

Branch E-Bulletin

December 2014



1. Introduction

Dear All,

As I will be retiring from the role of Chief Executive at the end of March next year, this, my last Christmas message to you all, is of course tinged with sadness.

After eight years as a Trustee followed by ten as your Chief Executive, (not sure whether this qualifies as Gamekeeper turned Poacher or the reverse!), I have come to look upon you all, both past and present as part of a very large and extended family which I am going to miss greatly.

I will be leaving however with the knowledge that the organisation is in good heart and ready to face the next eighty five years doing what it does so well. This is of course all thanks to you, our most dedicated volunteers.

During my eighteen years (and I know many of you go back far beyond that), I have seen enormous changes with the demands on you all becoming more and more onerous and demanding but the ethos remains the same together with our Vision and our Values and with your help long may that continue.

A number of you have requested prior knowledge of some of the topics which will be included in next year's Conference to be held at Cheltenham on Wednesday 4th March. The reason this has not been done in the past is really to avoid disappointment if any Guest Speaker is unable to attend, as has already happened a number of times including this year at Epsom.

Next year, our Guest Speaker is to be Terry Pendry, head groom, riding companion and equestrian confidant to Her Majesty The Queen, so we are all very much looking forward to hearing what Terry has to tell us.

The Discipline forums will be back, with the Committee Chairmen being on hand to chat and answer your questions from 9.45am to 10.45am prior to the Conference starting. They will also be on hand for a short while after the close.

During the morning session there is to be Interactive Discussions on the issues which we receive most queries about and these will be based on:- Databases, Branch Websites, Training Initiatives (including PonyPrep Plus, Instructors' Database and R.D.P) and Health & Safety and Safeguarding. The discussions will be led from the platform with questions and interaction from the floor, so we hope you will come armed with all your queries. There will also be an inspirational talk by a current D.C. and Centre Proprietor.

We will of course be sending out further information in the New Year but please do remember to get your applications for places in early. Cheltenham's limit is 500 and we always reach that optimum number at this popular venue.

Well all that remains for me to say is, Good Luck for all your Christmas programme and festivities and as always, enormous thanks and appreciation for all that you have done over the past year.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2015 from all of the team here at Stoneleigh.



Judy E. Edwards
Chief Executive

2. Training

Rule Changes

The rule changes for 2015 are now listed on the website: <http://goo.gl/KwB343>

With regard to the Training changes, please note the following:

- The Road Rider Test is now required before achieving the C+ Test. We have had some queries from some Branches who have got some Members already working towards the C+ Test, who may not be able to do the Road Rider Test before their scheduled C+ Test. It has been agreed that for 2015 only, if a Member is already training for the C+ Test, they may take that before the Road Rider Test if necessary to do so, but they cannot be awarded their certificate or felt until they have passed the Road Rider Test. From 2016 onwards, all Members must achieve the Road Rider Test before attempting the C+ Test.
- AH Test - This test can now be attempted modularly; so Members can take and pass each section separately. They may attempt more than one section on a day, and the passes achieved in each section can be carried forward until the Member has achieved the full AH Test. For ease of record keeping, all AH Test applications and results will now be dealt with at The Pony Club Office, but AH Tests will continue to run within the Areas.
- Assessors - From January 2017, it will be recommended that new Assessors should attend an Assessor Training workshop at the relevant level, shadow a more experienced Assessor for at least one Test, and then co-assess at least one Test before assessing independently.

A Test Reunion

Please remind any past or present 'A' Test Holders about the reunion event in June, and ask them to pass on their contact details to us. The main event, at Addington Manor E.C., Buckingham on Tuesday 23rd June will be presented by Olympian Richard Davison and World Class Show Jumping coach John Ledingham. There will be a gala dinner the preceding evening, at the Best Western Buckingham hotel. Booking details will be released in the next bulletin, and invites will be sent to all A Test holders at that time.

