

Point-to-point

2014
2015
PREVIEW



Byerely Bear in full flight last season. This is one of the horses tipped to do well this years – PAGES 32&33

Join us in the friendly sport of pointing

BY GILL ARMSTRONG
WESSEX POINT TO POINT ASSOCIATION

Variety is the name of the game in the friendly sport of 'pointing'.

There are similarities between pointing and racing 'under Rules' at National Hunt courses such as Cheltenham, Exeter and Wincanton, but below are some FAQs that may help you reach an important decision. That is – come pointing!

What will it cost?

Admission charges vary. £20 per car including all occupants and free parking tends to be average (often with a discount for a single occupant), but some meetings charge per head, often with under 16s free.

That sounds good, but then, we will need to eat and drink



There are racecourses across the West Country – there's bound to be one near you – where you can enjoy point-to-point entertainment most weekends

Bring a picnic and indulge from your car boot. There are no restrictions – bar, of course, the size of your boot. Or, there will be trade stands on course offering a variety of hot and cold food and drinks and often a beer tent.

What shall we wear?

Anything you like. Play it by the weather – you are out in the English countryside, so anything could happen.

What if the weather changes?

You will always have easy access to your car, so pack for all eventualities and you can zip back there and change as necessary.

The dog won't be happy being left at home for our day out in the country. It doesn't seem fair!

Pack the pooch. He will be welcome, provided you keep him on a lead at all times. Bring his water bowl and any other accoutrements Fido requires. He'll have a whale of a time.

How will I know which horse is what?

Buy a racecard (typically £2.50) on arrival and keep an eye on the numberboard prior to each race. All horses listed in the card will not run, so – particularly if you're planning to place a bet – listen for announcements or check out the board.

How do I bet?

It's easy. There will be a row of bookmakers who will have marked up their boards with prices per runner. For example, 20/1 means if you put on £1 and

your horse wins (unlikely, but not impossible) the bookie will give you £20; 1/2 means you will have to hand over £2 to win £1. Watch the horses parade around the paddock, choose one, trot over to the bookies and proffer your chosen amount. Good luck!

Excited now. How can I get more information nearer the time?

Your *Daily Press* will carry a preview on the Friday of meetings taking place that weekend. Also, each of the areas in the South West has a website you can take a look at: Wessex – www.pointing-wessex.co.uk; West Midlands – www.pointingwm.co.uk; Devon & Cornwall – www.p2phorseraces-dc.com

SEASON'S FIXTURES PAGES 28&29
THE CHAMPIONS PAGES 30&31
HORSES TO FOLLOW PAGES 32&33

National point-to-point fixtures 2014-15

NOVEMBER

Sun 30 Nov Black Forest Club, BLACK FOREST LODGE
Cambridge University United Hunts Club, COTTENHAM

DECEMBER

Sun 7 Dec Point-to-Point Owners & Riders Club, BARBURY RACECOURSE
Sat 13 Dec Hursley Hambledon, LARKHILL
Sun 14 Dec Cornwall Hunt Club, WADEBRIDGE
Ratcheugh Racing Club, ALNWICK
Sun 28 Dec Cambridgeshire Harriers Hunt Club, COTTENHAM
Mon 29 Dec Hatkaway Club, CHADDESLEY CORBETT

JANUARY

Sun 4 Jan Larkhill Racing Club, LARKHILL
Sun 11 Jan Dunston Harriers, AMPTON
North Cornwall, WADEBRIDGE
Yorkshire Area Point-to-Point Club, SHERIFF HUTTON
Sat 17 Jan Royal Artillery, LARKHILL
Sun 18 Jan Silverton, BLACK FOREST LODGE
West Percy, ALNWICK
Sun 25 Jan Heythrop, COCKLEBARROW
Jedforest, FRIARS HAUGH
Tiverton, CHIPLEY PARK
Waveney Harriers, HIGHAM

