



Why not try . . . ?

## The Discipline of the Month

# No 4.

# Stockman's Challenge

*Five reasons why your club should try Stockman's Challenge*

**1.** Stockman's Challenge is something you can practise at home while in self-isolation

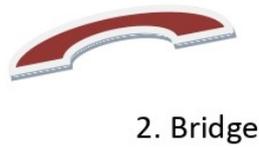
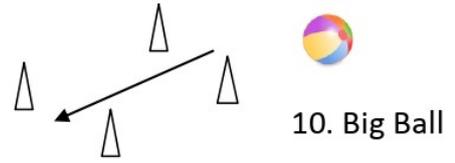
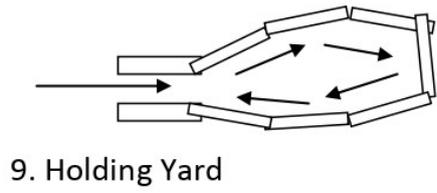
**2.** Stockman's Challenge improves your balance and skills for other disciplines too, like mounted games, polocrosse, jumping and tentpegging.

**3.** Stockman's Challenge helps get your horse used to all kinds of distractions.

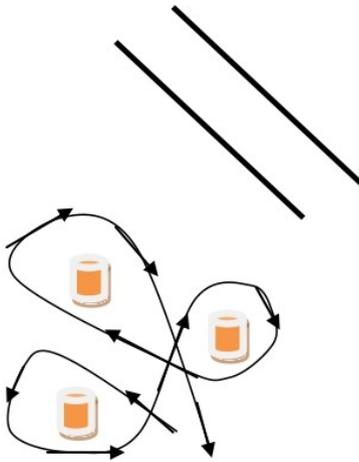
**4.** There are competitions at some shows for Stockman's Challenge and /or Handy Mount, where you compete as an individual.

**5.** The equipment you need can often be found at home or Pony Club - no expensive purchases

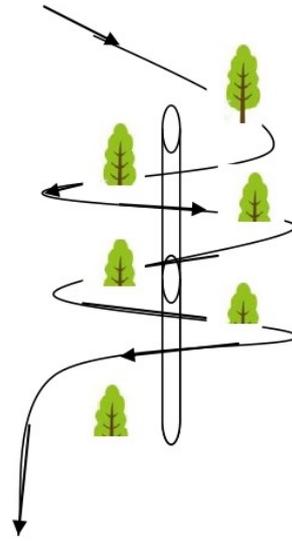
# Sample Course No 1. (Older riders)



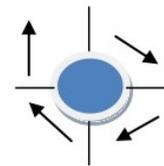
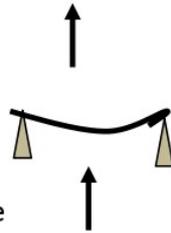
8. Rein back



3. Bending over jumps



1. Gate

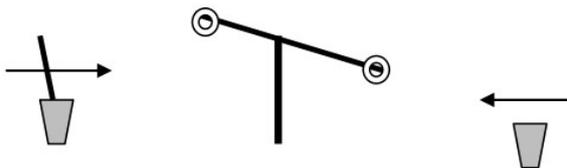


4. Dismount & remount

6. Jump the sheep



Start & Finish



7. Bullring



# Rules and Guidelines for Sample Course No 1.

## Senior Stockman's Challenge

### Course as per map

1. Open and pass through the gate. Close the gate
2. Walk over Bridge
3. Bend in between tree jumping the log
4. Dismount on to table, lead the horse to the other side of the table from the table, remount
5. Clover Leaf as per the map
6. Jump the sheep
7. Bull Ring- pick up the Garrocha pole from the bin. Ride toward the stand skewer the hoop and return it to the nearest bucket. Repeat on the other side
8. Rein back between poles
9. Holding Yard (as per map)
10. Push the giant ball through the cones



### Scoring

1. Time starts as rider passes through the start flags.
2. Rider has 3 minutes to compete as many obstacles as possible
3. Bell will ring at 3 minutes to notify rider to finish and pass the finish flags.
4. Time ends as rider passes through the finish flags.
5. Course is ridden in any order.
6. If the combination has a refusal at an obstacle it is marked as 10 points.
7. If combination makes an error e.g. drops a hoop it is marked as 10 points.
8. Third refusal at effort = mark **NC** for not completed and rider told to move onto next obstacle.
9. Placings are determined by the Rider with the
  - i. Least **NC**
  - ii. Lowest penalty points
  - iii. Fastest time

