



Taunton Vale Foxhounds
Team Chase
Affiliated to the MFHA
and
Charity Gate Jumping Competition

Sunday 17th March 2013

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES – TUESDAY 12th MARCH

To be held at



ENTRIES SECRETARY:

Charlotte Middleton
Pontispool Equine Sports Centre,
Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1BH
Tel: 01823 461196
Email: info@pontispool.com

For more information on Team Chasing visit www.teamchasing.co.uk

CLASS 1 – FUN CLASS

The course will be approximately 2.5 km with about 20 natural and fixed fences. Maximum height of fixed fences approximately 0.85m (2'9"). To be run against a bogey time based on a speed of 475 metres per minute. Competitors will not be permitted to carry stop watches.

Prizes in kind. Rosettes to 6th place. Inter-School Section (minimum of 3 members to attend same school).

CLASS 2 – CHARITY GATE JUMPING COMPETITION

To take place on the 80 x 50m all-weather arena prior to the National Team Chase qualifier. There will be a single white gate in the middle of the arena.

Section A OPEN - Height starts at 3'3"

Competitors will have time to compete in this class prior to competing in the Team Chase Open Qualifier.

Prizes: 1st £100 (2nd and 3rd prizes subject to entries and sponsorship)

Section B RESTRICTED – Height starts at 2'9"

Horses must be genuine hunters and may not have competed in an affiliated Open Team Chase, BSJA or BE competition since 1st January 2011. Competitors will have time to compete in this class prior to competing in the Intermediate Team Chase.

Prizes in kind.

CLASS 3 – OPEN CLASS - MATERIAL CHANGE NATIONAL TEAM CHASE QUALIFIER

The two highest placed teams that have not previously qualified will qualify for the National Team Chase Championships to be hosted by the Heythrop, Warwickshire on 7th April 2013. The course will be approximately 3000 metres with about 24 natural and fixed fences. Speed class. Minimum height of fixed fences approximately 1.10m (3'7"). Riders to be 16 years and over.

Prizes: 1st £400, 2nd £200, 3rd £150, 4th £100

Rosettes to 6th place

Special prizes: Taunton Vale Foxhounds; Veterans (average competitor age of 40 or older); Hunt Team (competitors to be members of the same hunt). There will also be a prize to the oldest competitor completing the course.

CLASS 4 – INTERMEDIATE CLASS

The course will be approximately 3 km comprising of about 22 natural and fixed fences. Maximum height of fixed fences approximately 1.10m (3'7").

Section A

The entire course will be timed, the winning team having the time nearest the bogey time based on a speed of 520 metres per minute. Competitors will not be permitted to use stopwatches.

Prizes in Kind. Rosettes to 6th place.

Section B

Run as a speed class against the clock. The fastest team wins.
Riders to be 16 years and over.

Prizes: 1st £150, 2nd £75, 3rd £50. Rosettes to 6th place.

Ian Pocock Perpetual Challenge Trophy to the winning team.

Special prizes: All Ladies; Taunton Vale Foxhounds; Hunt Team; Junior (average competitor age of 21 or younger)

ENTRY FEES (including medical cover)

Class 1 Entry Fee: **£80**

Class 2 Sec A & Sec B Entry Fee: **£10**

Class 3 Entry Fee: **£130**

Class 4 Entry Fee: **£100**

Entries are accepted only with full fees. To include one free programme per team.

To be sent to the secretary, before the closing date **Tuesday 12th March**

(e-mail or fax entries will only be accepted with Debit/Credit card payment by telephoning the Pontispool Office on 01823 461196 Monday to Friday between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm).

Deposit on numbers: £10.00 per team payable on the day.

Entries, if accepted after the closing date, will incur a £20 surcharge.

Car passes: Two car passes per team will be issued on receipt of SAE with entry fees.

TIMES

Times will be posted on the website www.pontispool.com by 12noon Friday 15th March. Alternatively please phone the Pontispool Office on 01823 461196 for your times between 12pm and 2 pm on Friday 15th March.

