

Unicorn Centre Competition Rules

Please read carefully – placing an entry is deemed acceptance of these rules.

- Judge's decision is **final** in all matters and includes the right to eliminate.
- All people riding horses or ponies at the Unicorn Centre **must** wear a hat with chinstrap fastened conforming to
 - PAS015 (1998 or 2011) with BSI Kitemark;
 - ASTM F1163 with SEI Kitemark;
 - SNELL E2001;
 - VG1at all times when mounted.
- Horses and ponies must be five years old or older. Stallions are not permitted.
- The Unicorn Centre reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.
- All competitors and spectators enter the Unicorn Centre premises at their own risk and no liability can be accepted by the RDA Centre in Cleveland Ltd. for any injury, accident, loss or damage. The organisers of the event have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure the Health and Safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring in addition to obeying instructions of the organiser, officials and stewards, and as displayed on notices.
- In the interests of safety, numbers of horses/ponies warming up in the outdoor arena will be strictly limited to a maximum of six at any time. Lunging and riding on the grass area is not permitted. Only riders competing in this show are allowed to warm up in the outdoor arena.
- Entries are not accepted without payment, including telephone entries. Entry fees are non-refundable in all circumstances, including in the event of classes running later than expected.
- Rosettes are presented after each class. Rosettes will be kept for collection for one week after the show date or can be posted out on receipt of a self-addressed envelope.
- Please take litter home with you or deposit it in the bins provided.
- No loose dogs permitted. No dogs permitted in the Unicorn Centre unless assistance dogs and no dogs in the viewing gallery.
- All proceeds are for the benefit of the RDA Centre in Cleveland Ltd. Trading as the Unicorn Centre: (registered Charity No. 1062577)
- No Late entries
- **The Centre will be following the RDA UK Competition Rules which can be found at <http://www.rda.org.uk/assets/Rule-Book.pdf>**

UNICORN CENTRE THE COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE **NON QUALIFIER** “A Farmyard Walk”

The RDA Centre in Cleveland Ltd
Charity No 1062577



**The Unicorn Centre
Stainton Way, Hemlington,
Middlesbrough, TS8 9LX**

Sunday 29th May 2022

No entries on the day
Tel: 01642 576222

Kindly Sponsored By

Ian Scrutton
(RDA Unicorn Centre Trustee)

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES – 7 PM ON Tuesday 24th May 2022
TIMES WILL BE POSTED ON THE UNICORN CENTRE WEBSITE & FACEBOOK
FROM 5PM ON FRIDAY 27th May 2022**

Classes

Classes start at 10.00am or earlier depending on entries.

Class 1	Led with 1 side walker
Class 2	Led or 1 side walker
Class 3	Independent
Class 4	Visually Impaired

Extract from the RDA Competition Rules - 2022 <http://www.rda.org.uk/assets/Rule-Book.pdf>

Dress

All riders should be dressed in correct riding wear, as far as possible. All concerned should be dressed alike, i.e. all wear group sweatshirts or shirts and jodhpurs. Riding hats for all complete the picture of 'togetherness'. Pay attention to footwear.

Black/blue/tweed jackets are perfectly acceptable. A body protector may be worn, provided it is correctly fitted and does not impede or harm the rider.

Tack

- RDA approved tack adaptations are acceptable, but on no condition must a rope or stirrup leather be secured around a pony's neck. Neck/balance straps attached to a martingale breastplate are permitted.
- Grass reins and **daisy reins** are permitted, provided they are fitted correctly. If you are in doubt over the type of grass/daisy reins that will be accepted, please contact RDA National Office.
- When a lead rein is used from a coupling it must be fitted below the rein and fitted so they don't come in front of the horse's chin. A lead rein can also be used with a serviceable head collar. If a head collar is used it must replace the noseband of the bridle. Pelham couplings are not allowed.

Rider Categories

The countryside challenge classes are divided into Junior, Senior and Open.

- Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16.
- Open Riders – Riders who have been Overall Class Champion in the same class for 2 consecutive years at the RDA National Championships.

Visually Impaired Riders

- All visually impaired riders must be classified by British Blind Sport.
- Riders who compete in the classes at Regional level have automatic qualification for the National Championships providing they achieve **65%** or over.
- Riders may have a leader/sidewalker but they must not instruct the rider. They can also have callers on the course.
- Riders must provide and wear a white armband at all times to alert the judge, steward and other riders that they are visually impaired.

Classes with Leaders & Side Walkers

In the led classes, where riders are physically unable to organise their reins into one hand to compete a task with the other, they may lay the reins down neatly on the horse's neck, with the buckle/join in the middle. Leaders do not have to change sides when the rein is changed.

Commanders

In the unled classes, **commanders** should stand in a central or roving central position **WITH A LEAD ROPE**. In the led classes, the leader or side walker may act as **commander**, but should be careful to limit instructions to the text given in bold on the course details. Side walkers will be allowed to give clearer and more detailed instruction to visually impaired & hearing impaired riders. Hearing Impaired riders should wear a yellow armband (not provided) **Side walkers must not be in contact with rider unless in an emergency.**

A small fence will be included in the independently ridden class only. For this class, a commander **MUST** stand in the arena (in a central position) and hold a lead rope in case of emergency. Riders who wish to jump in this class must be assigned to an approved Level 2 Showjumping RDA Group.

The Course & Obstacles

It is important that all helpers and side walkers are fully informed and know the permitted instructions as detailed below. They must not bring any papers into the arena with them. Riders, helpers and leaders are strongly advised to walk the course prior to the commencement of the event. It is advised that at some of the obstacles, post box, apple trees etc. that the leader stands in front of the horse.

If a rider has any disability or condition which limits their physical capabilities/performance for this course, this must be highlighted to judges prior to entry. Obstacles will be highlighted for visually impaired riders.

Each rider may attempt each obstacle twice only. If the obstacle is still unsuccessful, the rider must move to the next obstacle. A letter will be handed to the rider in the safety check area, the side walker or leader may carry this for them. A bell will be rung to start.

Scoring & Penalties

Marks out of 10 will be awarded for the performance of horses/ponies as part of every obstacle. Riders will be marked on effort as well as performance and leaders/helpers are urged to give their riders the time and opportunity to do their own riding as far as is possible. Additional marks are awarded for the general impression of the team, obedience of pony/horse and riders effort and performance. For led classes leaders/side walkers will be marked on their leading/side walking skills.

A running commentary of instructions to the rider is not acceptable and will be penalised by a deduction of marks. Please note that no horses are permitted on the course other

than when they are competing, if this rule is not adhered to it may result in elimination or the rider will only be able to continue HC (Hors Concours).

Unicorn Centre Course Information

- Riders may attempt each obstacle twice. If an obstacle is unsuccessful, the rider must move to the next. A letter will be handed to the rider in the safety check area – a helper may carry it.
- Helpers must be aware of course instructions. No papers allowed in the arena. All involved are advised to walk the course before the event. Times for this will be allocated.
- Riders are permitted to carry a whip if necessary; this must not exceed 1m 20cm. Leaders and side walkers are not permitted to carry a whip in the arena at any time.

Competition Code of Conduct for Competitors, their Carers and Supporters

Unicorn Centre is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of everyone involved and wants to ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for all. When attending the Unicorn Centre, you are expected to abide by the following code of conduct:-

