

# Centre E-Bulletin

April 2016



## Introduction

Dear All

Welcome to the first Bulletin of the year. It is obviously a busy time, and I hope that you had a very successful Easter. We are looking to provide further updates concerning other activity that is ongoing, and we will keep you informed.

Kind regards

Pip

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### 1. Centre Admin and News

#### a. Centre Membership Agreement

Before Christmas we posted copies of the new Centre Membership Agreement to all Pony Club Centres, one copy for returning and one copy for your records. If you haven't yet sent your copy back to the office, please do so as soon as possible. If you don't think you have received it, please let us know ([rebecca@pcuk.org](mailto:rebecca@pcuk.org)) and we can email a copy over to you.

#### b. Membership Forms and Gift Aid 2106

Please ensure that you are only using the new purple membership forms that were sent to Centres earlier this year, there have been some important changes made to the gift aid declaration wording.

HMRC announced a change in its permitted gift aid declaration wording, to take effect from the 6th of April 2016. This change is intended to make it clearer to people signing gift aid declarations what they are agreeing to and also that HMRC can now ask the individual donor to pay additional tax if charitable organisations reclaim more in gift aid in the year than the individual has actually paid in income or capital gains tax.

Please dispose of any old blue membership forms as these use old gift aid wording that is no longer accepted by HMRC. Many thanks.

### **c. The Introduction to Pony Club Badge**

The Intro to Pony Club Badge has been reduced in price to £7.95 per bag of 20.

It is ideal to use if you are planning to link with local primary schools or for visiting Rainbow, Cubs or Brownie groups. They don't need to be Pony Club Members to receive this pin badge. Other events where it may be useful:

- Launch evenings or Open Days
- a child's first guest rally or to encourage younger siblings to join,
- County Shows or local events where a Branch or Centre has a presence
- School visits
- Party bags

Activities may be flexible depending on the event and do not necessarily have to include a pony ride. For example:

- Introduction to the Pony Club the child is attending or would like to join.
- What to wear when riding and caring for ponies.
- Introduction to a pony/horse, basic contact, handling and safety around ponies
- Take part in an activity such as grooming, on-foot games or a pony ride.

For further details, head to the The Pony Club web site

<http://goo.gl/y1n4hY>

### **d. Centre Plus**

#### **i. What is Centre Plus?**

Centre Plus Membership is a non restrictive Membership option for Members that have their own pony and transport arrangements, riding within a Pony Club linked Centre.

It is a progressive step from Centre Membership when a Member owns a pony or as an interim before Branch Membership.

#### **ii. How does it work?**

Centre Members who go on to own a pony and transport, but would like to remain at their Centre to continue activities and compete with their friends, may do so. It will replace Dual Membership providing the option for the

Pony Club Member to remain at their Centre. Their ponies do not necessarily have to be liveries at the Centre to use this Membership and parents may appreciate their child being able to continue their Pony Club activities and affiliation there.

If they would like to transfer to their local Branch then they can still do that and we will help enable that smooth transfer.

### **iii. Benefits of being a Centre Plus Member**

Previously when Members went on to get a pony and transport, they were directed to join their local Branch which meant that Members were potentially moving away from their friends at the Centre. We would like Members to remain where they are happiest.

We would also like to enable Pony Club linked Centres to field competition teams from the group of young riders that they have trained from grassroots to horse ownership.

For further details please go to: <http://goo.gl/zZ1lSh>

### **e. Centre Equitation at The Pony Club Championships**

Entries are now open and will be accepted on a first come first served basis for 20 teams. Please note that it is one team per Centre initially but we will have a wait list in place should we have spaces available nearer the time. The closing date for registering a team will be 1st July 2016. Please enter your teams online here [http://events.pcuk.org/?page\\_id=3110](http://events.pcuk.org/?page_id=3110)

This is a team competition for four Centre Members (two aged 12 and under, two aged 13 and over) and 2 ponies/horses. Each rider completes a dressage test and a showjumping round with marks scored for equitation shown.

Rules can be found at: <http://goo.gl/hXl70l>

We will require names of team riders and ponies to be submitted by Friday 22nd July.