Visiting Coaches

We are pleased to have added another Visiting Coach to the panel:

- Richard Evans BHSI (Discipline Specific – Eventing)

The full list of Visiting Coaches can be viewed on the website (<http://goo.gl/MBehXP>) and any Branch or Centre can use any coach or coaches once each holiday period (identified by school holidays!). Visiting Coaches are recommended by the Training Committee, and can claim their travel expenses from The Pony Club Office, making them affordable for any Branch, no matter where they are based!

Rider Development Pathway

Plans for the 2015 pathway are well under way! We have lots of Winter Training days with top coaches such as Nick Gauntlett, Warren Lamperd and Eric Smiley for Members who are interested in applying for the pathway; please encourage your Members to have a look online if they'd be interested in attending - <http://goo.gl/9FJLty> or <https://www.facebook.com/PCRDp>

Applications for the RDP Assessments are also now open; there will be ten assessment days running during the Easter holidays, open to Members aged 12-25, who fulfil the RDP Rider Criteria in Eventing, Show Jumping or Dressage. One rider from each discipline at each assessment will be selected to go forwards to the RDP Camp at Somerford Park Farm on 4th & 5th July 2015. The six most promising riders at the camp will each receive individual training and support packages going forward.

Applications for RDP Winter Training and the Assessment days are being taken online at <http://events.pcuk.org>

Free Training Opportunities for Members at UKCC courses – We regularly require demo riders for candidates coaches to work with in order to get the most from the course, and improve their coaching. Sessions are free to all riders and provide a good opportunity get in some extra practise and advice. Forthcoming dates and requirements are listed below, please ask anyone interested in coming along to email georgina@pcuk.org to book in:

- Radway Riding School, Radway, Warwickshire, CV35 0UN on Monday 5th January – Jumping – Riders Pony Club Open level (S) or Eventing) and some riders Pony Club Novice level.
- Addington Manor E.C., Buckingham, MK18 2JR on Monday 19th January (afternoon) – Indoor XC / Jumping – Riders Pony Club Open level – this session will include working with Eric Smiley FBHS.
- Addington Manor E.C., Buckingham, MK18 2JR on Tuesday 20th January (afternoon) – Flatwork – Riders Pony Club Intermediate (BD Novice) level or above.

Instructors Database Reminder

Please don't forget that the database is changing, so we are asking for all Instructors and Coaches to provide their details to go on to the database by 27th February 2014. Please could you send us a list of your Branch's instructors so that we are able to check them off as their information comes in, or send them a reminder to do so. If you didn't receive the email, or need to pass the forms on to your Instructors and Coaches again, you can find all of the relevant information and Instructor forms on the website –

<http://www.pcuk.org/training>

If your Instructors are all on the database already, you don't need to do anything else, and your coaches don't need to resend their information just let us know (via training@pcuk.org) that your Branch is up to date. Thank you!

Cross Country Coaches

There seems to have been some confusion over who can coach Cross Country for The Pony Club, and some Branches have been wrongly informed that from next year people with the BHSAI qualification won't be allowed to teach cross country for The Pony Club. There is no specific minimum qualification for cross country coaches, so BHSAIs can continue to teach cross country. However, when booking your coaches, please ensure that someone with experience appropriate to the activity they are going to be expected to teach is selected. Some qualification assessments (such as the BHSAI exams and Generic UKCC Level 2 assessments) give instructors a qualification, but cross country is not included in the assessment. The people with these qualifications can go on to gain, or build on existing experience coaching cross country, so they may be used for cross country coaching if you feel they are appropriately experienced. If you have any queries about this, do get in touch, but please be reassured that the rules on this have not changed.

Instructors Conferences 2015

Next year's conference dates are now confirmed, and tickets will go on sale in the New Year. The theme will be 'Instructing and Coaching through the Tests', and a variety of coaches will be delivering sessions at all Pony Club levels so that the attendees have plenty of new ideas and exercises to take away from the day.

- Tuesday 31st March at The Cabin EC, Aberdeen
- Thursday 2nd April at The Hand EC, Bristol

PonyPrep Plus is here!

