rein
- ◆ Have opportunity for tight turns
- ◆ Plan of Jump-Off course must be on a board for all to see before the start of the event.
- ◆ The rider must have the horse travelling at a good canter before the starting flags, so make sure that there is room around the course for the rider to do this.
- ◆ Check how the riders can move from one fence to the next one. Allow for good sweeping turns.
- ◆ The second round may have two new jumps, not found in the first round (eg: Table AM7).
- ◆ **SAFETY IS VITAL**

FEI Jumping Rules may be purchased from the EFA (national), or downloaded from the web.