### **f. Grassroots Tetrathlon**

#### **Grassroots Competition**

The Grassroots competition at the NFU Mutual Tetrathlon Championships will be going ahead for its third year. This year the competition is open to Branch and Centre Members who have not competed at Junior Level Tetrathlon or above at Regional or Area competitions. The competition is strictly limited to 10 teams and entries will be taken on a first come first served basis, with an equal split of 5 Branches and 5 Centres being given priority.

Further details and entry forms can be found on the Pony Club website <http://goo.gl/okF7Zl>

## **g. Refreshed Brand**

We have set up a designated microsite [www.pcuk.org/brand](http://www.pcuk.org/brand) where you will find further information about the brand review process including FAQ's around what happens next, a help facility and access to the new brand. In the coming weeks we aim to provide more templates with the new look to help you with your promotions and event.

You can now access a copy of David Fraser's presentation around the new look and feel here: <http://goo.gl/MF4UF6>

We will also have a video of the day, including presentations', available for you shortly.

## **h. PR and Marketing**

### **Card for the Queen**

We have launched a competition where branches and centres are invited to design a birthday card to celebrate HM The Queen's 90th birthday. Cards may be displayed at Royal Windsor and representatives from long-standing sponsors DAKS will be choosing their favourite card to present to The Queen. For more information, please head to: <http://goo.gl/Xf19jA>

### **LinkedIn**

If you're on LinkedIn you may wish to follow our page. It is called The Pony Club and it features our logo.

### **Instagram**

We joined Instagram last month, and are currently growing at about 100 followers per week. Please follow us at @ukponyclubofficial

## **i. Health, Safety and Safeguarding**

### **Disclosure Checks - PVG**

The Pony Club have now registered with Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services (VSDS) and is soon to be registered with Disclosure Scotland also. This has enabled us to bring the processing of PVG application forms in house to Stoneleigh office. We express thanks to horseScotland for their help in processing applications, answering queries and keeping our coaches and volunteers up to date over the past few years.

### **Branches**

As we are now registered with VSDS, this will permit coaches and volunteers to apply one PVG disclosure check carry out through the Pony Club across all Branches that they work / volunteer for in Scotland, thus reducing the overall costs quite considerably going forwards.

### **Centres**

Once we have completed our enrolment with Disclosure Scotland, we will also be in a position to process PVG application forms for staff at Scottish Centres.

## **Fees**

The administration fees will remain the same as those charged by horseScotland. Joining membership applications will be processed at a charge of £3 per application; Existing membership applications will be processed at a charge of £2 per application. The membership fee will stay the same as set out by Disclosure Scotland.

## **Going forwards**

Please can any future PVG application forms be sent to Stefanie Brazier at The Pony Club, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2RW.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Stefanie at [stefanie@pcuk.org](mailto:stefanie@pcuk.org)

## **Error in vet cover table in Health, Safety and Safeguarding rulebook (page 48)**

Unfortunately, there is a small error in the vet cover table on page 48 of the Health, Safety and Safeguarding rulebook. Due to a printing alignment error the table indicates that a vet would be required on site for "Rallies with cross country" and "Sponsored rides with jumping". This is not the case and activities of this nature do not require a vet to be on site.

## **j. Merchandise**

### **Changes to postal charges on merchandise orders from the 1st of April 2016:**

Due to a further planned Royal Mail price increase on the 29th of March we have been forced to review our postal charges on merchandise orders. From the 1st of April we plan on charging for postage based on the weight of the order, rather than by the order's total price as currently happens. Our postal charges have not been reviewed in a number of years and we have for the last few years been undercharging for postage on an increasingly large number of orders, as Royal Mail prices have increased. We cannot continue to undercharge on these heavier orders going forwards and so we feel that moving to a completely weight based system, in line with the latest quoted Royal Mail prices, is fairer and should result in people being charged the correct level of postage based on their items weight rather than its value.

## **k. Young Equestrian Leaders Award (YELA)**

The YELA team are delighted to announce the launch of the New Silver Syllabus. The new syllabus gives candidates more choice over their volunteering and more control.

The biggest change is that candidates will now be able to complete the Silver Award volunteering for just one BEF Member Body if they wish.

All candidates will be required to complete 40hours of volunteering (on top of the hours they completed for Bronze) and evidence that they have taken responsibility of an activity during this time. Candidates then get a choice of 4 options, one of which is Volunteering for a 2nd Member Body and three

options that allow the candidate to complete the award with just one Member Body.

The Silver Log book has also changed to reflect the changes in the award syllabus and assessment questions.

