



Glossary of Endurance Terms

In the sport of Endurance riding, as in many other branches of equestrian sport, we have our own specific terms which will be new to you. We have defined some of the more unusual ones below to help you understand what we are talking about! This list is not finite and if you spot something missing do let us know and we will add it in.

Ride Information this is the pack of information which will be sent to you 7-10 days before the ride. Generally it will contain your start time, map of the route, talkround, (not always) vet sheet, an information sheet on the ride with details such as the location of the ride and a venue plan.

Talkround a brief written description of the ride route. Not all rides issue this.

Venue The name given to the location the ride begins and ends at. This is where you park your horsebox or trailer, where the ride secretary, first aider and vets are based for the event.

Log Book This A5 EGB folder is the record of your horse's rides and results. You keep your Mastercard. Green or yellow upgrade card and all your vetting sheets.

Mastercard is the document which lists a horse's results at every national EGB ride. A green card is issued to a horse in its first season. It is then sent back at the end of the season to Stoneleigh and is exchanged for a yellow Mastercard.

Bib all competitors wear a numbered bib. This is your identification for your horse for the ride; if your crew trots your horse up then it should be handed to them to wear for the trot up.

Loop The distance you ride around after leaving the start before returning to the venue to finish or come in for a vet gate, if you are riding over 56km. A ride of 64km, for example, will have 2 loops with 1 vet gate.

Crew and Crewing These are the fabulous family and friends whom you will ask to help you at the rides. They will drive around the course and meet you at designated crew points to hand you slosh bottles, give your horse and yourself a drink as well as ensuring you keep hydrated they also will make sure you eat as you complete the course. They will also assist at the venue in preparing the horse and yourself to ride, preparing for the vettings and getting ready to go home afterwards. Crews are the responsibility of their rider. They are not essential for the shorter distance Pleasure Rides but they are compulsory for longer distances.



Slosh The act of cooling a horse with water. The horses are cooled with water at crew points around the course and back at the venue.

Slosh Bottle A large, lidded, open-necked container with a handle holding about 2-4 litres of water, such as a fabric conditioner or bottle. The lid keeps your car dry and the open-neck allows it to be dispensed quickly. The slosh bottle is handed by their crew to the rider, handle upwards, to grab and rapidly pour over the horse's neck and body. It is a good idea to carry these bottles in a plastic box which keeps them tidy and the car from getting wet.

Upgrading the process of moving through the rider and horse qualifications for EGB members. There are 4 levels novice, open, advanced and FEI.

Downgrading the process of changing the class entered and riding a shorter distance class than the one entered prior to the event. This must be done not less than 30 minutes before your start time and with as much notice as possible to help with ride organisation. You may not increase the distance you wish to ride after you enter a ride

Ride Types

PR this is a pleasure ride, prior to 2013 also called training rides, TR's, social rides. These are run by regional groups or by National. At this level there is a simpler vetting process at National rides. A completion rosette is awarded

Novice GER this is a Novice Graded Endurance Ride for Novice combinations, prior to 2013 this was called a novice competitive ride or NCR. The ridden combination is graded from grade 1-4 or completion depending on the final speed and heart rate. It must be ridden between 8kph and 15kph.

GER this is a Graded Endurance Ride for open and advanced combinations, prior to 2013 this was called a competitive ride or CR. The ridden combination is graded from grade 1-4 or completion depending on the final speed and heart rate open and advanced. It must be ridden between 10kph and 18kph.

Performance Formula or PF a formula for calculating a winner in a GER – this calculation is minimum speed x 2 x 100 divided by the speed ridden & heart rate over a minute.

Rufus System – another formula to calculate a winner in a GER class.

CER this is a Competitive Endurance Ride, prior to 2013 this was called an Endurance Ride or ER. The ride will have a winner based on the first horse to pass the finish and successfully



pass the final vetting, there cannot be a dead heat and the time keeper will deem who past the finish line first.

Tyro a CER ride for horses competing successfully in their first CER ride

Elevator organisers may run rides over 100km as “Elevator rides”. A rider can exercise the option to retire from the ride at any vet gate provided they have completed at least 60% of the class distance. They will be credited with that distance if they pass the vetting and are within time.

Gated Ride a ride which is over 56km and has vet gates.

Vet Gate In GER, CER and FEI rides which are longer than 56km horses are presented for a vetting before continuing. The number of vet gates will depend on the total distance to be ridden in the class. The rider will have to present their horse after coming in to the venue to the vet within twenty minutes. The horse’s heart rate must be 64bpm or below and the vetting follows the same procedure as their initial vetting.

Hold Area the designated area for the horse to be kept whilst at a vet gate

Hold Time the time a horse is held in the hold area. The minimum hold time is 30 minutes but could be more depending on the weather and terrain

Vetting The welfare of horses is of paramount importance. At the start and finish of every national and international EGB and FEI ride the horses are vetted to ensure they are fit to be ridden. The level of vetting will depend on the type of ride you are completing; more details are given at www.endurancegb.co.uk/html/vetting.html and for EGB members in your handbook.

Final Vetting This is the vetting procedure at the end of a ride. Your horse will repeat the same vetting as previously and must pass in order to complete the ride, at whatever level you ride at. You have to present the horse to the vet within thirty minutes. There will be set parameters for Graded Endurance Rides to calculate which grade you are awarded. These parameters will depend on the level your horse is qualified to and is riding at. The vet must consider that your horse is fit to ride 10% of the ride distance entered in order to pass it at the end of the ride.

Vet Sheet Every horse that needs to have a vetting will be issued with a 2 or 3 NCR vet sheet. The details must be entered legibly onto the form in advance of the ride. The vet writer will enter the vets comments and observations on the sheet. During the ride this



sheet will remain with the vet steward and a pink copy will be returned to the rider at the end of the ride. This should be kept with your horse's log book.

HRM is the abbreviation for Heart Rate Monitor. Many people use hand held stethoscopes, available cheaply on the internet, and some invest in a watch with a wireless transmitter.

Metabolics this is an assessment of the horse's condition. The vet will assess the horse's attitude, dehydration, mucous membranes, capillary refill, gut mobility and check for exhaustion. These checks are carried out for all GER, CER and FEI rides.

Capillary refill press gum and check time for colour to return

Ridgeway Test (also known as Cardiac Recovery Index Procedure or CRI) this is a method of assessing a horse's metabolic status by using its heart rate. The heart rate is taken prior to the trot up. The horse is trotted up and the heart rate is re-taken exactly 1 minute after the first heart rate was taken. It would normally be expected that the horse's heart rate would have dropped, but is not necessarily a reason for elimination if not.

Re-present horses, whose heart rates are too high at the initial presentation at a vet gate, may re-present to the vet for a second time within the 20 minute presentation parameter. No further re-presents are allowed at a vet gate and there are no re-presents allowed at a final vetting. Horses completing long distances may be required to compulsorily re-present at the final vet hold before starting their final loop.

Compulsory Re Exam At the longer CER events, all the horses will be asked to return to vets within ten to fifteen minutes of their time out for a further vetting, which will be exactly the same as all the other vetting. This can be done with either the tack on or untacked. Sometimes the vets will stipulate the horses must not be tacked up.

3 Card Trick A horse that appears to be unsound will be trotted up again in front of 2 or more appropriate people, usually the ride vets but might include the ride farrier. The decision will be made by simple majority in a secret ballot.

Spun A horse which does not pass their vetting is said to have failed its vetting but this is also known as being "spun"