

# Centre E-Bulletin

## October 2015



### 1. Introduction

Dear All

Welcome to the October Bulletin which comes after a busy Summer which we hope was fun and successful for members and volunteers alike.

As you will have seen from the regular notes we are busy at Stoneleigh, and Unity and the work to review the brand are progressing well.

If you have any questions do please let us know.

Best wishes

Pip

Pip Kirkby

Chief Executive

### 2. Important

A reminder that the Centre Membership fee will be increasing to £28 per year from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, new Membership forms will follow before Christmas. Please ensure that all old forms are destroyed at the end of 2015.

Please make sure that you are keeping up to date with your Members. If you do not have login access to the Centre Database yet, please let us know and we can create you a username and password to log in and view your current Members, who has let their membership lapse and add your Pony Club coaches to the system.

[http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/centre\\_membership/centre\\_instructors/](http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/centre_membership/centre_instructors/)

#### Centre Plus

This new Membership option will be commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

#### 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.

#### 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.

It will be the same price as Branch Membership for 2016 - £70.

### **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.

### **Details**

- Centre Plus will run on a rolling basis so Members will receive one year's subscription from the date that they join.
- All Pony Club Members receive third party liability insurance with their subscription.
- Centre Plus will cost £70 in line with Pony Club Branch Membership during 2016.
- We will be able to help Centre Members move to the Centre Plus option if they would like to transfer mid-subscription.
- All efficiency tests are available for Centre and Centre Plus Members up to A test.
- Efficiency tests (from D to C+) taken at a Centre must be examined by an external assessor from another local Branch or Centre.
- Centre Plus Members may compete for their Centre at Area competition on their own pony if they are chosen as part of the Centres' Team selection process.
- In 2016, a new Grassroots Regional Qualifier and Championship (Dressage and Showjumping) will be available for all Centre and Centre Plus Members to take part in. Further details will follow.
- The Centre Equitation competition will not be open to Centre Plus Members.

New Membership forms will be distributed before the end of 2015 that will show this membership option.

### **Promotion of Pony Club linked Centres and Pony Club Membership**

We are working closely with BHEST (British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust) to help promote riding as part of their Racing to School Programme.

[http://www.bhest.co.uk/racing\\_to\\_school](http://www.bhest.co.uk/racing_to_school)

Over the course of the school year, close to 10,000 young people will be attending workshops at one of 60 racecourses around the country. We are providing ALL attendees with a list of their nearest Pony Club linked Centres (Centres identified as those up to 20 miles from their school address.) They are also being offered a discount on their first Pony Club Centre Membership.

For example, in October, a total of seventeen workshops took place at Ascot, Warwick, Beverley, Pontefract, Newmarket, Worcester, Haydock, Windsor, Ludlow, Uttoxeter, Redcar, Catterick, Salisbury and Huntingdon. Each workshop has 30 to 40 young people taking part, applying classroom subjects to the world of horseracing.

### 3. Training

#### Tests & Achievements

##### A Test

Congratulations to the four Members, and their coaches who passed the A Test this autumn:

- Christian Allderidge - Naburn Grange Riding Centre
- Helen Berry - South Durham Hunt
- Gabi Pitman - East Sussex
- Laura Schrøter - Lord Leconfield Hunt

Every Member who passed the A Test this year had attended a Pony Club B+ and A Test Training day to help them prepare. These training days are really useful for Members to get an idea of what is expected during the Test, as well as to understand how they can work towards the standard. Dates for next year's Tests and training will be available on the website soon.

##### AH Test

For the first time, the AH Test has been run as a modular Test, and it's very pleasing to hear of successful candidates from all over the country. If you have Members who would like to take their AH Test in 2016, please encourage them to start training now to ensure the best chance of success.

#### Achievement Badges

Certain slow-moving Achievement Badges will be discontinued when the current stock runs out, to allow room in the range for new badges which have been requested. Don't delay in ordering if you wish for your Members to complete any of the following badges:

- Access to Endurance
- Carriage Driving
- Flags of Equestrian Nations
- Stargazing
- Butterflies & Moths
- Mini Carriage Driving
- Wild Flowers

There will be a number of new badges will be available in 2016:

- Beach Riding
- Yard Safety
- Field Safety
- Mini Beach Riding
- Mini Yard Safety
- Mini Field Safety

#### The Pony Club Tests and BHS Exams

As you will be aware, we have been working with the BHS to map our equivalent qualifications to enable Members much easier between the two systems. The full details regarding the direct entry routes which have been agreed will be published on the website and in the next Bulletin, along with updated Test syllabi for D+ upwards.

