



# Ponies Association (UK)

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## **Ponies (UK) Press Release – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

### **Major changes to HOYS qualification and additional opportunities for P(UK) members.**

For 2011 HOYS has lifted the restrictive membership qualification so that members of all three major showing societies, Ponies (UK), NPS and BPS are able to compete in the Show Pony, Show Hunter Pony, Working Hunter Pony, Intermediate Show Riding Type and Intermediate Show Hunter qualification and finals classes.

HOYS has added a NPS Supreme Mountain & Moorland of the Year class for 2011. The Champion and Reserve Champions from the Ridden M&M Pony of the Year, the M&M Working Hunter Pony of the Year and the Mini M&M Pony of the Year will come together for the new championship.

Other changes announced this week include a review of the marks system used to judge classes at HOYS. The ratio will now be 50:50, in qualifiers and at the finals (other than Working Hunter Pony) a move applauded by Ponies (UK) as now it should be more difficult for the pony with average conformation but who performs well to score above the pony which has outstanding conformation but makes a tiny mistake! Maybe we will see more positive approach to individual shows, and 'star' quality being rewarded.

Ponies (UK) are also pleased to hear that the height of fences in the HOYS qualification classes are to have a maximum and minimum height and width to the fences imposed. This should reduce the number of ponies forward to the final being over faced. The consistency this should bring to the standard between shows holding qualification classes will ensure that the competition stays at the highest possible level and promote consistency throughout the season.

Highland ponies are to have their own section, in the Ridden M&M Pony of the Year qualifiers. HOYS are reacting to the number of Highland Ponies entered in the qualifiers and the wish to see a more representative number of Highland Ponies through to the final.

Ponies (UK) wish to congratulate Grandstand Media Ltd (the organisers of HOYS) for implementing changes to the classes, the marks system and the relaxation of the membership restrictions. Ponies (UK) sincerely believes that the changes Grandstand Media are planning for HOYS and qualifying classes during 2011 are positive actions for the sport of showing.

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