**EVALUATION OF COURSES BY THE COURSE DESIGNER**

Spokane Sport Horse Farm Spring Horse Trials

May 11-13, 2018

**List the Divisions offered, in the order they were run, stating, if appropriate, different days or different arenas**:

All levels Show Jumped on Sunday in one arena. Advanced/Intermediate, Intermediate, Preliminary, Modified, Training, Novice, Beginner Novice, Starter

Because 3 of the 9 Intermediate horses were ridden by 1 rider we jumped 1 Intermediate horse, raised the fences to Advanced and jumped the A/I class, lowered the fences back to Intermediate and jumped the rest of the class. The rest of the day ran high to low.

**Size of arena(s) in feet**:

315 x 160

**Any Gradient:**

None

**Grass or All Weather**:

All weather gravel sand mix with grounded rubber footing.

**If All Weather, was there significant time allocated for watering and dragging and was the equipment suitable for doing such? :**

Yes, the ring was watered during the breaks. The jump crew were supplied with rakes and experienced enough to rake all of the take-off and landings during the rounds and some of the turns during the breaks.

**Were there any permanent, or semi-permanent, items in the arena, like cross-country jumps, trees, etc.? :**

There were two 2ft tall free standing wood carved Mushrooms I used to create an island which is indicated on the map.

**Is there any other information about the arena layout that I may need to know of? :**

The arena orientation was North to South.

**What were the weather conditions on the day (i.e. rain/windy/hot)** **and did you think this had any effect on the results?**

Perfect conditions! Sunny clear skies the entire day. Mid-70\*F for the morning, did increase to 80\*F in the afternoon which is quite warm for the area especially this time of year. But I think most of the horses and riders were not affected by the heat.

**Were there any other circumstances that affected the day (i.e. lack of help, insufficient material, etc.) ? :**

There was only myself and one other person for the majority of the building process, but we did have access to a pole wagon and Bobcat to move the poles and standards. Plenty of jump crew on the day of competition who are knowledgeable horse people. Huge inventory list.

**Please list the original Times Allowed for each Division and if they were changed by the Jury, and by how much:**

Advanced/Intermediate – 75sec(did not change)

Intermediate – 80sec(did not change)

Preliminary – 76sec(did not change) All levels were ran in reverse order of standing after Cross Country. Because of this our first three Preliminary rides were not great representations to judge the Time Allowed(very wide turns and slow pace). The POJ and myself both felt comfortable to leave the Time Allowed at 76sec. Once we were into the top 10 with only 1 or 2 inside the time, The POJ and myself both agreed if we could have a do-over we would extend the time to either 78 or 79sec and would have a further 5 rides inside the Time Allowed.

Modified and Training – 86sec(reduced to 77sec) Riders rode more inside tracks than I where I wheeled.

Novice – 90 sec(reduced to 78sec) Riders took several inside tracks where I expected them to go around because of the level.

Beginner Novice – 96sec(reduced to 88sec) Same problem as Novice.

Starter – 112sec(reduced to 90sec) Many of the competitors cantered the entire course, the required speed was 250mpm.

**Was any of the information or suggestions that I offered, on receipt of your original plans useful, or were there reasons, once on site, not to follow them? :**

Suggestions were to extend the combinations by 6”. Those suggestions were followed.

**Due to the above, or site conditions, did you change any parts of the course from the original plans you sent me, including distances? If so please list them here, or include the plans that were posted on the day showing that information:**

Once on-site I realized the north end of the ring had a large amount of farm equipment, trailers, etc. I decided to flip the course 180\* as I didn’t feel it would be fair to jump the combinations into those distractions. Due to a tight schedule and the above schedule change with the Intermediate rides, not every level had their own course. But there were plenty of changes throughout the day to offer appropriate tests for the levels.

**Give a brief description of any changes you would make if you had to build the same tracks again or offer any other comments about your courses**:

The 26’ and 36’ distances in the triple combination rode quite long for the A/I and Intermediate classes. I believe since the triple was by itself and did not have a setup fence; the riders were not riding as forward as needed to make the distances comfortably. While I think it was a proper test for an Advanced and Intermediate level rider, if I had a do over I would go to my original plan of 25’6” and 35’6”. For Preliminary and below, the distances were changed to 25’6” and 35’6”, rode great the rest of the day. The 26’ double of verticals rode well and provided a great test for the A/I and Intermediate riders to shorten the step as the 72’ rode a bit short, at Preliminary the 72’ became very short and we saw some 4 strides from some bigger striding horses. While I do feel that a Preliminary rider should be able to answer that question, if I had a do over I would lengthen the 72’ to 73 or 74’. I shortened the combination from 26’ to 25’6” which changed the 72’ to 72’6”, with this change the horses weren’t as flat in the combination and the extra 6” made the line a more comfortable 5 strides. I also would have liked to open the first part of the course for the Training riders, some riders found it a little tight.