

Branch Bulletin

February 2017

Introduction

Dear All,

2017 brings new events and training initiatives. One of our priorities this year is to get ALL coaches used within the Pony Club on the database and records up to date to show they are fully accredited. In order for this to be effective we need your help in identifying all the coaches used in every branch and centre associated with Pony Club activities. That is the only way we can be sure we have taken all reasonable precautions to protect our Members. There is also an incentive scheme associated with this.

The next major national event for the Pony Club is the Dengie Championships and the NFU National Quiz at Addington. Even if your Members have not qualified it is well worth the trip to see the excellent standard of competition.

We continue to attend BEF meetings to ensure the Pony Club voice is heard and also are involved in the future shaping of the BEF.

I look forward to seeing you all through 2017 and wish all your Members a successful year

Mary

Mary Tuckett
Chairman

Training

Russell Guire Road Shows

This year, instead of holding an Annual Coaching Conference we are organising a series of road shows with Russell Guire.

Russell is founder of Centaur Biomechanics; (visit their website at <https://goo.gl/vuy3Ap>) a company dedicated to helping riders of all levels improve their riding and horse's way of going.

Centaur Biomechanics' services and products are all backed up by extensive research spanning over 56 projects. They were also part of the Fairfax Performance girth research team - Team GB's secret weapon in the 2012 Olympics!

Save the dates below in your diaries, and keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more information and tickets going on sale.

- Tuesday 11 April - Brackenhurst EC, Southwell
- Tuesday 18 April - The Grange EC, Okehampton
- Wednesday 19 April - The Unicorn Equestrian Trust, Stow on the Wold
- Friday 21 April - Parkend EC, Northumberland

Changes to the Visiting Coach Scheme

For 2017 the Visiting Coach scheme has been renamed to the Recommended Coach scheme. Please see below for a short reminder of the scheme and how you can apply:

- Branches/Centres/Areas can apply in advance (minimum of 6 weeks) of the planned visit by the

Recommended Coach for assistance with travelling expenses.

- The application will be assessed against set criteria, and accepted or declined. If the application is accepted the funds will be paid to the Branch/Centre/Area who will reimburse the coach for their fee as well as travelling expenses.
- If the application is declined the Branch/Centre/Area can still go ahead with the planned Recommended Coach visit, but will be responsible for meeting all costs associated with the visit.
- The Recommended Coach is still required to complete a report form and submit it to the office for each visit that they make.

Further information can be found on our website at <https://goo.gl/Cb78A5>

Training bursaries available for Branches with fully certified coaches on Unity

As a youth focused charity it is vital that our coaches are fully compliant, and we take the use of fully certified coaches seriously for a number of reasons; not least because it is a stipulation of our insurers.

We realise that it takes a lot of effort on behalf of Branch volunteers to keep coaches up to date, so as a way of thanking you for doing this work we will now be holding two quarterly prize draws where you can win a £200 or £250 training bursary for your Branch. For more information go to <https://goo.gl/h5hq2q>

Talent Pathway Applications Open

Applications for the 2017 Pony Club Talent Pathway, supported by Aberystwyth University, have opened.

The Pony Club Talent Pathway builds on the popular Rider Development Pathway (RDP) which was introduced in 2014 to aid the development of Pony Club Members who showed an ability to progress in Show Jumping, Dressage or Eventing. For more information go to <https://goo.gl/tTZx1x>

Show Jumping

Dengie Show Jumping

Preliminary Rounds come to a close at the end of February so check the dates at <https://goo.gl/PWT5IF> for last chances to qualify for your Area Competition.

Members who qualified at a Preliminary Round MUST attend their own Area Competition.

Please go to <https://goo.gl/PWT5IF> for dates, rules and further information.

Dressage

Dengie Dressage

Preliminary Rounds come to a close at the end of February so check the dates at <https://goo.gl/jVKDKS> for last chances to qualify for your Area Competition.

Members who qualified at a Preliminary Round MUST attend their own Area Competition.

Please go to <https://goo.gl/jVKDKS> for dates, rules and further information.

Dressage to Music

The Tubtrugs Dressage to Music competition will take place alongside the Dengie Winter League Championships on Saturday 01 April at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre. For a schedule and entry information go to <https://goo.gl/IPLJf8>

Polo

Crawley & Horsham Hunt are holding an arena tournament on Sunday 19 February at Hickstead. For more information please go to <https://goo.gl/wTE8s9>

Polocrosse

Congratulations to the Members chosen to represent their country at The Pony Club Polocrosse Home International. Details can be found at <https://goo.gl/D5jomM>

Keep an eye on the website at <https://goo.gl/rN3SZB> for details of rallies and training, and get in touch with Laura at the office if any of your Members are interested in having a go.