FEBRUARY

Sun 1 Feb Cambridgeshire with Enfield Chace, HORSEHEATH
Mid Devon, BLACK FOREST LODGE
South Dorset, MILBORNE ST ANDREW
South Durham Hunt Farmers Club, MORDON
Sat 7 Feb Cambridge University Draghounds, COTTENHAM
Sun 8 Feb Combined Services, LARKHILL
Dumfriesshire & Stewartry, OVERTON
South Midlands Area Club, WHITFIELD
South Wold, BROCKLESBY PARK
Southdown & Eridge, GODSTONE
Sat 14 Feb Western, WADEBRIDGE
Sun 15 Feb Midlands Area Club, THORPE LODGE
Percy, ALNWICK
Sinnington, DUNCOMBE PARK
South Pool Harriers, BUCKFASTLEIGH
Vine & Craven, BARBURY RACECOURSE
Sun 22 Feb Albrighton & Woodland (North), CHADDESLEY CORBETT
Countryside Alliance Club (Wessex), BADBURY RINGS
Curre & Llangibby, HOWICK
East Cornwall, GREAT TRETREW
North Norfolk Harriers, HIGHAM
South East Hunt Club, CHARING
Sat 28 Feb East Devon, BISHOPS COURT
Thurlow, HORSEHEATH

MARCH

Sun 1 Mar Brocklesby, BROCKLESBY PARK
Quantock Staghouads, COTHELSTONE
South Herefordshire, GARNONS
Tynedale, CORBRIDGE
Sat 7 Mar Brecon & Talybont, LLANFRYNACH
Duke of Beaufort's, DIDMARTON
Kingston Blount Racing Club, KINGSTON BLOUNT
Sun 8 Mar Blackmore & Sparkford Vale, CHARLTON HORETHORNE
College Valley & North Northumberland, ALNWICK
Cottesmore, GARTHORPE
Derwent, CHARM PARK
Dulverton Farmers, TREBOROUGH HILL
Mid Surrey Farmers Drag, GODSTONE
Sir W.W. Wynn's, BANGOR-ON-DEE
Suffolk, AMPTON
Sat 14 Mar Crawley & Horsham, PARHAM
Duke of Buccleuch's, FRIARS HAUGH
East Essex, MARKS TEY
New Forest, LARKHILL
Sun 15 Mar Bicester with Whaddon Chase, WHITFIELD
Curre & Llangibby, HOWICK
Dart Vale & Haldon Harriers, BUCKFASTLEIGH
Hampshire, HACKWOOD PARK
Holderness, DALTON PARK
Ross Harriers, GARNONS
Sat 21 Mar Hunworth, HUTTON RUDDY
Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire and Eglinton, OVERTON
V.W.H., SIDDINGTON
Wilton, MILBORNE ST ANDREW
Sun 22 Mar Holcombe, WHITTINGTON
Lamerton, KILWORTHY
Mendip Farmers, STON EASTON
North Leebury, HEREFORD RACECOURSE
Oakley, BRAFIELD-ON-THE-GREEN
Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent, PENSHURST
Sat 28 Mar Avon Vale, LARKHILL
Berwickshire, FRIARS HAUGH
Glamorgan, YSTRADOWEN
Puckeridge, HORSEHEATH
Sun 29 Mar Badsworth & Bramham Moor, ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE
Belvoir, GARTHORPE
Cotley, COTLEY
East Cornwall, GREAT TRETREW
Flint & Denbigh, BANGOR-ON-DEE
Leebury, MAISEMORE PARK
Southdown & Eridge, GODSTONE
APRIL
Sat 4 Apr Ashford Valley Tickham, CHARING

Croome & West Warwickshire, UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

