

KNOW-DOWNS

A wonderful winter activity

MATERIALS

Lots of chapter members

Lots of questions

Food, drink and silly prizes

A few weeks before this activity is planned, gather questions of all levels of difficulty. Don't forget the answer page!!! These can be made up from the USPC Manual, or from the following websites: The Affiliated National Riding Commission (www.anrc.org) has a lot of sample questions besides being an interesting site. There is also www.equerry.com. Under Fun, there are silly questions and interesting ones too. Have a look at this. On the Pony Club website (www.ponyclub.org) under Pony Club UK, there are a couple of quiz books that can be ordered. I have the first one and it's excellent. There is a game called Equine Trivia from which you can take questions. Perhaps you can organize a few members to make up five questions apiece on various subjects such as stable management, common diseases, foot care, etc., etc. Equally, you can find Equiz books, from Newcomer to Advanced, on Amazon (www.amazon.com) along with the Pony Club quiz book. Look under "horse quiz books" or Equiz. Dover Saddlery (www.doversaddlery.com) is another source for horse related publications.

When you have all your questions and answers together, gather your members and make up teams. You can name them for someone's horse, a saddle maker, or a type of wine; always a good choice! Go around the room, asking a question to each team and recording the correct answers on paper. Trust me, there will be a LOT of cheating but that makes it more fun. At the end of your time limit of play, say an hour or so, tally the points and give out the prizes. Everyone should have had a great time and learned something in spite of the giggling and laughter.

Thanks to Nancy Clarke of Oregon's Equinuts for jogging my memory.