Dear All,

Firstly, may I say how good it was to see so many of you at the Cheltenham conference. The record turnout was certainly blessed with fine weather. Those of you who were there will have heard the news that next year the annual conference is to be held in Belfast on Wednesday March 7th. Having just spent two days over there along with Sarah, I have to say that the city has an enormous amount to offer.

The conference facilities are superb as are the hotels with a great selection from lovely B&B’s through to 4 & 5 star hotels. There is plenty of accommodation to suit all budgets. What is also remarkable is the close proximity of all the attractions, whether it be the regenerated ship building area including the famous Titanic Dry Dock, the beautiful City Hall or the very special National Trust owned pub with its even more special draft Guinness!

Belfast is served by 2 mainland airports with Belfast City Airport a 5/10 minute taxi ride from the city centre and Belfast International Airport a 20 minute drive away. Return flights cost from as little as £60 so in many instances the journey will end up for some people as being less than a main land venue.

It is an easy journey there and back in a day, but as Belfast and its surrounding area has so much to offer, some of you may wish to stay for a short break. We are hoping to organise a visit to Stormont for those who wish to stay over.

We will soon be sending out more details including information on hotels and flight options but in the meantime please do make a note in your diaries for next year.

After such a harsh winter, the spring sunshine has made a most welcome appearance so let’s hope that this is a foretaste of what we can all now expect for all the forthcoming Easter activities.

We all wish you a most enjoyable spring and Easter break and please do remember that the team here at Stoneleigh is here to help in any way that we can.

Very Best Wishes,

Judy E. Edwards
Chief Executive

CENTRE NEWSLETTER – closing date for news and results will be 29th April 2011

MERCHANDISE – updated Quiz Book 2 now in stock. Also Pony Club ring binders in purple and blue

HEALTH & SAFETY – CRB have increased the price of enhanced checks to £54 for employed staff. Volunteers remain just £10 (BHS admin charge)

CENTRE EQUITATION at THE CHAMPIONSHIPS - ENTER FORM ENCLOSED
THE PONY CLUB CHARITY 2011
The Animal Health Trust is our Charity of the Year again for 2011. You all did so well last year in raising almost £41k for the Pony Power Campaign. The AHT is a veterinary charity dedicated to improving the health and welfare of horses, dogs and cats. Disease and injury are the most common threats to animal welfare, and the AHT exist to reduce and prevent any unnecessary suffering. Further information about the AHT can be found at www.aht.org.uk.

The Pony Power Campaign: AHT have developed the Pony Power campaign to help your Branches and Centres fundraise for AHT and we need to have raised £100k by the end of this year to have a research laboratory named after The Pony Club. Projects for this year will be announced soon and full details about how to fundraise, contacts, ideas and the amazing prizes up for grabs for outstanding fundraisers can be viewed online at http://www.ponypower.org.uk/

THE PONY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011
Draycott House, Derbyshire
Information (including stabling) on the Championships will appear on the website when available.

Fence Judges & Stewards Needed – The Eventing Championships will run on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th August and we are looking for fence judges and stewards to help on either or both days, as well as some helpers for the Day before Dressage on Sunday 14th. If there is anyone in your Branch who may be able to help, please get in touch with Jenny Yates (02476 698305 or jenny@pcuk.org). The Championships could not run without the help of volunteers; any help at all, even for half a day would be greatly appreciated.

Fence Sponsorship 2011
Fence Sponsorship is available on a selection of fence at the 2011 Pony Club Championships. Full details of prices and the packages available can be requested by emailing media@pcuk.org or viewing The Championship pages of www.pcuk.org

COMPETITIVE DISCIPLINES

RULE BOOKS – Branches and Centres are reminded as the busy competition season is fast approaching to get their Members to buy a current Rule Book for the discipline(s) they are competing in. All Rule Books can be bought directly from the website through the shop – they are only £3.00 each. You can also download a copy from the website.

POLOCROSSE

THE 2011 POLOCROSSE WORLD CUP 8th – 17th JULY 2011
The event takes place at Onley Grounds Equestrian Centre (also known as Rugby Polo Club), Rugby, Warwickshire. Countries taking part will include the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and the United States of America. Additionally a European Challenge Tournament will include invited teams from France, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Norway, Ireland and the UK. Please come along and support this prestigious event. There will be a trade/shopping village for spectators and competitors and other attractions include Vaulting, Mounted Games, Reining, Riding for the Disabled and Horseball.

