

WET is looking for riders for the Home International and Celtic Challenge teams 2014

Would you like to be a member of a team representing your country in endurance riding? Each year WET sends one team to compete in the "Celtic Challenge" (all home nations except England) and one in the "Home International" (all home nations). Each team includes riders from novice to experienced levels. Wales doesn't always win, but always has good fun.



In 2014 the competitions are scheduled to take place in conjunction with The Scottish Endurance Championships. SERC Championships Organising Committee announce that, due to the British Motocross Championships being held at Hume Castle on the same weekend as the Championships, therefore making the use of the northern routes impossible, the venue for the 2014 Championships (incorporating the Home International and Celtic Challenge Team competitions) will be relocated from Kelso racecourse to Town Yetholm. The dates for the Championships will remain unchanged (15-17 August). The move to Yetholm has the advantage of giving riders extended access to the wonderful routes through the Cheviots that the longer distances enjoyed last year and in previous years when the Championships have been based there. Camping, corralling, portable stabling, catering will be available on site with functions being held in the village hall which is a short walk away from the main venue field. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Borders in August. Alison Wilson - Chair, Championships OC - 21 January 2014

We need team players, able to perform at the appropriate level, to produce their mount at an appropriate level of fitness and to make the team success their top priority. It is particularly difficult to find a novice horse/ novice rider combination, so please don't let inexperience put you off applying for a place!

Qualification for a Place on the Team

1. Riders must have been born in Wales or have lived in Wales for the last 12 months. At least 5 graded endurance rides (GERs) must be completed successfully prior to the competition and at least 1 must be of a qualifying distance. In the case of the positions for 160km and 120km - 2 qualifying rides are required. (Qualifying distance shown in table below). These rides may be completed at any competitive endurance ride.

Home International Team

| Distance | Qualifying Distance |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 x 100m / 160km over 2 days | 50m / 80km – 2 or more |
| 1 x 75m / 120km over 2 days | 50m / 80km – 2 or more |
| 1 x 50m / 80km ER 1 day | 50m / 80km |
| 1 x 50m / 80km over 2 days | 40m / 64km |
| 1 x Novice 25m / 40km 1 day | 25m / 40km No Ride over 30m / 48km |
| 1 x Junior 30m / 48 km 1 day | 30m / 48km 1 day |

Celtic Challenge Team

| Distance | Qualifying Distance |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 x 100m / 160km over 2 days | 50m / 80km – 2 or more |
| 1 x 50m / 80km ER 1 day | 50m / 80km |
| 1 x 50m / 80km over 2 days | 40m / 64km |
| 1 x 50m / 80km over 2 days Junior | 40m / 64km |
| 1 x Novice (Horse) 25m / 40km 1 day | 25m / 40km No Ride over 30m / 48km |
| 1 x Novice - 30m / 48 km 1 day | 30m / 48km 1 day |

2. Riders wishing to be considered for the teams must complete the attached form and send to the chef, Sue Higgins (sue.higgins3@btinternet.com) by the end of March 2014. We are indebted to Sue, now in her third year as our Chef d'Equipe.

3. Riders should be prepared to ride if selected (they should be actively building fitness towards the event and have ensured that they are available for the event dates.)

4. They are to notify selectors immediately if any circumstances change and they (or their horse) become unavailable for selection.

If more applications are made than team places available then some riders may be asked to act as reserves and selection may involve:-

1. Consideration of the horse and rider combination best meeting the criteria set out in 1 – 4 above.
2. Consideration of the log books of each horse being considered. Preference will be given to successful completions and consistently low heart rates for riders being considered for GER rides.
3. Consideration of the history of the horse and rider combination in previous years.

Riders with more than one horse

Riders who wish to use a 'back-up' horse should put the names of all their potential horses forward. Should the specified horse become unavailable, then that rider's second horse does not automatically take the first horse's place. (It may do so, but if a reserve combination is preferable then the selectors may take that choice.)

The selectors reserve the right to approach other riders with good results who have not put their names forward if this is demonstrably in the best interests of the team. Both teams will be chosen by (date to be confirmed – probably end June). This will allow chefs and members to discuss sponsorship, travel arrangements, clothing etc.

Funding for Team Members

Team members will be expected to pay their own stabling, travel and entry fees. There may be sponsorship available to help with costs.