Essex & Suffolk, HIGHAM
Kimbewick, KIMBLE
Ludlow, BITTERLY
Middleton, SHERIFF HUTTON
Monmouthshire, LLANVAPLEY
North Staffordshire, SANDON
Portman, BADBURY RINGS
Spooners & West Dartmoor, CHERRYBROOK
Vale of Lune, WHITTINGTON
Woodland Pytchley, DINGLEY
Mon 6 Apr Cumberland Farmers, DALSTON
East Kent with West Street, ALDINGTON
Four Burrow, TREBUDANNON
North Cotswold, PAXFORD
Old Berkshire, LOCKINGE
South Notts, THORPE LODGE
South Pembrokehire, LYDSTEP
South Shropshire, EYTON-ON-SEVERN
Staintondale, CHARM PARK
Taunton Vale, KINGSTON ST MARY
Vine & Craven, HACKWOOD PARK
Sat 11 Apr Essex, HIGH EASTER
North Warwickshire Hunt Club, MOLLINGTON
Teme Valley, BRAMPTON BRYAN
Ystrad Taf Fechan, YSTRADOWEN
Sun 12 Apr Bedale, HORNBY CASTLE
Cheshire Forest, TABLE
Cotswold, ANDOVERSFORD
Eggesford, UPCOTT CROSS
Morpegh, TRANWELL
Pytchley, GUILSBOROUGH
Tedworth, BARBURY RACECOURSE
Sat 18 Apr Dartmoor, FLETE PARK
Kimbewick, KINGSTON BLOUNT
Llangenor, DUNRAVEN STUD
Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent, PENSHURST
Worcestershire, CHADDESLEY CORBETT
Sun 19 Apr Atherstone, CLIFTON-ON-DUNSMORE
Braes of Derwent, CORBRIDGE
Cleveland, MORDON
Cotswold Vale Farmers, ANDOVERSFORD
Seavington, LITTLEWINDSOR
West Norfolk, FAKENHAM
Sat 25 Apr Berkeley, WOODFORD
Chiddingfold Leconfield & Cowdray, PARHAM
Fife, BALCORMO MAINS
Quorn, GARTHORPE
Sun 26 Apr Axe Vale, STAFFORD CROSS
Cheshire, TABLE
Farmers Bloodhounds, WHITFIELD
South & West Wilts, LARKHILL

Tivyside & Carmarthenshire, LYDSTEP

York & Ainsty, EASINGWOLD

MAY

Sat 2 May Lauderdale, MOSSHUSES
Modbury Harriers, FLETE PARK
Pendle Forest & Craven, HESLAKER
Surrey Union, PEPER HARROW
Tredegar Farmers, LOWER MACHEN
Sun 3 May Devon & Somerset Staghouads, HOLNICOTE
Ferne, DINGLEY
Radnor & West Hereford, COLD HARBOUR
Mon 4 May Banwen Miners, PENTRECLWYDAU
Cattistock, LITTLEWINDSOR
East Sussex & Romney Marsh, ALDINGTON
Enfield Chace with Cambridgeshire Hunt, NORTHAW
North Shropshire, EYTON-ON-SEVERN
Stevenstone, VAUTERHILL
Warwickshire, MOLLINGTON
Zetland, WITTON CASTLE
Sat 9 May Cumberland, ASPATRIA
Kimbewick, KINGSTON BLOUNT
Minehead Harriers and West Somerset, HOLNICOTE
Sun 10 May Blisdale, EASINGWOLD
Four Burrow, TREBUDANNON
Melton Hunt Club, GARTHORPE
Wheatland, CHADDESLEY CORBETT
Weds 13 May Weston & Banwell Harriers, COTHELSTONE
Sat 16 May Clifton-on-Teme, UPPER SAPEY
Fitzwilliam (Milton), DINGLEY
Gelligaer Farmers, LOWER MACHEN
South Durham, MORDON
Sun 17 May Dulverton West, BRATTON DOWN
Golden Valley, BREDWARDINE
Grafton, WHITFIELD
Haydon, HEXHAM
Knutsford Races Club (formerly North West Point-to-Point Club), TABLE
Sun 24 May Berks & Bucks Draghounds & Sandhurst Draghounds, KINGSTON BLOUNT
West Somerset Vale, COTHELSTONE
West Wales Area Club, LYDSTEP
Mon 25 May Albrighton & Woodland (South), CHADDESLEY CORBETT
South Tetcott, UPCOTT CROSS
Sat 30 May North Hereford, HEREFORD RACECOURSE
Sun 31 May Border, HEXHAM
Exmoor, BRATTON DOWN
Meynell & South Staffordshire, GARTHORPE
JUNE
Sat 6 Jun Pembrokeshire, TRECOED
Sun 7 Jun Tiverton Staghouads, BRATTON DOWN
Sat 13 Jun Torrington Farmers, UMBERLEIGH