## Basic equipment to get you started



Barrels

Bending poles

Hay bales for holding yards

Stepping stones

Bridge

Gate

Water trays

Cones

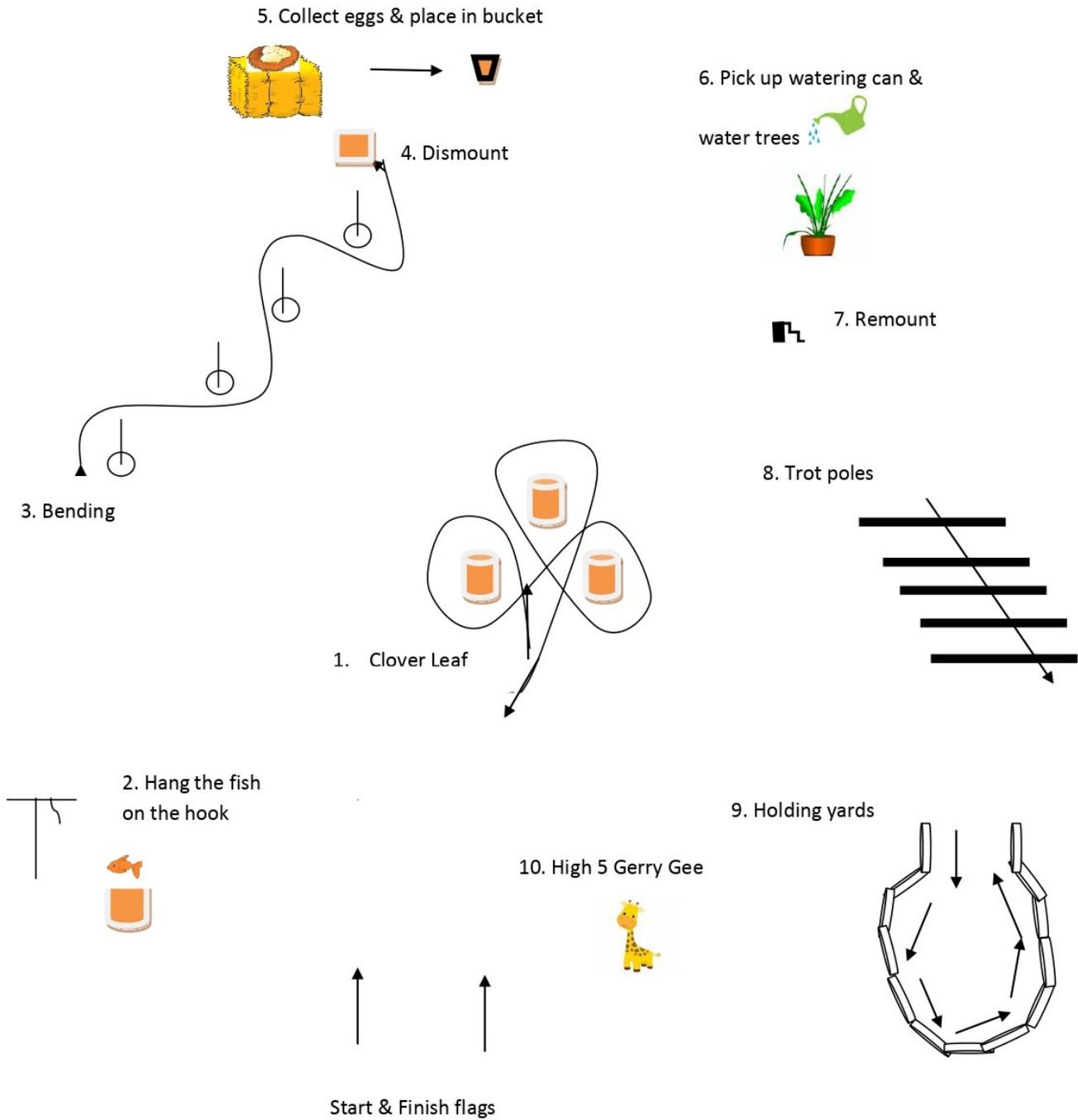
Plant Poles for rein back

Tyre on a rope to drag

Giant blowup ball

Be creative - but safe...

