



Tammy Lickliter

from Xenia, OH

The Judge's Card

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE- BEYOND THE SHOW RING

OPTIMIZE THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR HORSE

Just as the western pleasure horse has evolved from the "peanut pusher" of the old days, so has the hunter under saddle horse. Over the last twenty years, the English horse has changed from a stocky, short legged horse urged to move forward in a "hunter" frame, to the seventeen hand giants that make the jumps look small, to somewhere in between. With outside influences from the thoroughbred and modern pleasure horse, our hunter under saddle horses have changed dramatically.

As an exhibitor, it is our job to present our horse to the best of their ability. Each horse is an individual and will have an optimal speed, length of stride and body carriage that best represents him to the judge. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to determine under which conditions his or her horse looks optimal. The project begins long before the show ring.

For comparison purposes, we will divide the English horse into three categories. The first category will be the "all around" style of horse who is adding the hunter under saddle to their list of events. This horse may range in size from 15.1-16.1. He or she will be a strong loper, possibly even

canted or moving with its hip to the inside taking a short, but deliberate lope stride. The trot may be limited in length, but cadenced. The topline will typically be below level.

In order for this horse to be presented to the best of its ability, the exhibitor must be sure not to get covered up on the rail by the larger horses. Ultimately, this horse should be shown 10 foot from the rail in clear view of the judge. Additionally, this style of English horse should be shown at

a medium trot, so as not to look rushed like one who is trying to keep up with the big guys. It is very important to trot a horse within its individual

capacity. When asked for a canter, these all-around style English horses should be moving forward smoothly covering some ground. This is not the class for a short choppy stride.

The second style will be the "classic" English style. This horse could be anywhere from 16.2-17.2+. The giant, ground covering stride would be at home on a hunt course, in a dressage arena or even a three day event. This horse may look more like



a warm blood cross or thoroughbred and can compete with them in many arenas. Capturing the length of stride needed to compete in the hunter under saddle events creates a high degree of difficulty and should be rewarded accordingly.

This classic style of English horse should be exhibited at or near the rail. The trot should be slow legged and moderate in speed, so as not to over power the rest of the horses in the class. The challenge with these horses is usually the canter. The larger strided horse still has to "fit" into the show ring. This style of horse shouldn't be shown so slow at the canter that their stride becomes indefinable. It may be necessary to show these horses a little more "into the bridle" to help capture the canter stride.

The third and final style is the "modern" English horse or futurity type horse that is a combination of the first two styles. These horses may represent the best qualities of each of the previous styles and are bred very specifically to do so. These horses will be deep bodied and long hipped, but they will be set up on a long set of legs with a very level topline. They can range in size from 16.1 to 17 hands, but will generally be

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taller than they may appear in the ring, due to the depth of their heart girth. These horses can be readily pushed forward to achieve that long floaty stride at the trot. They can be ridden on light contact due to the naturally level nature of their topline. The biggest advantage to these horses are that they can canter in a slower cadence similar to a western horse, but their longer leg length and deeper hock will carry them forward.

"Ride your horse and have someone you trust tell you where the horse looks his best.."

These three styles represent the evolution of the English horse. Take the time to determine which "style" most suits your horse. Watch someone who rides similar to you, ride your horse. Experiment with the pace, length of stride and topline to determine the best picture to present the judge. Ride your horse and have someone you trust tell you where the horse looks his best. Memorize the timing and feel of your horses ultimate gears and "optimize the performance of your horse" in the show ring.

Tammy Lickliter

Bob and Tammy Lickliter own and manage Millennium Quarters and Three R Farms. They are located, 90 acres in Greene County along the outskirts of Xenia, Ohio. In addition to thoroughbred, appendix and quarter horses, the farm has 70 acres of tillable land. Tammy has her B.S. in Equine Science and is a third generation horse trainer and breeder. Her grandfather, Harry Denlinger exhibited palomino quarter horses in the late 40's and 50's.

In addition to breeding, training and exhibiting quarter horses since 1984, Tammy has had her NSBA judges card for fourteen years. She has judged the Berrien Springs Fall Finale, The All American Youth Show, The Firecracker Circuit and intercollegiate, 4H and open show events in Ohio, Michigan, New York, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

With the recent passing of their beloved stallion UK Mito Boss, Millennium Quarters will enter into its 19th breeding season in the year 2010. With the gift of frozen semen and two promising stallion prospects, Blue My Way and While The Cats Away, Millennium Quarters plans to continue their tradition of breeding World Class English performance horses like Hey Monn, Decorated By Mito, Indian Artifacts and others.

For information on Millennium Quarters, you can go to www.millenniumquarters.com or email us at tllickliter@woh.rr.com. You can also check out our prospects on www.youtube.com search mitoboss.