

What you need to know about the Inter Hunt Relay!

- What is the Inter Hunt relay?

The Inter Hunt Relay is a knock-out competition where two teams of four horses and riders jump over an identical course, against the clock, collecting time penalties for any obstacles knocked down along the way. The fastest team after penalties are added then go forward to the next stage to carry out the process again! It is fast and furious and very very competitive – it could be likened to Pony Club Mounted Games with lots of shouting and cheering.

- When did it first start?

The Festival of Hunting was started in 2005 when it was incorporated with the Peterborough Royal Fox Hound Show. It came following the Hunting Ban that came into force in February 2005. Its aims were to attract a wide range of hunting enthusiasts from across the country.

- How has it grown?

Its popularity has continued to grow due to new hunts entering each year and more junior teams keen to take part. Many hunts have also been with us since the beginning.

- Is it competitive? Any consistent winners?

In recent years the North Cotswold Hunt and the Bicester Hunt with Whaddon Chase are usually in the top relay placing's, along with the Essex Hunt frequently being in the top 8. The Holcombe Hunt have won the senior relay twice – in 2013 and 2016.

There is also a 'Best Turned Out' element to each section and the Fitzwilliam Hunt have won in 2013, 2014 & 2016 2nd in 2015, 7th 2010 and 8th 2011 & 2012 – all under different Judges!

- Tell me a funny story about it!

Only that myself, (show secretary) and Kay Graves, (Chief Steward) were competitors in the same team for the Fitzwilliam Hunt in the first Inter Hunt back in 2005!

- Anything gone wrong?

We have been very fortunate that apart from the Monsoon that arrived in the afternoon of the 2012 event where the Junior Relay section had to be abandoned.

- Do they all have to weigh in the morning?

Only the Senior section has a weigh in and they have to attend the scales in full Hunting Attire complete with saddle – if they don't make the weight they will need to carry lead weights

- What are the rules to be in the team?

Senior Section

Each team of four must hunt regularly with the Hunt they represent and be a subscriber to that Hunt. Each senior team **must** include the following Team members:

- One member to be over **40** years of age
- One member to be under **25** years of age
- One member weighing over **14 stone 7** pounds **weighed in hunting clothing with saddle**. Scales will be available on the day. The use of lead to make up weight is acceptable. (Team to provide).

One member of the team may represent more than one qualification i.e. a member aged over 40; weighing 14 stone 7 pounds would allow any other members of the Hunt to fill the remaining criteria. **Age as of the 1st of January.**

Junior Section

Each team of four must hunt regularly and be a subscriber to that Hunt or Pony Club. Each team **must** include the following Team members:

- All members to be under **21** years of age.
- **TWO** members to be under **16** years of age.

Age as of the 1st of January

- Why is it so fun?

I believe it is such fun as it allows likeminded people to come together and let off some friendly steam and be big kids again!

- How many entries do you get?

The maximum number of teams that can compete is 32. This is then reduced to 16 on Round 2, 8 in the Quarter Finals, 4 in the Semi Finals and then 2 in the Final – each time they going around the same course but could be on the opposite track to their previous win as a coin is tossed to determine which side of the arena they will run.

- Anything extra?

Mike Tucker has been the commentator from the beginning with exception to 2012 when he was unavailable due to attending the Olympics.

Some competitors such as Yvonne Goss (senior team) from the North Cotswold Hunt and Izzy Castle from Fitzwilliam Hunt (junior and senior team) have been with us since the beginning in 2005.