# Sample Course No 2. (Led Riders and Younger Riders)



Photos: Derek O'Leary

# Rules and Guidelines for Sample Course No 2.

## Stockman's Challenge for Led riders & younger riders

### Course as per map

1. Clover Leaf (as per map)
2. Hang the fish on the hook from the saddle
3. Bend in between the poles
4. Dismount , rider collects the eggs and places them in the bucket while leading the pony
5. Pick up the watering can and water the tree while leading the pony
6. Clover Leaf (as per map)
7. Remount .
8. Trot poles as per map
9. Straw Holding Yard (as per map)
10. High 5 Gerry the Giraffe

### Scoring Stockman's Challenge

1. Time starts as rider passes through the start flags.
2. Rider only has 3 minutes to complete as many obstacles.
3. Bell will ring at 3 minutes to notify rider to finish and pass the finish flags.
4. Time ends as rider passes through the finish flags.
5. Course is ridden in order.
6. If combination has a refusal at an obstacle it is marked as 10 points.
7. If combination makes an error mark as 10 points.
8. Third refusal at effort = mark **NC** for not completed and rider told to move onto next obstacle.
9. Placings are: Rider with the
  - i. Least **NC**
  - ii. lowest penalty points
  - iii. fastest time

Leaders need to be effective and aware horse handlers. They are there to ASSIST the rider with steering, stopping and making the pony go - NOT to pull or push the pony around.

i. The leader must:

- Be a competent handler
- Wear correctly fitting, covered footwear
- Never wrap the lead rope around their hand nor entwine their fingers in the clip or ring
- Keep the pony at a safe distance from other horses and people.
- Be careful when changing direction or pace not to unbalance the rider.

Recommend the leader:

- Always lead from the pony's shoulder where contact with Pony and Rider are optimum
- Hold the lead rope 5 to 10cms below the clip, giving the pony headroom whilst remaining in control.

# A Brief History of Stockman's Challenge

Events like School Pony and Handy Mount have been around for many years. They are events that allow you to show your horse's skill and adaptability to all sorts of situations.

Traditionally School Pony events at gymkhanas and shows often have ponies being ridden by two or more riders, who have a few minutes to demonstrate the pony's quietness by performing a routine including jumping or sliding on and off, using a front hoof help up for a rider to mount, and so on. Many children in the country used to ride their ponies to school and put them in the 'school paddock' all day, then ride home again. (There were no hard hats in those days.)

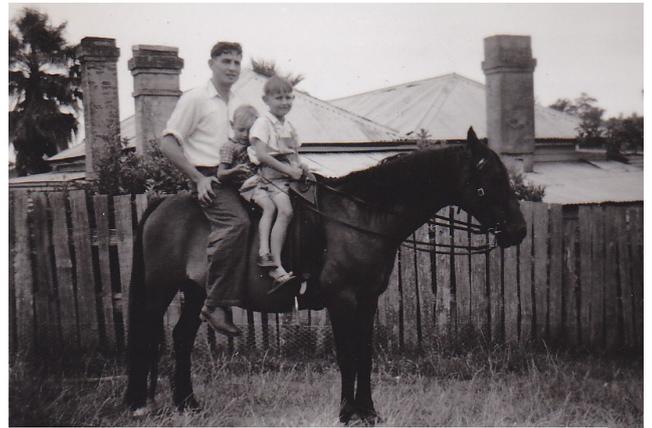
Handy mount events are a test of you and your horse doing various activities showing obedience and quietness. Stockman's Challenge is a more modern slant on these old events.

\* In some states like Queensland, Stockman's Challenge is a modern day tribute to the stockmen and women of years gone by.

It consists of a Dry Work pattern and a Cattlework phase. The Dry Work pattern contains spins, sliding stops and roll-backs. The cattlework phase is similar to a campdraft and seeks to identify a horse that can easily control a beast and demonstrates his intended purpose of working cattle in the bush.



*Many country students - and teachers too (left) - used to ride to school. Often they carried a suitcase of books as there were no backpacks then.*



Think you might like to do a Stockman's Challenge competitively, or watch a serious competition one day?

[Read more here.](#)



Photos: Various including Derek O'Leary and White Moose Photography.

## Trying Stockman's Challenge?

Don't forget to share, and also send us, your photos of your obstacles so we can see and share them in our newsletters and on Facebook too!

facebook



Each month in 2020 we will be bringing you a 'Discipline of the Month' - it is up to you when you try it out

Pony Club Australia  
info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au  
www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au