

# Branch E-Bulletin

## July 2016



### 1. Introduction

Dear All

The summer seems to have finally arrived and with that we have the commencement of the bulk of the Area competitions. Most of your members will have finished their exams and are ready to let their hair down. I very much hope you have good competition at your Areas with all that is best about the Pony Club being shown. Thank you to all your volunteers for all the hard work they put in making it possible to give so many members such wonderful opportunities.

A gentle reminder regarding checking of the eligibility rules relevant to 2016 and in particular in relation to hats and back protectors. The rules are available in the rule books and on the website. Please also note there were some errors and omissions in the printed rule books so make sure you have any amendments from the website.

The Cubitt Award Ceremony is having a revamp and will now be held on alternate years. The plans are in discussion with the Management Committee regarding the date and venue of the 2017 ceremony. Please remember that awards can also be done in Area along with Cubitt Bar awards and it is always worth asking if I or one of the Trustees can make these events.

The Championships are also approaching. We are looking for volunteers to assist with these. There are many differing opportunities and we would greatly appreciate if you are able to put your name down via the event portal on the website - <http://events.pcuk.org>

The Pony Club is looking to appoint some new Trustees and a new Chief Executive. Details will be available soon from the Pony Club website and other appropriate sources. If you are interested in any of these positions then please do apply.

I hope you have a successful summer.

Mary

Mary Tuckett

## 2. Competitive Disciplines

### i. Eventing

#### Elite Eventing

New to the Championships for 2016, open to all Members 12 years and above (on 1st January) and no need to qualify. See website for more details:

<http://goo.gl/qisMDi>

### ii. Dressage

#### Dengie Winter League Dressage Series

We are pleased to announce that the Winter League Dressage series, generously sponsored by Dengie, will take place again in 2016/2017. If your Branch or Centre would like to run a Preliminary Round please download a booking form from <http://goo.gl/JM3KRV> Competition details and rules can also be found here.

#### Dressage to Music and Elite Dressage Competitions at the Championships

No need to qualify and entries are open so please see the website for more information:

Dressage to Music - <http://goo.gl/DCw2EF>

Elite Dressage - <http://goo.gl/luZtu8>

### iii. Show Jumping

Applications are now open for members to apply for the Mini Major Competition at Olympia. Full guidelines on applying and an application form are available to download at: <http://goo.gl/INSOTP>

#### Elite Show Jumping Competition

The Virbac 3D Warming Elite Show Jumping competition will be held at The Berkeley Homes Pony Club Championships on Monday, 22nd August.

It is aimed at members 12 years old or above riding any Grade of British Show Jumping/Show Jumping Ireland registered or non-registered horse or pony 14hh (142cm) or above.

A rider may only ride a maximum of three horses/ponies in the competition. The course is run on Table A9 rules and the best five scores or all clear rounds qualify for a jump off against the clock. The course is to test the horse and rider combinations, with the first round max height 1.20m, and second half of the course at 1.25m. The Elite Competition is a great way to assess the ability of our Members.

The Entry fee will be £22 per competitor.

### iv. Polo

The Pony Club Polo season kicks off mid July and members, parents, Branch/Centre officials would be very welcome to go along to any of the tournaments to watch our teams in action. Have a look at the website to see if there is a tournament near you: <http://goo.gl/EVNGOr>

### 3. Other News

#### i. **The Pony Club Championships 2016**

We are still recruiting volunteers for this year's Pony Club Championships and would be grateful if you could spare any time to help out. The Championships would not be possible without the valued help of our volunteers.

If you are able to volunteer at either The NFU Mutual Tetrathlon Championships, 11th-14th August 2016 at Bishop Burton College, Yorkshire or The Berkeley Homes Pony Club Championships, 19th-23rd August 2016 at Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire, please could you confirm your availability and preferred job(s) by filling in the online form <http://events.pcuk.org>

Apologies if you have already filled in the online form; we will be in touch shortly to confirm what jobs you have been allocated.

