



# The War of the Roses Ride



Thank you for your entry for the War of the Roses Ride at Breaks Fold Farm.

You are rider number ..... You are riding for the House of .....

Your Saturday vet time is..... Your Sunday vet time is.....

## How to get to the venue:

**From Harrogate:** Follow the A59 towards Skipton. Approx 3.5 km after Blubberhouses, Kex Gill Road (aka North Moor Road) will be on your right. Follow Kex Gill Road to the end, and Breaks Fold Farm will be directly ahead of you. We are in the fields to the left of the main farm entrance.

**From Skipton:** Follow the A59 towards Harrogate. Stay on the A59 past the Bolton Abbey roundabout with the B6160 and keep following the signs for Harrogate. Approx 7km after the Bolton Abbey roundabout, Kex Gill Road (aka North Moor Road) will be on your left. Follow Kex Gill Road to the end, and Breaks Fold Farm will be directly ahead of you. We are in the fields to the left of the main farm entrance.



## Some important information about the route:

Saturday's route is mostly forestry, and Sunday's route takes you over the tops. Both days cover some open moorland, and we would advise you to carry a small first aid kit and a mobile phone in case of emergency. Conditions can change very quickly and the route is very exposed in parts. There will be first aiders at venue on both days. In the case of a real emergency, please do not wait for one of the ride first aiders to arrive; ring 999 first and then call us at the venue.

On both days there are some road crossings which may be busy. Please listen to the stewards. They are not permitted by law to stop the traffic for you, but can advise when the road is clear.

Please keep to the defined tracks (or very close to them), particularly at the top of Pockstones Moor. The surrounding land is very boggy in places, even in the summer, and if you stray too far from the tracks you will find yourself in difficulties.

Mobile phones - considering how remote the route is, mobile phone reception isn't bad, particularly on the hills. Generally, even if you can't get a phone call to connect, texts will go through. The main 'black hole' for mobile reception is in parts of the forest on the Saturday. If you are struggling to get reception, head uphill.

We are very lucky to have been given access to some wonderfully good going across private land. However, some parts of the middle loop do involve hard tracks and you will encounter some stones; these are Pennine moors. We have tried to direct the route so that you meet the stony sections on downhill stretches where you will be riding slowly anyway, and there are grass verges to avoid some of the stones.

'Warts and all' pictures of the route are available on the ride website and Facebook page. There will be a full gate allowance, exact details to be confirmed on the day.

### **Humid weather**

The weather is currently forecast to be warm, humid and changeable/wet, so be prepared with your wet weather gear. Please make sure that you and your horse drink plenty.

Apply sunscreen both to yourself and to any vulnerable pink bits on your horse, just in case, even if it is raining when you set off. The flies will also be about in Timble Woods so come prepared with fly spray for you and your horse. Make sure that you and your horse drink enough. There is natural water on course and we will endeavour to make sure that the checkpoints have water and sashes for those without crews. Pace yourselves, it isn't a race and the hills are long. Look after each other: ride in pairs/groups and make sure that you encourage each other to drink.

To finish is to win and all that.

Please be mindful of the fire ride on the moors. We have been asked by the landowners to ensure:

- No smoking anywhere at the venue or on the route.
- Do not leave any litter at the venue or on the route, particularly plastic or glass or anything that could reflect the sun
- No barbecues in the venue field (speak to the venue owners if you need somewhere safe to barbecue)
- Do not leave animals in hot vehicles.

### **Flu Vaccinations and Biosecurity**

Please bring your horse passport to the secretary's office when you check in, and to the vets when you go to vet. We will be carrying out spot checks.

The Equine Flu outbreak still shows no sign of abating. Please do not bring your horse to the ride if it shows any sign of being unwell. Take sensible precautions and do not share water from water buckets. The checkpoints will have water and sashes for crewless riders and will pour fresh water out for each horse.

### **Crewing**

Due to the remote nature of this route, opportunities for crewing are limited. Make sure that your crew displays your crewcard at all times, as you will need it to pass through the traffic barriers.

Saturday: Crewing is available for smaller vehicles at A and at CP2. We regret that there are no crew sites suitable for larger vehicles (eg a 3.5 ton van or a large 4x4) on the Saturday. There will be water available for crewless riders at the checkpoints.