The UK Polocrosse Association is delighted to offer a 20% discount on ticket prices to Pony Club Branches and Centres when they make an advance group booking for any day of the competition. It should be a spectacular event, with all the best polocrosse players in the world taking part along with other displays and demos from other equine disciplines and other acts, alongside a trade village and refreshment stands. There is also a specific International Pony Club polocrosse competition which will showcase the best of the talent within the Pony Clubs from Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the USA.
For more info please go to: www.polocrosse2011.com
MOUNTED GAMES

Atherstone Hunt Branch of The Pony Club is organising a study evening at Witham Villa Equestrian Centre, Monday 18th April at 6.30pm - please email Andrew James (awjames2002@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

RACING

Pony Club Race Days 2011

- Haydock Park (Area 4) – 8th May
- Wincanton Racecourse (Wyley Valley) – 14th May
- Howe Hills, Mordon, Sedgfield, Co Durham (South Durham) – 21st May
- Lingfield Racecourse (Eridge Hunt) – 31st May
- Beverley Racecourse (Holderness Hunt) – 2nd October

Schedules and Entry Forms can be found on the website.

SHOW JUMPING

SHOW JUMPING RULE BOOK 2011 – RULE 33 (page 27) – JUDGES

The organiser shall appoint a minimum of Two BS Judges, one of which may be an Associate Judge.

DRESSAGE

Dengie Winter League

Thank you to those of you who organised Dengie Winter League Dressage Preliminary Rounds or Area Competitions. Booking forms for the 2011/2012 Winter League will be available in June so if you would like to hold any Preliminary Rounds please get your form in quickly to secure your dates.

Area Competitions

British Dressage Supporters Club are once again kindly providing a rosette for the highest placed BDSC member in the Open Area Competitions. Please be aware that BDSC membership numbers are four figures and not to be confused with BD membership numbers.

THE BLUE CROSS HORSE & PONY CARE COMPETITION

Area competitions are well underway for qualification to attend The Blue Cross Horse & Pony Care Championships at Draycott House, Derbyshire on Saturday 13th (Juniors) and Sunday 14th (Senior) August 2011. Please keep an eye on the website (http://www.pcuk.org/Activities/The-Blue-Cross-Horse-and-Pony-Care-Competition) for more information. If you have any queries about running or qualifying for the Championships please contact Rachel Owen & Jennifer Pointon (assistant@pcuk.org).

MUSCIAL RIDE COMPETITION AT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

This is a wonderful opportunity for Members to work together on the production of their own Branch or Centre Musical Ride and to display their talents at the Pony Club Championships. For more details and to download an entry form, please go to: http://www.pcuk.org/Activities/Musical-Ride-Competition/

ENDURANCE

The Endurance pages of the website have been updated to include useful documents such as ‘Pathways of Endurance’, regional ride information and a document detailing how to run your own ride. I also have some copies of the document so please get in touch if you would like some from your Branch.
Please note that the distance for the Open Endurance Championships will be 40km including a vet gate, not 50km as per rule book.

**TRAINING**

**Instructors** - In order to ensure that the standard of instruction remains high within The Pony Club, the Training Committee have drawn up a “wish list” of what every instructor should eventually have if they instruct for The Pony Club in any discipline:

- To have an up to date and clear CRB check
- To have attended a child protection course
- To have attended a first aid course (minimum 1 day)
- To attend CPD as often as possible, but at least once every two years
- To own an up to date Instructors Folder
- To be present as a Visiting, Branch, Centre or Area Instructor on the Instructors’ database.

The Training Committee hope to make this list compulsory in 2014. This is not a reflection on the competency of our instructors, but a reflection on the fast developing culture we now live in. Further details will be provided in a future bulletin.

**New Visiting Instructor** – A new visiting instructor has been added to the panel. Her details will appear in the 2012 Yearbook, but if you wish to use her in the meantime, please go ahead:

- **Karon Carson BHSII SM** 1 Standingstone Cottages, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 4LF 07900 062609, karon.carson@btinternet.com

**Coaching Development for All Course** – The Introduction to Pony Club Coaching Day 2 course format has been slightly altered and it has been renamed ‘Coaching Development for All’ to allow any instructor to use the day to update their skills or refresh themselves after a break from teaching.

Details of the course can be found online These courses are open to all and demo riders appropriate to the level of coach will be found. This course can be run at Area or Branch level (please discuss this with your Area Rep). For more details, email jenny@pcuk.org.


**Cross Country Coaching Workshops** - Six training days have been arranged for Pony Club coaches of all levels who coach cross country, run teams, offer course walks and anyone else wishing to broaden their knowledge about safe cross country practices. They will be held directly after a BE event at six venues around the country. The days are specifically for The Pony Club and will count as CPD refreshers (accreditation) - log books will be available at all venues for anyone who doesn't yet have one.

