

MARS Badminton Horse Trials

Badminton, S. Glos., GL9 1DF

Wednesday, 6th May, 2026



DUBARRY BURGHLEY YOUNG EVENT HORSE QUALIFIER

Dressage Judge: Gill Watson

Jumping Judge: Darrell Scaife

Suitability & Type Judge: Beanie Sturgis



Dubarry Burghley Young Event Horse series 2026

Introduction

The aim of the BYEH Series is to encourage riders, trainers and breeders to produce and present the type of young horse which potentially has the attributes needed to develop into a world-class three-day event horse, which one day may have the ability to gallop around the Defender Burghley CCI 5*.

Age of Horses

Horses eligible to compete in the 2026 Burghley Young Event Horse Series are based on year of birth, as below:

4-year-olds - foaled in 2022

5-year-olds- foaled in 2021

As suggested above, entry forms should ask for year of birth, not age.

Qualifiers for the Final

In each class, the number of horses to qualify for the final will depend on the number of starters:

1 – 12 Starters	1 Qualifier
13 – 24 Starters	2 Qualifiers
25 – 36 Starters	3 Qualifiers
37 or more Starters	4 Qualifiers

The above is subject to horses finishing in the top 5 placings – applicable where previously qualified horses are placed higher up the line.

Prize Money

In each class, prize money is allocated for the first 3 places and any additional prize money should be awarded on the following scale, depending on the number of declared starters:

1 st Place	£75
2 nd Place	£50
3 rd Place	£30
4 th Place	£25
(over 15 starters)	
5 th Place	£25
(over 20 starters)	
6 th Place	£25
(over 30 starters)	

Entry Fee

The entry for the Burghley Young Event Horse Qualifiers in 2026 will be £40.00 plus £8.00 VAT - Total: £48.00. VAT Reg No 681 7228 19. Please see Entry Form for payment details.

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Dressage Phase (35 Marks)

(20 x 60 Arena)

Unlike a normal dressage test, combinations are not assessed on the current state of training and marks are not given for individual movements.

The idea is to find horses with three correct, scopey and regular gaits, whilst considering the attributes for potential longevity and performance as a world class event horse.

	Test
A	Enter at working trot
From X	Proceed directly to M
M	Working Trot
C	Serpentine 3 loops each loop to go to side of the arena finishing at A
FXH	Change rein showing some lengthened strides (<i>not required by 4-year old's</i>)
Between H&C	Working canter right
C	Circle right 20m diameter
MXK	Change rein with transition to trot between X and K
Between K & A	Working canter left
A	Circle left 20m diameter
Between A & F	Working trot
F & B	Medium walk
B	Half 20m circle left in free walk on a long rein to E
E	Directly to A - leave the arena free walk on a long rein

Assessment of individual tasks	Mark
1. Trot Rhythm, suppleness of the back, potential ability to engage the hindquarters	/5
2. Canter Rhythm, suppleness of the back, natural balance, uphill tendency, potential ability to engage the hindquarters	/5
3. Walk Rhythm, suppleness of the back, activity, ground cover	/5
4. Rideability/Temperament according to the age and stage of training & reaction to the aids	/10
5. Suitability Aptitude as a young event horse and potential to make a world class event horse	/10

to be followed immediately by

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Jumping Phase (40 Marks)

No time will be allowed between phases for any adjustment to tack or rider's dress. Fall of horse or rider or a total of three refusals will result in elimination.

Maximum height of fences:

4-year-olds – 0.90m max.

5-year-olds – 1.05m max.

Note: fence height at the Final:

4-year-olds – 1.00m max.

5-year-olds – 1.10m max.

Judges are looking for a bold athletic horse with good technique. A horse with these qualities, should not necessarily be penalised for knocking down one fence (or a four-year-old having one refusal), providing they demonstrate they react positively afterwards. Especially in the early part of the season, four-year-olds may find it easier to jump some fences out of trot.

Assessment of individual tasks	Mark
1. Technique The horses desire to be careful over a fence taking into account the natural technique (of limbs and body) appropriate for a world-class event horse.	/25
2. Balance Natural balance and general athleticism/agility. (Quickness of the footwork and lightness of landing).	
3. Rideability/Temperament Rideability indicated by general attitude, reaction to riders aids).	
4. Suitability Suitability, type to include scope and range of movement to indicate potential to be a future world class event horse that is capable of getting the time round a Championship five-star track	/15

Immediately after jumping:

Potential to Lengthen Stride Phase (5 marks)

In the lengthening of strides in canter, the judges are looking for the qualities in a horse's potential to gallop in the future, with further maturity and development in their training.

