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Exciting times for local **Le Trec** enthusiasts

October brought exciting changes across Britain for the international equestrian sport 'Le Trec'. A new governing body "TREC GB" has been formed. In tandem here on the Isle of Man "TREC IOM" has been launched and affiliated to the national body, as a new local club full of keen TREC competitors.

TREC is a sport intended to test the skills of horse and rider in planning and executing a long distance ride in unfamiliar terrain. It originated in France as a way of testing the skills of trail ride leaders, and was introduced into the UK in the early 1990s.

The sport consists of 3 phases:

Orienteering - riders follow a set route (individually or in pairs), which they copy onto a map. The routes vary in length from 10-40km and riders lose points for using an incorrect route or being too fast or slow. Each section of the route has a pre-determined speed.

Control of paces - riders must demonstrate control over their horse's paces by cantering slowly along a track and then returning at a fast walk. Points are determined by the time taken for each pace.

PTV [obstacle] - riders complete a course of 16 obstacles, each of which is judged out of 10. Obstacles may be ridden or led (this will be specified) and they are designed to replicate things you could encounter out in the countryside.

Participants can compete in individual events or every event throughout the season to earn a place in the Annual TREC league. Score sheets are available after each competition so competitors can mark their progress throughout the year. Regular training sessions are held so that anyone wishing to improve their skills can do so.

TREC is not unknown to the Island. Previously run by the British Horse Society, a competition was first held back in 2002, but nothing followed for ten years. It was then

reintroduced in 2012 with the help of the Bowland TREC Group. Each year since, there have been numerous -competitions, both indoors and outdoors.

In 2013 the first Affiliated TREC competition was held over two days at different locations on the Island. This was a qualifier for the BHS TREC Championships, but unfortunately no local competitors were able to attend on this occasion. It's something they hope to change in 2015 as they aim to run a TREC GB Qualifier and send a team to the first TREC GB Championships, to be held in Edinburgh in August.

From its introduction, TREC has enjoyed a strong following on the island and the new TREC group will enable the sport to develop further.

For more information visit:
www.trecgb.com or
www.treciom.com