

Branch E-Bulletin

July 2015



1. Introduction

Dear All

It is my second Bulletin and the time is flying by!

It was with great sadness that we heard of the recent death of Dawn Wofford – she gave so much to The Pony Club and was truly inspirational. She will be enormously missed and we have put together a piece about all the amazing areas of her life here (<http://goo.gl/zJqVZE>)

You will see that there is plenty to update you with in terms of activity around the country and many upcoming events as we move into the Summer, including our Championship events.

I hope that you find the Bulletin useful and informative, and would welcome any comments about the format and content so we can continue to make it more relevant and timely.

Best wishes

Pip

Pip Kirkby
Chief Executive

2. Important News - IT

Personnel Changes

Michael Burke (IT Systems Manager) has recently left his role at The Pony Club to take up a new position elsewhere. The main contacts for IT-related issues will therefore be as follows:

The Pony Club Online Helpdesk - database@pcuk.org
Marty Bibby (Volunteer Support) - marty@pcuk.org, 02476 698318
Nick Cotterill (Assistant IT Developer) - nick@pcuk.org, 02476 698320

Please be assured that we are working to ensure Michael's departure does not affect the development of the new database platform (Unity), the new database email system or

the new online events system (BoxOffice). These systems will still be released and we will update you further once we are able to give information regarding estimated timescales.

Live Help Facility

As part of our ongoing goal to provide Officials and Volunteers with as much support as possible, we are currently testing a new “Live Help” facility on The Pony Club Website. This feature places a button on the left hand side of the user’s screen which allows them to open a chat window with one of our designated staff (currently Marty Bibby – Volunteer Support).

This feature is available to anyone browsing the website and should provide users with a quick answer to any queries. If our operators are busy or out of the office, the button will still be available but will send an email rather than open a chat window.

Updated IT Systems

We have recently made the following small improvements to our systems:

Website Search Facility – this has been updated to perform a more thorough search of the website, and any links displayed in search results should now direct users to the correct page. The search feature is available in the usual location on <http://www.pcuk.org> (the “Find or Search” link in the blue menu bar at the top of the site)

Sending Database Emails – since Microsoft’s roll-out of Internet Explorer web browser version 11, some users have found that when sending database emails, they are unable to type anything in the main body of the email. Previously this has necessitated using a different web browser to access the database, however we have now updated the page to resolve the issues with Internet Explorer.

We hope these changes will improve your experience using the systems, but as always if you run into problems or have any feedback, please let us know by emailing database@pcuk.org

3. Training

UKCC

The next UKCC Level 3 course is due to commence in September, and applications are now open. This course is aimed at experienced knowledgeable Pony Club coaches, who wish to update their skills, with emphasis on better communication, better understanding of riders’ needs, and how they learn best. There are also sessions on rider nutrition, fitness and sport psychology. The course is run over 8 days, divided into four two-day sessions, with classroom sessions and coaching practice each day. All of this is led by very experienced tutors, with input from excellent top class coaches from the three major

disciplines, who will pass on their wealth of knowledge, and some of the classroom workshops are delivered jointly with British Showjumping's Level 3 course to enable sharing of ideas and discussion. On completion of the training days, there will be an assessment day, where candidates will deliver two sessions in front of experienced Assessors. Achievement of the qualification also entails completion of a comprehensive portfolio before the assessment, which will take place around September on a date convenient to the course candidates.

The course dates are:

- Workshop 1 & 2: Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th September 2015.
- Workshop 3 & 4: Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th December 2015.
- Workshop 5 & 6: Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th January 2016.
- Workshop 7 & 8: Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd March 2016.

The location of each pair of workshops will be confirmed but they will be based around and near to the Midlands. The course cost is £1500 for the training (payable in four payments of £375, before each block of workshops) and £250 for the assessment. You may be able to source some funding to support your training; SportsCoach UK offer a good guide to the funding available to coaches: <http://goo.gl/dOUpdD>

The application form for UKCC Level 3 is available online (<http://goo.gl/ZpT6dc>) and should be returned to The Pony Club office at your earliest convenience, or by 27th August latest. Applications should be accompanied by evidence of coaching riders to Pony Club Open standard (or equivalent) on the flat and jumping, on a DVD or USB memory stick, or via Youtube link. If you would like any further information about UKCC Level 3, please contact Jenny Cowen (jenny@pcuk.org)

There are also a number of Level 1 and 2 courses available – details can be found on The Pony Club website.

A Test

Congratulations to the three Members who passed the A Test this spring:

Flora Campbell – Chiddingfold Farmers

Alicia Wilkinson – East Essex Hunt

Tessa Bishop – Garth South

If any of your Members hope to take the A Test this autumn, please send in their nomination form as soon as possible, so that we can ensure they get the information about booking onto the autumn Tests. Thank you!

AH Test

We are looking forward to the autumn AH Tests, and places are filling up quickly on some of the Tests. If you know of any candidates who would like to take their Test this autumn, please ask them to check the dates on the website (<http://goo.gl/BdKtv8>) and

send the AH nomination form (<http://goo.gl/IZn3RR>), with the correct fee (£50 per section, £120 for the whole Test) to The Pony Club Office.