#### Coaching

##### UKCC - new course dates available

There are a number of Level 1 and Level 2 UKCC courses organised all over the country for 2015 and early 2016. Details of all The Pony Club's organised UKCC courses are listed on the website: [www.pcuk.org/training/training\\_ukcc](http://www.pcuk.org/training/training_ukcc); if any of your coaches or older Members would like to enrol or

would like further information on a course, or would like any more information on other Pony Club UKCC Courses, please email [georgina@pcuk.org](mailto:georgina@pcuk.org).

### **UKCC – Level 3 Taster day**

For coaches interested in taking UKCC Level 3, there will be a Level 3 taster day at Warwickshire College on Tuesday 15th December, which will include an introduction to the course and portfolio, an opportunity to talk to a candidate from the last Level 3 course, and some guided coaching practice with a Level 3 Coach Educator. This day will count as a CPD refresher for any Pony Club Coaches attending. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jenny Cowen: [jenny@pcuk.org](mailto:jenny@pcuk.org).

### **Coaching Conferences**

We are pleased to be able to announce that the dates for the 2016 Coaching Conferences are Thursday 18th February at Hartpury College and Tuesday 5th April at Bishop Burton College. The theme is Coaching Cross Country Through The Levels, and they will be delivered by BE Accredited Coach and successful 4\* rider Nick Gauntlett. Applications are being taken at <http://events.pcuk.org> and tickets are £30.

### **Introduction to Coaching Courses**

There has been a slight change to the way the Introduction to Coaching courses are funded. Tutor fees expenses for the Step 1 course are now to be taken from the course income, rather than being funded centrally. Step 2 and Step 3 will continue to be subsidised by the central Training budget due to the higher costs of running. Full details can be found on the website: <http://goo.gl/75uOCC>

### **Other Training News & Opportunities**

#### **Opportunities in the Training Department**

We are currently recruiting a full time Training Officer, for one year maternity cover, to be based at The Pony Club office at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire and knowledgeable and enthusiastic Regional UKCC Coordinators to organise and promote UKCC Courses in the North, South East, South West of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Training Officer position will require a highly motivated individual with the ability to multi-task and meet tight deadlines, working well autonomously or as part of a team to oversee the efficient day to day running of the Training department. For more information please go to the website: <http://goo.gl/q2fdY7>

The main focus of the UKCC Coordinator role will be to organise and promote Pony Club UKCC courses and qualifications to coaches within The Pony Club and the wider equestrian industry. For more information please go to the website: <http://goo.gl/KZMuuj>

#### **Rider Development Pathway**

The RDP scheme will continue in 2016, and the eligibility criteria will remain the same as for this year. There will be ten assessments, and full details, including how to apply is on the website: <http://www.pcuk.org/training/riderdevelopmentpathway>

This year's squad members have already had rider nutrition, fitness and position training, help with social media best practice along with advice on contacting sponsors. They have each been allocated a

mentor to assist them with their competition and training planning and queries, and they have a budget of £500 to assist with their development and spend on training. It is a brilliant opportunity for Members, please encourage anyone eligible to apply.

### **Fall Training**

We've had several requests for information on fall training for Members, and so we have been contacted the leading trainers in fall training in the racing industry. The British Racing School are able to offer a variety of options which should suit any Branch or Centre wishing to offer fall training to their Members. For full details, please visit the website <http://goo.gl/1y9m8B> , or contact [Clare.Kingston@brs.org.uk](mailto:Clare.Kingston@brs.org.uk) at the British Racing School.

## **4. Competitive Disciplines**

### **a. Dressage**



#### **Riders Test**

This test focuses on the effectiveness and influence of the rider rather than the way of going of the horse. Competitors can ride any Pony Club test (usually set by the Organiser of the competition), and the Judge marks the rider using the Riders test score sheet.

Any Branches or Centres running the Riders Test can be provided with rosettes for the Riders test section/class, please email [laura@pcuk.org](mailto:laura@pcuk.org). More information can be found on the Riders Test page of the website.

#### **Dengie Winter League Dressage**

Preliminary Rounds for the Dengie Winter League Dressage Series are now well under way. These competitions give Members the opportunity to compete throughout the winter at Novice, Intermediate or Open level and we are keen for as many Branches and Centres to be involved as possible.

