

Southlands Riding Club

December 2005 Bulletin

Ring Booking FAQ's

The subject of Ring Fees for lessons continues to be a hot (and confusing?) topic around the Club. Here are the facts!

How much have ring booking fees gone up?

Ring booking fees have been increased by \$1, effective November 1, 2005. This is an increase of \$1 per 45-minute lesson block, not \$1 per student. Thus, the cost to an instructor to reserve any of the rings for 45 minutes to teach either a private or a group lesson has gone up by \$1.

What is a ring booking fee? I didn't know there was such a thing!

Instructors who use the club facilities to teach pay a fee to the club for each "lesson slot" on the calendar that they reserve for their use.

Why does SRC collect a ring booking fee from instructors using the facilities to teach?

Ring use is restricted for other members by the fact that a lesson is taking place (while any member can ride in the ring during a lesson, the number of simultaneous lessons allowed in any given ring is limited for safety reasons)

Although instruction at SRC benefits the membership, the Club does expect a contribution from its instructors to reflect their use of the facility to conduct their business. If a ring booking fee were not charged, the members who do *not* take lessons would in effect be subsidizing the overhead of instructors who operate a business on the Club grounds.

Why have ring booking fees for lessons gone up?

Ring fees have not increased for many years. In fact, Donna has not been able to find any record in the office of the last time they changed! However, the Club's overhead has gone up over time, with a significant increase in our property taxes, as well as in some general costs such as fuel prices and hydro (now that we have lights in the new covered arena).

How much have ring booking fees gone up?

Ring booking fees have been **increased by \$1**, effective November 1, 2005. This is an increase of \$1 per 45-minute lesson block, not \$1 per student. Thus, **the cost to an instructor to reserve any of the rings for 45 minutes to teach either a private or a group lesson has gone up by \$1.**

Coming Events

- ◆ December 4
[Dressage % Day](#)
- ◆ December 9-11
[Eddie Macken Clinic](#)
- ◆ December 10
[Pub at the Club](#)
- ◆ January 8th
[Dressage % Day](#)
- ◆ January 21-22
[Claudia Cojocar Clinic](#)
- ◆ January 28
[Hunter Winter Series](#)
- ◆ January 29
[Jumper Days](#)
- ◆ February 3-4
[Bonny Bonello Clinic](#)
- ◆ February 5
[Dressage % Day](#)
- ◆ February 11
[Pub at the Club](#)
- ◆ February 12
[Valentines Playday](#)
- ◆ February 18-19
[Lindy Townley Clinic](#)
- ◆ February 25
[Hunter Winter Series](#)
- ◆ February 26
[Jumper Day](#)



How much are ring booking fees, anyway?

Ring fees are different for the various rings, based on the resources and benefits that each ring provides to the instructor. Instructors can decide which ring to reserve based on their lesson requirements – for example, there is no obligation that instructors operating in the hunter-jumper disciplines conduct their flat lessons in the ring with jumps. Current ring booking fees:

Covered ring with jumps	\$10
Covered ring without jumps (group – 1 lesson allowed)	\$7
Covered ring without jumps (private – 2 lessons allowed)	\$5
Outdoor ring with jumps	\$7
Outdoor ring without jumps	\$4

Why does my instructor (and I) have to pay more for a hunter/jumper lesson? Isn't this unfair?

Ring fees are different for the various rings, based on the resources and benefits that each ring provides to the instructor. They also reflect the costs involved in maintaining the rings, replacing and repairing equipment, and setting up the equipment for riders. The difference between the cost of booking a ring with jumps or without jumps represents **only** the payment which instructors now receive for setting the jump courses.

In the past, all instructors who taught over fences were required to participate in the setting of jump courses, without compensation, as part of their volunteer requirements (all SRC instructors also participate in the operations of the Club by organizing schooling shows and clinics, and other volunteer contributions). The result of this system for our members who train over fences was that the quality of the jump courses available for their use varied from excellent to non-existent (when the course did not get set for some reason). The current system allows instructors to opt in or out of the jump setting process, and those who choose to participate are paid for setting the courses. This payment determines the difference between the cost of booking a ring with jumps vs. a ring without jumps.

So, if an instructor participates in the setting of jump courses (in effect no change from their previous duties), the ring fees that they pay each month are credited with an amount for the work they perform. This cost, which works out to \$3 per 45-minute lesson (group or private) – not \$3 per student -- has been calculated based on cost recovery only, and is not intended to increase the revenue generated for the Club through ring fees in the jumping rings.

If an instructor has chosen to opt out of setting courses, then they do not receive a credit. Essentially they end up paying for someone else to do the work of course setting for them, as they have chosen to cut back on their participation in this area.

Couldn't we reduce costs by not moving the jump equipment back and forth between the covered rings each week?

As you may remember, in October we tried a less-frequent rotation of jumps between the covered and indoor arenas. But because of the very frequent events on the weekends (clinics, schooling shows, etc.) this actually created *more* moving and setting up of equipment, so the current schedule was reinstated as the most efficient use of labour. The frequency of course setting is actually determined by maintenance requirements (the jumps have to be moved to new locations to preserve the footing) and the desire of members and instructors to have varied and interesting courses to train over.

