

Branch E-Bulletin

June 2014



1. Introduction

Dear All,

With the Summer now upon us, our thoughts turn to Area competitions, camps and the various National Championships.

We wish you all a successful and enjoyable Summer and look forward to seeing you all in August.

With very best wishes from the Stoneleigh team.

Judy E. Edwards
Chief Executive

2. Training



The Rider Development Pathway Camp was held at Somerford Park Farm in Cheshire on the 14th-15th June. Twenty eight talented Members attended, who had all been selected at the Regional Assessment Days held over Easter. They received excellent coaching in their preferred discipline from Maria Eilberg (Dressage), Philippa McKeever Curry (Show Jumping) and Gary Parsonage (Eventing), as well as video feedback, mentoring, mounted and unmounted balance sessions, and individual equine nutrition advice from Dengie. The RDP is supported by the Sport England funded BEF Excel Talent Programme, developed to extend the rider talent pathway below the UK Sport funded World Class Programme, and to help riders develop to be the best they can be in their chosen discipline. All the riders commented that they had enjoyed the weekend and found it useful, and at the close of the camp seven riders were selected to form the inaugural Pony Club Rider Development Squad and receive further training and support: Chloe Dawes (Berkeley Hunt), Rachael Coulter (East Antrim), Andrew Winn (Percy Hunt), Justine Harding (East Antrim), Katie Waldock-Smith (Enfield Chace Hunt), William Bower (Pendle Forest & Craven Hunt), and Victoria Lillington (Lithlingow & Stirlingshire). The standard of all of the riders at the weekend was excellent – well done to those selected!

The Training Committee have approved John Leighton-Dyson to be added to the Discipline Specific (Tetrathlon Shooting) Visiting Coach list. The Pony Club office will pay the travel expenses of Visiting Coaches for one return journey to any Branch in any one holiday period (one holiday period encompasses one school half term and the following school holiday). Visiting Coaches claim their travel expenses direct from The

Pony Club office on the official Expenses Claim form. Branches are advised to negotiate terms with the coaches they wish to use in advance.

An A Test reunion, for all those who have passed their A Test, has been organised for 23rd June 2015. This will be a lecture-demo / Pony Club showcase at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre; Richard Davison and John Ledingham will be presenting a number of dressage and jumping sessions with a selection of Pony Club Members and ex-Members riding. There will be a gala dinner at a nearby hotel the previous night. Further details will be released in due course.

3. Competitive Disciplines

a. Dressage



Elite Rider Dressage Competition

After a successful first year we will once again be holding this competition at The Pony Club Championships, Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire on Friday 15th August. For more information and entry details please click here: <http://goo.gl/8rpZju>

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 Saturday 16th August and Novice Individuals, Pairs, Family Pairs and the Individual Ride-Off on Sunday 17th August. For more information and entry details please click here: <http://goo.gl/TyMM9T>

Online Dressage Championships

Congratulations to the winning Members of The Pony Club Online Dressage Championships, hosted by Dressage Anywhere. Results are on the website. Qualifiers for the 2014/2015 Championships start on 1st July, using Walk & Trot tests up to Open. It's a great way to have a go at a competition or to practise the Area tests with feedback from listed Judges, so please keep an eye on the website for more information. <http://goo.gl/EMFYqH>

<http://www.dressageanywhere.com/>

Dengie Winter League Dressage 2014/2015

This year Preliminary Rounds begin in July and rules and a booking form can be found at: <http://goo.gl/yDknUL>

b. 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 Series

Please remind all Members aged 15 years or over, with young horses (5, 6 or 7 years old) that they can take part in the YEHS 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/mY7l8o>

c. Mounted Games



ZONE FINALS

For more information please see the website: <http://goo.gl/31jB2e>

SENIOR COMPETITIONS

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

8th - 12th October 2014

The 2nd - 7th Placed Teams will qualify for the Runners-Up Competitions at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships 2014; Monday 18th August 2014.

The 8th - 10th Placed Teams will qualify for the Intermediate Final Competitions at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships 2014; Saturday 16th August 2014.

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

The 1st - 6th Placed Teams will qualify for the Junior Final Competition at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships 2014; Sunday 17th August 2014.

