

NORTHERN IRELAND FESTIVAL - TIMETABLE - FRIDAY 1st May 2026

BLUE RING ~ 8am

Horse Performance Working Hunter:

First phase only

Judge: Jasean Spraggett

Class 27: Horse Performance 70cms

Class 28: Horse Performance 80cms

Class 29: Irish Draught Performance 80cms

Judge: Tracey Brooks

Class 30: Horse Performance 90cms

Class 31: Irish Draught Performance 90cms

Class 32: Horse Performance 1.0m

CH 11: Horse Performance Working Hunter Championship to be held in the Friday evening performance (classes 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32)

Home Produced Working Hunter Horses:

Exhibits in these classes will not be ridden by the judge and will be required to give an individual display.

Judges: Daniel Tarpey / Beverley Moore

Class 33: Home Produced Working Hunter 75cms

Class 34: Home Produced Working Hunter 90cms

CH 12: Home Produced Working Hunter Horse Championship (Classes 33, 34).

Amateur Working Hunter Horses:

Exhibits in these classes will not be ridden by the judge and will be required to give an individual display.

Judges: Daniel Tarpey / Beverley Moore

Class 35: Amateur Working Hunter 75cms

Class 36: Amateur Working Hunter 90cms

CH 14: Amateur Working Hunter Horse Championship (Classes 35, 36).

BRONZE RING ~ 8am

Pony Performance Working Hunter:

First phase only for Ponies up to 158cms.

Judge: David Bennett

Class 63: Pony Performance 40cms

Class 22: Pony Performance 55cms

Class 23: Pony Performance 65cms

Judge: Nicki Oldershaw Glenn

Class 24: Pony Performance 75cms

Class 25: Pony Performance 85cms

Class 26: Pony Performance 95cms

CH 9: Pony Performance Working Hunter Championship to be held in the Friday evening performance (classes 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 63)

GREEN RING ~ 8am

Young Handlers:

Judge: Kathy Atkin Bowdler

Class 1: Young Handler, aged 7 to 10 years on 1st January in current year

Class 2: Young Handler, aged 11 to 16 years on 1st January in current year

CH 1: Young Handler Championship (Classes 1, 2)

Beginner Ridden:

Judge: Kathy Atkin Bowdler

Class 3: Tiny Tots Lead Rein Show Pony, Show Hunter Pony or M&M Pony. Pony not to exceed 122cms. Rider not to have attained their 6th birthday on 1st January in the current year.

Class 4: Tiny Tots First Ridden Show Pony / Show Hunter Pony (up to 122cms) or M&M Pony (up to 128cms). Rider not to have attained their 9th birthday on 1st January in the current year.

Class 5: First Year First Ridden Show Pony/ Show Hunter Pony (up to 122cms) or M&M Pony (up to 128cms). Rider not to have attained their 10th birthday on 1st January in the current year.

CH 2: Beginner Ridden Championship (Classes 3, 4, 5)

Part-Bred Ridden:

Judge: Martin Surman

Class 40: Part-Bred Ridden, up to 148cms

Class 41: Part-Bred Ridden, exceeding 148cms

CH 27: Part-Bred Ridden Championship (Classes 40, 41) Champion eligible to go forward to the relevant Ridden Horse (Sup 5) or Pony (Sup 6) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

Novice Mini M&M Pony:

Judge: Martin Surman

Class 42: Novice M&M Lead Rein

Class 43: Novice M&M First Ridden

CH 28: Novice Mini M&M Pony Championship (Classes 42, 43) Champion eligible to go forward to the Mini Novice Pony (Sup 1) Supreme Championship in the Saturday Evening Performance

Young Riders M&M Ridden:

Judge: Martin Surman

Class 37: Young Riders Intermediate Open M&M Ridden (any breed) Stallion, Mare or Gelding. Rider not exceeding 25 years.

Class 38: Young Riders, Open M&M Ridden Large Breeds Mare or Gelding. (Rider not exceeding 18 years).

Class 39: Young Riders, Open M&M Ridden Small Breeds Mare or Gelding. (Rider not exceeding 14 years)

CH 26: Young Riders M&M Ridden Championship (Classes 37, 38, 39). Champion eligible to compete in the M&M Pony (Sup 3) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

NORTHERN IRELAND FESTIVAL - TIMETABLE - FRIDAY 1st May 2026

GOLD RING ~ 8am

The Connemara Cup:

Judge: Joanne Dean

Class 143: Connemara Ridden Pony (Junior rider aged under 14 on 1st January in the current year)

Class 144: Connemara Ridden Pony (Junior rider aged 14 to 18 on 1st January in the current year)

Class 145: Connemara Ridden Pony (Adult rider aged over 18 on 1st January in the current year)

Class 146: 4/5 Year Old Connemara Ridden Pony (rider any age)

Class 147: Connemara Ridden Pony (rider any age)

CH 17: Connemara Cup Final (the first two from classes 143, 144, 145, 146, 147) to be held in the Friday Evening Performance.

Champion eligible to compete in the M&M Pony (Sup 3) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

Novice M&M Ridden:

Judge: Simon Poxton Marks

Class 44: Novice M&M Ridden Small Breeds

Class 45: Novice M&M Ridden Large Breeds

CH 29: Novice M&M Ridden Championship (Classes 44, 45)

Champion eligible to compete in the Novice (Sup 2) Supreme Championship in the Saturday Evening Performance

Pony Equitation:

Judge: Simon Poxton Marks

Only the rider is judged in these classes, not the pony - open to any pony - show class format (no jumping)

Class 6: Pony Equitation (rider up to 10 years on 1st January in current year)

Class 7: Pony Equitation (rider aged between 11 and 13 on 1st January in current year)

Class 8: Pony Equitation (rider aged between 14 and 16 on 1st January in current year)

CH 3: Pony Equitation Championship (Classes 6, 7, 8) to be held in the Friday Evening Performance

RED RING ~ 8am

Home Produced Horses:

Judges: Sarah Verdon / Zoe Moore Williams

Exhibits in these classes will not be ridden by the judge and will be required to give an individual display.

Class 11: Home Produced Ridden Hunter

Class 12: Home Produced Riding Horse

Class 13: Home Produced Ridden Cob

CH 5: Home Produced Ridden Horse Championship to be held in the Friday Evening Performance (Classes 11, 12, 13). Champion eligible to compete in the Ridden Horse (Sup 5) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

Amateur Ridden Horses:

Judges: Sarah Verdon / Zoe Moore Williams

Exhibits in these classes will not be ridden by the judge and will be required to give an individual display.