We have been very busy over the past few weeks in Training, preparing PonyPrep's sister site PonyPrep Plus for launch on Thursday 18th December! This new e-learning site is designed for preparing for Efficiency Tests from C+ upwards, and provides bite-size learning based around the Manual and The Pony Club Tests in the Skills sections, along with videos to watch and interactions to measure their progress. Users can also create their own profile, and upload photos, details of achievements, log activities and sessions and join their virtual Branch or Centre. Coming in time for Easter, the Challenges section will provide an area for users to upload their own videos of them showing a skill they have learned, which will be marked by other users against specific marking criteria. The site will be live from Thursday 18th December at www.PonyPrepPlus.org - we can't wait to hear what you think!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Jenny and Georgina in Training!!

3. Competitive Disciplines

a. Dressage



New Dressage Tests

In 2015 there will be a few updated/new dressage tests as follows:

- The Pony Club Novice Eventing Championship Test 2015
- The Pony Club Intermediate Eventing Test 2015
- The Pony Club Open Eventing Championship Test 2015
- The Pony Club Open Dressage Test 2015*

*Please be aware that the test to be used at the Winter League Dressage Area Competitions and Championships at OPEN level has previously been advertised as the Open Dressage Test 2014. This has now been changed to the new Open Dressage Test 2015.

Dengie Winter League Dressage

For more information, booking forms and a list of competition dates (including Area Competitions) please see the Dengie Dressage pages of the website:

<http://goo.gl/EVDqgg>

Baker Tilly Freestyle Dressage to Music Competition

There will be a Dressage to Music Competition held at Warwickshire College on Saturday 4th April 2015 alongside the Dengie Winter League Dressage Final. More details will be available on the Dressage to Music page of the website in the New Year or email laura@pcuk.org for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to comply with music licence requirements, DTM competitors need to either be full or music members of British Dressage. BD offers a special rate to PC Members wanting to be music members. For more information please contact British Dressage - www.britishdressage.co.uk

Dressage Anywhere - The Pony Club Online Dressage Championships
Hosted by Dressage Anywhere, The Pony Club Online Dressage Championship gives the opportunity to all Branch or Centre Members to compete from home or from their own yard or field by videoing their test. Please visit the Dressage Anywhere website for more information - www.dressageanywhere.com

b. Eventing



Young Event Horse Series

The results are in for the 2014 Young Event Horse Series; congratulations to all who took part!

Place	Rider	Branch	Horse (Age)	Total Points
1 st	Nick Ireland	York & Ainsty South	Billy Bank (5)	52
2 nd	Katy Wise	East Sussex	Grace O'Malley (4)	18
=3 rd	Hannah Martin	Old Surrey & Burstow	Major Prospect (5)	16
=3 rd	Annabelle Jay	Polden Hills	Autumn Moss (5)	16
5 th	Fran Dakin	Morpeth Hunt	Middlepark Red Hot (4)	8

The Young Event Horse Series is being re-branded for 2015!

The Young Event Horse League is now open to all Members with horses or ponies aged 5, 6 or 7 years, who compete at any Pony Club Level 3 (Novice) Eventing Competitions. The rules for the league are available on the website at <http://goo.gl/zHUpp2>

All riders need to do to take part is submit a results card which is signed by the organiser of the competition to register their results, and continue to collect points!

Likit Open Eventing League

This year's Likit Open Eventing League has gone very well, with 34 events registering and over 175 horse and rider combinations taking part. Results were announced last month and the riders in the top ten will be presented with their prizes (including very smart Likit rugs) during an exclusive prize giving at event rider Francis Whittington's yard. During the day, the winners and a guest will be treated to a tour of the yard a chance to meet Francis' star event horses, and the opportunity to watch him riding.

We are extremely grateful to the supportive sponsor of the league, Likit Products, who generously provide prizes at every level for the league.

