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 many 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 Branch 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 from us all,

Judy E. Edwards
Chief Executive

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/
INSURANCE
Please note that it is the responsibility of individual Branches to provide adequate insurance cover in their own name for merchandise held within the Branch such as sweatshirts, and other stock including hired equipment. Please contact Adrian Miller at Windsor Insurance for advice Tel: 020 7133 1287.

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 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

MOUNTED GAMES
Atherstone Hunt Branch of The Pony Club are 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.

POLO
Jorrocks and Loriner training camps have been organised to help Members prepare for the coming season. It is a good chance for teams to get to know each other and to practise and improve their skills.

Jorrocks Training Camp – Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June
Please contact Chris Eaton for more information or if you have any JOR players who would like to attend.

Loriner Training Camp – Saturday 28th – Monday 30th May
Please contact Charlotte Horne for more information or if you have any LOR players who would like to attend.

Please go to www.pcuk.org/Disciplines/Polo/Polo-Training-Courses for more information and contact details.
POLOCROSSE

Two Pony Club teams will be chosen to represent England and Great Britain at the UKPA Polocrosse World Cup, to be held from the 4th - 17th July this year. Chosen teams will be published on the Pony Club website under Polocrosse Discipline/International Visits after the final selection day on 17th April. Pony Club competition will also include teams from Northern Ireland and the USA. The event takes place at Onley Grounds Equestrian Centre, Rugby, Warwickshire. Onley is centrally located in the UK with easy access to major travel links and surrounding cultural attractions and areas of outstanding natural beauty. 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 and 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.

EVENTING

Musto Open Eventing League – Don’t forget if you are running a One Day Event and are including an Open (Level 5) class, you can apply to include this class in the Open Eventing League. A current list of league events is enclosed, and is available to download from the website.

The winner of each competition will receive a Musto Snug Blouson, and the overall winner of the league will win a day’s training with a Musto ambassador and 4* event rider. Further training prizes will be awarded to the top ten in the country. All details can be found on the website or for more information, email jenny@pcuk.org.

RACING

Pony Club Race Days 2011

Haydock Park (Area 4) – 8th May
Wincanton Racecourse (Wyllye 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.

TETRATHLON

The Easter Training course is taking place from 9-11th April at Millfield School. The Tetrathletes chosen to take part are listed below.

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<th>Archie Watson</th>
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<td>Edward Harris</td>
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<td>Kirsty Liddon</td>
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<td>Rebecca Mason</td>
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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.

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).

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 are enclosed. 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 is enclosed or can be downloaded from the website if you wish to email it to anyone. Numbers for each day are limited so it is advisable to get your applications in as soon as possible.


**INSTRUCTORS DATABASE**

All Branches should ensure that they have either submitted a list of their Instructors either directly through the Membership Database or by filling in the supplied template and returning it to jenny@pcuk.org. It has, for some time been a requirement, that we hold a list of all Instructors along with details of their accreditation and CRB checks and we are now taking measures to ensure that the list is kept up-to-date and accurate.

At this time we are collecting the data to assist with administrative tasks, to ensure that we are delivering high-quality training, and to allow us to effectively communicate with Instructors where appropriate. In the near future we will be allowing Branches to search for the details of Instructors in their Region, including Visiting Instructors.

We have listened to concerns regarding how the Instructors will be listed and who can view the data. When the data is more widely published, it will only be visible to those who have access to the database and not to the General Public or Members. We may, in the future, also grant individual Instructors access to their own records. Additionally, we will be allowing Branches to either protect the details of their Instructors or mark them as being uninterested in working with other Branches. Note that all Instructors must be included on the database.
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

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. Good luck to everyone taking part and don’t forget your mascots!

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.pcu.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.

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.

Discounted Ticket Offers:
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.

Giveaways & Competitions:
We have a ticket giveaway competition for the Bolesworth Classic SJ running through May. We also have a very special competition for Members to win 4 tickets for Sunday of the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials and the chance to, join the rosette team during the presentations in the Main Arena as part of the Horse Trials 50th Anniversary celebrations! This is a money cannot buy prize so please encourage your Members to enter.

Full details can be found on the ‘Event Offers’ page in the ‘News’ section of www.pcuk.org.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE
All Branches are now required to keep the Membership Database up-to-date. This includes adding new Members as they join, renewing as appropriate and changing addresses where applicable. You are also welcome to use additional features such as the ability to mass email members if you wish.

If you know that your database isn’t up-to-date, you must take immediate action. Please contact database@pcuk.org stating your name and your Branch name.

If you have forgotten your login details for the database, email database@pcuk.org stating your name and your Branch name.

Enclosed:

- Musto Open Eventing League dates (DCs only)
- Coaching Development for All information
- Cross Country Coaching Workshops application form
- Royal Windsor Horse Show Leaflet
- Young Equestrian Leader Award Leaflet
- Details & Entry Form for the Musical Ride Competition (D.C’s only)
- Polocrosse World Cup Leaflet