

Get Your Derby On

from Merridy Hance

No, not your little hat. This is an imaginative and fun carriage driving competition that now has official rules. Informally, we've been playing some form of this for a long time. An international sport around the world, Derbies have been hotly contested for years.

Driving Derby is a concentrated combination of Combined Driving Cones and Marathon obstacles; alas, no Dressage. A Derby can be done in a "relatively" small space, say an arena, indoors or out.

Here's how it pans out. There are two or more rounds over a course consisting of 6 to 16 pairs of cones and 2 to 4 marathon-type obstacles. Each gate is numbered and must be run in proper sequence in proper direction. Total time plus any penalties are added to produce final scores and placings. Training division may not canter, but other "levels" may.



To study up on this kind of event, look at your [ADS rulebook under Appendix C -- Carriage Derby](#). Known on the world stage as "World Cup," for the big pros, have a look at You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yn3RPDcFQ7c>

This year's Equestrians Institute "Everything but the Kitchen Sink Weekend" will host a Driving Derby among its other varied equine driving delights. Dates for the Kitchen Sink Weekend are June 29 - July 1.