

NOTES ON THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE PONY CLUB

- 1928** The *Institute of the Horse* started a Sub-Branch scheme in different parts of the country to encourage riding. In addition to running events for adults, several of them started to organise paperchases and gymkhanas for children. This was a forerunner of The Pony Club. The earliest recorded event was a gymkhana organised by the Oxted (Surrey) Sub-Branch in 1928. At a later rally, Harry Faudel-Phillips, who was a Member of the Council of the Institute of the Horse, was invited to give a lecture and demonstration.
- 1929** On 1st November, 1929, the Institute of the Horse started a Junior Branch of their organisation, known as *The Pony Club*, "for the purpose of interesting young people in riding and sport and at the same time offering the opportunity of higher instruction in this direction than many of them can obtain individually". Under the new scheme, the country was divided into Districts the same as the Hunts, each under a District Commissioner, helped by a Local Committee. The new club was in close touch with hunting. Members joined at an entrance fee of 2s 6d (12.5p) - unchanged until 1976 and an annual subscription of 5s (25p). A Membership badge was given. The pattern of this badge is virtually the same today. A *Central Committee of The Pony Club* was started by the '*Institute of the Horse and Pony Club*', under the Chairmanship of Harry Faudel-Phillips, who with the Secretary, T.H.S. Marchant, drew up the constitution of the new club. Also a Member of this Committee was Mrs Hugh Corbett (later Mrs. Victor Hurst) who was District Commissioner of the North and South Shropshire Hunt Branch. She was both District Commissioner and on the Committee until her retirement in 1956.
- 1930** The Central Committee held its first meeting in January 1930. By May, Branches and District Commissioners had been created at: *Belvoir, Cottesmore, Craven, Essex Union and Essex, Fernie, Grafton, Ludlow, Shropshire (North and South), Surrey and Burstow, Vale of White Horse and Wynstay*. A Membership of **700** was recorded. A meeting of all District Commissioners was held in London. The Royal Calpe Hunt Pony Club (Gibraltar) was formed - the first affiliated overseas Branch.
- 1931** Number of Pony Club Branches recorded: **59**. Membership: **4,442**. Harry Faudel-Phillips and Mrs Hugh Corbett were appointed as the first visiting Commissioners of The Pony Club. The first Pony Club Camp was held.
- 1932** An official Pony Club tie was created. In a competition the winning design was from the joint Essex Union and Essex Hunt Branch - and entered by the District Commissioner, Mrs. H R Pelly. In June the Central Committee was re-organised and became known as *The Pony Club Organisation Committee*, VDS Williams became Chairman, with Harry Faudel-Phillips as Vice Chairman. Pony Club Tests were started and efficiency certificates given.
- 1933** In November, Hon. Guy Cubitt, became a Member of The Pony Club Organisation Committee which he continued up to 1970.
- 1934** Pony Club Instructors' Courses (at Temple House - led by Harry Faudel-Phillips; and at the Porlock Vale riding school in Somerset - led by Tony Collings) were held for the first time. Number of Pony Club Branches: **103**; Membership: **8,350**.
- 1935** The first course for Visiting Commissioners was held at Temple House.
- 1939** Almost every Branch had to close down during the war.
- 1945** Mrs.THS Marchant carried on the Secretarial duties at The Pony Club Office single-handed.

1947 The Institute of the Horse and The Pony Club were merged with the National Horse Association of Great Britain. This new society, with Hon. Guy Cubitt as Chairman, was called *The British Horse Society* and became the parent organisation of The Pony Club. When THS Marchant retired, RA Brown (who was Secretary of the National Horse Association) became Secretary of The British Horse Society, helped by Miss Christine Black in The Pony Club Office.
Number of Branches in Great Britain: **167**; Membership: **17,082**
Number of Branches Overseas: **13**.