But I've been told that ring fees have gone up from \$6 to \$10.

The actual ring booking fee has gone up by \$1 per 45-minute lesson block (not \$1 per student). If your instructor has opted out of the course setting work, then he or she will be faced with an additional \$3 per 45-minute lesson block (not per student) to reserve a ring with a course built in it. However, each instructor was also given the option of continuing to participate in course setting at the club. If your instructor has opted in for the course setting work, he or she is receiving a credit to offset that additional \$3 per 45-minute lesson block – in effect, no change to their duties before November 1, which should translate to no change in their overhead beyond the \$1 increase.



But I've been told that the cost to book the Indoor for my private jumping lesson has gone up from \$4 to \$10.

Ring booking fees also depend on allowable ring usage, which was determined through consultation with our instructors and with members at last summer's Open House. Consensus was that only one jumping lesson at a time – group or private – was practical and safe for other riders the Indoor, Covered, and McCleery Rings. Two jumping lessons at a time are permitted in the Big Ring. The previous \$4 charge for a private jumping lesson was based on the practice of allowing two simultaneous private jumping lessons in the Indoor, which is no longer permitted as the membership felt that it makes the arena unsafe and effectively unavailable for other riders. Ring booking fees are based on the ring, not the individual, as the bookings determine whether or not that ring is available for other lessons.

Why is this additional charge to pay for course building \$3? This seems like a large percentage increase.

This amount was calculated based on cost recovery only, and is not intended to increase the revenue generated for the Club through ring fees in the jumping rings. To come up with this amount, the Finance, Hunter-Jumper and Instruction representatives on the Board, along with Management, considered the cost of paying someone to build the jump courses, the time spent in actually setting the courses, the average number of lessons taught in the various rings, and the frequency of course changes required by maintenance, events, and the best interests of those training over fences. We will of course be monitoring the situation over the coming year to make sure that this new system of compensating instructors for their contribution to the Club's operations accurately reflects the costs involved in providing quality jump courses for our members.

As part of your Board's efforts to ensure that the Club is meeting the instructional needs of our members, we have been soliciting member input on instructional issues throughout the Spring and Summer, and are continuing our consultation with the membership. Please feel free to contact Club Manager Linda Geddes or any member of the Board if you would like further clarification on our booking fees for ring use, or let us know your opinion on any instructional matter when you are contacted this Fall during our instructional survey.



Pilates and Yoga Class

Treat your body and improve your riding by strengthening and stretching it. Join this co-ed class in the clubhouse every Tuesday at 7.20 p.m. Beginners welcome. Drop-in fee: \$13.00 Set of 5 classes: \$50.00 Next session begins 10th January 2006 Instructor: Adrienne Hebert 604-632-9624



Southlands Riding Club

Above picture of November 12th, 2005 Pub at the Club

COUNTRY FAIR NEWS

Country Fair 2005 was very successful this year but did not make a lot of profit due to higher overheads. This was expected. The increased expenses allowed the club to hire Lori Macdonald as the event coordinator, build an inventory of signs, etc and develop the organizational infrastructure for future fairs.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR COUNTRY FAIR SUNDAY 24th 2006 September.

The Board of Directors is currently in the process of hiring a part-time event coordinator for next years fair and planning for it will begin in the spring.

Look for more emphasis on the 'horse' and utilizing the talents of our members and their families to entertain the public. What can you do?? Juggle, play a musical instrument, compete in a 6-bar jump off, do sliding stops, drive through obstacles or ride in a drill team. Start thinking now about how you can participate. Country Fair is a unique event

that families look forward to. It also provides a recognized 'public benefit' to the community and emphasises the importance of the Southlands area and its equestrian focus for all of Vancouver. Lets keep it that way.

The following errors and omissions occurred when recognizing 2005 Country Fair volunteers.

My sincere apologies to all those concerned.

Your support and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. In no particular order:

Kathleen Beekmann, SRC member, Susan Gareau (pony rides – non member), Joerg Beekmann (pony rides – non member), Lisa Nordmann (UEL), Catherine Fraser (UEL), Linda Barker (UEL), Sally Brown (UEL), Linda Templeton (UEL), Laura Ingleson (UEL), Jodie Halsey-Brandt (UEL), Monica Holden (UEL), Flora Gordon (UEL) and Diana Jenkins.

Happy riding – Jane Remocker
Long Range Planning Director



Pub at the Club 4 to 8

Saturday December 10

Generously Hosted By:

Maynard's Tack Shop

Lisa Zumpano & Brian McAlister

Sara Sellmer

Belkin Stables

Rebecca Garrard of RX Stables

We welcome everyone to come and warm up in front of the fireplace at the Southlands Riding Club's clubhouse.

Enjoy a complimentary beverage and snack generously provided by

Maynard's Tack Shop, Lisa Zumpano & Brian McAlister, Rebecca Garrard, Sara Sellmer and Belkin Stables.