

First Ridden

As we all know FR was introduced to fill the gap with children coming off the lead and before the open rings in other words to gain skills and experience with limited demands created within the ring.

It was also ideal for those starting off later into riding being too old to compete in the Lead Rein section.

These days a look at larger shows will show you quite clearly that the ideal of what this section was introduced for is at the other end of the spectrum and is ~~a professional~~ generally a professional section for very capable riders who are using this section for as long as age or time allowed prevails.

This as we all know has created the lack of these capable children competing in the B+C Show Pony rings and the smaller rings in Section D - Hunter Pony.

Many ideas have been mooted before, the odd remit put forward to try and clean up these problems but generally we must go back to where this section was created for and where we are now — totally different.

I understand standards may differ in different parts of the country but with what I would like to go forward would help these areas.

The only way forward is not restricting wins or times or changing ages it is removing

What keeps them all in this section the championships, garlands + supremes and instead shows offering a sash for most points. This is no biggie with no more usually than five classes in the section it can be completed and added in the ring and the sash presented.

These very capable riders will certainly move on very quickly when skills are required to the open rings where all the Kudo's are available and leave the ring for the genuine FR rider gaining experience and skills before they themselves move on.