



1. Introduction

Horse and Pony Equitation Events (HAPEE) welcomes all riders and horses to our unaffiliated Working Equitation series. Our competitions test the partnership between horse and rider across three phases: Dressage, Obstacle and Speed rounds.

2. General Rules

- Competitions are open to all riders and horses, regardless of breed or experience level.
- Riders must follow the competition schedule and be ready when called.
- Horses must be well cared for, fit to compete, and meet vaccination requirements as per UK vet guidelines.
- Tack and attire must be safe and suitable for Working Equitation.
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour or mistreatment of horses will result in elimination.

3. Competition Phases

Dressage: Riders perform a set test to demonstrate precision, balance, and obedience. Dressage tests can be downloaded Via our webpage <https://acobandaconnie.com/hapee>

All tests can be called and whips are allowed at all levels except advanced.

Obstacles: Riders navigate a course of obstacles designed to simulate practical riding challenges. Please see our free online video for a description of obstacles to be used and how to make them at home. We would advise attending a training clinic or purchasing an online course from www.acobandaconnie.com/home-page before entering the competition so that you are familiar with all of the obstacles involved at the level you wish to enter

Speed: A timed version of the Ease of Handling course, with penalties for errors.

3. Competition Levels

HAPEE competitions include five levels run over 4 classes:

- **Introductory (Walk/Trot)** – For new riders and young horses, focusing on basic control and confidence.
- **Novice** – Introducing canter and with more technical accuracy.
- **Intermediate B** – Progression to more collected work and optional flying changes.
- **Intermediate A** – Emphasizing balance, precision, and advanced transitions. Part of the PYO class
- **Advanced** – The highest level, requiring collection, one-handed riding, and full mastery of obstacles. Part of the PYO class

4. Scoring and Results

- Each phase is scored separately. Dressage will be judged as per BD. The Obstacle round is a style round and will be judged accordingly with marks out of 10, speed is purely time driven.
- Overall placings at any one competition are determined by combined scores from each phase.
- Riders can be eliminated in one phase and still earn overall points for the competition but will not score points for that phase and won't be placed above anyone who has completed all 3 phases without elimination, even if they have scored more points in the completed phases.
- Eliminations may occur for repeated refusals, course errors, or unsafe riding amongst other reasons as per the international rules on Working Equitation
- The organisers reserve the right to run the show in the long or short format. Long format is where each phase follows consecutively for all classes, ie all dressage then all EOH then all speed. Short format is where the dressage is run first, then each combination performs their EOH immediately followed by their Speed round. Format will depend on weather, entry levels and space at each venue.

HAPEE League Structure

The HAPEE League is designed to reward consistency and achievement throughout the competition season, culminating in our Championship at **Newbury Country Show**, where overall Champions and Reserve Champions will be crowned.

How Points Are Awarded

- At each HAPEE competition, horse and rider combinations will earn points based on their overall placing in their class.
- Points will be awarded as follows:

Placing	Points
1st	30
2nd	28
3rd	27
4th	26
5th	25

Etcall riders will obtain points unless they withdrew or were eliminated in all 3 phases.

League Rankings

- Each combination's top **three points results** from the season will count towards the final league table.
- The League tables will be published periodically via the webpage.

Championship Show and Final Standings

- **This show is open to all – you don't need to have qualified to attend**
- Points earned at the Championship Show will be added to the competitor's league total if they have been accumulating points across the season
- The **combination with the highest total points** at each level will be crowned the **HAPEE Champion**, with the **runner-up named Reserve Champion**.
- There will prizes given at the Newbury County show for placings within each class on the day. The Champions and Reserve Champions for the season will be awarded separately.

Ties in the Event placings

- In the event of a tie of points at the end of an event, the dressage score will be used to determine the higher placing. If there is still a tie after that, the speed round will be used to determine the placings.

Prize giving's

- The organisers reserve the right to hold mounted or unmounted prize givings – please check with the secretary on the day

5. Attire and Tack

- Riders should wear smart, practical riding attire (tweed jackets encouraged, but not required).
- Approved riding hats with a chin strap are mandatory.
- English-style saddles are correct, western can be worn; bitless bridles are permitted.
- Boots or bandages may be worn for all phases except Dressage.
- Any other correctly fitting, safe and suitable tack can be worn

6. Welfare and Conduct

- The welfare of the horse is paramount.
- Riders must adhere to fair play and respect officials and other competitors.
- Any concerns should be raised with the event organizer.

This rulebook serves as a guide for fair and fun competition.

HAPEE riding!