Results:

Kathrine	Mason	West Norfolk	Fernhill By Design	1st	One day's training John-Paul Sheffield.
Annabel	Lyles	West Norfolk	Cru II	2nd	Training bursary to the value of £200.
Chloe	Jackson	South Oxfordshire Hunt (South)	Epic	3rd	Training bursary to the value of £150.
Beth	O'Driscoll	Meynell	Jamborrie	4th	Training bursary to the value of £100.
Lucy	Frankham	Fernie Hunt	Charlies Riddle	5th	Training bursary to the value of £50.
Emma	Jackson	South Oxfordshire Hunt South	Fingest Walnut	=6th	Training bursary to the value of £50.
Grace	Madders	Bisley & Sandown Chase	Lewaldo Star	=6th	Training bursary to the value of £50.
Sophie	Gilkes	Pytchley Hunt	Shamus Nightmare	8th	Training bursary to the value of £50.
Annabelle	Strawson	South Notts	Chequila	9th	Training bursary to the value of £50.
Georgina	Ewell	Cotley	Zoretto	10th	Training bursary to the value of £50.

Eventing Study days for Stewards and Officials

For 2015 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 2015:

- Friday 6th March – Aston Le Walls, Northants
- Tuesday 24th March – Aldon, Somerset
- Monday 30th March – Burgham, Northumberland

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>

2015 Eventing Competitions

If you are running a one day event, hunter trial or eventer trial next year and would like it to be included in the list of Eventing competitions on The Pony Club website, please email details to eventing@pcuk.org The information you provide should include the date, venue, organising Branch, website address, level(s) and type of competition.

If you are running a level 5 Open Eventing competition why not register it for the 2015 Likit League? Just fill out the following form and return to Jo at The Pony Club Office: <http://goo.gl/5oAtFl>

Eventing Dressage

As of 1st January 2015 half marks may also be used for all Pony Club Eventing Dressage competitions.

c. Mounted Games



2015 Area Mounted Games equipment kits are now available from SPORTSMARK - <http://www.sportsmark.co.uk>



Study Days 2015

Any Areas wishing to arrange a Study Day particularly for Novice Teams and Line Stewards - please contact Jo Hayward at the Office. Email jo@pcuk.org

Remember, Mounted Games Study Days are aimed to inform Trainers, Members, Parents and potential Line Stewards of the rules for the Games to be played in 2015. It has been agreed by the Training Committee that these Study Days can be used for accreditation in Mounted Games only. Please get attendees to bring their log books with them and these will be signed on the day. However, if they wish to instruct in any other discipline they must attend an Instructors' Course to gain full accreditation.

Study Days arranged to date:

Date	Area/Branch	Venue
Saturday 10th Jan	Area 8 – Essex & Suffolk Pony Club	Wix Equestrian, Manningtree, Essex.
Saturday 14th Feb	Area 14 – West Hants Pony Club	Fortune Centre, Bangore, Hants.
Saturday 14th Feb	Area 3 - York & Ainsty (North) Pony Club	Askham Bryan College, Yorkshire.
Friday 20th Feb	Area 9 - Cotswold Vale Farmers Hunt Pony Club	Unicorn Centre at Stow on the Wold.
Saturday 28th Feb	Area 7 - Warwickshire Pony Club	Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell.

Other Areas and Branches TBC – Please keep an eye on the website for up to date details.

To book onto any of the above Study Days please go to http://events.pcuk.org/?page_id=1111

All Branches / Centres are welcome at the study day.

Reminder: Nomination Forms for the following team trials for DAKS International at Royal Windsor Horse Show are to be returned by Friday 16th January 2015. Please read the paperwork carefully.

PLEASE NOTE UPDATE TO TRIAL NOMINATION LETTER:

In the case of Branches in Ireland, Scotland and Wales you may nominate up to TWO Members per team entered at the 2014 Area competition. The nominated members do not need to have competed at Area, however please be aware that only TWO members per Branch can be selected for the team.

Team Trials for DAKS International – Royal Windsor Horse Show – 14th – 18th May 2014

Northern Ireland

Sunday 15th February 2015

Venue: Danescroft Equestrian Centre

Address: Danescroft Equestrian Centre, 21 Waterloo Road, Lisburn, County Antrim, BT27 5NW

Wales

Friday 20th February 2015

Venue: Netley Hall

Address: Netley Hall Estate, Dorrington, Nr Shrewsbury SY5 7JZ

Location: Just off the A49 (shrewsbury to leominster road)

Stabling and accommodation available if required please contact Netley Hall.

