

Ride Out UK – Event FAQs

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What type of events can we host?

- Guided or escorted ride
- Walk and trot ride
- Large pleasure / fun ride
- If you have another fundraising idea, **please [contact the BHS Access Team](#)** to discuss your ideas before planning commences and arrangements are made.

Where do the proceeds of the event go?

The event organiser needs to make it clear in the booking and marketing information where the proceeds go. i.e., **Ride Out UK raising money for the BHS Ride Out Fund.**

Profits can be shared with committees, venue providers or other charities as long as this still makes the ride viable (no more than 50% of the proceeds after expenses) and it is clearly stated on all information.

What is the BHS Ride Out Fund?

The **BHS Ride Out Fund** provides funding for projects which open and/or enable safe off-road equestrian access throughout the UK.

The commitment to access for horses, riders and carriage drivers is a vital part of the charitable work carried out by The British Horse Society.

The BHS recognises the importance of safe off-road riding, not only for our members but for all equestrians. We pledge to keep equestrians safe, horses happy, and support the continued growth of our sport and the equine industry.

Who can attend a Ride Out UK event?

Ride Out UK events are open to anyone to attend. There are some details as per the ROUK Event Terms and Conditions that may impact on attendance, however.

People

- Riders under 16 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult for the duration of the event.
- Riders over 16 but under 18 may ride unaccompanied at the discretion of their parent or guardian.
- If the ride is open to non-BHS members, they should hold their own public liability insurance. Their insurance details should be captured on the booking form.

Horses

- All horses must be no younger than four years of age.

Do you have any “how to” guides for running events?

Yes, you can find the “how to run an event” guides [here](#).

There are three guides available for: a large pleasure ride, a walk and trot ride, and an escorted ride.

How to find a suitable venue

- Consider National Trust properties, larger estates or multiple landowners. Venues and locations where riders may not normally be able to access can be more appealing to equestrians.
- Contact local BHS Approved Centres or British Riding Clubs venues – do they have the facilities to host an event?
- Local Equestrian Centres or event venues – venues that hire out their facilities may be another option.
- BHS Committee members – does anyone on your committee have a venue that might be suitable or have a contact they could ask?
- Consider what venues have been used previously and if they could host your event again.

How do I tell you about my event?

Email your BHS National/Regional Manager with your event details to register, copy in the BHS Access & Rights of Way team too – access@bhs.org.uk.

The details you’ll need to share:

- Date of event, start time and approximate duration
- Venue, including full address and post code
- Type of event (guided ride, pleasure ride)
- Approximate numbers / capacity (including how many rosettes you will need)
- Cost to attend (your BHS National/Regional Manager will be able to assist with this)

Do we get rosettes for the event?

- Yes, the BHS can supply Ride Out UK rosettes for your event. . . .

BUT...

- You will need to confirm the event details, that it will be going ahead, and the number of rosettes needed.
- We need a **minimum of four weeks’ notice to order rosettes**. If a request is received less than 4 weeks before the event, we will try where possible to obtain rosettes however we cannot guarantee the request will be fulfilled.
- To be eligible for BHS Ride Out UK rosettes, a minimum of 50% of the proceeds from the event will need to be donated to the Ride Out Fund.
- Your committee can source their own rosettes if preferred.

[Email us to request your rosettes](#)

Is the event covered by BHS Insurance?

The BHS holds insurance that covers our volunteers and Premium affiliated Equestrian Access Groups, and their activities. Please ensure you take a copy with you to any event and ensure that the venue has their own public liability insurance.

Decide whether the ride is for BHS Gold members only - if the ride is open to non-BHS members, then their public liability insurance details should be captured on the booking form. All riders must have public liability insurance, valid on the day of the event. BHS Gold Membership includes up to £30 million public liability insurance cover. The BHS is an Appointed Representative of South Essex Insurance Brokers Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

How do we take bookings for the event?

- The easiest way to take bookings is via our **online booking system** – contact your BHS National/Regional Manager to set up online bookings.
- **Postal bookings** can also be taken – download and add your event details to our Ride Out UK Event Entry form available to download [here](#).
- **Entries on the day** – for some events you can take entries on the day, however it is easier to manage the expected number of attendees by taking bookings in advance.

What volunteers do we need?

- How many volunteers and what roles do you need?
- Do the volunteers need any training?
- Remember to send them clear instructions in advance of the event.
- Schedule a volunteer's briefing before the start of the event.
- Are more volunteers needed? Speak to your Regional/National Manager about BHS Occasional Volunteers.
- BHS Employees may also be able to attend and support your event. Contact your Regional/National Manager can provide support in their area.

Planning a pleasure ride...

Planning the route of a pleasure ride is one of the most important keys to the success of a ride.

- Liaise with the venue in putting the route together. They will advise the best route and any limitations or areas out of bounds.
- Contact your National/Regional Manager for assistance.
- Where a route is shorter, you could offer riders the opportunity to go round twice for a longer ride.

- Where you have a longer route, is there an option for a turn off to a shorter route? Ideal for lead rein guests.
- Think of local conditions when planning the route. Consider weather, ground conditions, tide times, livestock, accessibility for carriage drivers, check points and gates etc.
- Check points – mark out your check points and confirm that radios work at each point, or that there is sufficient mobile phone reception.

Marking the route

- Make sure that you check the full route close to the time of the ride. If there are areas to avoid, for instance poor ground conditions or a blocked route, ensure that a clear and straightforward alternative route is in place before the ride starts.
- **Waymarking the route** - For unescorted rides, the route needs to be marked out clearly prior to the ride. When marking the route it gives you opportunity to check the route is clear of any obstacles and complete a Risk Assessment.
- Do you have access to route way markers? Directional arrows, or ticker tape on trees are frequently used. As your National/Regional Manager if they have any way markers you could use. and covid related signs that may be required. Ensure that the landowner is happy with how you will mark your route.

How do you allocate groups and times for a ride?

The booking information will specify the broader set off times, e.g. 9am - 11:30am of the ride.

Depending on the type of ride, riders can be allocated into groups with a specified start time. A time can also be provided to arrive on site, particularly in terms of covid restrictions. Please contact the Regional/National Manager for any assistance.

Within your online booking you can include an option for the rider to state who they would like to ride with.

I have another question, who can I contact?

A range of support is available, you can contact...

- Your Regional / National Manager
- BHS Access Team – access@bhs.org.uk
- BHS Fundraising Team – funding@bhs.org.uk