WESSEX ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

DEVON & CORNWALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

WEST MIDLANDS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Point-to-point 2014-15

Meet the champions



Devon and Cornwall area champion jockeys Bryony Frost and Robbie Henderson



Devon and Cornwall

Bryony Frost

Age 19
How did you get into point-to-pointing? Through family, and pony racing. Did try show jumping with Nick Skelton, but had more pointers on offer than senior show jumpers.
First winner Top Green at Treborough Hill, in my second season
Best horse ridden so far Have to name five, Wee Fly and Flurin for Ross Oliver, Akkideau for the Barber's and Red Penny and Blackwood for Mum and Dad

Which horse are you looking forward to this season? Our homebred four year old, Needlemahaystack, can't wait to see how he goes.
Ambition To keep riding well, meeting new connections, staying safe. When asked about training, Bryony's answer was Haddon finds the horses, apart from the homebred ones, and we train them.

Which other stables do you expect to ride for? John Head, Carol Lawrence, and if I ride well, then people will notice me.
Fav P2P course Has to be Flete Park, always nice weather, good crowd, and good picnic. It's a bit of a slalom course but I enjoy the top and swinging round the bend and down the hill.

Diet/fitness regime Yes I have a personal trainer, he is called Paris Payne and he also trains swimmers in Plymouth. Most of the training is in the gym. I feel 100% fitter and stronger than ever.
Have you got a sponsor? No not yet.
Current day job Riding out and helping train Pointers and National Hunt horses. I also ride out for others when needed.

Favourite leisure activity Rock climbing. We live on the edge of Dartmoor, I had to stop climbing when I injured my thumb last season, but have taken it up again.
Favourite leisure activity Water sports



Wessex area's leading jockeys, Will Biddick and Megan Nicholls

Wessex

Megan Nicholls

Age 17
How did you get started in point-to-pointing? I've always been connected with my father, Paul S, Ditcher stables and naturally progressed to point-to-pointing via pony racing.

What was your first point-to-point winner? The Stewart Family's Gwanako at the Laikhill Racing Club fixture on 5 January 2014.

Best horse ridden so far? Join Together. We were unbeaten in six races between the flags last season.
Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? I won't be riding in point-to-points this season but I'm looking forward to seeing five-time winner Current Event back in action.

What is your ambition for (a) this season (b) long term ambition? (a) I'll be riding as a flat race apprentice in 2015 and will be looking to do as well as possible in the longer term, I could potentially look at training horses after we finished riding.
Which stables do you expect to be riding for next season? Probably Michael Bell's Newmarket stable.

What is your favourite point to point course (and why)? Chaddesley Corbett. It's a lovely big course with fair fences where Gwanako and I won the ladies' open at the Lady Dudley Cup meeting, which is one of the season's most prestigious fixtures.

Do you have a diet / fitness regime? Not really. I ride out every day and do as much running as possible. My cousin, Henry Derham, helps me by giving advice when I'm aboard the equidizer.
Have you got a sponsor and if so who is it? Monson International, a recruitment company headed by one of Dad's owners, Ged Mason.
What is your current 'day job'? I ride out every day for Dad but I'll be moving to a flat yard in the next two months.
Have you a favourite leisure activity? I enjoy spending time off with friends, shopping and socialising away from the horses.