For some Dengie Dressage Frequently Asked Questions please click here: [http://www.pcuk.org/email\\_resources/Dengie-Dressage-FAQ.pdf](http://www.pcuk.org/email_resources/Dengie-Dressage-FAQ.pdf)

### **b. Mounted Games**

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Monmouthshire Hunt Branch of The Pony Club who are our Prince Philip Cup Champions for 2015!** Full results can be find on the website.

With the season now drawn to a close we can reflect on another fantastic year of Pony Club Mounted Games. Competitions have been taking place up and down the country with some fabulous racing from both Junior and Senior Members; check out our pages on the website for more information.

If you are interested in starting up Mounted Games within your Branch or Centre please contact Jo Hayward at Headquarters for more information on [mountedgames@pcuk.org](mailto:mountedgames@pcuk.org)

## **Royal Windsor Horse Show 11th – 15th May 2016**

The closing date for RWHS nominations is Friday 15th January 2016. Please read the paperwork carefully.

### **Invite Letter**

Download the invite letter here: <http://goo.gl/o1RuKB>

### **Online Nomination**

The online nomination link can be found here: <http://goo.gl/nuKF6B>

Further information regarding trial dates and venues are available on The Pony Club website here: <http://goo.gl/IP94HO>

### **Study Days in the diary:**

Saturday 30th January 2016

Area 8 – Essex and Suffolk Hunt Pony Club  
Wix Equestrian, Essex, CO11 2RU

To book onto any of the Mounted Games Study Days please click here: <http://goo.gl/qWLHDm>

If any Area/Branch/Centre would like to hold a Mounted Games Study Day and have a suitable indoor venue please contact Jo Hayward at Headquarters on 02476 698307 or [jo@pcuk.org](mailto:jo@pcuk.org)

Please keep an eye on the website for Study Day dates in your area: <http://goo.gl/ytmFPI>

### **Friendly Competitions**

Please remember to visit the 'Friendly Competitions' page in the Mounted Games section of the website for details of Competitions in your Area.

<http://goo.gl/Dtj7rn>

## **c. Polo**



It is possible to play Pony Club polo starting at 6 years old and finishing at 21 with only one pony, making it widely accessible. If you are interested in starting up polo within your Branch or Centre please contact Laura Armstrong by emailing [laura@pcuk.org](mailto:laura@pcuk.org)

## 5. Other News

### a. Merchandise

The following Achievement Badges will be discontinued once the current stock has been sold. Therefore, there is a limited amount of time for your Members to complete these Badges: Flags of Equestrian Nations, Star Gazing – Including Badge Buddy, Butterflies & Moths, Wild Flowers – Including Badge Buddy, Carriage Driving, Access to Endurance and Mini Carriage Driving.

We have a range of New Items available:

- Have warm ears this winter with The Pony Club Fleece Ear Warmers. £7.50

<http://shop.pcuk.org/clothing/fleece-ear-warmer.html>

- New Book! How to Draw Horses & Ponies, Full of practical and simple advice and ideas, written by Jennifer Bell. £4.99 <http://shop.pcuk.org/books-dvd-s/books/how-to-draw-horses-and-ponies.html>

- Christmas Mugs are back! Durable green plastic mugs featuring a festive design and The Pony Club logo. Dishwasher & Microwave safe. £3.00 <http://shop.pcuk.org/general-gifts/gifts/xmas-mug.html>

The Trade Stand will be at the following events, Please come and see us!

- Your Horse Live – 14th & 15th November

- London International Horse Show, Olympia – 15th – 21st December. The Pony Club will also be running the Shop & Drop at this event.

### b. PR & Marketing

#### Event Offers

##### **The London International Horse Show, Olympia, 15-21 December 2015**

The Pony Club have teamed up with Olympia, The London International Horse Show, to bring Members an exclusive ticket offer.

Using the code 'Pony Club' groups of 10 or more can receive a 30% discount and a reduced booking fee when visiting the show on:

- Wednesday 16 December, evening performance
- Thursday 15 December, afternoon performance
- Friday 16 December, afternoon and evening performances
- Monday 21 December, afternoon and evening performances

For more information, please visit the Olympia website at <http://www.olympiahorseshow.com/>

#### Shop and Drop

The Pony Club will again be running the Shop and Drop at Olympia this year, for which a number of Volunteering opportunities will be available. For more information please contact Vicky Kangurs on [Vicky@pcuk.org](mailto:Vicky@pcuk.org) or 02476 698321.

