

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

European Championships

Mounted Games is a team sport where teams of four or five riders and ponies take part in a series of exciting and exhilarating races that involve a mix of turns, handovers, skill, vaulting and galloping against other teams.

Mounted Games is an adaptation of Gymkhana and is lots of fun for ponies and riders. Young riders often begin mounted games at pony club, sometimes just for fun but often for competition where at the highest level there are opportunities to ride at amazing places like Royal Windsor Horse Show and The Horse of the Year Show.



In Mounted Games you can develop skills such as improving accuracy, agility, concentration, speed, hand to eye coordination, team work and sportsmanship whilst having lots of fun playing some imaginative games.

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Elliot Kirby was part of the Under 12's England team that competed at the European Championships this summer. He told us all about it ...

"The Mounted Games Association of Great Britain is the governing body for Mounted Games in Great Britain. It was formed to allow riders to compete in Mounted Games past Pony Club age, which ends at 14 years old.

"I began riding at 2 ½ years old when I joined Morpeth Hunt Pony Club and my love for mounted games began. When my older brother joined MGA after leaving Pony Club I initially just went to watch, however I soon made some friends who rode for the county of South Wiltshire. At MGA you can ride for any region or area you want to regardless of where you live. They invited me to join their team and at the age of 10 years old my own MGA career started.

"Being picked to ride at the European Championships is a possibly once in a lifetime opportunity. This year the European championships were held at Onley in Rugby England. As well as England and Wales there were teams from Italy and France competing in the under 12 category which is my age group.

During the season there are a number of selection shows whereby the selectors watch all the riders competing. They then choose the top six riders in each category. In only my second year of competing at MGA, I was fortunate enough to be selected to ride for Team England with my super pony "DENNY".

We spent a week battling it out over four sessions and a two part final with England being crowned U12 European Champions. It was a dream come true and an amazing week with friends and making new friends from all teams. A highlight for me was swapping some of my England kit for some Italian kit which I now use.

Riding in MGA has given me some amazing opportunities and allows me to ride with my friends and other boys as there is not many in my pony club. I have made friends from all over the country and now abroad."

Elliots older brother, Max, also plays Mounted Games...

"I began pony club mounted games at the age of ten as a result of my mum also being a member when she was young. I spent 5 years in the mounted games until in my last year I was selected to ride for the England team.

"During my week at the Royal Windsor Horse Show I got to know some lads my age, who asked if I would be interested in riding in a team with them in MGA and so I started MGA in 2021 riding in the U18 category. Like pony club, MGA also has international teams in which you have to be selected. The most recent was the Europeans, a competition where the countries of Europe could compete to find who would be crowned champion.



"Me and my pony Matty were lucky enough to be selected as one of the 5 riders in the team to represent England for the first time in MGA. As well as the 5 riders that make up the team there are also a set number of reserves picked, just in case of an injury.

"The European Championships was a weeklong competition with multiple heats, featuring a new set of races each time and 1 final split across 2 sessions. The teams included England, France, Italy, Ireland and Scotland which made for fierce competition. The end result for us - England were reserve champions, after a weeklong fight it came down to the final race. The Italians and the French were serious competition with nobody able to pull out a lead and for the whole week we were locked in a 3-way battle.

"The MGA community has provided me with a platform to make friendships from all over the country who I



otherwise wouldn't have met. It allows people to share a passion and make memorable times and form friendships that will last a lifetime.