Class 14: Amateur Ridden Hunter

Class 15: Amateur Riding Horse

Class 16: Amateur Ridden Cob

CH 13: Amateur Ridden Horse Championship to be held in the Friday Evening Performance (Classes 14, 15, 16). Champion eligible to compete in the Ridden Horse (Sup 5) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

Ladies Side Saddle / Astride:
(not ridden by the judge)

Judges: Russell Marks / Niki Ross

Class 17: Ladies Hunter, to be ridden Astride

Class 18: Junior Side Saddle, up to 158cms, rider under 18 years

Class 19: Ladies Side Saddle

CH 6: Ladies Championship to be held in the Friday Evening Performance (Classes 17, 18, 19). Champion eligible to compete in the relevant Ridden Horse (Sup 5) or Pony (Sup 6) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

Racehorse to Riding Horse:

Judges: Zara Owen / Niki Ross

Class 20: Novice Racehorse to Riding Horse

Class 21: Open Racehorse to Riding Horse

CH 7: Racehorse to Riding Horse Championship (Classes 20, 21). Champion eligible to compete in the Ridden Horse (Sup 5) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

SILVER RING ~ 8am

Novice M&M Working Hunter Ponies:

Judges: Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen

Class 47: Novice M&M WH Pony not exceeding 122cms (58cms)

Class 48: Novice M&M WH Pony exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 133cms (69cms)

Class 49: Novice M&M WH Pony exceeding 133cms but not exceeding 143cms (84cms)

Class 50: Novice M&M WH Pony exceeding 143cms (90cms)

CH 33: Novice M&M WH Pony Championship to be held in the Friday Evening Performance (Classes 47, 48, 49, 50)

Beginner Working Hunter:

Judges: Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen

These classes are for true 'Beginner' WH Riders just starting to compete in WH classes. Riders who have won an Open WH class previously will not be eligible. Open to both plaited and M&M Ponies. Course made up of Six Fences.

Class 51: Lead Rein Working Hunter – Cross Poles. Pony not exceeding 122cms. Rider not to have attained their 9th birthday on 1st January in the current year

Class 52: First Ridden Working Hunter – Fences 30 – 40cms. Pony not exceeding 128cms. Rider not to have attained their 12th birthday on 1st January in the current year

Class 53: Assisted Working Hunter - Fences 25 - 30cms. Pony not exceeding 122cms. Rider not to have attained their 10th birthday on 1st January in the current year. Adult to go around with child but must not lead pony.

CH 8: Beginner Working Hunter Championship (classes 51, 52, 53)

Novice Mini Working Hunter Ponies:

Judge: Emma Rodman

Class 89: Novice Starter Stakes Working Hunter Pony (60cms)

Class 90: Novice Cradle Stakes Working Hunter Pony (55cms)

CH 35: Novice Mini WH Pony Championship (Classes 89, 90). Champion eligible to go forward to the Mini Novice Pony (Sup 1) Supreme Championship in the Saturday Evening Performance

Connemara Working Hunter Ponies:

Judges: Emma Rodman / Peter Bowdler

Class 54: Connemara Working Hunter Pony – Rider Under 16 years (84cms)

Class 55: Connemara Working Hunter Pony – Rider 16 years and Over (92cms)

CH 10: Connemara Working Hunter Pony Championship to be held in the Friday Evening Performance (Classes 54, 55). Champion eligible to compete in the M&M Pony (Sup 3) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance



FRIDAY EVENING PERFORMANCE ~ GOLD RING ~ 7.00pm

FANCY DRESS: - [Russell Marks / Simon Poxton Marks](#)

Class 9: Fancy Dress – up to 10 years

Class 10: Fancy Dress – over 10 years

CHAMPIONSHIPS

CH 4: Fancy Dress Championship (classes 9, 10) - [Russell Marks / Simon Poxton Marks](#)

CH 5: Home Produced Ridden Horse Championship (classes 11, 12, 13) -

[Sarah Verdon / Zoe Moore Williams](#)

CH 33: Novice M&M Working Hunter Championship (classes 47, 48, 49, 50) - [Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen](#)

CH 17: Connemara Cup Final (classes 143, 144, 145, 146, 147) - [Joanne Dean](#)

CH 13: Amateur Ridden Horse Championship (classes 14, 15, 16) - [Sarah Verdon / Zoe Moore Williams](#)

CH 10: Connemara Working Hunter Pony Championship (classes 54, 55) - [Emma Rodman / Peter Bowdler](#)

CH 3: Pony Equitation Championship (classes 6, 7, 8) - [Simon Poxton Marks](#)

CH 6: Ladies Championship (classes 17, 18, 19) - [Russell Marks / Niki Ross](#)

CH 9: Pony Performance Working Hunter Championship (classes 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 63) -

[David Bennett / Nicki Oldershaw Glenn](#)

CH 11: Horse Performance Working Hunter Championship (classes 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32) -

[Jasean Spraggett / Tracey Brooks](#)

