



Baileys Horse Feeds/BEF Futurity 2011

Factsheet 10

The Jumping Lane

If you are planning to enter a three year old showjumper or eventer, you will be required to tick a box as you enter to confirm that you have viewed the Futurity information video and read this factsheet which contains full details of the loose jumping section. You will need to ensure that you can fulfill all the requirements set out in both the Factsheet and the BEF Futurity video, and tick that you undertake to do so, before your entry will be accepted.

Preparation at home

This is essential. We will not be able to evaluate any 3 year old that has not been fully prepared before the Futurity assessment day. Preparation is critical for the safety and welfare of the horse and its handlers. All preparation must be done at home – not at the event.

Short sessions at home, or in a hired arena, in a safe environment over low jumps offer best results making jumping into a fun, positive, confidence-giving exercise. It must always be remembered that you can teach your horse and assess their basic style over a small fence and it is not advisable to see "how high" your young horse can jump in the early stages - quickly putting the jumps up higher and higher will not make a better jumper out of your horse in the long term and may instead result in refusing and loss of confidence. You may find it easier to start with one jump and then build up to 3 using the distances and heights below. After a few loose jumping sessions most horses will start to enjoy the exercise and probably will not need much encouragement to keep moving forward down the lane. The horse should calmly and happily lower his head and lengthen his neck as he approaches the fence, take off correctly and round his back with his knees up, with the withers being the highest point of the horse when over the top of the jump (not the head). The objective is a calm, consistent, steady approach to the jumping lane and confident tackling of the fences – just like the horse in the Futurity video.

Distances and layout. The lane will consist of a cross pole, a vertical and an oxer. The distance from the wall/corner to the first fence (cross pole) will be 6m. From the cross pole to the second fence (vertical) will be 6.6m. From the vertical to the third fence (oxer) will be 7.10m for ponies and 7.65m for horses. These dimensions are taken from the KWPN studbook who use these distances to evaluate over 1000 loose jumping horses per year in Holland. It doesn't matter whether a horse is intended for show jumping or eventing, these distances are appropriate provided the horse tackles the lane calmly in trot or a steady canter. A horse jumping these distances comfortably can be seen on our BEF Futurity video at: www.britishbreeding.org Between 3 and 7 passes down the lane are allowed. The evaluators will give your horse every opportunity to present itself to the best of its ability, within reason. The threshold at which the evaluators determine that they are not likely to see any improvement in performance on assessment day, is entirely at their discretion. The evaluators will confirm when they have seen enough. There is a maximum time limit of 8 minutes for all of these passes in total. In the event that you cannot catch your horse or they persistently decline to go down the lane, regrettably we will not be able to score the loose jumping assessment. Please practice catching and representing your horse down the jumping lane at home.

On the Day

When the evaluators have seen your horse loose and in hand, they will ask you if you are ready to go to go down the jumping, if necessary put the horses front boots on at this point, you will need one or two assistants with lunge whips (if necessary) who can judge the horses' pace and help you keep him moving calmly down the lane. Whilst free-jumping each assistant should remain quiet and still so the horse can concentrate and focus, and only send the horse on from behind with a flick of the whip if the horse loses momentum, while also being ready to help slow and settle the horse if he becomes too fast. The idea is for the assistants to keep the horse moving with good rhythm and plenty of forward impulsion without distracting the horse or making sudden moves that alarm them at the last minute before the jump.

A good trot and calm yet forward-going canter are your aim, you don't want the horse to become hurried, unbalanced and fast as they will then jump flat rather than develop a proper rounded bascule over the fences.

- Fence heights will start with one pass down the lane with all the poles on the ground.
- On the second pass the cross pole will be 60cm in the centre, the vertical will be 60cm and the parallel will be 60cm high and 80cm wide.
- On the third pass the cross pole and the vertical will remain at 60cm and the oxer will be 80cm high and 80cm wide.
- On the fourth pass the cross pole and the vertical will be 60cm and the oxer will be 1m high and 80cm wide. These heights may be reduced for ponies but often there is

no need because a talented pony is every bit as athletic as a talented horse. The jump will stay at this height.

- Placing poles may be inserted into the lane to help steady the horse in the first few passes but the horse must undertake at last one pass down the lane with no poles.

Source of dimensions: KWPN

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