West Midlands champion jockeys, left, Jane Williams and Mark Wall



West Midlands

Mark Wall

Age 41
How did you get started in point-to-pointing? On Mr Max in April 1999
What was your first point-to-point winner? Impenny at Mollington in March 2000

Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? Theatre Queen
What is the best horse you have ridden so far? Billvoddan
Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? Grandurigeon

What is your ambition To ride 200 winners and train my first winner under Rules – I am in the final stages of applying for my licence

Which stables do you expect to be riding for this season? My own Tim Sage/Kim Smyly
What is your favourite point to point course? Chaddesley Corbett or Didmorton

Do you have a diet / fitness regime? Riding keeps me fit
Have you got a sponsor & if so who is it? None
What is your current 'day job'? I currently work at Stratford Place stud
Have you a favourite leisure activity? Spending time with my daughter

Jane Williams

Age 32
How did you get started in point-to-pointing? On Just Marmalade on February 5, 2000
What was your first point-to-point winner? Just Marmalade at Chaddesley Corbett in May 2000 – race was disqualified

What is the best horse you have ridden so far? Billvoddan
Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? Grandurigeon

What is your ambition To train my first winner – I have taken over the training side from my mother Diana this year

Which stables do you expect to be riding for this season? My own Chaddesley Corbett
Do you have a diet / fitness regime? None

Have you got a sponsor & if so who is it? None
What is your current 'day job'? Training racehorses
Have you a favourite leisure activity? Country pursuits



The West Country's top three female riders, left to right: Bryony Frost on red Penny, Megan Nicholls on Current Event, and Jane Williams on Swift Counsel. Main picture, top centre: the winner Certain Flight (Will Biddick, No 2) jumps past runner-up Adept Approach (Philip Hall) at the last in the South Dorset men's open at Millborne St. Andrew PICTURES; BRIAN ARMSTRONG



Will Biddick

Age 37
How did you get started in point-to-pointing? I rode horses from an early age at my parents Mike and Elaine's farm near Bodmin, but my ambitions weren't always in the racing arena. Dad trained pointers and rode numerous winners but my love was always being on the farm and hunting. Then one day, I decided I'd like to ride in a point-to-point and chose racing over rugby. Sally Allford and her late husband, John, kindly allowed me to ride Just Bert in the 2003 North Cornwall hunt race at Wadebridge.

What was your first point-to-point winner? Ross Oliver's Let's Fly at the Ave Vale at Stafford Cross in April 2004.
Best horse ridden so far? Denman on the gallops at Paul Nicholls' Ditcher stables. In a race under Rules probably Something Wells when we won at the 2009 Cheltenham Festival. In point-to-points, Mendip Express, on whom I won consecutive races.

Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? I'm looking forward to riding some untraced maidens that could turn out to be anything.
What is your ambition for (a) this season (b) long term ambition? My ambitions are to retain my National title for a fourth time and to win the Aintree Foxhunter.

Which stables do you expect to be riding for this season? Jack Barber, Keith Cummings and Claire Hitch.
What is your favourite point to point course (and why)? Bratton Down, which has one of the longest run-ins in the country. You don't have to be in a hurry which is how I like to ride.

Do you have a diet / fitness regime? The best diet is hard work. Fitness comes with hard work as well.
Have you got a sponsor & if so who is it? Geoffroy Brown of GS Brown Ltd, a North Devon agricultural contractor who specialises in John Deere equipment.
What is your current 'day job'? I ride out three days a week for Paul Nicholls and three days for Jack Barber. I then like to make time for the odd days schooling for Keith and Claire.

Have you a favourite leisure activity? I'm fitting in as much hunting as I can before the point-to-point season starts.