Scotland

Sunday 15th March 2015

Venue: Bishop Briggs

England

Sunday 22nd March 2015

Venue: Dallas Burston Polo Club

Address: Dallas Burston Polo Club, Stoneythorpe Estate, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 2DL

Stabling will be available off site just 5 minutes up the road, if required please contact Jo Hayward.

Area Games 2015 – Alphabetical Order

<u>SENIOR</u>	<u>JUNIOR</u>
<u>Beanbag and Table</u>	<u>Beanbag and Table (Junior)</u>
<u>'EQUI –TREK' Pyramid</u>	<u>'EQUI –TREK' Pyramid</u>
<u>Five flag</u>	<u>Five flag</u>
<u>'GO EQUI –TREK' Bending</u>	<u>'GO EQUI-TREK' Bending</u>
<u>Rope</u>	<u>Rope</u>
<u>Stepping Stones</u>	<u>Stepping Stones</u>
<u>Tennis Ball Shuffle</u>	<u>Two Mug</u>
<u>Two Mug</u>	<u>SPARE - Two Flag</u>
<u>SPARE - Two Flag</u>	

Zone Finals - Allocations 2015

Central Zone - Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell.

Saturday 27th June - Areas 3, 4, 5, 12, 13

Sunday 28th June - Areas 6, 7, 8, 9, 11

Southern Zone - Taunton Racecourse.

Sunday 5th July - Areas 10, 14, 15, 16, 18

Northern Zone - Kirkton Farm, Doune.

TBC - Areas 1, 2, 17, 19

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.

External Shows

Living Heritage Events would like The Pony Club Mounted Games to take part in their Country Fairs during 2015.

If your Mounted Games Team would be interested in taking part in any of the shows please register your interest by emailing jo@pcuk.org

24th - 25th May - Burghley House

12th - 13th September - Sandringham

26th - 27th September - Bowood House

For updated details please visit the website.

d. Polocrosse



Home Nations International

In 2015 there will be a Polocrosse Home Nations International between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will be hosted by Celyn Polocrosse Club in Backford, Cheshire on the 25th & 26th July.

Teams to be made up as follows, including a reserve for each Section:

- One Open Section - Members any age, minimum size of horse 138 cms, no maximum size
- One Junior Section - Members 15 years and under, minimum size of horse 138 cms, no maximum size
- One Mini Section - Members 12 years and under and ponies to be 138 cms and under

Ages will be taken on 1st January, 2015.

Full eligibility criteria that players must meet to be considered for selection for the individual Nations will be published on the website shortly.

All Pony Club players wishing to represent their Nation, must complete the Nomination Form by 30th April, 2015 and send it in to The Pony Club Office. The Nomination form will be on The Pony Club website or players can contact hannah@pcuk.org for a copy of the form. This form will then be forwarded to the relevant Team Manager of the Nation the Member wishes to play for. Team Managers and coaches will invite nominated players to selection events, to be published geographically on the website, where they can work with the coaches and their play can be watched.

Pony Club Members chosen to take part should be excellent representatives of their Branch or Centre, as well as good players and team members. They should be able to mix well, be of even temperament and have high standards of riding and horse care. Members must send in a CV and reference from their D.C./Proprietor as selection will not only be on their riding ability but also on their ambassadorial qualities and current Pony Club involvement.

Further information will be sent out in due course.

Rule Changes

There have been three key rule changes made for Polocrosse for 2015. These will be detailed in full in the 2015 Polocrosse rulebook but to aid early communication they are summarised below:

- 1) The Championships Class at the Pony Club Championship and at other tournaments is now open to Area teams, providing their Area Polocrosse coordinator and the tournament organiser approves the teams. .
- 2) Correctly fitted rope and rawhide nosebands are now permitted but leather nosebands are still recommended.
- 3) Australian style “swinging fender” stirrups are now allowed on stock saddles but only if they are on an open ended stirrup bar.

e. Tetrathlon



For 2015 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, stewards and team managers involved with Tetrathlon and Eventing Competitions in 2015.

