



Sussex Yeomanry HISTORY....HORSES....EDUCATION....FUN!

It all started.....with a love of history and a passion for horses!

Having run a BHS-approved riding school for a great many years in Ditchling, Sussex, at which I taught basic horse riding skills I met a mounted policeman by the name of Bernie Barker. He introduced me to the equestrian sport of mounted skill-at-arms/tentpegging. Sadly Bernie is no longer with us – he was a legend and a very proficient horseman. He was also a hard task master whose attention to detail was second to none.

With Bernie's help I learned the rudiments of the sport and started to introduce it to a number of my clients – of all ages – who quickly learned how to ride competently with one hand whilst carrying a weapon in the other. I like to think that my passion was infectious and am pleased to say that, with Bernie's help, I managed to get the once military dominated sport opened up for civilians to take part in and compete at.

A number of years have since passed but my passion for the sport – and for history – has not diminished. I have competed over those years with a reasonable degree of success in the UK and overseas in, e.g., Holland and South Africa and am now working on developing the sport to include the equestrian skills of the cavalry through a newly-formed group by the name of **Sussex Yeomanry**.

The website of Sussex Yeomanry launched in January 2015 - <http://sussexyeomanry.uk/>. It includes information about what we are available to do, i.e. give demonstrations, attend corporate events, add a different dimension to educational workshops, weddings, etc. and host competitions. We are also to be found on Facebook and Twitter.

Some of the disciplines that may be included in our demonstrations are listed below – they are described in more detail on our website.

1. **Tentpegging.** This is the best known discipline – there are a number of variations but basically it involves removing a three inch wide tentpeg from the ground with a sword or lance – at the speed of gallop!
2. **Rings on Cabbages.**
3. **Cutting Cabbages.**
4. **Jump (x 2) and Upright Dummies.**
5. **Jump (x 2) and Balloons.**
6. **Jump, Dummy on the Ground, Jump, Peg.**
7. **Dummies on the Ground.**

Our much-loved sport is not recognized by the British Equestrian Federation as it is too small, i.e. it is not sufficiently well-known as to generate a large amount of money. It is however infectious, great fun and our horses love it! These are reasons enough to want to promote and develop the sport and keep history alive – these being the aims of **Sussex Yeomanry**!

John Dudeney

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