



Sunshine Tour Championships

Held at The All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, West Sussex

The Sunshine Tour is a fabulous 4-day Championship for amateur and novice competitors, held at the UK's famous iconic showground, The All England Jumping Course, Hickstead in West Sussex.

About The Championships

There are championships in Dressage, Show Jumping, Showing and Eventers Challenge with a vast array of classes, there is truly something for everyone. The competitions are divided into 3 levels called Mini Tour, Small Tour & Grand Tour so that competitors can enjoy competition in their own peer group.

The Championships start on Thursday with Dressage, Show Jumping and Arena Eventing, including warm up classes and arena familiarisation followed by Small Tour Championships. Friday is a competitive Dressage & Show Jumping, Saturday and Sunday are full-on Championships with as many as 10 arenas in the beautiful grounds at Hickstead, its busy, buzzing and exciting!

Each championship is awarded fantastic yellow star-pointed rosettes, sashes, embroidered rugs and goody bags. Sponsors can add their own personalised rosettes, additional prizes and make their own presentation to the champions. Some championships also qualify for a Supreme Championship for more chances to win superb prizes. The dream of being crowned a champion on the hallowed turf of the All England Jumping Course can now come true for any equine enthusiast.

Qualification

Competitors can qualify all over the UK by taking part in an unaffiliated competition at their local show, centre, Pony Club or Riding Club between January and July. Qualification is awarded on placings, those placed 1st-4th in unaffiliated dressage, show jumping showing and eventers challenges qualify.

History

The Sunshine Tour started in 2008 as a very small set of championship classes in a collaboration between local show centres in Surrey. Qualifiers were held in the summer – hence the reference to 'Sunshine' and the championship rotated between venues – hence the 'Tour'. By 2014 the show was so popular that bursting at the seams in its home showground, so the following year the championship moved to new premises – and the most iconic showground of all, The All England Jumping Course at Hickstead, West Sussex.

Statistics

The Sunshine Tour series boast over 200 affiliated show centres, ranging from large show venues to local shows. Approximately 3,000 riders qualify giving lots of competitors the chance to become part of the Sunshine Tour series, even if they can't make the pilgrimage to Hickstead.

With the increased capacity at Hickstead, in 2018 a total of 1,745 horses and ponies competed with 1,586 riders and handlers. Many competitors took part in more than one championship and enjoyed open classes, warm up sessions and training classes to get ready for their big moment in the ring. There are 25 dressage championships, 33 in show jumping, 5 eventers challenges and 67 showing championships. Over the weekend 27 supreme champions are crowned. In 2019 a total of 1,700 rosettes were awarded, 270 supreme rosettes, 304 sashes and medals, 67 embroidered rugs and jackets and a prize fund of over £5,000 is shared in Sunshine Tour goody bags.

The vast majority of competitors are one-horse one-owner, and many make a fun weekend of the event, camping with friends and family in the Stable Field and enjoying Hickstead hospitality in the evenings. Total footfall in 2019 topped 6,000 show visitors comprising of competitors, grooms, family, friends and spectators. Visitors to the show enjoy competing, supporting their friends and family, shopping in the trade stands in 'competitors' row' and hanging out in the bar and grill soaking up the atmosphere of a fantastic, fun, exciting and inclusive championship at the UK's most amazing showground.

For more information about trade stands & sponsorship at the Sunshine Tour contact Rebecca on office@sunshinetour.co.uk or phone 07904 898696.