



The 2026 Taw River Show Jumping Grand Solstice Challenge

Venue: Downe Farm Event Centre, EX16 8QF

It's more than just a competition!

Welcome to the Grand Solstice Challenge

Get ready for our brand-new ten-show series — **The Taw River Equestrian Grand Solstice Challenge** — designed to reward dedication, celebrate progress, and crown our inaugural 2026 champions!

This exciting challenge is split into **two five-show series**, but **you choose your own path**:

- Enter one event, several, or all ten!
- Mix and match between the Summer and Winter Solstice Series — it's entirely up to you.
- No extra entry fees — just your usual class fees for each event.

2026 Event Dates

Summer Solstice Series

January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 19th, and May 24th.

Winter Solstice Series

June 21st, July 26th, September 27th, October 18th, and November 15th.

(please note some dates may change; we will keep you updated on our Facebook and website)

Your points from both the Summer and Winter Solstice Series are **combined** to determine your overall standing in the **Grand Solstice Challenge**.

Scan me!



Classes & Sponsors

NEW: We also welcome in-hand horses and ponies of any age to compete in any of the first three classes.

All ten shows feature the following classes:

- 1) Poles on the Ground - *Sponsored by Heritage Cob and Lime*
- 2) Raised on End - *Sponsored by Heritage Cob and Lime*
- 3) X Poles - *Sponsored by Heritage Cob and Lime*
- 4) 50cm - *Sponsored by Heritage Cob and Lime*
- 5) 60cm - *Sponsored by Pawsonalised pet portraits - Capturing paw-sonality with every portrait*
- 6) 70cm – *Sponsored by Torch Equine Vets* — Independent vets, dedicated care
- 7) 80cm – *Sponsored by Gatehouse Trailer Bar* — and **Aylestone Property Maintenance**
- 8) 90cm - *Sponsored by Helen Tompkins* - Veterinary Physiotherapy
- 9) 1.00m – *Sponsored by Heritage Cob and Lime*

A Note on Our Friendly Showground Atmosphere We are a fun, friendly, and encouraging Showground! We want everyone to have a positive experience. If you are struggling in the ring from the 60cm class onwards and finding yourself or your horse getting upset:

- We will immediately send one of our Arena Stewards in to help you.
- Alternatively, one named family member/assistant is allowed to enter the ring to help you. Remember: Every rider, whether they jump 1.00m or poles, had to start somewhere. Have fun, pat your pony, and smile! The crowd is always on your side!

Class Footnotes

- Lead Rein (Poles, Raised End, X Poles only): Lead rein is most welcome. The lead rein must be attached to the noseband (not the bit). In-hand horses and ponies are also welcome to participate in these three classes.
- Ring Help (Poles, Raised End, X Poles, 50cm): Ring help is welcome in these four classes, with only one person permitted in the ring to assist the combination.
- Outside Encouragement: From the 60cm class onwards, outside encouragement is most welcome (no ring help permitted).
- Exception for Assistance - For any competitor with Special Needs (applies to all classes) or for Tiny Tots in the Poles on the ground and Raised on end classes only, any request for an exception to the one-person ring help rule must be cleared by the Judge before the class starts. This ensures the safety of all competitors.

In-Hand Section:

- Horses and ponies of any age are welcome, in any of the first three classes.
- In-hand entries will compete alongside the ridden section.
- We strongly recommend handlers wear a hard hat and sturdy boots.
- Youngsters aged 3 years or under must be handled by someone aged 16 years or older.
- Stallions and colts must be handled by individuals aged 18 years or older.

How the Series Works

Each show awards **points** for every class.

Your **two best results per class** count toward your **final series and overall total**.

Points Allocation

Placement	Points
1st	50
2nd	40
3rd	30
4th	25
5th	20
6th	15
All Other Entrants	10

Separate Junior & Senior Scoring

Rosettes are awarded overall, but **points are calculated separately** for Juniors and Seniors.

For example, the fastest Junior and fastest Senior each earn 50 points in their own category — even if they place differently overall.