New Visiting Coaches

The following coaches have been approved by the Training Committee and added to the list of Visiting Coaches:

- Amelia Payne UKCC Level 3 (Recommended – Area 7)
- Andrea Parsons BHSII BHSSM UKCC 3 (Recommended – Area 10)

4. Competitive Disciplines

a. Dressage



Elite Rider Dressage Competition

Now in its third year this competition will be held at The Pony Club Championships, Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire on Saturday 22nd August. For more information and entry details please click here - <http://goo.gl/FeLBI8>

Dressage to Music at the Championships

The Freestyle Dressage to Music Competition, generously sponsored by The Worshipful Company of Loriners, will be held at The Pony Club Championships at Cholmondeley Castle. The Competition will be split over two days with Open and Intermediate Individuals on Sunday 23rd August and Novice Individuals, Pairs, Family Pairs and the Individual Ride-Off on Sunday 24th August.

For more information and entry details please click here - <http://goo.gl/2q4pG8>

Dengie Winter League Dressage 2015/2016

Preliminary Rounds are now underway. Rules (including the new Intermediate level), dates and a booking form if you would like to include qualifiers in your schedule can be found at: <http://goo.gl/lcs85e>

Online Dressage Championships

Qualifying classes from Walk and Trot to Open run each month until the 15th August each year. Those with the highest percentages will be invited to take part in The Pony Club Online Dressage Championships to be run during September and October.

<http://goo.gl/VNafzk>

<http://www.dressageanywhere.com>

b. Endurance



The following Endurance Area Qualifiers coming up are as follows, so please support your Areas:

Area 6 – Lindum, E.G.B. – 24th July

Area 2 – Hexham, E.G.B. – 2nd August

The Endurance Committee have the right to invite additional individuals and teams to the Championships. Members who have successfully completed 3 rides of the appropriate distance and at the correct speed may also apply to the Committee for an invite to the Championships. However, if a pony/horse fails the vetting at their qualifying ride for metabolic reasons, they are not entitled to use the three ride method of qualification as an alternative.

c. Eventing



Likit Open Eventing League

The Likit Open Eventing League is now well underway. Don't forget that any Level 5 Eventing class can be included in the league. If you would like your event to be part of it, please visit the website to download an application form: <http://goo.gl/KwU3tA>

Young Event Horse League

Please remind all Members, with young horses (5, 6 or 7 years old) that they can take part in the YEHL if they compete at any Pony Club Level 3 Eventing competition. There is no need for the event to register to be included in this series, riders just have to submit their results. <http://goo.gl/mY7J8o>

d. Mounted Games



Zone Finals

Congratulations to Badsworth Hunt, Romney Marsh and Monmouthshire on qualifying for the Prince Philip Cup Final at the Horse of the Year Show.

Full results from the Central and Southern Zone Finals can be found on the website: <http://goo.gl/31jB2e>

The Northern Zone takes place on Friday 31st July at Kirton Farm, Doune for Areas 1, 2, 17 and 19.

Senior Competitions

The 1st placed team will qualify for the Prince Philip Cup Final at the Horse of The Year Show

7th - 11th October 2015

The 2nd - 7th Placed Teams will qualify for the Runners-Up Competitions at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships 2015; Tuesday 25th August 2015.

The 8th - 10th Placed Teams will qualify for the Intermediate Final Competitions at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships 2015; Sunday 23rd August 2015.

Junior Competitions

The 1st - 6th Placed Teams will qualify for the Junior Final Competition at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships 2015; Monday 24th August 2015.

All Qualifying Teams will be given an envelope at their Zone Final with further information.

International Mounted Games Exchange

The United States Pony Club has invited the UK Pony Club to the International Games Exchanges to be held July 12th through July 26th, 2015. <http://goo.gl/aP6Lkx>

Irish Pony Club International & Club Mounted Games Competition 2015

Once again The Irish Pony Club are hosting the International Pony Games Festival on the 17th & 18th October in The Curragh, County Kildare. This promises to be a very big occasion attracting a large number of spectators. Please find further details on our website at <http://goo.gl/917qSF>

e. Polo



Teams have been formed and the tournament season kicked off on Saturday 11th July at Epsom Polo Club. If anyone would like to see what it is all about please feel free to go along to your local tournament to watch some matches, a full list of dates and venues can be found at <http://goo.gl/E6VP3w>

If you would like some information about Pony Club Polo and how to get involved please contact laura@pcuk.org

f. Polocrosse



The teams have been announced for the first ever Pony Club Polocrosse Home Nations. The event will see teams from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland compete across two days on the 25th and 26th of July at Backford in Cheshire. Please see link below for more information regarding this exciting competition.

<http://goo.gl/nm29Dz>

g. Show Jumping



Elite Show Jumping Competition – Championships

Rider: Open to Members of The Pony Club.

Riders must be 12 years old or above as of 1st January 2015.

Riders must have been Members of The Pony Club since at least 31st January in the current year except for Members who are completely new to The Pony Club, who may have joined up until 31st March and still be eligible.

Riders may only ride a maximum of three horses/ponies.