1949 The Pony Club Horse Trials Competition was started.

1952 Miss Christine Black became Secretary of The Pony Club.

1956 The British Horse Society moved its offices from Sloane Street, London to *16 Bedford Square*, London. This had been the offices of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

1957 The Pony Club Mounted Games Championship (The Prince Philip Cup) was started.

1958 Total Pony Club Membership in the United Kingdom topped **25,000**.

1959 The Pony Club Polo Tournament was created.

1951 - 1961

These figures give an idea of the growth of The Pony Club in the United Kingdom at this time.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1947 | 1952 | 1962 |
| Membership (U.K.) | 17,082 | 18,905 | 31,349 |
| No. of Branches (U.K.) | 167 | 201 | 255 |

1963 The Pony Club was accepted as a Member of the Standing Conference of National Voluntary Youth Organisations (SCNVYO). The Pony Club Regional Representative Scheme was introduced.

1964 The Pony Club Hunting and Country Lore Tests were introduced.
Junior Members of affiliated Riding Clubs could take The Pony Club Tests.
Miss Eileen Thomas became Secretary of The Pony Club.

1965 For the first time a team from Great Britain took part in an International Pony Club Exchange Visit in the United States of America.

1966 A Pilot Scheme was created for children from recognised schools or youth clubs to become affiliated to The Pony Club.
Miss Patricia Stacpoole became Secretary of The Pony Club.

1967 The Pony Club Office moved to Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

1968 Bill Lithgow became Executive Officer of The Pony Club.
Miss Jean Sansome became Secretary of The Pony Club.

1969 A new organisation structure for The Pony Club was introduced.
The Pony Club Tetrathlon Championships started.

1970 Hon. Guy Cubitt retired as Chairman of The Pony Club after 25 years and was made Life President of The Pony Club.

1971 TGG (Tubby) Cooper became Chairman of The Pony Club.
 The Pony Club Show Jumping Championships started.
 The Pony Club hosted teams from Australia, Canada, Eire, South Africa and USA for a three-week visit spent touring the country, and ending in riding and competitions at Stoneleigh.

1972 H Test Introduced.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1952 | 1962 | 1972 |
| Membership (U.K.) | 18,905 | 31,349 | 39,526 |
| No. of Branches (U.K.) | 201 | 255 | 298 |

1973 Miss Catherine Moir became Secretary of The Pony Club.
 Upper Age limit was reduced to 20 years of age.

1974 Riding and Road Sense Certificate introduced.

1975 Roger Ward became Chairman of the Pony Club.

1976 The Pony Club of Great Britain hosted two teams from Canada and the USA for three weeks spent touring the South of England, ending at Mounted Games Competitions at Windsor.

1977 The Pony Club Dressage Championships were started.

1978 The Pony Club was host to a team of Tetrathletes from America and Canada, who competed in Area Competitions and the Championships, and a Polo team from America.

1979 Patrick Langford became Chairman of The Pony Club.
 The Pony Club celebrated its **Golden Jubilee**; Branches took displays to over 100 Shows all round the country. Badges, patches, pens, greetings cards, brasses, sweat shirts, mugs and key rings were produced as souvenirs.
 The cartoonist Norman Thelwell designed a Christmas card especially for Jubilee year.
 A reception was held in London for past Council Members and representatives of other organisations connected with horses. A trophy was specially designed and John King was commissioned to paint a picture to commemorate the Jubilee. A souvenir booklet with photographs from nearly every one of The Pony Club's 50 years, and many of the Jubilee displays, was produced.
 Hon. Guy Cubitt, Life President of The Pony Club, past Chairman and Council Member died on August 23rd.
 Upper age was changed back to 21 years.

1980 For the first time, the Annual Conference of District Commissioners and a repeat of the Annual National Instructors' Conference was held in Scotland.

1981 James Pinney became Chairman of The Pony Club.
 The totally revised edition of The Manual of Horsemanship was produced.

1982 The Pony Club hosted teams from Canada and USA who took part in Mounted Games and Tetrathlon Competitions.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1962 | 1972 | 1982 |
| Membership (U.K.) | 31,349 | 39,526 | 43,817 |
| No. of Branches (U.K.) | 255 | 298 | 365 |

1983 The Pony Club Horse Trials Championships moved from Stoneleigh Park to Weston Park, Shropshire. 8 Senior Instructors Courses were organised throughout the country for combined Areas.

