

Dacorum and District Riding Club



It's so close we can taste it!

It's nearly time! We're in May with only 2 weeks to go! Are you prepped and ready? Get your entries in online to save some extra pennies, save time on show day and its one less thing to stress about on show day!

Our schedule is available on our website and Facebook page, along with our online booking. Get your class bookings and memberships sorted now!

Our summer show dates for 2017 are May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 20th & September 3rd.

Also, please note that the CTR winter dressage championships have been cancelled for the 21st of May. If you or your friends were looking to compete that day why not come along to our show? We have two dressage classes for the May show. Intro A (2008) and Prelim 1 (2006).

We are running the qualifiers for our Dressage shows for CTR Summer Dressage Championships, Hickstead Sunshine Tour & Equine Grassroots Championships.

For our dressage you must advance book as times are allocated as standard. Please spread the word as we would love to see you at our first show.

New Sponsors for 2017

DDRC is very happy to have 3 new Sponsors for 2017.

Butterfoal Stud Tack and Feed shop who are offering 10% off all hats and body protectors for the month of May for DDRC members! Please call 01923 635776 for more details.

Jonathan Jacobs - Equine Dental Technician - 01707 654822

Rosie Patch Livery - 07766 118177

These are adding to our list of current sponsors consisting of Catch it Quick Photography who take all the lovely photos at our events (0208 421 9003), Orchard Rosettes who provide all our great rosettes (01727 873469) and Icknield Equine Clinic who provide the on-call support for DDRC (01582 471177).

Possible event changes

This year we are planning to use the jumping rings to help out where possible with the showing classes. Once we have finished the jumping classes in either of the rings, we will have another showing judge on hand to help out with the expected huge number of entries in the showing rings (based on last years numbers). Listen out on our new tanoy system for any ring/class changes. This will only be later in the day and is designed to ensure that we can finish the event at a sensible time. Last year, the last class finished at 6:45pm. Our aim is to be finished by the usual time of 5pm. If



you have any queries or concerns, please
do not hesitate to contact us.

Meet one of our organisers Tony Field



Tony joined DDRC about 6 years ago when he was in the usual father role of transporting horses to events. Arriving at DDRC with his daughter and her horse, the call went out for some helpers at the show. Not having anything else to do for the next 6 hours, he signed up and several years later he is still here.

Tony is normally to be found judging in ring 2, getting those people on their first steps in the jumping world. He also does the website and online booking system for DDRC. To make sure that Tony is applying the rules properly, he got trained up by the BSJA and is now a Level 1 judge operating with BSJA at various events.

Many many years ago when tony was born, there was a 'discussion' between his parents. His mother thought his father was more interested in motorbikes than his new born kid. "That's an idea says his father" and so Tony's middle name was set. He was called after his father's motorbike at the time. Vincent. Tony has taken after his father and presently has two motorbikes. Tony's daughter though is not called Melanie Honda

Field!

Returning to the subject of the online booking system, Tony is surprised at how many people pay full price for the classes, when there are large discounts available with the online booking system. For instance, a junior member cost, reduces from £7 per class to £5. Perhaps people have too much money at DDRC!. But also the advanced booking does help DDRC since those entries can be prepared before the event and so this reduces the queues at the caravan and helps the organisation run more smoothly.

<http://www.dacorumridingclub.co.uk/booking-page/>



Dacorum Riding Club is the first club in the world on a new APP!

There is a new APP being developed by a British company to enable folks to keep up to date with their favourite sports. The APP is not fully released as yet (August is the formal launch) but DDRC are now listed with them.

This will enable us to post stories but also we can post what is happening in each of the rings throughout the day. So if you want to know which class is presently running in each of the rings then you will on the day be able to open the APP and find out. We also hope to be able to post the results as they are completed. These will be subject to scrutiny after the event to make sure everything is correct.

This APP alongside the new Tanoy system should make things easier for people to arrive at the rings at the right time.

So download the APP now. It's called GameDay Xtra and is available on both android and IOS.

Setup your profile and then select your teams or sports in "Sports Profile". Under equestrian you will find Dacorum and District Riding Club.

As I said, the APP is not yet fully released and DDRC are very happy to be the leading Equestrian club worldwide to be part of the launch. If you spot any bugs then let please do them know or if you have other comments then let us know via our Facebook (although a full chat system is being added as we speak)

The full story on the APP can be found on the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-39744294>

Dressage tips for the upcoming season



Learn And Practice Your Test

Even if you have a caller on the day, learn the test beforehand, practice riding individual parts of the test and ride the whole test a couple of times. Don't practice riding the whole test too many times or your horse may anticipate movements on the day. On a windy day and/or with a lot of background noise you don't want to be left wondering where to go if you can't hear your caller - think of the caller as a backup against forgetting the test on the day, but don't be totally reliant on them.