NORTHERN IRELAND FESTIVAL - TIMETABLE - SATURDAY 2nd May 2026

BLUE RING ~ 8am	BRONZE RING ~ 8am	GREEN RING ~ 8am
<p>Novice Working Hunter Horses: <i>Judges: Zoe Moore Williams / David Bennett</i></p> <p>Class 81: Four Year Old Working Hunter Horse (70cms)</p> <p>Class 82: Novice Small Working Hunter Horse (height cert required for 158cms) (90cms)</p> <p>Class 83: Novice Working Hunter Horse (90cms)</p> <p>CH 36: Novice WH Horse Championship to be held in the Evening Performance (Classes 81, 82, 83)</p> <p>Cob Working Hunter: <i>Judges: Zoe Moore Williams / David Bennett</i></p> <p>Class 84: Cob Working Hunter (90cms)</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Festival Working Hunter Finals</u> Competitors must have qualified at one of the winter qualifying working hunter shows to be eligible to enter classes 401 - 415</p> <p><i>Judges: Daniel Tarpey / Jasean Spraggett</i></p> <p>Class 401: Festival 4 Year Old Working Hunter Horse Final (passport will be required to confirm horse foaled in 2022 (75cm))</p> <p>Class 402: Festival 80cms Working Hunter Horse Final</p> <p>The top 10 competitors in each of Classes 401 and 402 will be required to come forward in the Saturday Evening Performance for the final placings.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Horse of the Year Show Qualifier</p> </div> <p>Class 305 Entry fee includes a £20 HOYS contribution</p> <p><i>Judges: David Bennett (r) / Kathy Atkin Bowdler (c)</i></p> <p>Class 305: Alan Marnie & Family (Meta Lounge Limited and SHB (GB)) Working Hunter of the Year Championship (max 114cm)</p>	<p>Novice Working Hunter Ponies: <i>Judges: Jasean Spraggett / Sarah Verdon</i></p> <p>Class 85: Novice Intermediate Working Hunter Pony not exceeding 158cms (1m)</p> <p>Class 86: Novice 153cms Working Hunter Pony (90cms)</p> <p>Class 87: Novice 143cms Working Hunter Pony (85cms)</p> <p>Class 88: Novice 133cms Working Hunter Pony (75cms)</p> <p>CH 34: Novice Working Hunter Pony Championship to be held in the Evening Performance (Classes 85, 86, 87, 88)</p> <p>Restricted Performance Jumping: First phase only - for horses and ponies who have NOT previously qualified for a jumping class at Horse of the Year Show, London International Horse Show or Dublin Horse Show <i>Judge: Simon Poxton Marks</i></p> <p>Class 148: Horses 90cm Restricted Performance Jumping</p> <p>Class 149: Horses 80cm Restricted Performance Jumping</p> <p>Class 150: Ponies (up to 158cms) - 80cm Restricted Performance Jumping</p> <p>Class 151: Ponies (up to 158cms) - 70cm Restricted Performance Jumping</p> <p>CH 23: Restricted Performance Jumping Championship (classes 148, 149, 150, 151)</p>	<p>Novice Intermediate Ponies: <i>Judge: Emma Rodman</i></p> <p>Class 56: Novice Intermediate SHT</p> <p>Class 57: Novice Intermediate SRT</p> <p>CH 20: Novice Intermediate Championship (Classes 56, 57) Champion eligible to compete in the Novice (Sup 2) Supreme Championship in the Saturday Evening Performance</p> <p>Novice Show Hunter Ponies: <i>Judge: Emma Rodman</i></p> <p>Class 58: Novice 153cms Show Hunter Pony</p> <p>Class 59: Novice 143cms Show Hunter Pony</p> <p>Class 60: Novice 133cms Show Hunter Pony</p> <p>Class 61: Novice 122cms Show Hunter Pony</p> <p>CH 21: Novice Show Hunter Pony Championship (Classes 58, 59, 60, 61) Champion eligible to compete in the Novice (Sup 2) Supreme Championship in the Saturday Evening Performance</p> <p>Novice Mini Show Ponies: <i>Judge: Nicki Oldershaw Glenn</i></p> <p>Class 65: Novice Show Pony Lead Rein</p> <p>Class 66: Novice Show Pony First Ridden</p> <p>CH 24: Novice Mini Show Pony Championship (Classes 65 - 66) Champion eligible to go forward to the Mini Novice Pony (Sup 1) Supreme Championship in the Saturday Evening Performance.</p> <p>Mini Part Bred Ridden Ponies: <i>Judge: Nicki Oldershaw Glenn</i></p> <p>Class 67: Part-Bred Lead Rein</p> <p>Class 68: Part-Bred First Ridden</p> <p>CH 25: Part-Bred Mini Championship (Classes 67, 68) Champion eligible to go forward to the Mini Open Pony (Sup 4) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.</p> <p>Novice Connemara Ridden Ponies: <i>Judge: Nicki Oldershaw Glenn</i></p> <p>Class 112: Novice Connemara Ridden Pony (rider under 18 on 1st January in current year)</p> <p>Class 113: Novice Connemara Ridden Pony (rider 18 or over on 1st January in current year)</p> <p>CH: 49: Novice Connemara Ridden Pony Championship (Classes 112, 113)</p>

NORTHERN IRELAND FESTIVAL - TIMETABLE - SATURDAY 2nd May 2026

GOLD RING ~ 9am

NIF Connemara Pony of the Year Competition

Judge: Martin Surman

Class 130: Connemara Ridden Pony (stallions)

Class 131: Connemara Ridden Pony (geldings)

Class 132: Connemara Ridden Pony (mares)

Class 133: Connemara Ridden Pony (4/5 year olds)

Class 134: Connemara Ridden Pony (junior rider aged under 18 on 1st January in the current year)

Class 135: Connemara Ridden Pony (adult rider aged 18 or over on 1st January in the current year)

Class 136: Connemara Ridden Pony (veteran pony aged 15 or over on 1st January in the current year)

The winner and runner up of classes 130 to 136 qualify for CH19: NIF Connemara Pony of the Year to be held in the Saturday Evening Performance.

Champion eligible to compete in the M&M Pony (Sup 3) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

Novice Mini Show Hunter Ponies:

Judge: Beverley Moore

Class 122: Novice Show Hunter Pony Lead Rein

Class 123: Novice Show Hunter Pony First Ridden

CH 22: Novice Mini SH Pony Championship (Classes 122, 123) Champion eligible to go forward to the Mini Novice Pony (Sup 1) Supreme Championship in the Saturday Evening Performance.

Novice Show Ponies:

Judge: Beverley Moore

Class 62: Novice Show Pony combined heights to 148cms.

Pony Equitation:

Judge: Emma Rodman

Only the rider is judged in these classes, not the pony - open to any pony under 158cms - show class format (no jumping)

Class 138: Pony Equitation (rider under 16 years on 1st January in current year)

Class 139: Pony Equitation (rider aged 16 or over on 1st January in current year)

CH 48: Pony Equitation Championship (classes 138, 139)



Horse of the Year Show Qualifier

Class 306 Entry fee includes a £20 HOYS contribution

Judge: Mark Sheen / Beverley Moore

Class 306: National Pony Society/Supreme Products Mountain & Moorland Ridden Connemara Pony of the Year

RED RING ~ 9am

Ridden Mares:

Judges: Tracey Brooks / Peter Bowdler

Class 69: Ridden Horse, Mares only
1st & 2nd placed competitors are eligible to enter CH 37 Open Ridden Hunter Championship on Sunday or CH 38 Open Riding Horse Championship on Sunday

Irish Draught:

Judges: Tracey Brooks / Peter Bowdler

Class 70: Registered Ridden Irish Draught Horse

Novice Ridden Horses:

