

## **Horse Fact Sheet - Derby Competition**

*Our club holds a Derby competition each year. What's a "Derby" you might ask? Some of you may know it by the old name of "Hickstead" (PCAV changed the name about a year ago).*

A Derby is a combined Showjumping (SJ) Course that comprises both Cross Country (XC) and SJ Fences. The competition takes place over a distance of between 750m and 1300m over a course which comprises at least 50% natural obstacles (ie xc jumps). Think of it as being like a Horse Trials competition, without the dressage, and where you do the SJ and XC as if it were one course. Where applicable, the rules used are the horse trials rules – for instance the grades used are the same as for horse trials.

So, what this means in practice is that we will have a SJ course set up on the gravel arena, and also will have a course flagged on the XC. Both courses are shorter (that is, less jumps) than they would be if it were a straight horse trials. At your turn, you will jump a number of showjumps (usually 4) in the arena, and then ride immediately (via a gate at the back of the arena) to the cross country and jump a series of jumps out on course. You then return to the showjumping arena and put your horse over another series of showjumps (again, usually 4 different jumps). At the end of each grade or section, there is a "jump off". In this, all riders who went clear across all jumps, and within the time limit allowed, come back and jump all of the showjumps in order (so the first 4, and the second 4 are all used in the jump off).

The exact details may change, and you will receive a map showing which jumps are to be used on both the showjumping and cross country. The map will also tell you the distance of the course, and the amount of time that you will ideally take. There are penalties for going over the maximum time and also for refusals and rails dropped.

*One of the key challenges of a Derby is the change in pace you and your horse need to go from showjumping, to cross country, and back to showjumping again.*

***More fact sheets can be found on the PCAV web site in the Resources section.***