The Style & Performance Championship

Refine Your Riding — Every Rider's a Winner!

This is an **optional, free-to-enter class** focused on horsemanship, technique, and harmony between horse and rider.

Points

- **50 Points** – awarded simply for entering
- **10–40 Additional Points** – based on:
 - Rider's Style & Position
 - Horse's Way of Going
 - Harmony Between Horse & Rider
 - Manners & Responsiveness
 - Rider's Attentiveness

Performance	Additional Points
Exceptionally High Standard	+40
Good, Solid Performance	+30
Average Performance	+20
Performance with Errors	+10
Attempted / Limited	+2

Every participant receives **personalised feedback** to help improve for future rounds.

Special Offer: Each Style & Performance entry earns **10% off a training session** with a Taw River coach!

Awards & Championships

Summer & Winter Solstice Series

Each series is a mini-championship:

- **Top 3 Junior & Senior Riders** in Show Jumping
- **Top 3 Style & Performance Riders.** sponsored by **White Owl**
- Prizes and rosettes presented at special ceremonies:
 - **Summer Awards Ceremony:** June (after the May event) Junior section sponsored by **Torch Equine Vets** and Senior section sponsored by **Stories of History & Mystery**
 - **Winter Awards Ceremony:** December (before the 70cm class) Junior section sponsored by **Torch Equine Vets** and Senior section sponsored by **Stories of History & Mystery**

Grand Solstice Challenge — Overall Championship

At the **December 6th show**, we'll celebrate our year-long champions!

- 🏆 **Overall Junior Champion (Show Jumping)** – Top 3 Juniors
- 🏆 **Overall Senior Champion (Show Jumping)** – Top 3 Seniors
- 👑 **Supreme Grand Solstice Champion (Show Jumping)** – Overall highest points (Junior or Senior)
- 🏅 **Overall Style & Performance Champion** – Highest Style & Performance score across all ten events

Each supreme champion will receive a **trophy, sash, extra-large rosette, and prize package.**

Quick Summary

Category	Details
Total Events	10
Series	2 (Summer & Winter)
Points Counted	Best 2 results per class
Divisions	Junior & Senior
Extra Class	Style & Performance Championship
Entry Fees	Standard class fees only
Awards	Series + Overall + Supreme Titles

Ready to Jump?

The inaugural season of the Taw River Equestrian Grand Solstice Challenge is your chance to show the world what you and your horse can do. We can't wait to see you there!

Our Sponsors

Heritage Cob and Lime. We manufacture and supply award-winning lime mortar and associated products right across the UK. - <https://www.heritagecobandlime.com/>

Pawsonalisedpetportraits.co.uk

Capturing paw-sonality with every portrait. For your most beloved horses, cats and dogs
(Amazing drawings by Aimie)

Gatehouse Trailer Bar.

Bespoke bar hire for every special occasion! gatehousetrailerbar.co.uk

(I can vouch for Gatehouse as they did my wedding and they were AMAZING!)

TORCH EQUINE VETS

INDEPENDENT VETS, DEDICATED CARE

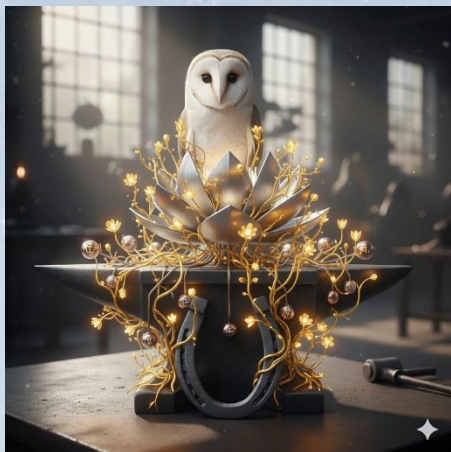
Helen Tompkins Veterinary Physiotherapy

Experienced veterinary physiotherapist and veterinary chiropractor working with you to maintain the suppleness, mobility and performance of your horse. Covering most of Devon

www.helentompkins.co.uk - 07970 619906

Stories of History & Mystery - <https://blog.helenhollick.net/>

Aylestone Property Maintenance. Remote support for small businesses, sole traders and organisations across the UK



Organizer of Taw River – Kathy

A Personalised Approach

I offer tailored coaching designed around your individual needs and goals. Each session is customised to focus on your unique challenges, aspirations, and development.