Arena Tournament

Following the success of last year, the Pony Club Polocrosse Arena Tournament will take place again on 22nd and 23rd April at Dallas Burston Polo Club. More details will be available shortly so please save the date.

Mounted Games

Mounted Games Study/Have a Go Days 2017

We still have spaces available on our Mounted Games Study Days. The days aim to inform Members, Trainers and Parents of the rules for the Games to be played this year. They are a great opportunity for everyone to see the new Area and Zone games for the forthcoming season, and there is always a Pony Club Official on hand to answer any queries.

- Saturday 11 February - The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy, Christchurch
- Saturday 18 February - LRAC Kenwick, Louth, Lincolnshire
- Saturday 18 February - Askham Bryan, York

Please go to <https://goo.gl/peYzDw> for more information and to book.

Tetrathlon

Eventing and Tetrathlon Study days for Stewards and Officials

Please see the Eventing section of this bulletin for details of the Eventing and Tetrathlon Study Days.

Tetrathlon Grassroots Competition

This year sees the fourth year of the Grassroots Tetrathlon Competition at The Pony Club Tetrathlon Championships. Both Branch and Centre Members can take part in the competition, but competitors must not have competed at Junior level Tetrathlon or above at Regional or Area competitions. Further details on the Competition can be found at <https://goo.gl/rWUwd8>

Winter Triathlon

The Winter Triathlon season is here and Area Qualifiers have begun for what is one of the busiest Tetrathlon Competitions of the year. The Winter Triathlon Finals will be taking place at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes on Sunday 19 March.

Details of Area Qualifiers and the competition rules can be found at <https://goo.gl/oC3PYr>

Eventing

Open Eventing Qualification

The intention of changing the qualification for Open Eventing is to enable more Members to qualify for the Open Eventing Championships. Therefore, Members can qualify via two routes:

- Qualifying as usual through Area Qualifying competitions (see rule 33 i & ii)
- Qualifying through their BE qualifying results (see rule 33iv). The Eventing Committee hopes that Areas will continue to run their Area Qualifying competitions at all levels.

For further information regarding the Open Eventing Qualification rules go to <https://goo.gl/oLSOXJ>

Likit Open Eventing League

The Likit Open Evening League will be running again in 2017. Further information on the league and how to register your event can be found at <https://goo.gl/zsDv3k>

Eventing & Tetrathlon Study days for Stewards and Officials

For 2017 Eventing and Tetrathlon are running three Officials' Study days (North, Central & South) for officials and stewards involved with Eventing and Tetrathlon Competitions:

- Monday 13 March – Tweseldown, Hampshire
- Monday 10 April – Breckenbrough, Yorkshire
- Friday 14 April (Good Friday) – Sapey, Worcestershire

These days will cover 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. This will be followed by classroom based sessions with experienced competition organisers. Further information and applications for the study days are available at <https://goo.gl/FY2v6e>

The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Competition

Dates for Area Qualifiers are updated on the website whenever received, so please keep an eye out for your Area at <https://goo.gl/mKBx7P>

Pony Racing

Have you thought about running a Pony Racing Rally?

A Pony Racing Rally not only has benefits for those with a pony who would like to try Pony Racing, you could also include Members looking for opportunities to train for Eventing.

Below are some suggestions for a Pony Racing Rally, which could easily take place in an evening.

What you will need:

Equicisor if possible, or a barrel

Whilst 'mounted' on the Equicisor or barrel, teach the Member to bridge their reins and keep their balance whilst in a forward racing seat

A school or enclosed space (such as a sectioned off part of a field)

Members can be taught to shorten their stirrups whilst mounted, bridge their reins and keep their balance whilst in the forward racing seat.

An area to gallop

This need not necessarily be an all-weather gallop; an uphill grass strip on the side of a field marked with cones (including a start and stopping point) will suffice.

Have a maximum of eight riders per group and rotate groups around the three areas.

There is also the opportunity to have a go at the Intro To Pony Racing and the Pony Racing Competition badges. The full syllabus can be downloaded at <https://goo.gl/B8RJV1>

Alternatively, there are eight Sport Specific Recommended Coaches available to help you. For details go to <https://goo.gl/AA4iCi>

For further details on Pony Racing, please contact Clare Boardman on ponyracing@pcuk.org

Endurance

Endurance Championships 2017

The 2017 Endurance Championships will take place at Kings Forest, Thetford on Sunday 27 August.

Please go to <https://goo.gl/NOATnU> for further information.