Potential to lengthen stride Phase Potential & ability to lengthen canter strides with further maturity and development	/5
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Suitability & Type (20 marks)

Judges are looking for horses with the attributes to withstand the demands of the sport in terms of soundness, speed and stamina. Lack of quality and other defects which might indicate limited stamina or speed should be penalised, even though the horse may be a nice dressage or show jumping prospect.

Suitability & Type The horse is put together in such a way that its conformation is going to stand up to the physical demands placed on it for longevity as a potential world class event horse	/20
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Conditions 2026

1. Horses must exceed 148cm without shoes.
2. Age: Open to horses born in 2021 & 2022
3. Saddlery: (warm-up and competition): tack as per British Eventing Rules for Novice Dressage -snaffle bridle only, see website www.britisheventing.com. Running martingale only and front boots are optional for sections I, II and III. However, NO hind boots or bandages of any kind may be worn in the collecting ring, warm-up area or actual class. Jumping whip only allowed (max length 75cm).
4. Dress: As for British Eventing Novice Dressage Test/Hunting Dress. British Eventing/BHS approved hat and harness to be worn for all sections.
5. Vaccinations: All horses must have a valid certificate of vaccination against Equine Influenza, which must be brought to the event for inspection if required.
6. Entries Open: Friday, 13th March 2026. NB: 3 horses per rider/owner will accepted per class); if oversubscribed this will be reduced to 2 horses.
7. Entries Close: Friday, 3rd April, 2026. In the event of over subscription this class may be closed early.
8. Balloting: In the event of over subscription, entries received for horses that have already qualified for the Final will be balloted first.
9. Entries: Please enter via: <https://www.badminton-horse.co.uk/dubarry-burghley-young-event-horse-class/>
10. Any queries please contact - Entries Secretary - Ollie Bush. Mob: 07968 271118; em: ollie.bush@badminton-horse.co.uk
11. Withdrawals & Refunds: Withdrawals on Saturday, 2nd May between 1700hrs and 2000hrs. Tel: 07968 271118; em: ollie.bush@badminton-horse.co.uk. REFUND POLICY - 100% refund will be given for withdrawals before closing date. No refund thereafter.
12. Start Times: will be available Monday, 4th May between 1700hrs & 1800hrs on 07968 271118. Starting Times also available on website <https://www.badminton-horse.co.uk/dubarry-burghley-young-event-horse-class/>
13. Passes: Passes and full directions will be forwarded after Close of Entries. Each entrant will receive a horsebox/trailer pass plus one further vehicle pass (i.e. 2 passes). NB: if there is an additional owner of a second/third horse a further pass will be sent. The vehicle pass(es) will give admission to the horsebox parking area and two Wednesday (6th May) personal admission tickets (per vehicle pass) will be issued and give admission to Badminton Park.
14. Stabling: No stabling available on site. Limited stabling available locally - please contact Ollie Bush for details.
15. Conflict of Interest: Within the equestrian community there may be times when conflicts occur. For guidance, it has been determined that a perceived/potential conflict of interest could arise in the event that an appointed judge has a previous or current connection to a horse entered in the competition. Examples of such connections and interests include, but not limited to, the following. The judge has; bred or previously owned the horse or acted as an agent in its sale; previously competed, trained or kept the horse at livery; previously or currently had a financial or other interest in the horse. In the event that a judge/owner/rider (or their agent) knows of, or should know of, any potential and/or perceived conflict of interest in a horse entered in the competition they must declare this to the Organiser as soon as it is known. Steps will be taken to manage it as practically as possible. Any potential conflicts will be written and displayed next to the scoreboard. Conflicts at the Final will be avoided and managed by Burghley Horse Trials.
16. It is a condition of entry that all riders, owners, grooms, and their connections/relatives, must conduct themselves and communicate in a respectful manner towards the public, officials, and all other parties present or entered in the competition. Such behaviour includes respect for the Judges and their decisions, which are final. Offensive behaviour, and/or other violations of this condition, may lead to sanctions such as disqualification and future bans.
17. Conditions & Disclaimer: Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the Organisers, Badminton Horse Trials Ltd., the British Equestrian Federation, British Eventing, The Trustees of the Somerset Trust, The Duke of Beaufort and his Estates, Swangrove Estates Ltd. nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury, illness to horses, owners, riders, grooms, spectators, sponsors, dogs, exhibitors, land, cars, their contents and accessories, or any other person or property whatsoever, whether caused by their negligence, breach of contract or in any other way whatsoever.

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