DIRECTIONS

From Junction 25 or 26 of the M5 follow signs for Taunton, then Wiveliscombe and Norton Fitzwarren (B3227). Pass through Norton Fitzwarren then follow the brown Pontispool Farm tourist signs

STABLING & ACCOMMODATION

On site stabling is available at £25 per night including straw bedding. Please telephone the Pontispool office on 01823 461196 or email info@pontispool.com to arrange. For local accommodation telephone the Pontispool office or visit the website www.pontispool.com

SPONSORS

The Taunton Vale Foxhounds would like to thank all those who have generously helped with the sponsorship.

CANCELLATION

It is the competitor's responsibility to check that the event is still on. In the event of cancellation a notice will be posted on www.pontispool.com and a recorded message on 01823 461196.

The Course will be open for inspection from 2pm Saturday 16th March.

MFHA TEAM CHASE COMMITTEE

THE RULES

(Up-dated September 2012)

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF RULES**
All Events run under the auspices of the MFHA Governing Body shall be run in accordance with these Rules and shall accept and be bound by these Rules. All competitors at such events shall also accept and be bound by such Rules. Individual events may not impose their own Rules for their event but may impose administrative regulations as they see fit.
2. **RIDERS RESPONSIBILITY**
In the case of any Rule affecting riders or their horses, the rider shall be held responsible. In particular riders will be held responsible for adhering to Rules 7 (Protection), 9 (Age), 13 (Horse Welfare), 14 (Abuse of Horses), 15 (Exchanging Horses) and 20 (Personal Accident Insurance).
3. **STEWARDS**
There shall be one or more Stewards appointed by each event organiser whose decision in respect of these Rules and of Discipline shall be final, except by later appeal to the Governing Body on payment of a deposit of £50. Mounted Stewards will be on the course with authority to stop any competitor continuing on an exhausted horse or ill treating their horse. If they are not obeyed the whole team may be eliminated.
4. **TEAMS**
Each team shall consist of a maximum of four horses and riders and at least three horses and riders shall complete the course successfully for that team to finish.
5. **MEDICAL MATTERS**
No event shall commence unless one Doctor, two Paramedics and two Ambulances are on duty on the course. The Organisers should be aware of and adhere to the following medical safety Rules:
 - a) No team shall be allowed to start unless either a fully equipped Ambulance, or another Ambulance and a Doctor are available on the course (one Ambulance may have gone to hospital with an earlier casualty).
 - b) The medical team should have radio links around the course to Control.
 - c) The medical team should be familiar with the course and know the quickest route to any part of it.
 - d) Scoop stretchers must be available on the course and at least one 4WD vehicle with driver capable of carrying scoop stretchers should be available.
 - e) The local Accident Unit should be informed of the event and provision for telephone contact be known.
 - f) Ambulances should not be used as transport for uninjured persons.
6. **CONCUSSION**
Any rider who sustains concussion shall under no circumstances compete again for at least the remainder of that day.
7. **SAFETY & PROTECTION**
It is compulsory for competitors to wear crash helmets to current recognised Safety Standards, and which are identified by a Team Chasing, BE, BRC, BSJA or Pony Club approved Hat Tag. i.e. Hats must meet one of the following standards: British All PAS015, BSEN1384 or European EN1384 provided they are BSI kitemarked or SEI. American All SEI ASTM 95, ASTM F1163:2004, SNELL E2001. Australian and New Zealand All AS/NZS 3838. Competitors are strongly recommended to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged or following a fall. All those mounted at an event (including grooms and helpers) must wear a hard hat complying to the above standard when mounted. All competitors must also wear a British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) approved and appropriately labelled Level 3 body protector manufactured in the year 2000 or after. Competitors are strongly recommended to check their body protectors on a regular basis and replace them if damaged or following a fall and are advised that the body protector should impede neither flexibility nor balance. All horses being ridden at an event, including riding in exercise areas, must be ridden in a bridle with reins directly attached to a bit or leather 'D' rings or attached as per the manufacturer's specification to a purpose designed bitless bridle (such as a mechanical or jumping hackamore, Dr Cook, Sidepull or Scawbrig).
8. **ACCIDENT REPORT FORMS**
An Accident Report Form is to be given to each fence steward (blank forms available from the MFHA Office) and must be completed for any Accident and returned to the Event Secretary (or Organiser). Such completed forms must be kept by the Organiser for a period of five years, or in the case of a person under the age of 18, four years after they become 18. These forms must be made available to the Course Inspector in subsequent years.
9. **RIDERS AGE AND EXPERIENCE**
No person shall ride until they have attained the age of sixteen in any Open, Intermediate or Novice Classes which are run against the clock and all riders competing in such classes should ensure that they have had appropriate experience of cross country riding. At the discretion of Organisers riders under the age of sixteen may be permitted to compete in classes judged against the "bogey" time.
10. **VETERINARY MATTERS AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES**
There must be at least two Vets available on course at each event. The decision of the course Vet to put a horse down on humane grounds must be accepted by all competitors. Competitors will be expected to pay for any services received from the veterinary surgeon, farrier, horse ambulance, doctor or any other medical services.
11. **HORSE CASUALTIES**
Organisers shall make adequate arrangements to deal with horse casualties, which will include the provision of suitable screens, a humane killer, at least one knacker wagon, and a suitable vehicle for use as a Horse Ambulance towed by a 4WD vehicle.
12. **EXHAUSTED HORSES**
A nominated Steward or Stewards, who must be mounted, shall be appointed to stop unfit or exhausted horses from continuing. Such an official or officials, who must be readily identifiable, shall be appointed at every event.
13. **HORSE WELFARE**
The whip should only be used for good reason, not excessively, in the right place and at the appropriate time. Spurs must not be used to reprimand a horse and a bit should never be used to abuse or reprimand a horse. Horses competing in Intermediate and Open Classes must be five years old or over.
14. **ABUSE OF HORSES**
Any act or series of actions, which in the opinion of the Stewards constitutes abuse of a horse shall be considered to be a breach of these Rules and will incur elimination.
15. **EXCHANGING HORSES**
No rider may exchange horses once a team has started. No horse may start more than once in any class.

