



Sat 28th April & Sun 29th April 2018

THE ONE DAY EVENT

General Siting: The horse trials (Post Code GL54 4BH) is held on the outskirts of the village of Withington between Cirencester and Cheltenham. The event is about 3 miles from A436, which is the main route between Gloucester and Stow-on-the-Wold and connects directly to M5, making exit 11A of this motorway some 20 minutes away. The M4 is connected to the event via A419 which is a dual carriageway route from M4. This makes the event some 50 minutes from exit 15 of the M4. The event is held on an elevated site overlooking the Cotswold escarpment some 3 miles from the village.

Major Organisational Changes for 2018: None.



Dressage: Flat dressage arenas are sited on permanent grass with a road between the show jumping and cross country action. The dressage warm-up takes place in a quiet adjoining 16 acre field. The arenas will be mowed with the center line clearly defined. Access to the dressage warm up area, which passes the dressage arenas themselves, can be reached within 5 minutes on foot from the furthest part of the lorry park. Feedback from ERA riders reported that: "Nice big field with plenty of space (and) flat". One competitor wrote stating, "You did absolute wonders with the ground, especially doing the dressage warm up – an area usually overlooked but where we do the most work on our horses".



Show jumping: Steve Williams designs the show jumping in a large, flat, permanent grass area. The tracks will be up to height and of medium technicality. The warm up area is also a large flat permanent grass area adjacent to the arena itself. The jumps will be dressed with



flowers. If conditions necessitate it, the arena and warm-up area will be aerovated. Access to the show jumping warm up area can be reached within 6 minutes on foot from the furthest part of the lorry park. ERA feedback was: "good ground, slightly downhill which allowed questions to be asked with related fences" and "big and spacious, ground had been worked on". "Reasonable test but not over difficult and flowed nicely" This phase is at the centre of everything so there is quite a buzz.

18 March 2018



Cross Country: Eric Winter designs the cross country courses that run over undulating grassland with some small woodland elements on well-draining permanent pasture. The fences are solidly built, up to height and mainly permanent. There are ditches, steps, arrowheads, corners and a water complex, all with good ground lines, creating flowing and attackable courses. Alternatives are available at some of the more difficult fences. There are four permanent cross country practice fences, two of which are available for each day of competition. The event is only run once a year so that the best ground conditions are assured with rolling, aerovating and sheep grazing taking place throughout the year. The undulating nature of the ground does require horses to be fit and a good rhythm will need to be established as the courses make full use of the terrain. All the fences will be dressed with flowers and trees. If conditions necessitate it, the courses will be aerovated. Access to the cross country warm up area can be reached within 6 minutes on foot from the furthest part of the lorry park. An elevated mound for spectators is provided in the middle of the cross country courses making excellent viewing. A Rider wrote to say: "it's a joy to walk the Cross Country; so beautifully built and dressed to perfection" and "upper end for level and undulating, beautiful fences and rode nicely".



Cross Country Alterations for 2018: Eric Winter, together with course-builder Andrew Hunter, have made some changes to all three tracks, including a new sunken road complex. The overall focus will remain on producing flowing, distinctive, but challenging courses.

To Whom is the Event Aimed?: It is targeted at competitors who are looking for top quality event offering a challenging competition, good value for money and a friendly atmosphere. Both horse and rider should have established a good partnership as both show jumping and cross country tracks encourage bold, attacking riding. Aimed at riders of fit, bold horses who relish a challenge, the cross country courses are suited for those who are progressing well in their respective classes or considering a three-



day or international run. The ERA riders felt that "it was considered suitable for a horse and rider regularly competing at this level or an improving horse or rider looking to move up a level". The advanced course would make a suitable pre-Houghton, pre-Chatsworth or pre-Bramham outing.

Logistics:

- **Ballot:** Balloting has taken place every year since 2002, so ballot stickers need to be used. One of the Eventing Magazine's contributors wrote; "this is a great event and the only downside is the struggle to get enough horses entered".
- **British Eventing Car Park:** Members of British Eventing have their own car park which is adjacent to the lorry park for easy access. There is no charge for any vehicle whose occupant(s) are members of British Eventing.
- **Lorry Park:** This is situated in a slightly sloping field and is entered from a public road. There is a one way system in operation so all the lorries face towards the exit which passes through the farmyard before reaching a public road on the outskirts of the village.
- **Public Car Park:** This is located surrounding the show jumping arena. The purchase of a programme at £10 per car, irrespective of the number of occupants, will gain visitors access to the event.
- **Secretary & Scores:** This is located at the Show Jumping Arena and can be reached within 6 minutes on foot from the furthest part of the lorry park.
- **Trade Stands:** Hot and cold food and drink, saddlers and some clothing stands will be on-hand for both days in the Show Jumping area. A dog agility and obedience enclosure for canine visitors including demonstrations will also be on offer this year. A visitor commented last year "I was pleased with the size of the trade stands - not too much but sufficient for a little browsing - and nice things available".



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