Judges: Tracey Brooks / Peter Bowdler

Class 71: 4 Year Old Ridden Hunter Horse

Class 72: Novice Small Hunter Horse

Class 73: Novice Hunter Horse

Class 74: Novice Riding Horse

Class 46: Novice Cob

CH 30: Novice Ridden Horse Championship to be held in the Evening Performance (Classes 46, 71, 72, 73, 74)

Coloured Horses & Ponies:

Judges: Mark Sheen / Niki Ross

Class 75: Coloured Ridden Horse, exceeding 153cms (TSR qualifier)

Class 76: Coloured Ridden Pony, not exceeding 153cms (TSR qualifier)

CH 31: Coloured Horse / Pony Championship (Classes 75, 76).
Champion eligible to compete in the relevant Horse (Sup 5) or Pony (Sup 6) Supreme Championship in the Sunday evening performance

Veteran Ridden Horses & Ponies:

Judge: Russell Marks

Class 77: Ridden Veteran Horse (horse to have attained the age of 15 years on 1st January in the current year)

Class 78: Ridden Veteran Pony (pony to have attained the age of 15 years on 1st January in the current year – Ponies not to exceed 153cms - Lead reins allowed)

Class 79: Senior Ridden Veteran Horse (horse to have attained the age of 20 years on 1st January in the current year)

Class 80: Senior Ridden Veteran Pony (pony to have attained the age of 20 years on 1st January in the current year – Ponies not to exceed 153cms - Lead reins allowed)

CH 32: Veteran Ridden Championship to be held in the Evening Performance (classes 77, 78, 79, 80) Champion eligible to compete in the relevant Ridden Horse (Sup 5) or Pony (Sup 6) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

SILVER RING ~ 8am



Horse of the Year Show Qualifiers

Classes 301 - 305 Entry fee includes a £20 HOYS contribution

Judges: Joanne Dean (c) / Russell Marks (j)

Class 301: 133cm National Pony Society / Mole Valley Farmers Working Hunter Pony of the Year (Ponies not exceeding 133cm. Riders not to have attained their 14th birthday before 1st January in the current year) - (jumps 80cm - 90cm)

Class 302: 143cm National Pony Society / Mole Valley Farmers Working Hunter Pony of the Year (Ponies exceeding 133cm and not exceeding 143cm. Riders not to have attained their 17th birthday before 1st January in the current year) (jumps 90cm - 100cm)

Class 303: 153cm National Pony Society / Mole Valley Farmers Working Hunter Pony of the Year (Ponies exceeding 143cm and not exceeding 153cm. Riders not to have attained their 20th birthday before 1st January in the current year) (jumps 95cm - 105cm)

Class 304: National Pony Society / Mole Valley Farmers Intermediate Working Hunter Pony of the Year (Intermediates exceeding 148cm and not exceeding 158cm, Riders not to have attained their 25th birthday before 1st January in the current year) (jumps 105cm - 115cm)

CH15: Horse of the Year Working Hunter Qualifiers Championship (plated) (Classes 301-305) will take place during the Saturday Evening Performance.

Northern Ireland Festival Working Hunter Finals

Competitors must have qualified at one of the winter qualifying working hunter shows to be eligible to enter classes 401 – 415.

Judges: Sally Jones Percival / Sarah Verdon

Class 407: Festival M&M WH Pony – Exceeding 143cms (1m)

Class 408: Festival M&M WH Pony – Exceeding 133cms but not exceeding 143cms (90cms)

Class 409: Festival M&M WH Pony – Exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 133cms (80cms)

Class 410: Festival M&M WH Pony – Not exceeding 122cms (65cms)

The top 10 competitors in each Class will be required to come forward in the Saturday Evening Performance for the final placings.



Hobby Horse 6.30pm

'Show Us Your Best Moves' - Under 10's, 10-18 year old's, Adults
Pick up a free number from the show office on Saturday

SATURDAY EVENING PERFORMANCE - GOLD RING - 7.00pm

CHAMPIONSHIPS:

CH 34: Novice Working Hunter Pony Championship
(classes 85, 86, 87, 88) - [Jasean Spraggett / Sarah Verdon](#)

CH 36: Novice Horse Working Hunter Championship
(classes 81, 82, 83) - [Zoe Moore Williams / Nicki Oldershaw Glenn](#)

CH 15: Horse of the Year Show Working Hunter Qualifiers Championship
(classes 301, 302, 303, 304, 305) - [Joanne Dean / Russell Marks / David Bennett / Kathy Atkin Bowdler](#)

CH 30: Novice Ridden Horse Championship
(classes 46, 71, 72, 73, 74) - [Tracey Brooks / Peter Bowdler](#)

CH 32: Veteran Ridden Championship - (*The Arabian Knight Memorial Trophy*)
(classes 77, 78, 79, 80) (VHS Golden Ticket to Champion and Reserve) (TSR qualifier) - [Russell Marks](#)

CH 19: NIF Connemara Pony of the Year Championship
(classes 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136) - [Martin Surman](#)

Northern Ireland Festival Working Hunter Finals

Class 401: Festival 4 Year Old Working Hunter Horse - [Daniel Tarpey / Jasean Spraggett](#)

Class 402: Festival 80cms Working Hunter Horse - [Daniel Tarpey / Jasean Spraggett](#)

Class 407: M&M Working Hunter Pony exceeding 143cms - [Sally Jones Percival / Sarah Verdon](#)

Class 408: M&M Working Hunter Pony not exceeding 143cms -
[Sally Jones Percival / Sarah Verdon](#)

Class 409: M&M Working Hunter Pony not exceeding 133cms -
[Sally Jones Percival / Sarah Verdon](#)

Class 410: M&M Working Hunter Pony not exceeding 122cms -
[Sally Jones Percival / Sarah Verdon](#)

The First Placed Horse or Pony in the Festival Working Hunter finals (classes 401 to 415) are eligible to compete in the Festival Supreme (Sup 7) Working Hunter Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

SUPREME CHAMPIONSHIPS:

SUP 1: Mini Novice Champion of Champions
(Champion from CH 22, 24, 28, 35)

[Beverley Moore / Nicki Oldershaw Glenn / Martin Surman / Emma Rodman](#)

SUP 2: Novice Supreme Championship
(Champion from CH 20, 21, 29, 30, 33, 34, 36)

[Emma Rodman / Simon Poxton Marks / Zara Owen / Peter Bowdler / Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen / Jasean Spraggett / Sarah Verdon / Zoe Moore Williams / David Bennett](#)

NORTHERN IRELAND FESTIVAL - TIMETABLE - SUNDAY 3rd May 2026

BLUE RING ~ 8am

Northern Ireland Festival Working Hunter Finals

Competitors must have qualified at one of the winter qualifying working hunter shows to be eligible to enter classes 401 – 415.

