



Sunshine Tour Championships

Held at The All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, West Sussex

The Sunshine Tour is a fabulous 4-day Championship for amateur and novice competitors, held at the UK's famous iconic showground, The All England Jumping Course, Hickstead in West Sussex.

About the Championships

There are championships in Dressage, Show Jumping, Showing and Eventers Challenge with a vast array of classes, there is truly something for everyone. The competitions are divided into levels: Mini, Small, and Grand Tour so that competitors can enjoy competition in their own peer group.

The show starts on Thursday with competitive Dressage, Show Jumping and Arena Eventing championship classes. Showing joins in with a series of training classes and Novice Championships on Friday. Saturday and Sunday are full to the brim with Championship classes, in as many as 10 arenas in the beautiful grounds at Hickstead, its busy, buzzing, and exciting!

Each championship awards fantastic yellow star-pointed rosettes, sashes, embroidered rugs and goody bags. Sponsors may add to prizes and presents to the champions. Some championships also qualify for a Supreme Championship for more chances to win superb prizes. The dream of being crowned a champion on the hallowed turf of the All England Jumping Course can now come true for any equine enthusiast.

Qualification

Competitors can qualify all over the UK by taking part in an unaffiliated competition at a participating local show centre, charity show, Pony Club or Riding Club between January and July. Qualification is awarded on placings, those placed 1st-3rd in dressage or show jumping and 1st-4th in showing or eventers challenges.

History

The Sunshine Tour started in 2008 as a very small set of championship classes in a collaboration between local show centres in Surrey. Qualifiers were held in the summer – hence the reference to 'Sunshine' and the championship rotated between venues – hence the 'Tour'. By 2014 the show was so popular and bursting at the seams in its home showground, so the following year the championship moved to new premises – and the most iconic showground of all, The All England Jumping Course at Hickstead.

Statistics

The Sunshine Tour series boasts over 200 affiliated show centres, ranging from large show venues to local clubs. Approximately 5,000 riders registered in 2025 to try to qualify, giving lots of competitors the chance to become part of the Sunshine Tour series, even if they don't make the pilgrimage to Hickstead.

In 2025 over 1600 competitors competed at the Sunshine Tour. Many competitors took part in more than one championship and enjoyed open classes, warm up sessions and training classes to get ready for their big moment in the ring. There were 25 dressage championships, 44 in show jumping, 8 eventers challenges and 80 showing championships. In addition, over the event 34 supreme champions were crowned, and a total of more than 3,000 rosettes were awarded, 426 sashes, plus 100 embroidered championship rugs and saddle cloths, and almost 700 goody bags.

Most competitors are one-horse one-owner, but some have multiple rides. We also cater for various riding schools, who share rides. Many make this a fun long weekend event, camping with friends and family onsite and enjoying Hickstead hospitality in the evenings. Total footfall is estimated at more than 6,000 show visitors (entry is free, so no official 'gate' statistics). Visitors enjoy competing, supporting their friends and family, shopping in the trade stands and hanging out in the bar and grill soaking up the atmosphere of a fantastic, fun, exciting and inclusive championship at the UK's most amazing showground.

For more information about trade stands & sponsorship at the Sunshine Tour email Cathy at sunshinetourchamps@outlook.com