

Clydesdale Horse Society of New Zealand Inc.



Notes on Expectations of Judges and Competitors

These guidelines are prepared as handout sheets, to help beginners, to store on the Website run by the Clydesdale Horse Society and under their Rules and Guidelines of Health and Safety, Horse Health and Welfare. These are compiled with a lifetime of experience by Sarah and Sue Butterick-Kent who had training with several Scottish Grooms, whilst they were still available.

The Clydesdale Horse Society of NZ has two useful booklets available for purchase:

Guidelines for Judging Clydesdales and # **Correspondence Course** (in two parts), researching knowledge in all aspects of Clydesdale Judging and Horsemanship, designed to instil confidence in particularly new members and other enthusiasts.

What should a Competitor expect from a Judge?

- * Respect, honesty, courtesy and fairness, particularly, with respectful remarks addressing the exhibit.
- * Judge should be approachable, knowledgeable and positive. If these things are not met - contact the CHNSZ Secretary, CHSNZ President or local Council member.
- * Competitors, especially new ones like feedback and most efficient timing is a few words as ribbons are presented, rather than afterwards.
- * A judge may pass some comments but no in-depth discussions in the ring.
- * To be safe, in all activities and workouts.
- * The same routine for each horse.
- * Attention shouldn't be drawn to any particular point of the horse.
- * That the Judge has dressed appropriately, to match the effort from competitors and the show.
- * Clear instructions e.g. which direction to lead or drive, when the Judge is stopping for a break etc.
- * Exhibitor can ask a steward or another suitable person to trot their horse out if not physically able to do so.
- * To start on time.
- * They should feel they have enough time and attention, with each entry, to feel valued.
- * As time factor is a big part of Ring management, the Judge mustn't skimp nor linger long with competitors .. a difficult balance but a very good Steward can help move things along.
- * Male Judges should remove their hats when presenting Champion Ribbons and shake the exhibitor's hands.
- * Every ribbon should be put on the correct way, i.e. with the top of the letters closest to the ears, to make them easy to read and for photographing. This is a self-discipline.



- * It is a pleasing sight to see fellow competitors appreciating one another's successes. Congratulate the winners!

What should a Judge expect from Competitors?

- * Be at the Ring entrance on time and know which classes you have entered. Competitors seem to rely heavily on Judges and Stewards when to come in and what to do.
- * Display their horse's allotted show number for each horse, either on the horse or the handler.
- * The exhibitor must dress so as not to let the horse down. Clothing should be practical, comfortable and appropriate for the prevailing weather. Be prepared for changes in weather.
- * Be sufficiently covered to avoid sunburn. A hat should be worn; it must fit well and be secured firmly. It should not be outlandish in size.
- * Shoes are to be smart but comfortable and practical. Exhibitor footwear should be clean and polished, safety caps acceptable.
- * Shorts are not acceptable. Nor fashionable ripped jeans.
- * Gloves optional
- * Judge expects the horse and handler to be clean and tidy to an acceptable equestrian standard i.e. horses legs washed, mane and tail groomed.
- * The exhibitors are expected to show their horse off to the best of their ability by standing the horse squarely and stood up at all times.
- * To be able to run hand down horse's leg and safely lift the front and back foot.
- * Exhibitor to be able to walk and trot a horse out and whilst maintaining control at all times.



Clydesdale Horse Attire

All females: A rope halter (preferably with a throat latch), for best control.

Colts, all ages: Halter and bit. Well-mannered yearlings may have a rope halter with a bit.

Stallions: Leather halter, bit, side rein and roller (crupper optional), strong lead and preferably the handler should carry a whip.

Geldings: Rope or webbing halter.

If the owner has a youngstock with a fixed white halter, several larger sized halters are needed as the youngster grows.

Shoes fullered and bevelled (if possible) Preferable

White halter makers:

Jacquie Pryce, Urenui 020 417 6565

Rod Kraal, Geraldine (and harness) 027 446 5434

Duncan Cottle, Timaru (and harness) 021 292 6425



Decorations:

Foals, Yearlings & Two-Year-Olds: Tails down; with sprigs and ribbons

Three-Year-Olds & Over: Tails up with sprigs, plaited bun and ribbons. Manes may be plaited, with flights.

* Generally, the exhibitors walk out (on the horse's near side (left), beside the horse's shoulder), turn (to the right) with the horse on the inside and handler on the outside of the turn, walk back, turn, trot out, and then trot back. If the horse has not performed well, the performance can be helped by continuing past the line-up, then a glimpse of a few straight strides can be seen. Always turn with the horse on the inside of the turn to avoid handler's heels being stood on or foot crushed). Horse should stand, turn, leader's eye to where the judge is standing and trot straight back to the judge.

A triangular pattern could be asked for BUT lead straight away and back to the Judge.

* Exhibitors need to train their horses first, then train their helpers to understand the etiquette of the requirements of the section, BEFORE coming into the ring. Train at home, not in the show ring!

* A Judge expects handlers to listen! If they don't understand, please speak up.

Competitor's only job in the ring to pay attention to the horse and display it the best they can .. it is not a gossip arena; (those on the sidelines can do it for you).

Remember, the ring side Judges can't see all that is needed as clearly as the inside Judge.

* A Royal or Jubilee Show requires extra effort in turnout .. it is Special, so look special!! Make the effort.

* Men should remove their hats when receiving ribbons. Male Judges should do the same when presenting a Champion Ribbon and shake the exhibitor's hand.

Handler's and Judges Attire

* Ladies' outfits- purchasing/ hiring expensive garments is not a requirement.

A dress is not expected.

* Practical clothing to be worn. Exhibitor clothing should allow for a full range of movement when trotting a horse out.

* Hat to be a sensible size and shape. Large hats can make it hard to see and no arrangements that that horses want to eat.

* Safe shoes with no open toes, well-fitting so they don't affect the in-hand work out.

Only Cinderella gets to lose a shoe!



A day brightens up considerably when horses look well, competitors look happy and smile, a Judge greets each pleasantly but doesn't chit-chat with familiarity and the Steward knows what the job is about.

