

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
NEW ZEALAND**



**INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN YOUTH
SQUAD CHALLENGE**

2017 VENUE NEW ZEALAND
2018 VENUE AUSTRALIA
2019 VENUE UNITED KINGDOM

2017 DATE: 15 – 17 NOVEMBER

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND, THE
NATIONAL PONY SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE RIDING
PONY STUD BOOK SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA HAVE JOINED
TOGETHER TO ORGANISE AN ANNUAL TEAM CHALLENGE FOR
RIDERS AGED 14-25 YEARS OF AGE



THE NATIONAL PONY SOCIETY



INTRODUCTION:

The inaugural 2016 Team Challenge was hosted by the National Pony Society (UK) over the first week of August 2016 to coincide with the National Pony Society Annual Championship Show where Squad Members were supplied with horses and ponies and invited to compete in a variety of ridden and led events designed by the host Society.

The National Pony Society Summer Championships were held at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire UK

Team Members had the opportunity to sightsee in London and other parts of the UK, attend the world famous Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead, visit UK pony and horse studs and to compete for their country at the National Pony Society of Great Britain's National Championships.

Prior to and during the competition Team Members were billeted and hosted by UK Families involved in showing which allowed familiarisation with both the host family and the horse or pony allocated to each rider.

The Challenge is a unique, perhaps once in a lifetime opportunity for the followers of showing to travel with like-minded people and compete with other enthusiastic showing devotees at a famous event.

Purpose of the Youth Squad Visits:

The participating organisations recognise that fun, challenge and rewards are integral parts of youth development within the sport of showing

It is an aim of the International Challenge to provide a variety of entry point opportunities that match the skills, knowledge and potential of our young members and maintains interest and motivation in our shows, the sport of showing and the ongoing health of our organisations.

The Youth Squad visits to other like countries is a unique initiative for our equestrian supporters within this program.

The Youth Squad Members from each participating country will be assessed and selected on the following criteria

- High level of knowledge, understanding and skills in showing horses & ponies.
- High level of knowledge, understanding and skills in managing ponies and horses
- High level of knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the equestrian breeds used as mounts in showing within New Zealand Australia and the United Kingdom.
- High level of interpersonal and communication skills
- An understanding of the role each Team Member will play as an Ambassador for their country and the sport of showing

First Criteria:

Applicants for the squads selected by the participating organisations must be prepared to be a part of the team, sign a contract to abide by the rules of the team and take instruction from the Team Manager and or Chaperone.

Team Officials:

A Team Manager or Managers and or Chaperone will be appointed to accompany each Equestrian Youth Squad.

Members of each participating Youth Squad:

Will consist of four young (current financial) members of the participating organisations or an affiliated organisation. The final number of team members will be confirmed after applications are received.

Appointment of Youth Squad:

Applicants will be appointed to the Squad following the assessment of all applications received within a time frame and date set by the participating organisations (see application form)

Youth Squad Team Captain:

The Selection Committee will appoint one member of the Youth Squad as Team Captain or may allow the selected Team to vote for a Team Member to undertake this role. The Team Captain will report to the Team Manager and have some additional responsibilities.

Costs:

All costs of travel, team participation, purchasing of team clothing, riding clothes, travel insurance and incidentals are the full and total responsibility of the selected team members and/or their family.

Role of Participating Organisations:

The host organisation will liaise with the Squad Team Management from each participating country to co-ordinate and facilitate all aspects of the visit. The organisation will include; an itinerary, regular news updates and instructions and booking all travel on receipt of the required funds from team members.

Family Members Travelling:

It is expected that some families may wish to accompany their Youth Squad Member, however all travel arrangements and costs will be the responsibility of that family

A full itinerary will allow non-team members who decide to travel to make appropriate arrangements.

Records of Planning, Applications and Documents:

All documentation will be held at the Head Office of each participating organisation.

