

# Ponies Association (UK)



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## **Ponies Association (UK)**

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# Longines Royal International

## **The Growth and Current Environment of Ponies Association (UK)**

Ponies (UK) emerged as a consequence of the renowned Ponies of Britain Club's decision to close and no longer wanting to hold and run shows but focus their energy on Welfare. In the twenty five years, Ponies (UK) has evolved and expanded. The association is credited with introducing categories such as The Working Hunter, The Show Hunter Pony and the ridden Mountain and Moorland Ponies to the show ring.

Joan Lee-Smith had the vision to encourage the grass route family to the highest level of excellence and range of competition that we witness in today's showing arena.

Ponies (UK) currently has 1250 members and over 1800 horses registered to the Association. We host two prestigious annual shows The P(UK) Winter Classic and the P(UK) Supreme Championships.

The flagship show, the Supreme Championship, historically welcomes 1000 animals, generating 300 entries over the three days, 500 of which are stabled for the duration. The Winter Classic also attracts over 1500 entries and 500 horses in late March.

Ponies (UK) has particularly welcomed and taken great pride in encouraging both amateur and young riders to compete and increase their knowledge and skill to producing their horse or pony.

The nursery to many equestrian careers is a fact of which the Board of the Association are extremely proud of International medallists Charlotte Dujardin, Tim Gredley, Laura Collett, Emma Hindle, Jean Pierre Guilanbert, Nick Scofield and para competitor Roberta Sheffield who all began their careers with Ponies (UK) and remain enthusiastic supporters.

To help promote these goals, we were the first to introduce an Elite Riders Academy, open to all members, which includes workshops aimed at developing riders' ability and awarding them as they advance both technically and practically through the levels of the Academy.

Ponies (UK) has further ensured the inclusion of the home produced sectors through their Summer Championship Show. By creating classes purely for amateur or young riders, who find it a challenge to compete against the professionals of the show ring, Ponies (UK) have given them an increased chance to be in the spotlight and a place in the evening performance is much coveted as a result. Our belief in showcasing amateur and young riders has been rewarded by loyalty to the show, and many bring their family along with them to witness their achievements and enjoy the party atmosphere.

**Proposal for consideration to support The P(UK) M&M  
Dalkeith Young Riders and the P(UK) M&M Amateur  
Riders at the Royal International Horse Show**

The Board of the Association would be delighted if consideration could be given to sponsoring the classes and final for the young Mountain and Moorland Rider.

The Association has expressed concern that the M&M first ridden rider is forced to progress to compete with adults at an Elite Level. Our research confirms that there is a gap in the market for the Junior, Intermediate and Amateur Riders at Elite Level.

The final for Ponies (UK) members at such a prestigious event as the Royal International Horse Show has generated much interest and excitement with competitors who might not normally be able to compete at the event through lack of experience.

The Final is entering its fifth year and has shown growth in numbers across the country. There are twenty qualifiers spread across the country commencing in late February with the final event the last weekend of May.

The P(UK) Dalkeith M&M Young Riders Championship, at the Royal International, is a series of three classes which would divide riders and ponies into age and breeds sections respectively and a Championship in the International Arena during the afternoon performance.

**Junior M&M Small Breeds Mare or Gelding four years and over. Riders not to have attained their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current year.**

**Junior M&M Large Breeds Mare or Gelding four years and over. Riders not to have attained their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current year.**

**Intermediate Small and Large Breeds Stallion Mare or Gelding four years and over. Riders not to have attained their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current year.**

# **P(UK) Amateur Riders Ridden Mountain and Moorland Championship**

**The Amateur Riders Final is open to riders who for showing purposes have not engaged in a training programme for riders/horses/ponies, livery, buying/selling or dealing of horses/ponies as a means of deriving a source of income since 1 August 2014.**

**It is expected that exhibitors will enter into the true spirit of this competition and trainers and producers must not enter the ring during the judging process. The Directors reserve the right, in their absolute discretion, to refuse an exhibitor's entry should they be in contravention of this rule in the Directors considered opinion.**

**Mountain and Moorland ridden stallion, mare, gelding 4 years old and over, registered in their approved Pure Breed Society stud Books of Connemara ,Dartmoor, Dales, Exmoor, Fells Highland, New Forest, Shetland , Welsh A,B.C,D rider any age.**

This championship also has 20 qualifiers and takes place on the River Lawn Ring at the prestigious Royal International Horse Show and is proving exceptionally popular for those who only ride for recreation. This is the second year of the championship and appears to be a sought after ticket not available to professional riders and trainers.

- ❖ Benefits of sponsoring the Dalkeith Young Riders or the P(UK) Amateur Riders
- ❖ Branding of the Championship in the RIHS Catalogue and schedules circulated to National and International competitors
- ❖ PA and press promotion
- ❖ Members and sponsors badges for the day plus Members forward car pass
- ❖ Access to the sponsors seating area on the day of competition.
- ❖ Opportunity to present awards.
- ❖ Lunch for two in the exclusive Members
- ❖ Opportunity to book a corporate hospitality Box overlooking the International Arena with catering
- ❖ Opportunity to negotiate display corporate banners

Branding of the Dalkeith Young Riders

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| M&M championship                      | £500 +VAT   |
| One Dalkeith Class without Branding   | £1000 +VAT  |
| Amateur Riders M&M including Branding | £2000 + VAT |

## **In Summary**

Ponies Association (UK) expect that this should be an extremely popular championship that will add the distinction of young riders' classes to the Royal International Horse Show's already impressive repertoire: allowing the young who have missed achieving a ticket to the fiercely contested open classes, where no distinction is made for experience or age and offer the opportunity to acquire a much sought after qualification.



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