

What is Membership?

The unique membership we have at Lavant House Stables is essential for all keen horse riders, whether aspiring or established. Whilst you do not have to be a member to ride with us, 99% of our three hundred-plus weekly riders choose to do so. With your guaranteed riding slot, progress is swift through weekly sessions following a carefully structured development programme with your designated coach. Also as a member you will benefit from a whopping +30% discount against non-member prices.

The membership is designed to ensure our clients get the best possible value and customer care. By selecting a convenient slot for yourself on a set day at a set time ensures you receive the minimum requirement of one ride a week which is essential if to keep building upon fitness and retain muscle memory. Split the sessions further apart and you will lose heart due to slow progress and unnecessarily aching muscles.

Through this dedicated weekly session we can then help you further by creating your own personal development programme, with the assistance of your assigned coach, and if you are in a group membership you can be sure you will be riding with the same people, who will be of similar age and ability, each week. Then there is the careful selection of horses assigned to these known, designated sessions.

Take away the membership and the first problem will be getting in, the second will be paying much more for a service that cannot provide the quality guaranteed through the membership – the right instructor, the right peer group, the right horses, a development programme designed just for you. Without the membership, each ride just becomes a single riding session of whatever can be achieved in that period, it has no future to aspire to.

Types of Membership

There are two types of membership – Group and Private – with variations within the two to suit different customer requirements.

Group Membership

Riding with five others of similar age and ability – unlike other riding schools we do not mix adults and children together – these are one hour sessions which switch between flatwork and jumping – once of sufficient ability level to jump.

Group lessons are held after school, weekday evenings and both days of the weekend. Children are best taught in groups due to this being their primary learning style from school and all ages benefit from the camaraderie and confidence engendered by riding with known others. Weekday groups for children cost a little less than child weekend groups, adults groups cost the same regardless of day or time.

There are eight different levels to children's groups and four different levels for adults. New riders will start at their appropriate level and with the instructors' recommendations will gradually progress up the levels as they improve. At each level there will be several different groups taking place and we encourage members to carefully select their most convenient group for maximum participation.

Private Membership

The forty-five minute sessions of Private membership is best suited to adults who prefer to learn on a one-to-one basis and/or want to be fully in control of the exercises to be carried out. For example, some adults prefer not to jump.

Private lessons will either be “Peak” or “Non-Peak”. Peak is when the riding session takes place over the weekend or on a weekday after 4 p.m. Non-Peak is therefore weekdays pre 4 p.m. Whilst the service is exactly the same, there is a considerable cost difference as there is very limited Peak Private Membership availability.

In addition to the non-peak there is also the possibility to have “Term-Time” Membership which means all weekly riding takes place during state school term-time only. Each session costs the same as Non-Peak, but as the thirty-nine sessions over the year are divided by twelve, the monthly subscription is less. Term-Time Membership suits adults with smaller children, those who want to avoid children completely and/or those who want a low monthly subscription.

All of the above types of Private Membership can be altered into “Semi-Private” Membership which is when you share your private sessions with chosen others.

How the Membership Works

Subscription

Just like most types of club membership you pay a monthly subscription via direct debit which covers the cost of your weekly lesson. Alternatively an annual lump sum payment can be made by any method and this enjoys a further discount of receiving one month free.

Cancellations

Please note that horse riding is an outdoor activity therefore we continue in all weathers. If requested horse knowledge and care sessions, which will be part of your development programme, can be provided instead of riding and will also be provided on the rare occasions it is unsafe to ride.

Weekly Lesson

As a matter of courtesy please always let us know if you can't make your lesson, even if this has to be at the last minute. A minimum of a full twenty-four hours' notice period is required to enable transfer of a lesson, and one full week's notice is necessary to cancel or transfer an all-day activity. If appropriate notice is not provided, cancellation will occur without transfer.

Lessons can only be transferred the once and have to be rebooked within a maximum period of three months if not to be forfeit. They can only be transferred to another session of identical type, at the same or lower level if a group – group jump will always be at a lower level. Cancelled sessions cannot be accrued, refunded or given to another person.

The value to you of replacement sessions will be lower because you will have an instructor who does not know you, the horse allocations will be different, your development programme will be interrupted and if a group you will be with unknown others. Statistically it is proven that the risk of falling off quadruples during make-up lessons.

We do understand no-one can make 52 out of 52 sessions per year due to holiday, sickness, etc. which is why a generous 30% discount is built into the cost of membership against riding as a non-members. And we certainly don't want you missing 16 lessons a year either otherwise progress will be non-existent!

All of the above is why it is so important to select a time and day that is convenient for you, and to change other plans rather than your riding session whenever you can. Also to sometimes make the wise decision it is better not to request a replacement lesson – especially if you are just starting or are very nervous.

Membership

Simply provide four weeks' notice in writing, e-mail is fine. We will cancel the direct debit. Lavant House Stables reserves the right to refuse or cancel individual membership at any time.