16. **FALLS - ELIMINATION**

(a) Horse Falls - When a horse falls during any class, the competitor is immediately eliminated and must retire. If the competitor does continue on the course following a horse fall their team will be eliminated. A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground, or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself. This does not prevent horses which stumble or refuse, thus unseating the rider, from being remounted to continue, subject to rule 16 (b).

(b) Rider Falls - After two falls which are not Horse Falls the competitor is immediately eliminated and must retire. If the competitor does continue on the course following two Rider Falls their team will be eliminated

17. **REFUSALS**

The number of refusals shall not exceed three at any one fence, or five on the course per horse, when the competitor shall be eliminated and must leave the course at once. The Team will be disqualified for an abuse of these rules by any individual member.

18. **COURSE INSPECTION**

All courses will be inspected prior to an event by an Inspector appointed by the Governing Body, who will need to be satisfied that the course meets the necessary Rules, safety standards and Course Construction Guidelines before he permits the event to go ahead. Organisers must ensure that they permit Course Inspectors early access to allow time for making any alterations required. The appointed Course Inspector should contact the Course Organisers to arrange an inspection date.

19. **UNAFFILIATED EVENTS**

No rider may compete in the Team Chase Championship, who has taken part in an unaffiliated cross country team event during the current season. Events sanctioned by the Governing Body, the British Horse Society, the Riding Clubs and the Pony Club are exempt from this Rule.

20. **INSURANCE**

All events shall ensure that public liability insurance cover for at least £5m is in place.

Personal Accident Insurance:

It is a requirement that all participants in the Team Chase classes carry Third Party insurance for not less than £5m. It is also strongly recommended that all participants have Personal Accident Insurance.

N.B. If your Hunt is insured through The Hunting Office Block Liability Policy for at least £5m, then this will cover all events run by the Hunt and the Hunt Supporters Club. Third Party Insurance is covered by membership of the Countryside Alliance. It may also come with some horse insurance and house insurance, but this should be checked.