“Coaching for Confidence and Performance”

With a strong background in competition, I’m passionate about sharing my experience to help others. My coaching takes a holistic approach, supporting you in overcoming obstacles and achieving meaningful, long-term progress.

EFT – Emotional Freedom Technique

As a certified EFT practitioner, I can help you release negative emotions, manage stress, and support your overall well-being—along with much more.

I am a freelance coach offering regular local equestrian clinics. Whether you’re a pleasure rider, a novice, a professional, or simply looking to improve your personal growth, my coaching programmes are designed to help you unlock your potential, strengthen your confidence, and refine your performance.

For more information, visit:

www.white-owl.co.uk

Meet Your Coach

Kathy is a Centre10 Advanced Coach and an accredited Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) Practitioner. With over 38 years of horsemanship and show-jumping experience, she specialises in helping riders manage nerves, anxiety, and confidence blocks, as well as smoothing out the smaller challenges that can hinder progress.

To learn more about Kathy’s approach and how she can support your journey, visit:

www.white-owl.co.uk

Booking Your Discounted Session

With your discount, your one-hour session is only £28 — a great saving from the regular price of £32 (venue hire not included).

This discount can be redeemed in three flexible ways, making it easy to choose what suits you best.

Codden Hill Clinic Dates: Join one of Kathy's scheduled clinic dates at Codden Hill; sessions are private one-on-one.

Private Sessions: Book a one-on-one session at a venue within a half-hour drive from Kathy's home.

To claim your discount, simply show proof of your Style and Performance entry when you book. needs to be added

Contact & Venue Info

Venue: Downe Farm Event Centre, EX16 8QF

Organiser: Taw River Equestrian

Email: teamtawriver@aol.com

Website: www.white-owl.co.uk or Facebook: taw river equine events

Follow us online for updates, photos, and leaderboards after every event!

Entry Fees & Booking

Entries are primarily taken as pre-entries via Horse Monkey.

- ✓ First aid cover is included in all entry fees.
- We strongly recommend that participants pre-enter, as during the winter months only a limited number of on-the-day entries may be accepted due to restricted daylight hours. Pre-entry is also preferred during the summer months to facilitate the preparation of start lists and the scheduling of approximate running times.
- ☺ All class running orders will be published on our Facebook page on Friday evening before each event.

Entry Type	Classes	Fee per Class	Booking Method & Deadline
Standard Pre-Entry	Poles on the Ground / Raised on End	£10.00	Online via Horse Monkey — up to Thursday 11:00 PM
	X Poles – 1.00 m	£12.00	
Late Online Entry	Poles on the Ground / Raised on End	£13.00	Online via Horse Monkey — after Thursday 11:00 PM until Friday 5:00 PM
	X Poles – 1.00 m	£15.00	
On-the-Day Entry	All Classes (<u>if space/ time allows</u>)	£20.00	Pay at Showground
HC Re-Entry Same Class only	For experience/training going back into the ring after elimination	£10.00	Pay at Showground (entered on the day)

Tip: Pre-enter online to guarantee your space and save money!

Competitor Reminders and Ring Etiquette

- **Class Times:**
Class times are **approximate**. We do our best to run smoothly and on schedule, but some variation is inevitable. Please be **ready when called** and **keep to your drawn order** where possible to help classes run efficiently.
- **Entering the Arena:**
From **Class 4 onwards**, competitors are asked to enter the arena while the current rider has the final three fences to jump. Please keep to one side until it is your turn. This procedure helps maintain a steady flow and ensures the smooth running of the classes. Or be ready to go in the ring as soon as the rider has jumped the last fence.

