

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – A GUIDE

Does your horse bite?

Always wise to be safe. If you say no and a small child gets bitten then you are in deep poo. Be nice and say something like “not normally so be careful but he/she does like carrots/apples/etc.”

Isn't that bit cruel? (Refers to curb bit)

Bitting is a complicated subject and different horses require different bits. The curb bit in the right hands is no different to any other.

Aren't those spurs cruel?

Spurs are required to move the horse forward and are not cruel at all if used properly and with training. They are there for a purpose and do not actually have to be used.

You dope your horses!

No – not necessary at all when the horse has been properly trained, this of course takes a lot of time and dedication.

I don't think that horses should be used like this!

Do not get drawn into this one. Just say that you understand that they may be entitled to their personal opinion but that you do not share it. Withdraw gracefully.

How do you train the horses for the bangs?

In much the same way as they used to. Bring them into it gently with a small bang, like a balloon, then a starting pistol and so on. It is useful to do it whilst they are feeding as they will then associate the bang with something nice.

Should not all the riders be men?

Nearly all riders in the period we are re-enacting would have been men but not exclusively. However nowadays it is felt that both sexes should be able to enjoy the hobby as long as the women try and put on a masculine image.

Aren't those swords/Lances dangerous?

Yes. Which is why we spend many hours training to use them safely and with proper instruction and assessments?

What size should the horses be?

Depending upon the period in question it is wise to give a general answer unless you are completely familiar with the mounts of the time. As a rule of thumb most Cavalry horses were not over 15.2HH. However the public will probably not know what a Hand is so it is best to point out a horse that is correct for your period.

When are you jousting (question comes up regardless of historical period)?

Explain that Jousting is not part of the historical period (unless of course it is). You may wish to explain the rudiments of Skill at Arms as an alternative.

What happens when you fall off?

“You bounce” – hopefully

Is that horse not too old/too young?

It is really important that you only use horses that look good and look the part. If a contractor brings something dubious do not use in front of the public. If welfare questions do arise then send the person to ask the Contractor or Owner Rider.

Remember history is not studied properly in school and they all learn it from American rubbish films, like Braveheart! Sadly some of our own groups and contractors do not help by being totally historically incorrect.