Judges: Jasean Spraggett / Niki Ross / Tracey Brooks

Class 403: Festival Small Working Hunter Horse (height certificate required for 158cms) (95cms)

Class 404: Festival 90cms Working Hunter Horse

Class 405: Festival 1m Working Hunter Horse

Class 406: Festival 1.10m Working Hunter Horse

The top 10 competitors in each of Classes 401 - 415 will be required to come forward in the Sunday Evening Performance for the final placings.

BRONZE RING ~ 8am

The 'Perfect Performance' Working Hunter Trophy

Pony Performance Working Hunter. First phase only for Ponies up to 158cms.

Judge: David Bennett

Class 114: Pony Performance 60cms

Class 124: Pony Performance 70cms

Class 125: Pony Performance 80cms

Class 126: Pony Performance 90cms

CH16 The 'Perfect' Performance Working Hunter Trophy Championship (ponies) (classes 114, 124, 125, 126)

Horse Performance Working Hunter. First phase only

Judge: Zara Owen

Class 140: Horse Performance 70cms

Class 127: Horse Performance 80cms

Class 128: Horse Performance 90cms

Class 129: Horse Performance 1.0m

CH18 The 'Perfect' Performance Working Hunter Trophy Championship (horses) (classes 127, 128, 129, 140)

GREEN RING ~ 8am

Open M&M ridden Ponies:

Judge: Emma Rodman

Class 110: Open Small M&M Ridden Ponies (TSR qualifier)

Class 111: Open Large M&M Ridden Ponies (TSR qualifier)

CH 44: Open M&M Ridden Championship (Classes 110, 111)

Champion eligible to compete in the M&M Pony (Sup 3) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

Open Show Ponies:

Judge: Emma Rodman

Class 115: 128cms Open Ridden Show Pony

Class 116: 138cms Open Ridden Show Pony

Class 117: 148cms Open Ridden Show Pony

CH 45: Open Show Pony Championship (Classes 115, 116, 117) (TSR qualifier)

Champion eligible to compete in the Pony (Sup 6) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

Mini M&M Ponies:

Judge: Simon Poxton Marks

Class 118: Open M&M Lead Rein (TSR qualifier)

Class 119: Open M&M First Ridden (TSR qualifier)

CH 46: Mini M&M Championship (Classes 118, 119) Champion eligible to go forward to the Mini Pony (Sup 4) Supreme Championship in the Evening Performance

Connemara Ridden Ponies:

Judge: Simon Poxton Marks

Class 120: Connemara Ridden – Rider Under 16 years

Class 121: Connemara Ridden – Rider Over 16 years

CH 47: Connemara Ridden Pony Championship (Classes 120, 121)

Champion eligible to compete in the M&M Pony (Sup 3) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

Open Intermediate Ponies:

Judge: Simon Poxton Marks

Class 108: Open Intermediate Show Hunter Type Pony

Class 109: Open Intermediate Show Riding Type Pony

CH 43: Open Intermediate Championship (Classes 108, 109)

Champion eligible to compete in the Pony (Sup 6) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

NORTHERN IRELAND FESTIVAL - TIMETABLE - SUNDAY 3rd May 2026

GOLD RING ~ 8am

Mini Open Show Ponies:

Judge: Martin Surman

Class 100: Open Show Pony Lead Rein (TSR qualifier)

Class 101: Open Show Pony First Ridden (TSR qualifier)

CH 40: Mini Show Pony Championship (Classes 100, 101)

Champion eligible to go forward to the Open Mini Pony (Sup 4) Supreme Championship in the Evening Performance

Mini Open Show Hunter Ponies:

Judge: Martin Surman

Class 102: Open Show Hunter Pony Lead Rein

Class 103: Open Show Hunter Pony First Ridden

CH 41: Mini Show Hunter Pony Championship

(Classes 102, 103) Champion eligible to go forward to the Open Mini Pony (Sup 4) Supreme Championship in the Evening Performance

Pony Equitation:

Judge: Martin Surman

Only the rider is judged in these classes, not the pony - open to any pony under 158cms - show class format (no jumping)

Class 154: Pony Equitation (rider under 10 years on 1st January in current year)

Class 155: Pony Equitation (rider aged under 14 years on 1st January in current year)

CH 51: Pony Equitation Championship (classes 154, 155)

Open Show Hunter Ponies:

Judge: Joanne Dean

Class 104: Open Ridden 122cms Show Hunter Pony

Class 105: Open Ridden 133cms Show Hunter Pony

Class 106: Open Ridden 143cms Show Hunter Pony

Class 107: Open Ridden 153cms Show Hunter Pony

CH 42: Open Show Hunter Pony Championship (Classes 104, 105, 106, 107)

Champion eligible to compete in the Pony (Sup 6) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance



Horse of the Year Show Qualifier

Entry fee includes a £20 HOYS contribution

Veteran Ridden

Judges: Martin Surman / Michelle Pickford

Class 307: Ridden Pre Veteran (15–19 years).

Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Class 308: Ridden Veteran (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Class 309: Ridden Diamond Veteran (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

CH 52: Veteran Ridden (classes 307, 308, 309). Champion qualifies for Horse of the Year Show.

RED RING ~ 8am

Ridden Hunters:

Judges: Daniel Tarpey / Sarah Verdon

Class 91: Small Hunter (height certificate required for 158cms)

Class 92: Lightweight Hunter

Class 93: Middleweight Hunter

Class 94: Heavyweight Hunter

CH 37: Open Ridden Hunter Championship (Classes 91, 92, 93, 94) (TSR qualifier)

Champion eligible to compete in the Horse (Sup 5) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

Riding Horses:

Judges: Daniel Tarpey / Sarah Verdon

Class 95: Small Riding Horse

Class 96: Large Riding Horse

CH 38: Open Riding Horse Championship (Classes 95, 96) (TSR qualifier)

Champion eligible to compete in the Horse (Sup 5) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance

Ridden Cobs:

Judges: Zoe Moore Williams / Beverley Moore

Class 97: Lightweight Ridden Cob

Class 98: Heavyweight Ridden Cob

Class 99: Maxi Ridden Cob (over 155cms)

Class 137: Traditional Gypsy Cob

CH 39: Open Ridden Cob Championship - **The Countess Cup donated by Jennifer Kennedy** (Classes 97, 98, 99, 137) (TSR qualifier)

Champion Horse eligible to compete in the Horse (Sup 5) Supreme Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

If a pony from class 137 goes Champion, they go into the Pony (Sup 6)

Championship in the Sunday Evening Performance.