- 1984** The Pony Club Dressage and Show Jumping Championships moved from Stoneleigh Park to Weston Park, Shropshire.
- 1985** The Pony Club hosted an Inter-Pacific Rally with Pony Club Members from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand and The Philippines.
Bill Lithgow retired as Executive Officer.
Ernest McMillen became Chairman of The Pony Club.
- 1986** Tadzik Kopanski became Executive Officer of The Pony Club.
The Pony Club was host to teams from Canada, Republic of Ireland and USA who took part in tetrathlon competitions.
- 1987** The Pony Club hosted teams from Canada and USA who visited three Areas and took part in mounted games competitions. The Pony Club magazine was launched.
- 1988** The first Riding School Branch was started at Hyde Park, London.
- 1989** Patrick Langford was made Vice President of The Pony Club.
Patrick Langford, Vice president and a past Chairman of The Pony Club and past Chairman of both Polo and Tetrathlon Committees, died
Ernest McMillen became Vice-President of the Euro Pony Club Association.
- 1990** Peter Lord made Development Officer of The Pony Club.
The Pony Club hosted International teams for Tetrathlon and Mounted Games visits.
- 1991** Mrs. Dawn Wofford became Chairman of The Pony Club.
The Pony Club hosted the first Euro camp for children from Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Holland, Italy, Portugal, Southern Ireland, Spain and Switzerland.
- 1992** The Pony Club Polocrosse Championships started.
Ending of Membership changed to the end of year of the Member's 21st birthday.
- | | 1972 | 1982 | 1992 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Membership (U.K.) | 39,526 | 43,817 | 38,560 |
| No. of Branches (U.K.) | 298 | 365 | 367 |
- 1993** The Pony Club hosted teams from America, Australia and Canada for a Mounted Games Visit, and for the first time Northern Ireland was one of the host areas.
The age for becoming an Associate was changed to 1st January following the Member's 18th birthday.
- 1994** The Pony Club hosted teams from America, Canada and Eire for a Tetrathlon visit. A Mounted Games team visited Australia for the first time.
- 1995** The second camp for the Euro Pony Club was held. Members came from 13 countries.
A Winter League Show Jumping competition was introduced.
- 1996** John Wehner was made General Manager of The Pony Club.
A newcomers competition was started at The Pony Club Championships at Weston Park Kate Moir retired as Executive Secretary of The Pony Club after 29 years.

- 1997** At the beginning of the year The Pony Club became an Independent Charity.
 The Pony Club Winter League Show Jumping Championships started.
 Mrs Dawn Wofford retired as Chairman of The Pony Club and Tadzik Kopanski retired as Chief Executive.
 Bill Lithgow, past Executive Officer of The Pony Club, died.
 Tim Spencer Cox became Chairman of The Pony Club and Robert Symonds was made Chief Executive. Mrs Jo Clark became General Manager of The Pony Club.
 The Pony Club hosted teams from America, Canada and Eire for a Tetrathlon visit and teams from America, Canada and Australia for a Mounted Games visit.
 An Achievement Badge scheme was introduced.
 Endurance riding was introduced as a Pony Club event.
 Mrs Nikki Herbert became Chairman of Training, Mrs Judy Edwards became Chairman of Show Jumping and Mr Colin Bartrum became Chairman of Horse Trials.
- 1998** A pilot scheme for Centre Membership was introduced.
 The Pony Club Office moved to Allander House, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.
 Peter Lord became Chief Executive
 Rebecca Elvin became Secretary of The Pony Club
 Ernest McMillen became President of Euro Pony Club Association
 The Pony Club sent Tetrathlon teams to compete in America and Canada, and a Mounted Games team went to America.
- 1999** Centre Membership scheme expanded to include more riding establishments.
 The Pony Club Championships moved to Sansaw Park, Shropshire
 The Pony Club Individual Show Jumping Championships was introduced.
 Mounted Games sent a team to Australia.
 UK Tetrathlon Competition held for the first time in Northern Ireland.
 Council agreed to the formation of a Management Committee.
- 2000** Mr Spencer Cox retired as Chairman.
 Lt Col T J C Washington died.
 The Millenium Ride took place at Windsor
 100 Members join the celebrations at Ascot Racecourse for HRH The Queen Mother's 100th Birthday.
 Ernest McMillen was made Life Vice President.
 David Brookes elected Chairman of the Polocrosse Committee.
 Dressage to Music was introduced at the Championships.
 Cheshire Hunt North Branch initiated the Novice Challenge.
- 2001** Lt Col Gordon Wesley FABRS became Chairman of The Pony Club
 Peter Lord retired as Chief Executive. Duncan Robb appointed Chief Executive
 Foot and Mouth Disease caused cancellatiion of most Pony Club activities at Area and National level - only Polo and Polocrosse held National Finals under strict decontamination controls.
 Mounted Games Team won finals in USA against USA, Canada and Australia
 Polo Team competed in Uruguay and Argentina
 Composite Team (2) competed in South Africa.
 Mrs Diana Martin-Bird retired as Dressage Chairman after over 50 years service to The Pony Club.
 Mrs Angela Craddock retired as Chairman of Horse Trials after 35 years service on the Committee.
 David Cowley appointed Chairman of Polo
 Lady Howick appointed Chairman of Eventing
 Miss Fiona Lace appointed Chairman of Dressage
 Mr Tim Spencer Cox appointed first 'Friend of The Pony Club'
 Mrs Devina Cannon completed her tour as Press Officer after 20 years work for The Pony Club.