- Friday 6th March – Aston Le Walls, Northants
- Tuesday 24th March – Aldon, Somerset
- Monday 30th March – Burgham, Northumberland

These are brilliant days, covering all aspects of organising competitions, 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. Followed by a question and answer session with experienced competition organisers for the other 3 non ridden phases. Applications for these study days are open and online at <http://events.pcuk.org>

4. Other News

a. Cubitt Awards 2015

Closing Date for the Nomination form sent to you in October is Friday 6th March 2015. Nominations can be done online at <http://goo.gl/ATceHC>

The total length of service must be 20 years or over. Please ensure that the nominee has not already received this award and that the form is signed by your Area Representative.

The presentation of the awards will take place on Monday 1st June 2015 at The Stratford Manor Hotel

b. Cubitt Bar Awards

These awards are continuous. Nominations can be done online at <http://goo.gl/tSbhS9> or please email jo@pcuk.org if you require a nomination form. Please ensure that the nominee has achieved a minimum voluntary service of 30, 40 or 50 years respectfully and that they have already received a Cubitt award.

Nominations forms for the Cubitt Award and the Cubitt Bar Award can also be found on our website under volunteers.

c. Membership Eligibility

Following communication earlier this year regarding a change in the Membership Year to run from 1st February to 31st January, please note that the rule regarding Membership Eligibility is still based on the calendar year, as below:

“Membership is available to Branch Members until the end of the calendar year in which they become 25 years old. Membership is available to Centre Members until the end of the Centre Membership Subscription Year in which they become 25 years old.”

In other words, a Member turning 25 in January will still be able to renew for the rest of that year.

Please also note that Competition Ages will also still be based on the Member's age as of 1st January.

d. The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Competition

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to those of you who have come forward to run a Qualifier in your Area; we really appreciate your efforts. The Horse & Pony Care Championship Competition will be taking place at Cholmondeley Castle on the 22nd and 23rd August 2015.

Becky Davies has now taken over as permanent Horse and Pony Care Secretary within the office, so if you need any assistance or further information please feel free to contact her at rebecca@pcuk.org or on 02476 698308. Bronté Wadge-Dale will be acting as Assistant Secretary and can be contacted at bronte@pcuk.org or on 02476 698322.

If you are interested in putting a Team together for this year's competition, the website has been updated so more information can be found on the Horse & Pony Care section under 'Activities and Events'. (The eligibility rules have not changed for this year).

Most of the Horse and Pony Care Qualifier details have now been received and are published on the website link below:

<http://goo.gl/R2S1CN>

We will be sending a survey out this year with the Organiser's packs in order for us to gauge how the Qualifiers are run across the country, and to see if there is any way we can improve the process for you in future. These will be with you in the New Year, so please do let us know if there is anything we can try to do.

Kind Regards,

Becky and Bronté

e. Merchandise

Caring for a Horse or Pony is out now priced at £7.99. The new name for one of The Pony Club's longest lasting and most popular publications - Keeping a Pony at Grass. Revised and rewritten by Carolyn Henderson to combine the latest research, this book will help you look after your horse or pony conscientiously, sympathetically, and correctly. <http://goo.gl/3aBHDO>

Our last date for guaranteed delivery of orders before Christmas is 12pm Friday 19th December. All order received after this date will be processed and dispatched after our annual stock take in January.

Don't forget to come and visit us at the London International Horse Show at Olympia from 16th – 22nd December 2014. We are on stand number GH5 and along with our usual range of merchandise and publications we will also be running the shop and drop so please do come and say hello.

2015 Membership Cards are now available. Please email caroline@pcuk.org to request them.

f. 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, blurred, stretched or skewed it is likely you need an up to date or higher resolution 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. Thank you to those who have already requested a copy of the up to date logo. If you require high resolution logos please email media@pcuk.org with the format you require.