Youth Squad Member Specifications

Applicants must be able to present evidence that supports their show riding and personal qualities to an exceptional standard and be able to meet these additional criteria:

- Current financial membership of the three host associations or an affiliated Show, Breed Society or Kindred Association.
- Prove their age as having reached 14 years of age (14-25) and not exceeding 25 years of age as at the time applications close.
- Have outstanding results in high-level ridden show competitions/events that include results with riding show ponies and show horses and showing ponies and horses in hand.
- Confidence and skills to ride suitable ponies and horses with which the Young Rider is unfamiliar
- Excellent communication skills with both adults and young people.
- Co-operative skills relevant to team participation and team building
- Have an understanding of the show pony and show horse breeding industry and requirements for excellence in conformation

- Present a positive image at home, to other teams and to the hosts and be a good role model to all young sports people
- Confidence to manage appropriately any unexpected or difficult situations that arise

General Description of the Challenge

The International Equestrian Challenge Competition is to be held in a rotating annual manner in the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

A welcome Buffet where all the visitors and local competitors meet all the people responsible for organising the competitions and hosting and sponsoring the teams will open proceedings

The teams will disburse to the Billet families no less than three days prior to the opening day of the show nominated in the host country

The competition will consist of four elements:

A led event where the contestants are judged on their showmanship

A judging event where the contestants are assessed on their ability to place the lineup of horses/ponies in an order close to the order a senior panel of judges has placed the assembled horses/ponies. One of the senior judges will work alongside the contestants.

A freestyle performance workout based on the traditional Paced and Mannered class favoured in New Zealand where conformation is not considered, rather the event is decided on the manners paces and obedience of each horse or pony.

A rider class which will be divided into age groups where the

ability of each is assessed, winners of each group will compete for overall winner.

A team Trophy will be awarded to the Team accumulating the most points.

Allocation of Horse and Ponies

All teams will be riding unfamiliar mounts including the host team. There will be a three-day period of familiarisation provided. Horses and ponies will be allocated by the local host committee based on information supplied by the participating teams, this information to include age, height, weight and sex of each rider.

The challenge will be a part of a major show or event within the host country. In New Zealand this will be the Canterbury A & P Show.

CRITERIA FOR HOSTING VISTING TEAMS

The International Equestrian Teams Round Robin has evolved from a germ of an idea into a fully-fledged international event with the inaugural event being held in the UK during 2016.

The organisations involved were (and remain) the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand, The National Pony Society UK and the Australian Riding Pony Society.

Teams in 2016 were made up of four 14 – 19 year old riders plus two travelling individuals, a Chaperone and a Team Manager. While support family members were welcome at the event these people were expected to make their own travel arrangements.

The Host Society undertook to find mounts for the visiting teams

Template for 2017

Host Nation – New Zealand

Participating Nations, NZ, UK & Australia

Date 15-17 November 2017

Itinerary

Teams to assemble in Auckland and together, after a City tour go south to visit Cambridge Studs, Rotorua, a Sheep and Cattle farm of national significance, a Dairy Farm of National significance, Parliament and Government House, a top of the South Island A & P Show and Christchurch City. This tour will be costed and organised by the official Travel Agent to the Royal Agricultural Society.

Costs

The cost of international travel and the NZ Tour will be the responsibility of each participant.

While at billet homes all catering and incidentals are the responsibility of the host family.

The feeding and general care of horses/ponies and transportation to and from owners base to the show or to billet homes will be the responsibility of the host committee.

Entry Fees at Show; there will be no entry fees imposed.

Visiting Teams

The RAS of NZ expect to receive early indication of team appointments including age height weight and sex of each person appointed (to assist with allocation of horses & ponies) and the names contact details and addresses of each. As well details of team officials should be provided and who is the main contact person.

A full Bio/CV (include current photo) of each person in the team and Officials is required to obtain maximum press exposure for the event and to allow show catalogue acknowledgments etc.

End of Tour Arrangements

It is expected that those team members and officials departing immediately after the close of the show will leave from the Christchurch International Airport, transfers from billets and host families will be coordinated by the local committee.

Teams Members staying on in New Zealand:

The responsibility of the local committee, host families and billets ceases on the day following the close of the show. All ongoing arrangements are the responsibility of each individual staying on in New Zealand. A written indication of which team members have opted to stay on will be requested from each Team Manager.