

TREC COMMENTS

1. Gap Between Levels.

The difference between levels 2 and 3 is particularly wide. With many level 3 competitions now including lengthy sections of both grids & bearings & possibly another navigational challenge as well, many people competing at level 2 are discouraged from trying level 3. (I am told level 3 competitions have got much more challenging in the last few years.)

This point was discussed at length and it was agreed that organisers must do more to encourage Level Two competitors to move up to L3. Shorter more technical routes as well as some specific info as in 'there will be one short grid ref section' can be published in the schedule. The BHS is very keen to have more riders at higher levels but this is very dependent on organisers being able to cope with the technical challenges of designing the more technical routes.

2. Equipment Changes.

Rule G11.1 states all phases must be performed with the same tack. In what way does this apply to whip, spurs and studs? Given that Trec is meant to emulate taking a longer hack in the countryside, surely studs should be used in all phases or not at all. After all, whilst one may conceivably pick a stick from the hedgerow or even carry and put on spurs while out riding for a day, how many would take and fit studs part way through a long ride? Maybe if the use of spurs and studs is to be allowed on the CoP or PTV when they have not been used on the POR, they should be fitted within the time-frame of those phases.

Whips do not count as tack. Spurs must be used in all three phases if they are to be worn on the PTV. Studs may be just used for the PTV as it is not possible to use them on roads. This is my understanding of how it will go into the rule book based on what was discussed yesterday. It would not be possible to fit studs as part of the PTV.

3. Rule book

The BHS Trec Rulebook (Third Edition -2005) is the current rule book. I understand it is to be revised and re-issued. What provision is being made to inform competitors of rule changes made between editions, (bearing in mind not everyone has access to the internet). **Rule changes particular to any event should be noted on that event schedule.**

TREC clubs have a responsibility to inform competitors of rule changes and TSW does this at the beginning of each new year.

Issue such as these should also be posted on the internet but additionally it should be up to the CAC member for the area to keep up to date, and to keep riders in their area up to date. Equally riders should be able to contact that person and ask. I think we need another person from the SW (ideally Gloucester way!) to join the committee and I will propose this at the next meeting. Do you know anyone who would be interested?

On page 23 of the Rule Book, it states " the following PTV obstacles are approved for use in Championships" and states after the list of 27 obstacles that others may be encountered at other competitions. Both the Welsh and British Championships included obstacles not on the list of 27. While there are probably very good reasons for their inclusion, this sets a precedent for the Rule book to be ignored.

Some of the new international (FITE) obstacles were included this year, but only with the note in the schedule that some would be used, naming which ones and also the posting of the technical sheets. If anyone wants a copy of these I have them and can email them.

Similarly, Rule G2.2a states competitors at Championships are required to be Gold members of the BHS or members of a BRC Affiliated Riding Club. This year's British Championships allowed Silver BHS members who could show proof of 3rd party liability insurance.

See no 7.

Surely competitors need to be confident that the current Rule Book is being followed.

4. Whistles

Some riders carry their whistles on the horse rather than on their person. While common sense should dictate that the rider should have the whistle if separated from the horse, maybe it should be stated in the next edition of the rule book.

This was agreed but as you state should be common sense

5. Low Branches.

The Rule Book states the height of the low branches should be 20cm above the horse's withers. Although many organisers manage to have 1" intervals, at several competitions (including championships) 2" intervals have been used. This gives an advantage to riders of horses in between heights. For example, the rider of a 15hh horse would have 20cm above the withers, the rider of a 15.1hh horse would have 22.5cm. While 2.5 cm may not sound much it is actually 12.5%.

It was accepted that there is variation in some of the low branches equipment around the country. Each competitor has the right to speak to the TD at any competition if they have an issue with any obstacle. In an ideal world all equipment would be standardised but we are not at that stage yet in the sport.

6. Tickets

I dare say the subject of tickets will be discussed. Tickets should be obvious to those on the correct route and not be missed just because a rider is studying the map. It is better not to use any rather than have ambiguously sited ones. Where the routes of 2 levels overlap, care should be taken to ensure that tickets are clearly on one or other of the routes, or apply to both levels. Manned tickets are obviously preferable where possible.

Yes, we had a lengthy discussion re tickets, in particular the one that caused the issues at the GB championships. The balance of opinion was that a manned ticket is always preferable but to ban unmanned tickets totally would leave some organisers with a problem. Care must be taken only to use them where there cannot be any question.

7. Third Party Insurance.

Members of affiliated Riding Clubs taking part in activities organised by affiliated Riding Clubs have 3rd party insurance cover. Gold members of the BHS have 3rd party cover for all equestrian activities. Most competition schedules only require proof of public liability insurance from those who are neither BHS members nor Riding Club members.

Should Bronze and Silver BHS members be required to show proof of public liability cover? **YES**

Are Riding Club members covered if the competition is put on by a private individual rather than under the auspices of an affiliated Riding Club? **No**

In future all Bronze and Silver members will be required to show evidence of public liability and the rulebook will be amended to reflect this.

These points have arisen in conversation with several competitors at several events and should represent the views of a number of people. Hopefully I have collated the comments accurately. In no way is adverse

criticism of organisers/helpers/officials intended, rather the aim is to make Trec, which is the best equestrian discipline, even more enjoyable