Sunday: If you are crewing in a larger vehicle (eg a 3.5 ton van or a large 4x4), you will only be able to crew at CP1 and at CP3. There may be some access for crewing in smaller vehicles at A, along Whit Moor Road (the road the venue is on), and CP2. For those doing the 20km, 30km or 40km, you will also be able to catch the riders as they pass the venue. Again, there will be water available for crewless riders at the checkpoints. Please do not upset the locals, as we rely on them for the excellent private land access on this ride.

### **Overnight accommodation**

Overnight accommodation is camping and coralling. You will need to pay the venue owners for this on arrival if you have not already done so. They can be found at the campsite shop in the main farm buildings. There is no stabling at the venue. If you need stabling, please try Crowtrees Livery Stables on 01423 771020 or Bewerley Riding Centre on 01423 712249.

### **Corralling**

If you are coralling at the venue, please remember the EGB coralling rules:

- The horses to have head collar plus ID tag on at all times.
- ID tag on Corral or fencer unit.



- Corral size approx. 5m square depending on available space and appropriate size poles, and minimum of 2 strands of tape.
- Only one horse per corral.
- A responsible adult must be in attendance at all times if rider not present.
- It is the owner's responsibility to ensure their horse is left safely.

Non-compliance with the corralling rules may result in a penalty

Please also ensure that your corral is electrified while your horse is in the corral. We will be checking!

### Evening meal

We have several options for evening meals (likely to be variations on the pizza theme). If you are staying overnight and would like to be added to the food order, please email [egbkerry@google.com](mailto:egbkerry@google.com) and let her know.

### Prizes

The headline event is the **'War of the Roses'** competition, kindly sponsored by Kerry Dawson. Everyone entering the event will be riding for either the 'House of York' or the 'House of Lancaster'. For those who have not yet expressed a preference, we have allocated you a side based on which side of the country you live. If you would like to swap sides, please let us know as soon as possible.

If you successfully complete the ride within the speed parameters for your class, you will earn points for your side: normal grading and mileage points for the competitive classes, and 1 point per km for the pleasure ride classes. Ride helpers will also be allocated points for their chosen side of 1 point per km for the longest pleasure ride distance on the day they help.

Once the last rider has finished, the points will all be added up and either the 'House of York' or the 'House of Lancaster' will be crowned the winners. We appreciate that many of you will have to get home, but it would be good if as many of you as possible could stay around till the bitter end. Feel free to get into the spirit of things with white roses/red roses/etc. We certainly will.

The vets will be judging a **'Best Presented'** award. This will go to the combination who, in the opinion of the vetting team, are considered to have presented themselves in the best manner on each day. Factors to be taken into account will be the good manners of the horse and handler, the straightness and obedience of the trot up, overall presentation and the condition of the horse. There will be a prize for the horse with the **best feet** on both days.

Horses who complete their classes on both days will be considered for the **'Best Condition'** award. This will be awarded to the horse which, in the opinion of the veterinary panel, has come through the weekend's rides in the best condition.

Our hosts at Breaks Fold Farm have also sponsored a **'most polite and courteous rider'** award, and the winner will receive a trophy and a free two night stay for a human and a horse at Breaks Fold Farm. The winner will be the person from either day who our hosts believe to have been the most polite, friendly and helpful.

If you are lucky enough to win something over the weekend, please take the time to thank the sponsor.

### Helpers

Please smile and say thank you to the ride volunteers when you pass them. We need additional helpers, so if you know anyone who could offer a few hours of help on either day, please e-mail [egbkerry@gmail.com](mailto:egbkerry@gmail.com) remember - any helpers will earn points towards the overall 'War of the Roses' competition. All our helpers will get bribed handsomely with chocolate and food over the weekend, but we also have a special **'Happy Helper'** award each day for the most cheery helper who gets fully into the spirit of things. If you encounter a helper who you think has gone above and beyond the call of duty with a smile on their face, please let us know back at the venue.

Please keep an eye on the ride website for any last minute changes: <http://waroftherosesegb.webs.com/>

We hope that you enjoy your ride and we would be grateful to receive your feedback afterwards.

*The War of the Roses Team*

Ps Please note – the ride may need to take a hiatus for a few years after this year, as there is major re-routing work scheduled on the A59. We are looking at alternative routes over the Duke of Devonshire's estate as apparently rides have been run over that way in the past and the tracks are amazing, but we are struggling to get useful contacts. If anyone happens to know anyone connected with the Duke's Estate Office who might be able to help negotiate, please could they let us know.

Once the A59 work is complete, we have been promised additional horse crossings so we should have more options for routes then too.