SILVER RING ~ 8am

Northern Ireland Festival Working Hunter Finals

Competitors must have qualified at one of the winter qualifying working hunter shows to be eligible to enter classes 401 – 415.

Judges: Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen

Class 411: Festival Cradle Stakes Working Hunter Pony (67cms)

Class 412: Festival Starter/Nursery Stakes Working Hunter Pony (75cms)

Class 413: Festival 133cms Working Hunter Pony (90cms)

Class 414: Festival 143cms Working Hunter Pony (1m)

Class 415: Festival 153cms Working Hunter Pony (1.05m)

The top 10 competitors in each of Classes 104 – 116 will be required to come forward in the Sunday Evening Performance for the final placings.

Restricted Performance Jumping:

First phase only - for horses and ponies who have NOT previously qualified for a jumping class at Horse of the Year Show, London International Horse Show or Dublin Horse Show

Judge: Kathy Atkin Bowdler

Class 141: Horses 70cm Restricted Performance Jumping

Class 142: Horses 80cm Restricted Performance Jumping

Class 152: Ponies (up to 158cms) - 60cm Restricted Performance Jumping

Class 153: Ponies (up to 158cms) - 70cm Restricted Performance Jumping

CH 50: Restricted Performance Jumping Championship (classes 141, 142, 152, 153)



SUNDAY EVENING PERFORMANCE - GOLD RING - 5.00pm

Northern Ireland Festival Working Hunter Finals

- Class 411:** Cradle Stakes Working Hunter Pony - [Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen](#)
Class 403: Small Working Hunter Horse - [Jasean Spraggett / Emma Rodman / Niki Ross](#)
Class 412: Starter Stakes Working Hunter Pony - [Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen](#)
Class 404: 90cms Working Hunter Horse - [Jasean Spraggett / Emma Rodman / Niki Ross](#)
Class 413: 133cms Working Hunter Pony - [Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen](#)
Class 405: 1m Working Hunter Horse - [Jasean Spraggett / Emma Rodman / Niki Ross](#)
Class 414: 143cms Working Hunter Pony - [Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen](#)
Class 406: 1.10m Working Hunter Horse - [Jasean Spraggett / Emma Rodman / Niki Ross](#)
Class 415: 153cms Working Hunter Pony - [Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen](#)

OPEN RIDDEN SUPREME CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- SUP 3:** M&M Pony Supreme Championship
(Champion from CH 10, 17, 19, 26, 44, 47)
[Emma Rodman / Peter Bowdler / Joanne Dean / Martin Surman / Simon Poxton Marks / Tracey Brooks](#)
- SUP 4:** Mini Pony Supreme Championship
(Champion from CH 25, 40, 41, 46)
[Nicki Oldershaw Glenn / Martin Surman / Simon Poxton Marks](#)
- SUP 5:** Ridden Horse Supreme Championship
(Champion from CH 5, 6, 7, 13, 27, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39) [Sarah Verdon / Zoe Moore Williams / Zara Owen / Niki Ross / Martin Surman / Mark Sheen / Russell Marks / Daniel Tarpey / Beverley Moore](#)
- SUP 6:** Ridden Pony Supreme Championship
(Champion from CH 6, 27, 31, 32, 39, 42, 43, 45)
[Zara Owen / Niki Ross / Martin Surman / Mark Sheen / Russell Marks / Joanne Dean / Zoe Moore Williams / Beverley Moore / Simon Poxton Marks / Emma Rodman](#)

FESTIVAL WORKING HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- SUP 7:** Festival Supreme Working Hunter Championships
Ponies (winners of classes 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415) -
[Sally Jones Percival / Sarah Verdon / Mark Sheen / Cate Sheen](#)
Horses (winners of classes 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406) -
[Daniel Tarpey / Jasean Spraggett / Tracey Brooks / Niki Ross](#)

Championships and Supreme Championships Index

- CH 1:** Young Handler Championship (Classes 1, 2)
- CH 2:** Beginner Ridden Championship (Classes 3, 4, 5)
- CH 3:** Pony Equitation Championship (Classes 6, 7, 8)
- CH 4:** Fancy Dress Championship (Classes 9, 10)
- CH 5:** Home Produced Ridden Horse Championship (Classes 11, 12, 13)
- CH 6:** Ladies Championship (Classes 17, 18, 19)
- CH 7:** Racehorse to Riding Horse Championship (Classes 20, 21)
- CH 8:** Beginner Working Hunter Championship (Classes 51, 52, 53)
- CH 9:** Pony Performance Working Hunter Championship (classes 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 63)
- CH 10:** Connemara Working Hunter Pony Championship (Classes 54, 55)
- CH 11:** Horse Performance Working Hunter Championship (Classes 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32)
- CH 12:** Home Produced Working Hunter Horse Championship (Classes 33, 34)
- CH 13:** Amateur Ridden Horse Championship (Classes 14, 15, 16)
- CH 14:** Amateur Working Hunter Championship
- CH 15:** Horse of the Year Show Qualifiers Working Hunter Championship (Classes 301, 302, 303, 304, 305)
- CH 16:** The 'Perfect' Performance Working Hunter Trophy (ponies) (Classes 114, 124, 125, 126)
- CH 17:** The Connemara Cup Final (classes 143, 144, 145, 146, 147)
- CH 18:** The 'Perfect' Performance Working Hunter Trophy (horses) (Classes 127, 128, 129, 140)
- CH 19:** NIF Connemara Pony of the Year Championship (Classes 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136)
- CH 20:** Novice Intermediate Championship (Classes 56, 57)
- CH 21:** Novice Show Hunter Pony Championship (Classes 58, 59, 60, 61)
- CH 22:** Novice Mini SH Pony Championship (Classes 122, 123)
- CH 23:** Restricted Performance Jumping Championship (classes 148, 149, 150, 151)
- CH 24:** Novice Mini Show Pony Championship (Classes 65, 66)
- CH 25:** Part-Bred Mini Championship (Classes 67, 68)
- CH 26:** Young Riders M&M Ridden Championship (Classes 37, 38, 39)
- CH 27:** Part-Bred Ridden Championship (Classes 40, 41)
- CH 28:** Novice Mini M&M Pony Championship (Classes 42, 43)
- CH 29:** Novice M&M Ridden Championship (Classes 44, 45)
- CH 30:** Novice Ridden Horse Championship (Classes 46, 71, 72, 73, 74)
- CH 31:** Coloured Horse / Pony Championship (Classes 75, 76)
- CH 32:** Veteran Ridden Championship (Classes 77, 78, 79, 80)
- CH 33:** Novice M&M WH Pony Championship (Classes 47, 48, 49, 50)
- CH 34:** Novice Working Hunter Pony Championship (Classes 85, 86, 87, 88)
- CH 35:** Novice Mini WH Pony Championship (Classes 89, 90)
- CH 36:** Novice WH Horse Championship (Classes 81, 82, 83)
- CH 37:** Open Ridden Hunter Championship (Classes 69, 91, 92, 93, 94)
- CH 38:** Open Riding Horse Championship (Classes 69, 95, 96)
- CH 39:** Open Ridden Cob Championship (Classes 97, 98, 99, 137)
- CH 40:** Mini Show Pony Championship (Classes 100, 101)
- CH 41:** Mini Show Hunter Pony Championship (Classes 102, 103)
- CH 42:** Open Show Hunter Pony Championship (Classes 104, 105, 106, 107)
- CH 43:** Open Intermediate Championship (Classes 108, 109)
- CH 44:** Open M&M Ridden Championship (Classes 110, 111)
- CH 45:** Open Show Pony Championship (Classes 115, 116, 117)
- CH 46:** Mini M&M Championship (Classes 118, 119)
- CH 47:** Connemara Ridden Pony Championship (Classes 120, 121)
- CH 48:** Pony Equitation Championship (Classes 138, 139)
- CH 49:** Novice Connemara Ridden Pony Championship (Classes 112, 113)
- CH 50:** Restricted Performance Jumping Championship (classes 141, 142, 152, 153)
- CH 51:** Pony Equitation Championship (classes 154, 155)
- CH 52:** Horse of the Year Show Qualifier Veteran Ridden (classes 307, 308, 309)