Please note: As we are now at the end of our 85th Anniversary year please can we ask that you revert to using the standard Pony Club logo, rather than the 85th Anniversary version.

Online Marketing Pack

We love to see you all doing your own marketing to attract Members to your Branch or Centre, and The Pony Club as a whole. The Pony Club's brand is really important and we want it to continue in that vein. We have put together an online Marketing Pack which can be found at: <http://goo.gl/eyXl9E> 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

Social Media

The Pony Club's social media policies can be found online: <http://goo.gl/RGrO43> 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

PonyPrepPlus

We have exciting news! www.PonyPrepPlus.org, the next level of PonyPrep designed for those learning at C+ upwards, is being launched at Olympia Horse Show on December 18th – which means it will be live and available for Members to access from this date! Members will receive an email about the new site but it would be great if you could spread the word as well, and we look forward to hearing feedback in due course.

g. Safeguarding

The Pony Club safeguarding course tutors are now trained, and there is a tutor in most Areas, so Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshops can now be organised by Branches, Centres and Areas. Upcoming courses, and details on how to organise a course, are on <http://goo.gl/5Aq3Kf>

These safeguarding courses do not negate any previous safeguarding training in the past three years, so if an individual has attended a Pony Club approved course in the past three years they do not need to renew until three years have passed.

Please also remember that you can now do DBS checks online, using a brilliant system provided by Disclosure Services. There is information about it on the website <http://goo.gl/P9kf5U>

To register your Branch to do disclosure checks online, or to find out more, please contact Georgina on georgina@pcuk.org Once you have registered, disclosure checks become much quicker and simpler than doing them by paper. Nearly 100 Branches and Centres are now using this system, and we have had excellent feedback from them all.



A new social and training programme for young people launched at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships this summer. This new British Equestrian Federation product, which is managed in The Pony Club Office, aims to provide 13-18 year olds with the opportunity to connect and re-engage with equestrian sport through a fun informal club offered at riding schools.

Participants can expect to enjoy activities such as taster sessions in a variety of equestrian disciplines, regular relaxed riding opportunities as well as being able to take part in The Pony Club skill development offerings such as progressive riding tests. Please visit www.youngquestrians.club for more information.

i. Health & Safety

New Hat Tags

As you may be aware, we confirmed at the recent Area meetings that new hat tags will start to be in use from January 2015 and all hats need to have a new hat tag on them by the 01 January 2016.

The new hat tags will be white in colour, with a purple Pony Club logo. From 01 January 2016 we will no longer accept riders wearing hats with the old purple hat tags.

The reasons for re-tagging hats are:

- 1) The change in the European hat standards to remove the (BS)EN 1384 from the European journal. This change is detailed in full in the BETA press release and means that after 31 December 2015 Pony Club members will not be able to wear hats only marked with (BS)EN 1384
- 2) The colour on some of the purple tags has worn off or tags have become damaged meaning it is difficult to identify hats as meeting the required standards.
- 3) It has been brought to our attention that some Members may have torn tags off their hat for use on another

We need to ensure that hats meet the standards listed in The Pony Club Hat Rule for 2015. However, as noted above the European standards are being revised to remove (BS)EN 1384 during 2015 and so in order to make the transition as smooth as possible, and to allow hats only marked with the standard (BS)EN 1384 to be clearly identifiable, the hat tagging procedure for 2015 will now be as follows:

- Any hats which are only marked with the standard (BS)EN 1384 should continue to be tagged with a purple tag. Most of these hats will already have a purple tag on from previous hat tagging but in the event of one of these hats requiring a new tag only a purple tag should be used.
- Any hats which are marked with one of the other standards permissible by the Pony Club (PAS 015, Snell E2001 and AS/NZS 3838) should be tagged with one of the new white hat tags before the 31 December 2015. The full list of standards is as stated in The Pony Club Yearbook.
- In 2015 hats bearing both white and purple tags will be permitted in Pony Club activities. After the 31 December 2015 no hat bearing a purple tag will be permitted to be worn in Pony Club activities

We would also remind Branches that hat tagging should only be carried out by one of your two nominated hat taggers and not by any other Branch officials. Every Branch and Area Representative will receive one roll of new hat tags free of charge.