## The Pony Club Logo

Does your logo look like any of these?



**SQUASHED**



**STRETCHED**



**FUZZY (PIXELATED)**



**NO SPOKES**



**SQUARE LETTERING**



**THIN LETTERING**

If the logo you are using looks like any of the above, or you need advice about Pony Club logos or colours please email us: [media@pcuk.org](mailto:media@pcuk.org)

Please note: As we are no longer in our 85th Anniversary year please can we ask that you revert to using the standard Pony Club logo, not the 85th Anniversary version.

## Online Marketing Pack

We have put together an online Marketing Pack which can be found at: <http://goo.gl/eyXI9E> where you can download:

- Poster Templates
- Pony Club Leaflets
- Marketing & Press Tips
- Request Logos
- The Pony Club Corporate Guidelines

If you need any help, have any questions or suggestions for additions to the Marketing Pack please do drop us a line at [media@pcuk.org](mailto:media@pcuk.org) as we are always looking for new ideas and input into what will help you.

## Social Media

The Pony Club's social media policies can be found online: <http://goo.gl/RGr043> and give both guidelines and best practice information for those using social media on behalf of a Branch, and personally when communicating with young people. If you have any queries about social media usage on behalf of The Pony Club please drop us a line and we will be happy to advise: [media@pcuk.org](mailto:media@pcuk.org)

## c. Health & Safety and Safeguarding

### Safeguarding Training

Over the winter months, why not get your staff and/or committee members and instructors trained for safeguarding to start preparing early for the summer and residential camps next year. If you would like to organise a face-to-face safeguarding workshop, then please contact Stefanie Brazier for more information on [Stefanie@pcuk.org](mailto:Stefanie@pcuk.org). Alternatively, you can enter for the online refresher course at: [http://events.pcuk.org/?page\\_id=2053](http://events.pcuk.org/?page_id=2053)

**Please note:** The first approved safeguarding workshop attended should be face to face. This may be followed three years later by an online course. However, as a minimum, individuals should attend a face to face course every six years.

### Disclosure Checks

Have you registered your Branch or Centre to do disclosure checks online? We now have over 250 Branches and Centres using the online system successfully and feedback is excellent. Why not see what it is all about! To find out more information, please contact Stefanie Brazier on [Stefanie@pcuk.org](mailto:Stefanie@pcuk.org)

## d. Cubitt Awards 2016

**What is the Cubitt Award;** The Cubitt Award is a way of Branches, Centres and The Pony Club honouring those that have passed the landmark of at least twenty years of voluntary help to the Organisation.

It was in 1987 that Patrick Langford a past Pony Club Chairman, suggested that there should be a special award for these special people who volunteer so much of their time and energy. So The Pony Club Council created the Cubitt Award in 1988 and it is named After Guy Cubitt, The Pony Club Chairman from 1945 to 1970.

**Who can be nominated for a Cubitt Award;** Anyone who has volunteered for The Pony Club at either Branch, Centre or National level for 20 or more years.

**Who can make the Cubitt Award nomination;** Any Branch or Equestrian Council Committee Member, Centre Proprietor or Centre Coordinator.

**How do I nominate someone for a Cubitt Award;** Fill out the online nomination form by following the link below. This nomination will then be ratified by the Area Representative and The Chairman of The Pony Club.

**What happens after the nomination;** Once ratified the nominees will be invited to the Cubitt Award Luncheon held in early June where they will be awarded the Cubitt Badge and certificate.

Nominations for the 2016 Cubitt Awards can be done here: [http://events.pcuk.org/?page\\_id=1084](http://events.pcuk.org/?page_id=1084)

Please complete no later than 7th March 2016.

## Cubitt Bar Awards

Please remember that the Cubitt Bar award is on-going for anyone who has received their Cubitt Award and have continued to volunteer their time for 30, 40 or 50 years! Nominations can be done here: [http://events.pcuk.org/?page\\_id=1088](http://events.pcuk.org/?page_id=1088)

If you have any queries please contact Jo Hayward: [jo@pcuk.org](mailto:jo@pcuk.org)



Launched in 2014, Young Equestrians is a social and training programme which provides participants 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 to Centres

- 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 etc
- 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 on 02476 698322.**