Supreme Championships:

- SUP 1:** Mini Novice Champion of Champions (Champion from CH 22, 24, 28, 35)
- SUP 2:** Novice Supreme Championship (Champion from CH 20, 21, 29, 30, 33, 34, 36)
- SUP 3:** M&M Pony Supreme Championship (Champion from CH 17, 19, 26, 44, 47)
- SUP 4:** Mini Pony Supreme Championship (Champion from CH 25, 40, 41, 46)
- SUP 5:** Ridden Horse Supreme Championship (Champion from CH 5, 6, 7, 27, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39)
- SUP 6:** Ridden Pony Supreme Championship (Champion from CH 6, 10, 27, 31, 32, 42, 43, 45)
- SUP 7:** Festival Supreme Working Hunter Championships (Winners of classes 401-415)

Qualifiers Information

Horse of the Year Show 2026 (7th - 11th October - NEC Birmingham)

Classes 301-309 entry fee includes a **£20** HOYS contribution

Ponies / Horses / Riders / Owners that are resident in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland and are competing in the HOYS qualifiers at NIF DO NOT need to belong to any of the HOYS approved societies.

Should a combination qualify for the Horse of the Year Show, Ponies / Horses / Riders / Owners will need to join one of the HOYS approved societies (NPS, Ponies UK, The Showing Register, BSPS, BSHA, Sport Horse Breeding GB, Veteran Horse Society) within seven days of qualification.

If you qualify for the Horse of the Year Show at the NEC in October your animal will also need a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner.

National Pony Society / Mole Valley Farmers Working Hunter Pony Of The Year (classes 301 - 304)

This competition is open to mares and geldings, four years old or over. Ponies must be registered with either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS. Riders and Owners must be members of either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS. Exhibitors are required by DEFRA to carry with them Official Identity Documents for all horses/ponies when competing or travelling. Competitors are reminded that it is a DEFRA requirement that the Official Identity Documents must be in the name of the legal owner within 30 days of ownership. This must be registered with the breed society, relevant studbook or ID issuing agency, dependant on breed/type of animal. Spot checks may be carried out at qualifying shows and by breed societies. This class is divided into four sections as follows:

Section A Ponies not exceeding 133cm. Riders not to have attained their 14th birthday before 1st January in the current year.

Section B Ponies exceeding 133cm and not exceeding 143cm. Riders not to have attained their 17th birthday before 1st January in the current year.

Section C Ponies exceeding 143cm and not exceeding 153cm. Riders not to have attained their 20th birthday before 1st January in the current year.

Section D Intermediates exceeding 148cm and not exceeding 158cms, Riders not to have attained their 25th birthday before 1st January in the current year.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in the Horse of the Year Show rulebook, a copy of which can be downloaded from www.hoys.co.uk. This is a Horse of the Year Show Qualifier, all data given upon entry of this class is provided to Grandstand Media Limited and stored on the Grandstand Entries System. For full policy details please visit www.grandstandentries.com.

Marks will be awarded in the following way:

PHASE I (70 MARKS)

A: JUMPING POINTS 50 MARKS

B: STYLE WHILE JUMPING 20 MARKS

PHASE II (30 MARKS)

C: CONFORMATION, TYPE AND FREEDOM OF ACTION 20 MARKS

D: MANNERS & WAY OF GOING 10 MARKS

In the event of equality the TOTAL MARK from Phase 1 will take precedence, followed by the MANNERS Mark, and then the CONFORMATION, TYPE and FREEDOM OF ACTION MARK.

This class is a qualifying class for Horse of the Year Show, NEC, Birmingham, 7th - 11th October 2026. Qualification will not pass below 5th Place. Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

Alan Marnie & Family (Meta Lounge Limited and SHB (GB)) Working Hunter of the Year (class 305)

This competition is for Working Hunters, any weight, mares, geldings or stallions (competing stallions must have a red, white and blue ribbon displayed in their tail) four years old or over, exceeding 148cms, to be ridden. Any horse which has qualified as a Grade A Show Jumper or Advanced Event Horse as at 1st January in the current year is not eligible to compete in Working Hunter classes. All Riders, Owners and Producers must be Members of the British Show Horse Association, The Showing Register or Sport Horse Breeding GB. Horses must be registered with the British Show Horse Association, The Showing Register or Sport Horse Breeding GB. Exhibitors are required by DEFRA to carry with them Official Identity Documents for all horses/ponies when competing or travelling. Competitors are reminded that it is a DEFRA requirement that the Official Identity Documents must be in the name of the legal owner within 30 days of ownership. This must be registered with the breed society, relevant studbook or ID issuing agency, dependant on breed/type of animal. Spot checks may be carried out at qualifying shows and by breed societies. Fences will not exceed 1.15m (3ft 9ins) in height, there should be a minimum of 8 fences and a maximum of 12 fences. The course must contain a combination and should contain a water tray. This class will be judged in two parts. Part One (Jumping) will be judged first, without a jump-off. All clear rounds and any other horses the judges may require will go forward to the next part. A rider can ride up to two horses in the jumping phase but then must select only one horse to take forward into the ride and conformation section if so required (no change of rider is allowed). This class will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in the Horse of the Year Show rule book, a copy of which can be downloaded from www.hoys.co.uk.