Relax

Take a few deep breaths and relax your body before entering the arena. A tense rider will make a tense horse. Remember it is supposed to be fun!

Look Up

Look up and ahead of you so you can plan and prepare for your transitions and turns - it also helps with your posture and position. If you need to look down then do so with your eyes but not your head.

Ride Forward On Straight Lines

Ensure your horse is going actively forward in an even rhythm (but not rushing) on the straight lines as a horse that is lacking impulsion as you ride down the centre line or across the school is more likely to drift from side to side.

Prepare For Transitions

Half halt before each upward and downward transition to prepare your horse for the transition and help to keep it balanced through the transition.

Give Yourself More Time When Riding Transitions Between Markers

Ask for the transition 2-3 strides after your horse has passed the first marker so the judge can see that you are clearly past the first marker whilst you allow your horse the maximum amount of time to respond to your aids for the transition before reaching the second marker. If you ask for the transition half way between the markers or as you approach the second marker you give your horse less time to respond to your aids and run the risk of performing the transition too late if your horse is slow to respond.

Prepare For Turns

Half halt before each turn across the arena to prepare your horse for the turn and keep the inside leg close and pushing into the outside rein contact as you turn to prevent the horse falling in and help it balance through the turn. Look ahead of you around your turn.

Ride Good Circles

Picture the circle drawn on the arena surface and ride along its imaginary line and look 1/4 to 1/2 circle ahead as you ride to ensure you ride a good even circle.

Ride A Good Free Walk

The free walk carries double marks and the judge is looking for a good stretch down with the neck and a longer stride. Keep your hands low to encourage stretching down of

the neck as you allow the horse to take the reins forward and let them slip through your fingers. Do not just throw the reins away and drop the contact altogether, the horse must take the contact forward. Alternate squeezing with each leg as each side of the horse's body swings down to encourage a longer, active stride.

Don't Cut Corners

Ride into the corners (but not too deep that your horse loses impulsion, rhythm and balance) as you ride around the arena. There should be a clear difference between riding a corner as you ride around the arena, to riding past the corner when riding a circle at A or C.

Bend Correctly

Ensure your horse is bent to the inside on circles, corners and turns. If your horse falls in on circles, corners or turns then half halt and push the horse with your inside leg into your outside rein contact whilst keeping the horse bent to the inside. Don't be tempted to pull the horse out with your outside rein as this will cause the horse to bend to the outside.

Ride A Straight Halt

As you ask for halt keep your legs close to the horse's body ready to squeeze and block with either leg if you feel the horse start to swing its hindquarters to one side as you halt.

Please note that each judge will judge slightly differently, so please use this as a guideline only.

All of us here at Dacorum wish you the best of luck, remember to keep safe & ultimately have fun!



We want to see your photos!

Now we have an Instagram account @DacorumRC we want to see your photos of the show!

Pictures of you and your horse/pony or just of the event itself! Even silly photos of you and your horse/pony preparing the day before the show.

Whatever you fancy showing us, it's up to you! Just be sure to add the hashtag #DacorumRC so we can see it.

Our favourites will be re-posted on our Instagram, Twitter or Facebook page.

We will also be uploading our own photos of the day along with some of our winners! Be sure to follow us!



Fancy dress competition for 2017!

At our last event of the year in September we are going to run a fancy dress competition. What we are looking for is creativity and Enthusiasm. The wackier and wilder the better!

We're telling you now so you have plenty of time to make an outfit for your horse and yourself. Check out our Facebook page for ideas or to even help out others!

Would you be interested in helping out at the Dacorum Show?

We need more helpers. You don't need to know about horses. You don't even need to help on the Sunday, we have a big job on Saturday's from 3pm to 6pm to setup the fields ready for the event. Car parking, feeding the judges, pole picking, clearing away at the end of the event, helping the committee with paperwork. The list is almost endless. If you want to contact us then please try the following

enquiries@dacorumridingclub.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/DacorumDistrictRidingClub/>

The schedule for 2017 is now available on our website & Facebook page along with our memberships forms. The online booking is now also open and available for booking your shows this summer.

Don't forget to like/follow us on Facebook, Twitter & our new Instagram account! Links to these are below.