

FESTIVAL OF HOUNDS



What you need to know about the Inter Hunt Relay!

What is the Inter Hunt relay?

The Inter Hunt Relay is a knock-out competition where two teams of four horses and riders jump over an identical course, against the clock, collecting time penalties for any obstacles knocked down along the way. The fastest team after penalties are added then go forward to the next stage to carry out the process again! It is fast and furious and very very competitive - it could be likened to Pony Club Mounted Games with lots of shouting and cheering.

When did it first start?

At the Peterborough Royal Fox Hound Show. It came following the Hunting Ban that came into force in February 2005. Its aims were to attract a wide range of hunting enthusiasts from across the country.

How has it grown?

Its popularity has continued to grow due to new hunts entering each year and more junior teams keen to take part. Many hunts have also been competing at the FOH since the beginning.

Is it competitive and are there any consistent winners?

It's healthily competitive and always well supported with spectators on the day. Over time there's definitely been trends of who's in the top 8, in the last three years the Duke of Beaufort's has been up there with both junior and senior teams.

Tell me a funny story about it!

Only that myself, (IHR Show Secretary) and Kay Graves, (Chief IHR Steward, at the time) were competitors in the same team for the Fitzwilliam Hunt in the first Inter Hunt back in 2005!

Anything gone wrong?

We have been very fortunate that apart from the Monsoon that arrived in the afternoon of the 2012 event where the Junior Relay section had to be abandoned.

Why is it so fun?

I believe it is such fun as it allows likeminded people to come together and let off some friendly steam and be big kids again!

Do they all have to weigh in the morning?

Only the Senior section has a weigh in and they have to attend the scales in full Hunting Attire complete with saddle - if they don't make the weight they will need to carry lead weights.

What are the rules to be in the team?

Senior Section

Each team of four must hunt regularly with the Hunt they represent and be a subscriber to that Hunt.

Each senior team must include the following Team members:

- One member to be over 35 years of age
- One member to be under 25 years of age
- One member weighing 13.7stone (87kg) weighed in hunting attire with saddle.

Scales will be available on the day.

The use of lead to make up weight is acceptable. (Team to provide).

One member of the team may represent more than one qualification i.e. a member aged over 35; weighing 13.7 stone (87kg) would allow any other members of the Hunt to fill the remaining criteria.

Age as of the 1st of January.

Junior Section

Each team of four must hunt regularly and be a current subscriber to that Hunt or Pony Club. Each team must include the following Team members:

All members to be under 21 years of age.

TWO members to be under 16 years of age.

Age as of the 1st of January.

How many entries do you get?

The maximum number of teams that can compete is 32. This is then reduced to 16 on Round 2, 8 in the Quarter Finals, 4 in the Semi Finals and then 2 in the Final - each time they go around the same course but could be on the opposite track to their previous win as a coin is tossed to determine which side of the arena they will run.

Nicki Watson

IHR Organiser