**TOP TEAM TROPHY EVENTS**

**WHAT ARE THESE?**

As our club has grown it has become apparent that many new members are not sure what these events entail. So for the benefit of all members who love to compete and would like to enter a TEAM event I will Endeavour to unmask the mystery of these events.

Every discipline that we can compete in for HRCAV has a Top Team Trophy or TTT event on the calendar. These are

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| * Dressage
 | * Horse Trials
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| * Showing
 | * Combined Training
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| * Show Jumping
 | * Navigational Rides
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They are held at various locations around the state and the winning Team of each event has the opportunity to run the event the following year. As it is such a major event to run some clubs decline the running of the event and it goes out to any club interested and a vote is taken. Many TTT events have in excess of 300 riders traveling from all around the state (and some interstate) so an appropriate venue to cater for camping, horse accommodation and float parking must be sought. So on arrival you are welcomed by a sea of floats, horses and people everywhere!

**So how do you qualify to compete?**

Some years ago you did not have to qualify for TTT events but some people abused this system and did not compete prior to the event and then cleaned up as they were below the actual Level that they should have competed at. To try to address this situation the HRACV introduced ‘Qualifying’ for TTT events. It is simple to qualify:

* Get graded by a Level Assessor within 3 months prior to the TTT event or:
* Go to 3 competitions in the year preceding the discipline that you wish to compete at and get 1 stamp from each of the hosting clubs onto a log paper. These can be downloaded from the HRCAV website ☺

You will then be required to compete at the Level you were assessed at. The competition runs pretty much like any other competition in that you will be competing against 20 or so people all graded at the same level as you. There will be numerous sections of the one level but you will only compete against the people in your section… so you may have six sections of L4 so at the end of the day you will have six winners from L4.

**How does the TEAM work?**

You will send your information off to the person in charge of the TTT discipline you wish to enter. They will then collate the teams and send off your entry with the 3 other members in your team. On the day the 3 highest placings from your team will go towards your team score. The team with the 3 highest placings WINS !!! The scores will be calculated right down to the bottom score. For a team to place at a TTT event is VERY prestigious! Hurstbridge have not won a TTT event….. YET !!

**Why do we need to supply helpers?**

As you can see with this amount of competitors there will be a lot of work to be done to make the event run smoothly. Each team needs to allocate a helper, or with HT 2 helpers, to be eligible to compete. The hosting club will allocate the team helper with a job. It may be to set up, pencil, jump judge etc. Most events ask for any area of expertise that a helper may be able to work in.

The events are normally more expensive to enter as the larger venues cost more and the hosting club really needs to make it worth their while as the man/woman hours that go into these events is enormous! There is also a team charge but Hurstbridge ARC covers this for our teams. If we get 8 riders interested then we enter 2 teams. They ride individually from each other and teams can only be changed with a lot of work!!. If we have an odd number of riders want to ride i.e.: 9 then we may enter one rider as an individual. The hosting team will put that rider into a composite team with other individual riders from other clubs or we may approach a neighboring club and ask if they need an extra rider and enter our own composite team. We have had members from KG ride for us before ☺

It has always been a highly social event to go to a TTT event with Hurstbridge members. We would like to keep it this way if possible ☺ If you have any queries about TTT events then just send me an email or talk to me at club. The committee members will also be able to answer your questions