As specified in the Hat Rule, we do not check the fit and condition of a hat but if the helmet has been obviously altered in a way which may result in it not protecting the wearer in the event of a fall it should not be tagged. For example, if holes have been drilled into it to secure a hat camera mount, the hat would not be suitable for use even if the camera is removed for Pony Club activities.

If you have any queries, please email vicky@pcuk.org

Accident Forms

We have updated the Pony Club Accident Form to make it clearer and more straightforward to complete. The form is available to download from the Health and Safety pages of our website (on the Medical and Accident Reporting tab):

<http://goo.gl/vStHvQ>

It is fine to continue using the old style forms if you have a large supply, but please note our Insurers' details need to be changed from Windsor Insurance to Howden Insurance Brokers Limited.

The address remains unchanged but the telephone number now ends in 1300 instead of 1200:

Howden Insurance Brokers Limited, 71 Fenchurch Street, London, EC3M 4BS

Telephone: 0207 133 1300 Fax: 0207 133 1500

If you have any queries please contact vicky@pcuk.org or call 02476 698321

j. Insurance

Windsor Insurance are now called Howden Insurance Brokers Ltd and personnel has stayed the same, Adrian Pratt is now Chairman, and Adrian Miller is Account Executive, Equine.

Their address is still 71 Fenchurch Street, London, EC3M 4BS and their telephone number is 0207 133 1300 and fax 0207 133 1500.

The Pony Club have been notified that the insurers have included a new exclusion in the policy that any claim that arises out of a moveable or non-permanent XC fence that has not been secured in line with BE regulations, will not be accepted by the underwriters. Letters regarding this have been sent out to all D.C.'s.

k. IT

Branch Website Upgrade

As most of you will have noticed, the Branch Website platform has been upgraded to the latest possible version in conjunction with a 3rd party development company. This allows us to increase the security of the websites as well as allow us to upgrade the features of the Branch websites. Some people may experience some issues logging in to the website as they are using an old link to get in to the site. The new link you should use is <http://branches.pcuk.org/wp-admin>

Another issue people are experiencing is the disappearance of tables from the website. The facility we had on the old system is no longer supported but has been replaced with a recommended equivalent. To recover tables on your website, you will need to click on the "TablePress" link on the left hand side, and then on the "Import" tab at the top of the screen that's then opened. On this page, click on the "Import from WP-Table Reloaded" button, and this will recover your tables. However, if your table contains any HTML coding (such as PayPal buttons) please contact Head Office immediately as we will need to perform this action for you.

We are aware that this new version of WordPress doesn't allow HTML code to be posted to the website, and this is impacting websites that currently use PayPal. To fix this issue we are (at the time of writing) working on bringing forward a new facility which will allow all Branch websites to use PayPal in a far easier and simple manner. This facility was scheduled for release in February/March 2015 but is now being worked on for release by 22nd December 2014. We apologise for this issue as it was unexpected. If your website is affected by this change please contact Head Office and we can help work with you for this interim period.

Pony Club IT Usability Survey

We have been running a survey in order to gauge the IT levels and skills our volunteers have, as well as finding out what sort of training volunteers would like. We will then use this information to then plan and provide training to all Areas of The Pony Club. If you haven't done so already, please take part in this survey. The link to it can be found at the top of the Membership Database screen when you first log in.

PCUKMAP Database Upgrade

Over the last 2 years we have been working on a replacement for the existing PCUKMAP (Membership) Database. You will have seen this work over the 2 years in the form of the Instructors Database and the new Mass Renewal System. Centres have been testing an initial version of the new PCUKMAP Database and feedback has been positive and has led to some positive changes that will benefit Branches and The Pony Club in general. We would like some volunteers from Branches in order to do some final testing before this new version is released to Branches. If you'd like to volunteer please contact Michael Burke via email using michael@pcuk.org The release date for this upgrade has been scheduled for March 2015.