#### ii. **PR and Marketing**

##### **Marketing Pack Downloads**

You can download and print information leaflets to help you promote your Branch or Centre from our website. Click <http://goo.gl/kReh26> and select 'Professionally Printed' if you're using a print firm, or 'Print at Home' for leaflets without bleed marks.

If you would prefer to create your own materials, or you're ordering clothing, rosettes or saddlecloths, you can request logos in any the colours on our palette and in a variety of formats here: <http://www.pcuk.org/brand>

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

##### **Disclosure Checks - PVG**

We are now up to date with all PVG membership forms submitted before the end of June and these certificates are being issued between 3-4 weeks on average. There may be variation in this timescale with some checks though.

Extra PVG forms can be requested from Stefanie Brazier at [stefanie@pcuk.org](mailto:stefanie@pcuk.org)

##### **Event Schedules**

Going forwards Branches do not need to send copies of schedules for the events they are / have organised. Instead, these will be requested by the office where necessary.

##### **Tying Horses up at Events**

Recently a horse broke free from the trailer it was tied to and ran through a family picnic. Fortunately there were no serious injuries on this occasion; however, horses and ponies are unpredictable flight animals and there is a real risk of injury or damage to people, ponies and property. Therefore, horses or ponies should not be left unattended at any time whilst tied to the outside of a trailer or horsebox.

### **Care at Events**

A riding club has asked that Branches reiterate to their members to take care whilst at events, whether these are Pony Club organised or open events. It is inappropriate to warm up or school your horse / pony in any area of the event other than the designated arenas due to the danger this could pose to horses and riders, officials, parents and spectators.

#### **iv. Merchandise**

Caroline Pole is now back in her role as Merchandise Manager after her years maternity leave. She will be working on a part time basis, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday. Sue Horton Barr will remain in her role within the department. For any merchandise related queries please get in touch to either [caroline@pcuk.org](mailto:caroline@pcuk.org) or [shortonbarr@hq.pcuk.org](mailto:shortonbarr@hq.pcuk.org)

The following achievement badges have now been discontinued; Access to Endurance, Butterflies & Moths, Carriage Driving (including mini), Flags, Wildflowers, and Star Gazing.

Unfortunately we no longer have stock of these so will not be able to fulfil any orders of these.

We are also happy to offer merchandise on a sale or return basis for any events your Branch or Centre may be going to this summer. Email [caroline@pcuk.org](mailto:caroline@pcuk.org) for more details.

#### **Bulk Book Offer**

We are offering Branches and Centres a special offer on selected publications - a perfect time to stock up on prizes for your summer camp:

**10 publications for £15 or 30 books for £40.**

Choose from over 30 Pony Club titles. For more information or to order email either [caroline@pcuk.org](mailto:caroline@pcuk.org) or [shortonbarr@hq.pcuk.org](mailto:shortonbarr@hq.pcuk.org) or call us directly on 02476 698313. (Offer excludes Manual of Horsemanship, Year & Rule Books, BHS Riding & Road Craft Manual, Coach's Folder & Achievement Badge Folder. No other discount applies. P&P to be added.)

#### **v. Best Practice Advice - Use of Branch Email and Mobile Phones**

Every Branch has an email address attributed to them, which can be used by multiple users with the same password, for general Pony Club admin and enquiries etc.

We strongly advocate that these addresses are used as much as possible as the primary contact, as not only does this provide a consistent line of contact to the Branch but it also gives much more security and control than using personal email addresses; especially if personal email details are being used on schedules and web pages etc, making them available to many more people.

Similarly many Branches now make use of a Branch mobile phone, instead of giving out personal mobile numbers on schedules and web pages, and this again is something we would advocate as it gives a greater level of control and security. If you have any queries about using your Branch email address please email [database@pcuk.org](mailto:database@pcuk.org)

**vi. PonyPrep**

PonyPrep is currently unavailable due to ongoing serious technical issues. We are working to resolve these issues, and will put the site back online as soon as we are able to. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.