All Silver registrations from 1st February 2016 will automatically be sent the new syllabus and log book. Candidates that registered prior to that date may remain on the old syllabus or swap to the new one. The new logbook will be issued to existing candidates that swap over free of charge and they just need to contact the YELA office via email [yela@rda.org.uk](mailto:yela@rda.org.uk)

## 2. Young Equestrians

Launched in 2014, Young Equestrians is a social and training programme which provides 13-18 year olds with more choice and freedom in how they take part in equestrianism, as well as providing focus on skill development.



Originally developed by Hoof, the British Equestrian Federation's participation programme, Young Equestrians is delivered in riding schools across England through The Pony Club. Thanks to Sport England funding, over 300 participants are already benefitting from attending sessions at one of the fifty Centres who have signed up to deliver the scheme since its launch last summer.

### The Benefits of Young Equestrians:

- Young Equestrians is a free scheme which will help to recruit new customers
- A useful tool that can be used to engage and retain existing riders
- Young Equestrian groups help to create knowledgeable, active young people who are valuable to the future equine industry
- Centres will receive promotional material to help market their Young Equestrians group; banner, posters, leaflets, wristbands
- A link with British Equestrian Federation and its Member Bodies which can be used for promotion
- Helps to provide a better service for existing customers by giving them the opportunity to experience new things such as Vaulting, Polocrosse, clipping and social events
- Provides a chance to appear on Young Equestrians and Pony Club social media channels with photos and good news stories
- Ongoing support from the Young Equestrians Co-ordinator in The Pony Club Office who is happy to help with arranging demonstrations and is on hand to provide ideas

If you are interested in starting a Young Equestrians group, please contact Bronté Wadge Dale, The Pony Club's Young Equestrians Co-ordinator, by emailing [bronte@pcuk.org](mailto:bronte@pcuk.org) or calling 02476 698322.

### 3. Competitive Disciplines

#### i. The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Competition

The Area Qualifiers are now in full swing, with the following dates still to come:

Area	Date	Venue
3	16.04.2016	Birkwood Farm
4	22.05.2016	Beaumont Grange
6	01.06.2016	Bunny Hill
7	31.05.2016	Bow House, Lydbury
11	17.04.2016	Albourne EC
16	18.06.2016	Horsecombe House
19	17.04.2016	Cormiston Farm

Further details on the competition, Qualifiers and Qualifying teams can be found below:

<http://goo.gl/bDiHEG>

The Horse and Pony Care Championships this year will take place on Saturday 20th August 2016 for the Juniors, and Sunday 21st August 2016 for Seniors.

#### ii. Ruling on Combined (Mixed) Teams

At the recent Equestrian Council meeting the following amendment was made to the Combined (Mixed) Team Rule for Dressage, Show jumping & Eventing at OPEN level only.

Note - this will be a pilot scheme for 2016

##### **COMBINED (MIXED) TEAMS**

We currently have the following wording in our Rule Books for Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing:-

If a Branch or Centre has a Member/Members who are not included in a team, they may combine with another Branch or Centre in a similar situation to compete at the Area Competition, but they shall not be eligible to qualify for the Championships, though the individual Members shall be. These teams will affect the number to qualify for the Championships.

Combined Teams at the Area Competition must be declared before the start of the competition or they will not count towards the number to qualify.

### **Updated wording:**

#### **Combined (Mixed) Teams for OPEN level only in Dressage, Show Jumping & Eventing**

**Note - this will be a pilot scheme for 2016**

**If a Branch/Centre has a Member/Members who are entered as individuals at the Area competition and not included in a Branch/Centre team, they may combine with other Branch/Centre Members to form a team at the Area Competition.**

**The following rules will apply:**

- **Combined (mixed) teams can only be put together by the Area Representative and/or Area Organiser via a draw**
- **Combined (mixed) teams will be eligible to win their Area Competition and qualify for the Championships**
- **If a Combined (mixed) team is in a qualifying position based on the current rules then they will be eligible to qualify for the Championships and the next placed Branch/Centre team will also qualify.**

**At the Championships**

- **Combined (Mixed) teams will be eligible to win the Championships**
- **A team manager will need to be nominated by the Area Representative**
- **No Rider substitution can be made**
- **Horse substitutions will be allowed - see discipline specific Rule Book.**