2002 100 Members took part in 'All the Queens Horses' at Windsor. The pageant was part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.
 Tetrathlon teams visited the USA
 A team visited the USA on a hunting exchange
 HRH Prince Philip retired as President
 The Polocrosse Championships were held for the first time at Sansaw Park
 The UK hosted the International Mounted Games Visit - and won!
 Polo Teams competed in Uruguay, South Africa and the USA.
 Council agreed to the formation of a Management Board and an Audit Committee.

| | 1982 | 1992 | 2002 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Membership (U.K.) | 43,817 | 38,560 | 32,571 |
| No. of Branches (U.K.) | 365 | 367 | 357 |

2003 HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO QSO became President.
 The inaugural National Quiz was held.
 Polo teams competed in the USA and South Africa
 A Mounted Games team visited Canada and returned victorious for the 3rd year running
 A group visited Eire for a hunting exchange
 100 Members rode in Windsor Great Park to raise funds for the Air Ambulance - a total of £10,000 was raised
 Lt Col K G Wesley retired as Chairman.

2004 Mrs Mary Anderson became Chairman
 The Pony Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. Branches celebrated in a multitude of ways nationwide – Badges, Mugs, Tea Towels and a special commemorative book with photos from many Branches spanning 75 years were produced as souvenirs. A reception was held at Badminton with HRH The Princess Royal as our guest.
 The inaugural Horse and Pony Care competition at the Championship was held.
 Polo teams competed in the USA, France and South Africa
 A Mounted Games team visited USA and returned victorious for the 4th year running. A
 Polocrosse team visited USA and returned victorious
 The UK hosted the International Tetrathlon
 HRH The Princess Royal visited Twin Trees Riding School
 Mrs Sally Lefroy retired as Chairman of Tetrathlon and Mrs Gillie Summers was appointed
 Mr Dave Brookes retired as Chairman of Polocrosse and Mrs Ursula Scott was appointed
 Pony Racing was introduced as a pilot scheme.
 Mrs Lucinda Darling and Mrs Majorie Langford died.
 The Novice Challenge became The Novice Championships.

2005 Mrs Judy Edwards formerly Chairman of the Show Jumping Committee became Chief Executive.
 The Chairman and Chief Executive attended the International Pony Club Conference in Calgary.
 H.R.H. The Princess Royal attended the Dengie Show Jumping Championship at Warwickshire College.
 Hosted an International Exchange for Members from Canada, U.S.A., South Africa, Australia and Eire.
 Polo players went to U.S.A., Argentina, New Zealand and South Africa.
 A Mounted Games team visited Australia.
 Mrs Carole Wasdell and Mrs Sally Skelton retired as Area Representatives after many years of service.
 Mr Colin Bartram, a former Chairman of the Eventing Committee died.