Recommendations

Warm-Up Arena to ensure safety and fairness for all competitors, the following rules apply:

- **Direction of Jumps:** All practice fences must be jumped with the red flag or wing to the right.
 - **Type of Jumps:** Warm-up fences must reflect those permitted in the competition ring.
 - If no oxers are included in the class, only cross poles and uprights may be used in the warm-up.
 - **Height Limit:** The height of any practice fence must not exceed 10 cm above the maximum height for the class being contested.
 - **Rider Conduct:** Riders must be considerate of others, maintain safe distances, and follow all steward and official instructions at all times.
 - **Safety and Discipline:** Unsafe riding, discourtesy, or failure to comply with steward directions may result in removal from the warm-up arena or disqualification from the event.
 - **Lunging:** Lunging is not permitted in the warm-up arena at any time unless in a designated area and with permission from a steward.
 - **Courtesy:**
 - Call your jump clearly (e.g. "upright") before approaching.
 - Avoid standing/walking in front of or behind fences when not actively jumping.
 - **Supervision:**
All riders under 16 must be supervised by a responsible adult while in the warm-up area.
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Event Conduct & General Guidance

- **Hats and Safety Gear:**
All riders must wear a current standard riding hat (PAS 015:2011 or VG1 with a BSI Kitemark) with the chin strap securely fastened. Suitable footwear and body protectors are strongly recommended (compulsory if stated by class rules).
- **Respect for Officials:**
The decisions of judges and stewards are **final**. Please treat all officials, volunteers, and fellow competitors with courtesy and respect.
- **Dogs:**
Dogs must be **kept on a lead at all times** and under control. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their animals.
- **Litter & Tidiness:**
Please use bins provided and leave all areas tidy. Competitors are responsible for removing any droppings or hay from around their horseboxes/trailers before departure.
- **Cleanliness:**
Please **pick up your horse's droppings** before leaving the venue. This is a regular task organisers face at the end of a long show day. **Scoop sets are available around the lorry parking area** — your help in keeping the grounds clean is greatly appreciated.

Grand Solstice Challenge: Governing Rules (for 2026)

Please Note: These rules contain **mandatory changes** and apply to all 2026 Grand Solstice Challenge shows. Compliance with safety rules, no exceptions are permitted.

General Rules

- **Governing Standard:** All classes will primarily be run under **BS Club Rules**, except where specifically amended in this document (e.g., Stops/Falls).
 - **Safety Wear: Hard hats and riding boots are mandatory** for all riders while mounted.
 - **Equipment:** Whips must conform to BS Club Rules.
 - **Judge's Decision:** The Judge's decision is **paramount and final** in all circumstances.
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Elimination Rules (Applies to All Classes)

Stops (Amended Rule)

While standard club rules mandate elimination after three stops, we will allow you up to **four stops** on course to help maintain confidence.

- After the **fourth stop**, the Judge will ring the bell. You must then **leave the arena immediately**.

Rules for Falls and Remounting

1. Fall of the Horse (Immediate Elimination)

- **Consequence:** If the **horse falls** anywhere on the course, this is an **immediate elimination** from the class.
- **Mandatory Action:** The combination **MUST leave the arena immediately** on foot (dismounted) with **no exceptions**.

2. Fall of the Rider (Conditional Remounting)

If only the rider falls:

- **Remounting:** The rider **may remount** and continue the round. (See **Risk Acknowledgment (Mandatory)** below)
 - **Final Elimination Signal:** If the Judge rings the bell **twice**, the rider **MUST NOT REMOUNT** and must leave the arena immediately on foot.
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Risk Acknowledgment (Mandatory)

If a rider chooses to remount and continue their round, they do so **entirely at their own risk**.

We take **absolutely no responsibility** for any damage or injury to horse or rider that occurs during or after your fall.

Official Acceptance of Rules and Entry Fees

By submitting an entry for any class within the **Taw River Equestrian (Grand Solstice Challenge)**, competitors and their representatives confirm that they have **read, understood, and agree to abide by all Official Rules and Regulations**, including the **Show's Terms and Conditions** and any **Specific Class Rules**. For full details regarding rules, regulations, and refund policies, please refer to the **official website or the event's Horse Monkey (HM) page**