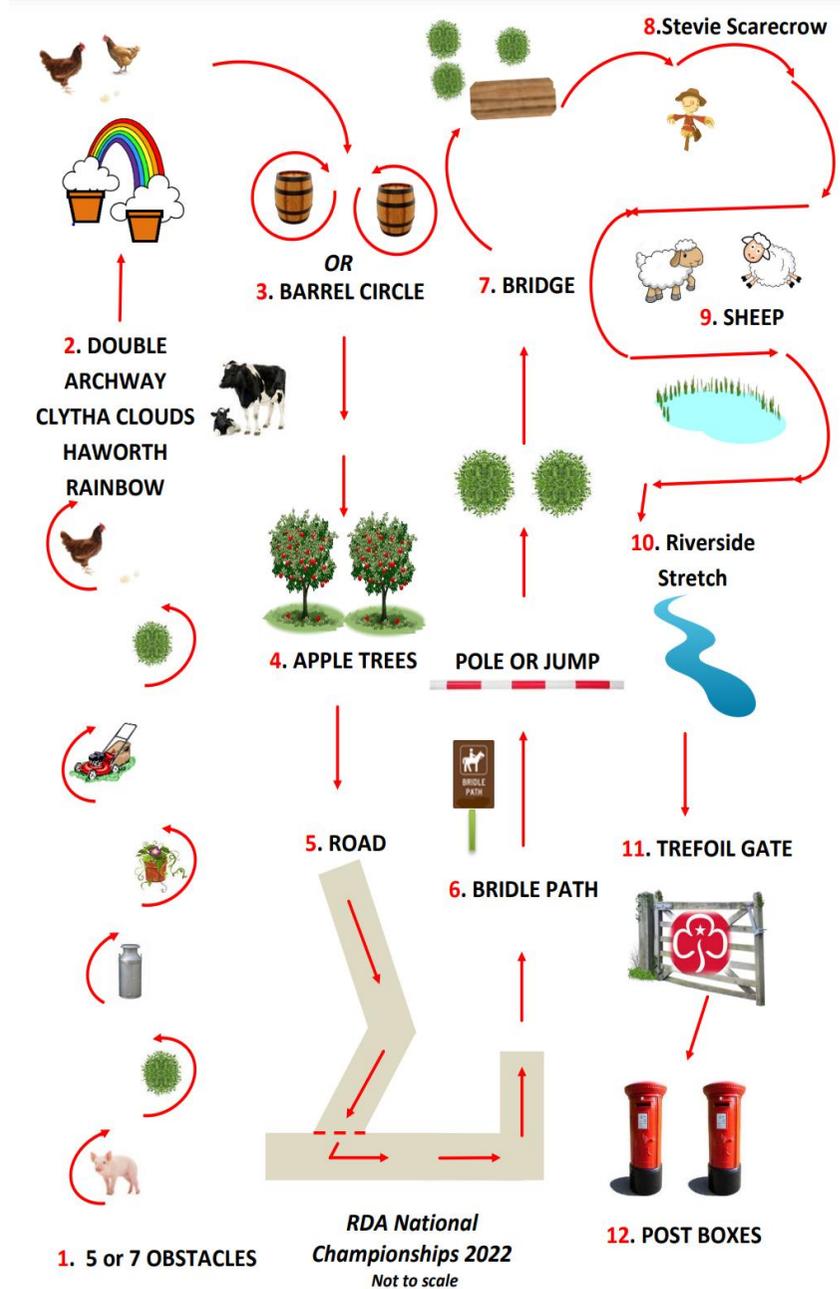
All riders and/or their carers must take responsibility for ensuring they are up to date with the rules, understand and adhere to them.

All riders, carers and supporters should recognise the valuable contribution made by all the officials, who are usually volunteers. They give their time and resources to enable the competition to happen.

All riders, carers and supporters must respect the officials and their decisions.

All those attending the competition should treat others with the same level of respect that they would expect to be shown to themselves

Everyone must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all: regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural back ground, religious beliefs or sexual identity.



2022 Course instructions - www.myrda.org.uk/assets/RDA-Countryside-Challenge-Course-Instructions

1. SEVEN OBSTACLES

Enter Arena Active walk to Seven Obstacles Bend around 7 numbered obstacles leaving first obstacles to the right (i.e. tyre, cone, feed sack, milk churn, small bin, flower pot and straw bale) placed at varying angles and distances. For led classes leaders must stay to the left of the obstacles, rider to demonstrate ability to steer pony/horse and maintain active walk.

