

Gold YELA Award

Pony Club Show Jumping competition

Ella Woolls
Berkeley Hunt Pony Club

Planning

Project : SJ competition

For : Berkeley Hunt Pony Club

To start planning my competition I created a 'To Do' list in order to categorise what I needed to do so I didn't miss anything.

- Venue
- Date for competition
- Rosettes
- Prizes
- Helpers (poles)
- Scores / judges
- First aid / paramedic
- Schedule
- Advertisement
- Running times

I started by organising a venue to host the competition.

After looking at possible venue in the local area, I decided that CCR Equestrian would be the best venue to the competition. I chose this venue because of the large area for parking and large arena space. Once I had contacted them to find a date that was available for them, I made sure my Pony Club had nothing else on that day, so that I could get plenty of competitors.

Date of competition : **Saturday 14th January**

Venue : **CCR Equestrian**

After securing a date for the competition, I made a schedule for the day. I decided to have 6 classes: 30cm, 40cm unassisted, 40cm assisted, 50cm, 60cm, 70cm. Charging £8 a round, using this information I calculated that I need the minimum of 31 competitors to cover cost and the maximum of 68 competitors to fit in the time slot of four hours.

In my final costs I included my arena hire charge and the costs of rosettes and prizes, I did this using an excel spreadsheet.

Rosettes - During working out prices for the total cost I organised the rosettes, I look around a few different companies but ended up going for a small local business that the Berkeley hunt pony club has previously used.

Prizes - Due to this competition being friendly and a fun time for the younger members of the pony club, I have decided that everyone gets a small packet of sweets and a carrot each time they leave the arena. Then first place in each class get a prize for them and their pony, of a pack of polos and a large bag of sweets.

After organising this I created the advertising schedule and poster. I wanted to design a fun design that would be fun and friendly for younger competitors, so I decided on the name '**Jump into January**'.

I then advertised the competition on the Berkeley hunt pony club Facebook page and website, the entry's were also through the BHPC website.

Entries

Entries - As people entered the competition their conformation emails came through to me, each time an entry came in I placed the competitors name and classes they were doing onto an Excel spreadsheet, in order to keep track of numbers.

Around 10 days before the closing date for entries I re-advertised the competition on the Berkeley Hunt Pony Clubs social media pages in order to get more competitors.

Times - Once entries had closed I put the competitors doing each class into 6 tables ready to easily add times and numbers. I made sure any repeating competitors had the same numbers and then I started with the times, making the assisted classes 4 minutes per round and everyone else 3 minutes per round, with 10 minute course walk in between each class.

The Day

We arrived at the venue at 8:45, so we had time to get the course set at the correct height for the first class. I then took the carrots and sweets down to the ring ready to give to the competitors after each of their rounds. I did the necessary tack check, making sure daisy reins were correct and competitors were aware of the jumping whip (BS legal) they should use. Hats checks were also done to ensure all had the new dark pink tags. I also had to check hair-nets were worn and stirrups were the correct width. I had two helpers (also YELA volunteers) helping organising the warm-up, getting competitors into the ring on time and pole picking. I had also a first-aider, a new two judges responsible for scoring and timing.

The first class started at 9.15. In between each class we did the prize giving dismounted. Unfortunately the weather was particularly bad so we had a few withdrawals and no shows, especially for the first few classes.

About an hour in to the competition I went round to the helpers with refreshments and biscuits.

At the end of the morning, we made sure all the jumps were back up with all the poles off the floor and both the warm up and ring clear of any poo.

Reflection

If I have the opportunity to do this again, I will make the following changes:

- Had longer gaps for course walk and putting the jumps up - due to it being a lot of competitors first time at a competition they took longer to walk the course, I should of left a gap of 15-20 minutes for this.
- Longer in between competitions - due some of the younger participants going slower or having some difficulties with the course they took longer than the 4 minutes allowed.
- Warm up time - also, due to a lot of first time competitors, people were turning up for their time rather than 15-20 minutes before hand so they are warmed up. If I did this again I would make sure that everyone knew to come in time to warm up before hand.