### **iii. Eventing**

#### **Eventing Rulebook 2016 - Correction**

It has been noted that the following points from rule 7a have been omitted from the 2016 rule book during the editing stage. The rules should be on page 11 after the air jackets section but before the dressage specific dress rules. These rules are still in effect for 2016 and are on The Pony Club website.

ix) Medical Armbands are recommended at all times and are compulsory for cross country. These must be worn on the rider's arm or on the shoulder protector/pad of their body protector. It must contain the rider's details where indicated on the card.

x) Jewellery - No Jewellery is allowed for safety reasons, other than a wristwatch, a wedding ring, a stock pin worn horizontally or a tie clip. It is recommended that stock pins are removed for cross country. Members who are contemplating piercing their ears or any other part of their body should be aware that they will not be allowed to compete until such time as the "sleepers" can safely be removed. The reason for this is that sleepers have in the past caused injuries following falls.

xi) Buttonholes may not be worn.

xii) Prizegiving - Competitors must be correctly dressed in their competition riding clothes (jackets etc) for Prize giving, either mounted or dismounted. Only saddler that falls within the rules of the competition will be allowed.

xiii) Collecting ring / Course walking - Whilst dismounted in the collecting area, or course walking (both show jumping and cross country), competitors must be tidily dressed but not necessarily in riding clothes. Competitors should however

be dressed in their riding clothes when walking the show jumping course at the Championships after 9am on the day of competition."

The tack check sheets available on the website have the missing rules included. Should anyone have any questions or concerns please contact Helen Hart, the Secretary for Eventing ([helen@pcuk.org](mailto:helen@pcuk.org)).

### **Likit Open Eventing League**

The Likit Open Eventing League is for all Pony Club Members competing at Open Eventing competitions. Members will gain points based on their results at registered competitions and will be displayed on the league table on The Pony Club website. There are some great Likit prizes up for grabs at league competitions, and some amazing bursary prizes and Likit goodies will be awarded to the top 10 in the league at the end of the season along with a behind the scenes tour of a top event rider's yard!

Full rules for the Likit Open Eventing League can be found on the website at <http://goo.gl/MW13FU>

Any Branch/Centre can register a competition and all you need to do is fill out the form on The Pony Club Website at <http://goo.gl/oyr13V> and return at least eight weeks before the competition to Helen Hart ([Helen@pcuk.org](mailto:Helen@pcuk.org)) so that we can get rosettes and prizes sent out.

## **iv. Tetrathlon**

### **Tetrathlon and Eventing Study days for Stewards and Officials**

For 2016 Eventing and Tetrathlon have teamed up to share the running costs of their Study Days. We are running three of these Eventing and Tetrathlon Officials' Study days (North, Central & South) for officials and stewards involved with Eventing and Tetrathlon Competitions in 2016:

- Monday 11th April - Breckenbrough, Yorkshire
- Friday 15th April - Sapey, Herefordshire

These are brilliant days, covering all aspects of organising one day events, at all Pony Club levels. There will be a course walk with a course builder and/or Technical Adviser who will go into course design and building, fence selection and can answer any cross country related questions. Applications for these study days are open and online at <http://events.pcuk.org>

## **v. Endurance**

Reminder of the new format for qualifying for the Championships, there are no Area Qualifiers. To qualify the horse and rider must have successfully completed three rides of the appropriate distance and within the correct speed.

We have an inspiring new leaflet to promote Endurance Riding and to encourage Pony Club Members to take part in the enjoyable discipline. If you would like any copies, please email [endurance@pcuk.org](mailto:endurance@pcuk.org) with your address.

**vi. Mounted Games**

Sword rings will be plastic and not metal at Zones and Championships competitions.

**vii. Dressage to Music**

Freestyle Dressage to Music competition alongside the Dengie Winter League Championships at Addington Manor on Sunday 3rd April. For more information see <http://goo.gl/h3k4M8>

**viii. Polo**

Arena Tournament at Longdole Polo Club on Sunday 10th April.

<http://goo.gl/GBRquM>

See Polo Training page of website for upcoming rallies and training days.

<http://goo.gl/jhrKZX>

**ix. Pony Racing**

Area 7 will be running a Pony Racing Day at Wolverhampton Racecourse on Saturday, 10th September. Details can be found at: <http://goo.gl/m9VjW2>