- 2006** H.R.H. The Princess Royal attended The Pony Club Conference in Edinburgh.
H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Horse of the Year Show for the 50th Anniversary of the Prince Philip Cup.
An Intermediate level of competition for Dressage, Eventing and Show Jumping was introduced at the Championships.
The Championships were held for the last time at Sansaw in Shropshire.
Mrs. Moira Panes retired as Area Representative after many years of service.
The U.K. hosted the International Mounted Games visit for the U.S.A., Canada and Australia and a team from the U.S.A. came to take part in the Polocrosse Championships.
A Tetrathlon team visited the U.S.A. and Canada.
Four Members travelled to the U.S.A. to take part in a Hunting Exchange.
Polo teams visited Argentina and California and the U.K. hosted Polo teams from New Zealand, U.S.A. and Kenya.
Mr. Alan Oliver, a long serving member on the Show Jumping Committee died.
- 2007** Mrs Mary Anderson retired as Chairman. Mr. Ernest McMillen MBE retired as Chairman of Centre Membership having seen the Membership grow to 15,000 during his term of office. Mr. David Cowley retired as Chairman of Polo. Mrs Ursula Scott retired as Chairman of Polocrosse.
HRH The Princess Royal attended the Instructors' Conference at Scottish National Equestrian Centre.
HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein visited Somerby Pony Club Centre.
A Centre Membership Competition was included in the Championships for the first time.
An International Quiz team and a Mounted Games team went and competed in the U.S.A. and various International Polo exchanges took place.
Mr. Tim Spencer Cox died.
- 2008** Mrs Cherry Michell became Chairman of The Pony Club and Mr Robin Thompson C.B.E., D.L. became Vice Chairman.
Mrs Theresa Hodges, Mr David Brookes, and Mr Jeremy Franks became the Chairmen of Polo, Polocrosse and Centre Membership respectively.
H.R.H. The Princess Royal attended the National Conference at Aintree and the Cubitt Awards luncheon at Stratford-upon-Avon where she presented the recipients with their awards. The Championships took place at Draycott House in Derbyshire. Twenty eight of our Polo players attended training courses in South Africa and a Mounted Games team attended the International Games Championships in Australia. Tetrathlon hosted teams from Canada, USA and Ireland, and our Tetrathletes took part in an International competition in Ireland.
The Pony Club was awarded the Animal Health Trust Voluntary Sector Award in The Trust's 20th Anniversary year.
At the final meeting of The Pony Club Council, Council approved the revision of the Memorandum and Articles to reflect the change in the Governance structure of The Pony Club.
- 2009** The Pony Club celebrated its 80th Anniversary and saw Branch celebrations countrywide. An Anniversary Ride took place at The Royal Windsor Horse Show where the riders were received by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
In January the Headquarters Team moved to new refurbished offices on the showground at Stoneleigh Park. As HRH The Princess Royal's final engagement as President, HRH officially opened the offices in November.
The Chairman attended the International Pony Club Conference in Calgary and a Mounted Games team competed in the International Exchange also in Calgary.
Members took part in a Hunting Exchange in Ireland and Polo trips were made to South Africa.
The first Endurance Championships were held.
Lady Howick retired as Chairman of Eventing and Liz Lyall was appointed in her place.
After an absence of 24 years The Pony Club Annual was reinstated.

2010 H.R.H.The Princess Royal, having retired as President, became our Patron and The Lady Lloyd Webber became our President.

Mrs Jenny Slinn retired as Area Representative for Area 11. Mrs Nikki Herbert retired as Chairman of Training and Mrs Gilly Summers retired as Chairman of Tetrathlon.

The Pony Club hosted an International Mounted Games exchange with teams from U.S.A., Canada and Australia.

A Tetrathlon team was sent to compete in the U.S.A., and eight Members travelled to South Africa for Polo training.

'Pony Prep' the exciting new E-Learning system was launched at Olympia.

2011 The Chairman and Chief Executive attended the International Pony Club Conference in Kentucky where the U.K. Mounted Games team was victorious in winning the International Mounted Games competition.

Mrs. Maureen Costello retired as Area Representative for Area 9 and Mrs. Pauline Coster retired as Area Representative for Area 8.

Pony Club Polocrosse was invited to take part in the Polocrosse World Cup meeting and four Members enjoyed a week's hunting in the U.S.A.

The U.K. hosted a Tetrathlon exchange with visitors from Australia, Ireland, Canada and the U.S.A. Pony Prep (e-learning) goes from strength to strength and was shortlisted for the prestigious E-learning Age Awards.

Mrs. Diana Martin-Bird, a Member since 1929 died.