Health and Safety

Risk Assessments

With the next half term coming up quickly, make sure you get your risk assessments done in plenty of time for all your Branch activities to run as smoothly as possible.

Hat Rule for 2017

Don't forget to make sure all your hats are tagged with either the white Pony Club tag or the red British Eventing (BE) tag. The hat standards accepted for 2017 are detailed in the table below:

Hat Standard	Safety Mark	Allowed at the following activities:
PAS 015:1998 or 2011* with BSI Kitemark		All activities
VG1 with BSI Kitemark		All activities
Snell E2001* with the official Snell label and number		All activities
ASTM-F1163 2004a with the SEI mark		All activities
AS/NZS 3838 1998, 2003 or 2006		All activities
NOCSAE certificate		Polo ONLY

Body Protectors

Just a reminder that body protectors are mandatory for all Cross Country and Pony Racing training sessions and competitions, and should contain the BETA 2009 Level 3 (purple) standard as shown to the right. For other sports, the decision as to wear body protectors rest with Members and their parents.

Safeguarding

Regulated Activity

For England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands

The definition for Regulated Activity was amended by the Department for Education in September 2016 and so the Pony Club's requirements have been updated in line with statutory guidance.

Regulated Work

For Scotland

Regulated Work differs in Scotland to that for the rest of the UK. Therefore, disclosure check and safeguarding training requirements for individuals who work or volunteer with children also differ in Scotland.

For more information on the updated definitions of Regulated Activity and Work, go to <https://goo.gl/zUHSUI>



Codes of Conduct

As a reminder, the series of Pony Club Codes of Conduct are summaries of the policies which apply to all Members, parents / guardians, coaches, officials and volunteers to follow and adhere to. As an organisation we believe in showing respect to everyone and will not tolerate bullying or any form of abuse towards another individual.

To view the full Codes of Conduct, go to <https://goo.gl/L9cP3G>

Secretary of the Year Award

Nominations for Branch Secretary of the Year Award are open!

If you wish to nominate your Secretary for the Branch Secretary of the Year Award, please complete the nomination form online at <http://events.pcuk.org> before Friday 05 May.

All nominations will be verified by your Area Representative before being judged by a small panel, which will include the Chairman of The Pony Club. The award will be presented at the Cubitt Awards ceremony at Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-Upon-Avon on Thursday 08 June 2017.

Please note; Secretaries who have previously received this award will not be eligible.

The Pony Club Logo

The Pony Club Logo

The Pony Club logo can be requested via our website at <https://goo.gl/JA0PIX> in a number of different colours and file formats.

There are no rules as to which colour is used where, so please just choose the logo which looks best, and please ensure that as you redesign or reprint your own marketing materials that any old logos are replaced with new.

In most cases the 'full lock up' should be used (i.e. the roundel with the words Pony Club next to it) but where this is not suitable, for example in the centre of rosettes, the roundel should be used. To request this, or for advice on using the logo, please email Vicky@pcuk.org

Merchandise

Merchandise Sale and New Products Coming Soon

We will have a number of reduced items, including several of our publications, in our merchandise sale which will take place on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 February. Grab a bargain while stocks last!

Practical, hardwearing and stylish, The Pony Club's brand new hat bags, grooming bags and holdalls will be available soon in two colourways chosen by voters on The Pony Club's Facebook and Instagram surveys. Also coming soon will be stock pins featuring the new design roundel.

Look out for updates on our new products on our social media channels, and don't forget to visit <http://shop.pcuk.org> to check out our sale next month.

Unity & Websites

Unity Mass Renewal Feature

We have recently launched an update to Unity which allows Branches to process renewals in bulk. The feature is available by clicking on the "Add/Renew Memberships - - > Mass Renewals" button on the Unity homepage and should be considerably quicker than renewing Members individually. For those users who were familiar with the old Membership Database, the new mass renewals system works in a similar way to in previous years.

For further support on this feature, please contact Marty Bibby, marty@pcuk.org or Nick Cotterill, nick@pcuk.org

Custom Membership Forms

As in previous years, custom membership forms are available which will allow Branches to add their return name and address onto the standard form.

These were previously available on the old Membership Database, but have now moved to a separate location found by going to <https://goo.gl/h1UlsI> and selecting whether you wish to produce a New Member or Renewal form. You can then complete the boxes with your details before clicking 'Generate Form' at the bottom of the page.

For further support, please contact Marty Bibby, marty@pcuk.org

Membership Cards

2017 membership cards are available from our merchandise department. Please email your requests to shortonbarr@hq.pcuk.org stating the quantity required and the address to send them to.