6a

2. DOUBLE ARCHWAY CLYTHA CLOUDS HAWORTH RAINBOW

Walk between the arch uprights – These will be set on a curve. Central approach, & RIDER to keep central on the curve, maintain rhythm, looking for taking the correct route towards the centre line between the two barrels. (Leader/Sidewalker to walk between uprights)

3. BARRELS

Walk centrally between the two barrels and circle around EITHER the right OR left barrel. To be judged on accuracy, the shape of the circle and maintaining an active walk throughout.

4. APPLE TREES

Halt between Apple Trees. Pick up apple and drop into bucket. Rider to halt centrally, pick apple off one tree and using the same hand, drop into bucket on the opposite side. Effort to maintain square halt for apple picking, organisation of reins and overall control.

5. ROAD

Proceed along the road to "HALT" sign, halt for 6 seconds then turn left. Following the road turn left again. Leader to lead from the left side, leaders and side walkers must stay on the outside of the road. To be judged on accurate steering, rhythmical walk and up and down transitions. Horses head not to go beyond road line.

6. BRIDLE PATH Bridle path sign to shrub markers.

Please note that the rider must use the same option for both the Regional Qualifier and National Championships.

6a "WALK ONLY" Halt at bridle path sign, maintain a good square halt for 6 seconds and walk on, showing a good transition from halt to walk, walk centrally over pole showing a light seat position and maintaining a straight active walk throughout. Walk centrally between shrubs.

6b Begin Trot at bridle path sign to go forward into walk at shrub markers.

Proceed in sitting or rising trot, trot centrally over pole showing a light seat position. Attempt correct aids for transitions, these may include voice – walk between shrub markers.

6c Trot at bridle path sign, negotiate small jump (independent class only). Show correct position over jump and attempt correct aids for transitions these may include voice - walk between shrub markers.

7. SHRUB MARKERS

WALK CENTRALLY BETWEEN SHRUB MARKERS, Show correct route to bridge.

From centre of shrub markers show accurate steering to start of bridge in an active walk.

8. BRIDGE

WALK CENTRALLY OVER BRIDGE, Rider to maintain central position.

Leader/sidewalker walk over Bridge.

9. 3 LOOP SERPENTINE

SERPENTINE around – 1. SCARECROW > 2. SHEEP > 3. POND. Rider to show even accurate loops maintaining an active and regular pace.

10. RIVERSIDE WALK

Controlled walk stretching on a longer rein along the riverside. Show controlled free walk from start to track, reins to be shortened before leaving track demonstrating an ability to lengthen & shorten reins smoothly whilst maintaining control (Leader/sidewalker to stay outside track)

11. TREFOIL GATE

Walk from 'track', open gate and walk through. Thank Farmer. Correct parallel approach to gate. Open gate & walk through. No need to shut it. Reward pony/horse by patting or voice. Thank farmer by raising hand, nodding or voice

12. POSTBOX

The farmer will hand the rider (or side walker) a letter, Rider will take a letter and proceed to EITHER postbox, to show a positive approach & good transitions, HALT & Post letter, Pat or thank pony, gather reins walk on and leave the course.

UNICORN CENTRE NON-QUALIFIER COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE COMPETITION

From 2019, RDA Yorkshire & Cleveland Region, to which the Unicorn Centre belongs, have decided to alternate venues for the Countryside Challenge (A Farmyard Walk) Qualifier, when and where possible, between the Unicorn Centre and other suitable venues. This is to avoid the perceived advantage an RDA Group may have if they can use their own horses and ponies in qualifier competitions at their own venue year on year. As the Countryside Challenge has always been a very popular and well supported event at the Centre, we are holding our own NON-QUALIFIER competition on Sunday 29th May 2022 for Unicorn Centre registered participants only. The course will be set up for a couple of weeks beforehand so participants can practice in lessons as usual.

ANY QUERIES/QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK YOUR COACH