Horse: Open to any Grade of British Show Jumping/Show Jumping Ireland registered or non-registered horse or pony 14hh (142cm) or above.

Competition: Table A9 – The best five scores or all clear rounds qualify for a jump off against the clock. Any faults in the first round are carried forward. Speed 350 mpm

Course: First round: Max Height 1.20m, Max spread 1.25m Two upright fences in the second half of the course at 1.25m. One double and one treble combination, or 3 doubles. If the second or third part is a spread it must be on two strides. No three stride distances, no less than five strides before or following the combinations.

Entries: The Entry fee will be £20 per competitor (including medical fee). Entries have now opened for the Show Jumping Championships - <http://events.pcuk.org> Click on the link above and scroll down to the Show Jumping Championship section.

Mini Major Applications

Applications are now being taken for the Mini Major competition at Olympia, The London International Horse Show. Guidelines and an Application Form can be sent to downloaded from the following link: <http://goo.gl/Vct3le>

Applications close: Wednesday, 5th August 2015.

Dengie Winter League Prelim Rounds

Prelim Rounds have now started. Please forward your prelim round dates to the office as soon as possible.

A Booking Form and a copy of the WLSJ Rules 2015-2016 can be downloaded from:
<http://goo.gl/tBbvp6>

h. The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Competition

The Horse and Pony Care qualifiers have now all taken place, and qualifying Teams can be found below:

<http://goo.gl/L1qi7s>

We are currently on the lookout for horses and ponies to use for the practical section of the Horse and Pony Care Championship. We require ponies that are under 14.2hh on Saturday 22nd and horses between 14.2hh and 16hh on Sunday 23rd. Horses must have a quiet temperament and be happy to stand in the stable from 8.30am to 4.30pm. If you would be happy for us to use your horse for the day on either 22nd or 23rd August please email rebecca@pcuk.org

Best Wishes,

Becky and Bronté

5. Other News

a. PR & Marketing

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

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 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/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

b. Health & Safety and Safeguarding

Online Refresher Course

We have now launched a brand new online training resource designed specifically for equestrians to assist them in meeting their safeguarding responsibilities. The online 'Child Protection for Equestrians - Refresher' course has been developed by child protection experts at the ChildProtectionCompany.com in association with the BEF, to provide an online course for those individuals that are due to update their safeguarding training. The online course is specifically available to any individual who has completed a face-to-face safeguarding course in the previous three years and need to renew their training. To enrol on this course or for more information, please contact Stefanie Brazier on stefanie@pcuk.org

Disclosure Checks

With camps fast approaching, have you got all your DBS checks done for instructors and volunteers? You can register your Branch or Centre to do disclosure checks online. This system means that processing applications is much quicker than doing

paper applications. We have over 210 Branches and Centres now using this system successfully and feedback is excellent. To find out more information, please contact Stefanie Brazier on stefanie@pcuk.org

Safeguarding Guidelines for Residential Camps

We have now developed guidance for Branches and Centres to assist them with safeguarding procedures at residential camps this summer. The guidelines can be downloaded here: <http://goo.gl/vKLqyq>

Body Protectors and Air Jackets











The Pony Club does not make the use of body protectors compulsory, except when training or competing in Cross Country riding and Pony Racing. If a rider chooses to wear an air jacket, this does not need to be used in addition to a normal body protector, except during Cross Country riding and Pony Racing, either training or competing. For general use, the responsibility for choosing body protectors and the decision as to their use must rest with Members and their parents. It is recommended that a rider's body protector should not be more than 2% of their body weight. When worn, body protectors must fit correctly, be comfortable and must not restrict movement.

Level 2 body protectors are designed to provide a level of protection that is considered appropriate for use in low risk situations. These do not include riding on roads or other hard surfaces and riding young or excitable horses. Level 3 body protectors are designed to provide a level of protection that is considered appropriate for normal riding including competition and working with horses. Riders who choose to use the Woof Wear Body Cage EXO must lodge a key with the Event Organiser when they collect their number.

In the event of a fall in both competition and training rides, the rider's air jacket must be fully deflated or removed before continuing, after which the conventional body protector will continue to give protection. Air jackets must not be worn under a jacket and number bibs should be fitted loosely or with elasticated fastenings over the air jacket.

Hats

Here is a reminder about The Pony Club Hat Standards for 2015/2016:

Country	Standard	Years	Must be accompanied by	Hat Tagging for 2015	Hat Tagging for 2016
British	PAS 015	1998 or 2011	CE mark  BSI Kitemark 	White tag with purple logo	White tag with purple logo
British	BS EN1384	1996, 1997 or 2012	CE mark  BSI Kitemark 	Purple tag with white logo	NOT ALLOWED AFTER 2015
European	EN1384	1996, 1997 or 2012	CE mark  BSI Kitemark 	Purple tag with white logo	NOT ALLOWED AFTER 2015
American	Snell E2001	2001	CE mark and Official Snell label and number  	White tag with purple logo	White tag with purple logo
Australia and New Zealand	AS/NZS 3838	1998, 2003 or 2006	CE mark and Australian Standard label  	White tag with purple logo	White tag with purple logo