**Good Judging Practice for Eventing Competitions**

1. There is no difference whatsoever in the scale of training for the event horse from the dressage horse. You are still evaluating the training, basic paces, and presentation of a dressage test.

2. However in a Dressage Competition (with the exception of Team Events) the winner is the winner and the margin of the result is not critical. In eventing the dressage score is a platform from which the well-presented dressage test should gain an advantage in the other phases ahead. The margins are important and for this reason the whole range of the scale of marks should be used where appropriate.

3. Event horses have to jump and gallop, consequently they develop a different musculature to dressage horses. They will rarely be able to show the looseness characteristic of the Grand Prix horse and therefore their paces are unlikely to be as extravagant. This should be taken into consideration.

4. Event horses are very fit and sharp enough to run for their lives. Minor disobedience and keenness should not be punished too severely.

5. Arenas at events are often on unsuitable going and are not even or level. The going can deteriorate considerably between the first and last competitors. Horses should not be heavily penalised for a minor loss of rhythm, particularly if this occurs crossing a rutted centre line. Distractions such as close proximity to the show jumping and cross country should also be taken into account. Ask yourself "is it reasonable to expect anything better in these circumstances and environment" If a horse is presented showing good training and way of going and does cope with the environment then it should be rewarded with very high marks. Remember 10 is only excellent.

6. Bold accurate riding should be rewarded. But also remember to be tolerant at the lower levels where it is possible that riders will have had no dressage education whatsoever. Of course they should be marked fairly, but comments must still be constructive and understanding.

7. Your comments should always be made in a positive, helpful and understanding manner with an appreciation of the skills required to produce these all round athletes.