21. **ORGANISER'S RIGHTS**

The Organiser of all events reserves the right to cancel any class or event, to transfer competitors between classes, to refuse any entry, to alter advertised times, to withhold all or any prize money, and to eliminate or prevent any competitor from competing who is adjudged not to be adhering to the Rules or who is deemed to be wearing or using inappropriate dress, saddlery and/or equipment.

22. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of Organisers for which they are legally responsible, neither the Organisers of any event to which these Rules apply, nor any representative of these bodies accepts any liability for any accident, loss damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, spectators, land, vehicles, contents or accessories or any other person whatever, whether caused by their negligence or in any other way.

23. **CLASSES**

Only the following terms shall be used to define classes:

a) Novice. Fixed obstacles which are not to exceed 3'3". Length of course to be approximately 1.5 miles.

b) Intermediate. The majority of fixed obstacles to be approximately 3'6", but not to exceed 3'9". Length of course to be approximately 1.75 miles.

c) Open. The majority of fixed obstacles to be not less than 3'6". Length of course to be approximately 2 miles, and not less than 1.5 miles.

Organisers should also note:

i) If the term "Allcomers" is used, it must be preceded by the word "Novice", "Intermediate" or "Open", whichever best describes the course.

ii) Only "Open" or "Open Allcomers" classes may be considered as qualifiers for the Team Chase Championship.

iii) Events that have an Open Qualifier must run their Intermediate class against the clock (but can run part of the class against a Bogey Time).

iv) A "Fun" class is held entirely at the Organisers discretion, but must be decided by a "bogey" time.

24. **THE PEN**

The first three horses entering the pen should have twelve feet on the floor before anyone jumps out. The penalty for failing to observe this rule to be the addition of 20 seconds per team. There should be at least one fence judge purely to watch for this.

25. **ELIMINATION ON COURSE**

If at least 3 members of the team have not completed the course within 8 minutes of the team starting, the team will be eliminated.

26. **DEPOSIT FOR NUMBER BIBS**

A refundable deposit of £10 per team shall be payable to the secretary for number bibs.

27. **COMPLAINTS AND OBJECTIONS**

Any complaint or objection in relation to an alleged breach of these rules shall be lodged with the event secretary within 10 minutes of the last horse completing the class in which the alleged breach occurred together with payment of a deposit of £40 which will be refunded if the complaint or objection is upheld. The stewards shall use their best endeavours to investigate and hold an enquiry into the complaint or objection within a reasonable time.

28. **REPORT TO COLLECTING RING**

All teams must report to the collecting ring steward at a reasonable time before their running order.

29. **JUMPING ORDER**

Competitors must jump the fences in numerical order and leave red flags on their right and white flags on their left. Any competitor who misses a fence must either return and jump that fence and subsequent fences in the correct order or shall be eliminated and must retire from the course.

TAUNTON VALE FOXHOUNDS COMMITTEE
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

30. **IN THE EVENT OF A TIE**

The prize money will be divided.

31. **THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS**

a) Withhold any prize or prize money if there are insufficient entries.

b) Refuse an entry without stating a reason.

c) Alter the advertised times of the event.

d) Alter the course or omit any obstacle at any time before or during the competition.

e) Eliminate any rider or riders not adhering to these rules or failing to follow the directions of Officials.

32. **CHILDREN**

Small children must be kept under the control of a responsible adult at all times.

33. **DOGS**

All dogs must be kept on leads at all times.

34. **REFUNDS**

In the event of postponement or abandonment due to bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, no refund of entry fees will be made but if cancelled, 75% of entry fees will be refunded.

GATE JUMPING COMPETITION
GENERAL RULES

35. Entries will be restricted and accepted in the order that they are received.

36. There will be a drawn ordered which must be adhered to. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

37. It is a knock out competition. One knock down or refusal results in elimination.

38. The gate will be raised by 3" at the end of each round.

39. Horses clearing the highest will win the class.

40. A competitor may join in at their desired height providing that the steward has been informed prior to the start of the class.

41. Competitors must wear a hard hat to current approved British Safety Standards as per BSJA and BE rule books for show jumping.

42. Back protectors are recommended.

43. The Judges' decision is final.