

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE RIDER AND JUDGE**

### **2.1 GRADES 4 AND 5**

At Grades 4 and 5, particularly the latter, the overall picture should be one of a relaxed, happy combination. The rider is not expected to be totally steady with hands and seat at this stage, but simply to sufficient balance not to interfere with the horse's movement. It is important not to place too much emphasis on contact, as with a very young rider this will usually lead to resistance resulting in a shortening of the frame and a loss of forward movement. At Grade 5 incorrect diagonals and leading leg should be commented on but not severely marked. At Grade 4 mistakes in these two areas would cause a lowering of the mark.

### **2.2 GRADE 3**

At Grade 3 the rider is expected to have a sufficient degree of balance so that the hands and legs are becoming steadier. We should now be looking for a light but steady contact and smoother application of the aids. Again, it is important that the rider should not be shortening the frame of the pony, as so many riders are heavy with their hands in an effort to 'get the pony on the bit'. It is far more important that the pony will move freely forward into contact than one who is being pulled in at the front and inevitably resisting. By this stage we should be expecting a rider who can use the whole arena more intelligently and therefore ride with more correct flexion, perform smoother transitions at the correct markers etc.

### **2.3 GRADE 2**

At Grade 2 the riders should now a more polished version of the Grade 3 rider. All aspects mentioned should be present; steadiness of the legs and seat, firm but not resisting contact, correct flexion, smooth transitions with a minimum of resistance. Overall a balanced active rider and a horse that moves freely forward into contact with flexion and impulsion.