The days are approximately six hours long (09.30 – 15.30). The application form can be downloaded from the website. Numbers for each day are limited so it is advisable to get your applications in as soon as possible.
**YOUNG EQUESTRIAN LEADER AWARD**

YELA is a new and exciting award that has been developed by Riding for the Disabled (RDA) for the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) in consultation with many of its Member Bodies to increase and encourage the number of young people volunteering in the Equestrian industry. You may have spoken to Katy Downing at The Annual Conference at Cheltenham.

The award runs over three progressive levels increasing from 20 hours to achieve the Bronze standard, 40 hours for Silver and 60 hours for the Gold.

The award is open to all young people between the ages of 13 and 25. They must fully complete an application form and send it back to RDA head office and their log book will be issued to them. No hours may be back dated.

Hours may be counted from volunteering with any BEF Member Body. For more information, application forms or centre registration please contact Katy Downing at RDA on 01926 405977 kdowning@rda.org.uk

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**NATIONAL QUIZ**

The National Quiz Final will take place at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, on Sunday, 17th April, 2011 and there will be a Team Manager’s briefing at 11.15 a.m. and the quiz will start at 11.30 a.m. prompt.

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**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Risk Assessments**

Reminder that risk assessments must be carried out before all activities.

**Portable Fences**

Please ensure that portable cross country fences are adequately pinned to prevent them rotating when hit by a pony or horse. If portable cross country fences (ie fixed fences) are used in an arena either indoors or outdoors the design must be such that they do not rotate when hit by a pony or horse. This is normally achieved by having a wide base in the direction of jumping.

**CRB FORMS**

Please make sure you read the instructions which are included with the forms as quite a few mistakes are being made which causes delay in processing these forms. Also **DO NOT** complete Sections X, Y and Z on the back page of the CRB form as this is for British Horse Society only and they will not accept any form with this filled in. **The ID checkers only fill in Section W on the form.**

The CRB have increased the Enhanced check fee to £54 as at 1st April and any forms received after this date must include the correct fee. Please return all forms to Hannah Clack at The Pony Club and **NOT** to CRB or BHS direct.
MERCHANDISE
This year Badminton Horse Trials is taking place from 21st – 25th April. We are on stand number 143 so come along and see us. We will have our wide range of merchandise and publications displayed along with the newly updated and redesigned Quiz Book 2 and our brand new publication The Pony Club’s Pocket Equine Dictionary. We will also have our brand new Pony Club Ring Binders which are available in two colours purple and blue.
All of the above are also available to order from the online shop, www.pcuk.org

PRESS, PR & MARKETING
The Pony Club Logo: Please can you ensure that The Pony Club logo you are using on your printed material and website is up to date – if the logo you are using has no spokes, looks rough around the edges, stretched or skewed it is likely you need an up to date version. It is really important that Branches use the up to date version of the logo to show they are a part of the national Pony Club identity.

High resolution logos for large scale printed material (banners, large posters etc), can be sent to you by email, please request the colour and format of the logo you require from media@pcuk.org

If you are looking for a low resolution logo to use on something like an A4 poster or Newsletter then you can download a copy of this from the Press & Marketing Pack on the Admin Pages (www.pcuk.org/adminpages)

You can also download a copy of the Corporate Guide from the Admin Pages which will tell you the correct pantone colours for The Pony Club, which logo to use for your publication and any restrictions on using The Pony Club Logo. There are also downloadable recruitment posters on here where you can enter your Branch or Centre details to personalise and helpful tips on doing your own press.

Discounted Ticket Offers, Giveaways & Competitions: We have discounted rates for Pony Club Members on the following events in 2011 – Royal Windsor Horse Show, Bramham Horse Trials, Mint Polo in the Park, Polocrosse World Cup, Horse of the Year Show and Olympia. We have a ticket giveaway competition for the Bolesworth Classic SJ running through May, and a very special competition for Members to win the chance to present the rosettes on the Sunday at Burghley Horse Trials as part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations! Full details can be found on the ‘Event Offers’ page in the ‘News’ section of www.pcuk.org

Do you have something newsworthy? Are you doing something fantastic? Need a high resolution Pony Club Logo? Would you like any help or advice with your Branch press or marketing? Got a great idea about what we could provide to further help your with your marketing?
I always welcome news and ideas from you all and you can contact me on 02476 698310 or media@pcuk.org

Enclosed:
- Royal Windsor Horse Show Poster
- Centre Equitation Competition at the Championships 2011
- Price list for Achievement Badges and Tests