This is a Horse of the Year Show Qualifier, all data given upon entry of this class is provided to Grandstand Media Limited and stored on the Grandstand Entries System. For full policy details please visit www.grandstandentries.com.

Marks must be awarded in the following way:

PHASE I (60 MARKS)

- A: JUMPING POINTS 40 MARKS
- B: STYLE WHILE JUMPING 20 MARKS

PHASE II (40 MARKS)

- C: CONFORMATION 20 MARKS
- D: RIDE 20 MARKS

In the event of equality the CONFORMATION MARK from Phase II will take precedence, followed by the RIDE MARK, and then the STYLE MARK.

This class is a qualifying class for Horse of the Year Show, NEC, Birmingham, 7th - 11th October 2026. Qualification will not pass below 3rd place, with the exception of the BSHA National Championship show. Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

National Pony Society / Supreme Products Mountain & Moorland Ridden Connemara Pony of the Year (class 306)

This competition is open to stallions, mares and geldings, four years old and over, to be registered in, and complying with the showing requirements of, the main body of their respective stud books. Riders and Owners must be members of their respective Breed Society, NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, The Showing Register or BSPS. Ponies must not exceed the height limits as stipulated by the relevant Breed Societies. Riders of stallions must have obtained their 12th Birthday (small breeds) or 14th birthday (large breeds) before 1st January in the current year. Exhibitors are required by DEFRA to carry with them Official Identity Documents for all horses/ponies when competing or travelling. Competitors are reminded that it is a DEFRA requirement that the Official Identity Documents must be in the name of the legal owner within 30 days of ownership. This must be registered with the breed society, relevant stud book or ID issuing agency, dependant on breed/type of animal. Spot checks may be carried out at qualifying shows and by breed societies. Riders must not compete in both the Mountain & Moorland Lead Rein/First Ridden Pony of the Year and the Mountain & Moorland Pony of the Year. These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in the Horse of the Year Show rulebook, a copy of which can be downloaded from www.hoys.co.uk.

This is a Horse of the Year Show Qualifier, all data given upon entry of this class is provided to Grandstand Media Limited and stored on the Grandstand Entries System. For full policy details please visit www.grandstandentries.com.

Marks will be awarded in the following way:

- Show, freedom of action 50 maximum
- Breed type and conformation 50 maximum

In the case of equality, the pony with the highest show, freedom of action mark will be deemed the winner. If there is still

equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

This class is a qualifying class for Horse of the Year Show, NEC, Birmingham, 7th - 11th October 2026. Qualification will not pass below 3rd Place. Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

RIDDEN VETERAN HORSE OF THE YEAR

All exhibits must be registered with the Veteran Horse Society. Riders must be current members of the VHS. The exhibitor must have purchased a VHS/HOYS Showing card displaying the name of the horse.

Exhibitors are required by DEFRA to carry with them Official Identity Documents for all horses/ponies when competing or travelling. Competitors are reminded that it is a DEFRA requirement that the Official Identity Documents must be in the name of the legal owner within 30 days of ownership. This must be registered with the breed society, relevant studbook or ID issuing agency, dependant on breed/type of animal. Spot checks may be carried out at qualifying shows and by breed societies.

This class will be divided into three sections as follows:

Section A Ridden Pre Veteran (15–19 years).

Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Section B Ridden Veteran (20–24 years).

Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Section C Ridden Diamond Veteran (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in the Horse of the Year Show rule book, a copy of which can be downloaded from www.hoys.co.uk. This is a Horse of the Year Show Qualifier, all data given upon entry of this class is provided to Grandstand Media Limited and stored on the Grandstand Entries System. For full policy details please visit www.grandstandentries.com. The qualifying horse will be the highest placed exhibit within the Championship of the separate pre veteran, veteran and diamond veteran.

The HOYS Veteran Horse qualifier is open to amateurs only. VHS defines an amateur as follows- Competitors (to include lead rein handlers) must be amateurs - horses/ponies must be produced and shown by a competitor who has not been involved with professionally producing for the show ring within the past 3 years. Horses/ponies must not have been stabled on a professional showing producer's yard within the past 12 months, this includes DIY or part livery. The VHS expects all competitors to respect this amateur status in the spirit intended. The VHS definition of a professional showing producer: A person who produces (including preparation and schooling), rides or handles equines for the show ring for financial gain. A person who earns finances from a general equine career does not apply i.e. riding school, livery, instructor, groom etc.

Qualifiers should be marked in the following way:

Suitability, performance and manners 50 maximum

Condition for age, suppleness and turnout 50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Suitability, performance and manners mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

This class is a qualifying class for Horse of the Year Show, NEC, Birmingham, 7th - 11th October 2026. Qualification will not pass below 6th place. Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

Class 307 Ridden Pre Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Class 308 Ridden Veteran (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Class 309 Ridden Diamond Veteran (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Other Qualifiers at the Northern Ireland Festival

Open Racehorse to Riding Horse (class 21) is a **Dublin Horse Show** Qualifier. The class winner will be invited to attend the event which runs from **5th to 9th August 2026**. More details at: <https://www.dublinhorseshow.com/>

Championship 32: Veteran Ridden Championship is a Veteran Horse Society Golden Ticket Qualifier for the **Veteran Horse of the Year Show** (champion and reserve to qualify if eligible). This takes place from 4th – 6th September 2026 at Arena UK, Grantham, Lincolnshire. More details at: <https://www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk/>

The Showing Register **Amateur of the Year** qualifiers - classes 75, 76, 100, 101, 110, 111, 118, 119 and championships 32, 37, 38, 39 and 45. The two highest placed eligible exhibits in each class will qualify for this event which takes place on 28th and 29th November 2026 at Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. More details at: <https://theshowingregister.co.uk/>