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

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES EXCHANGE

This year sees the UK host the Mounted Games Exchange from 4th to 17th August with teams from Canada, United States of America and the UK. The trip concludes at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships 2014 where the 5 teams compete against each other on borrowed ponies in the International competition which will be held on Saturday 16th August after the Intermediate competition.

<http://goo.gl/aP6Lkx>

d. Polo



Teams have been formed and the tournament season kicks off on Saturday 12th 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/KjiraO>

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

e. Polocrosse



The Pony Club has accepted an offer from the UK Polocrosse Association (UKPA) to allow our Branches and Centres to act as UK Polocrosse Association clubs for entry to UKPA polocrosse tournaments in 2014. This is intended to allow Pony Club Members to play in more polocrosse tournaments throughout the season without having to separately join a UK Polocrosse Association Club (please note that the players will have to still be members of the UK Polocrosse Association itself) and also to allow Branches and Centres to be successful under their own names in these tournaments (without the Branches or Centres having to separately register as a UKPA polocrosse club).

For all UKPA tournaments Pony club Branches and Centres can now enter teams without having to register as a UKPA club in their own right. However, the individual Pony Club players must still be either temporary or full members of the UK Polocrosse Association. These Pony Club teams will then play against a mix of other Pony Club and UKPA clubs' teams in an appropriate playing grade, given their age and experience.

Full membership of the UK Polocrosse varies depending on the age of the player but temporary event membership costs just £10 for a tournament. It is best to arrange this membership in advance but it can be paid over at the event itself if necessary providing all forms are completed before the players play their first game.

Any UK Polocrosse Tournaments do have to be entered in advance in order for the teams to be put in an appropriate grade. For a step by step guide on how to enter a

UKPA tournament as a Pony Club Branch or Centre go to page 3 of this document – <http://goo.gl/C8jfdw>

To see a list of all UK Polocrosse tournaments and find out more details about them and about UKPA temporary and full membership go to <http://www.ukpolocrosse.co.uk>

If you have any queries regarding this please contact either Hannah Clack (Pony Club Polocrosse Secretary) or Jan Whitehead (Pony Club Polocrosse Chairman)

f. Pony Racing



Get the latest dates and schedules for The Pony Club Race Days: <http://goo.gl/bXhHz3>

g. Show Jumping



Summer Championships

Entries are now open for the NEW Elite Show Jumping competition. Details can be found on the website: <http://goo.gl/p9cRUK>

Olympia, The London International Horse Show

Following the successful running of the Mini/Major competition at last year's Olympia, The Pony Club have been asked once again to select Members to compete at the 2014 show on Monday, 22nd December. The Mini/Major Competition pairs up Pony Club Members on 128 cm ponies with Top International Riders.

Each Member who wishes to apply must fill in an application form accompanied by an equestrian CV (no longer than one side of A4 paper). The application form must be signed by the Parent / Guardian, the DC and the Area Representative. The Application Guide and Form are available to download from the website: <http://goo.gl/MbWcpi>

Closing date for applications to The Pony Club Office is Wednesday, 6th August 2014

Dengie Winter League Show Jumping

The Dengie Winter League Series gives Members a wonderful opportunity to compete over properly built and judged courses and gain experience in the show jumping ring within their comfort zone.

Please promote the 2014/2015 Dengie series to your Branch as we have found that many Members are not aware of Dengie or think that it is “not for them”.

WLSJ Booking Form 2014 / 2015

Some Branches may have already received and returned this form from an earlier email mailing. The Preliminary Round runs from 1st July 2014 until 28th February 2015. Additional forms are available to download from the website:

<http://goo.gl/MNZirP>

WLSJ Rule Book 2014 / 2015

A copy of the Rules has been sent to all District Commissioners. Any additional copies can be either downloaded from the website or a copy can be sent on request:

<http://goo.gl/YlfgPi>

4. Other News

a. Merchandise

The new Pony Club boot bag is an exciting addition to complement our existing range. Retailing at £22.95 it features hardwearing 600 denier outer material which is both waterproof and breathable. It is nylon lined with individual boot compartments to prevent boots rubbing together and getting marked with each side accessible by side zips. It also features a carry handle and adjustable over shoulder carry strap (removable with clip fastenings), 2 outer pockets for spurs, gloves etc, and a whip holder at the back. There are also 4 hard plastic grips to the base to help prevent wear and tear on the bottom of the bag.

Please can I ask that you allow plenty of time when ordering merchandise from us. Even if you have requested your order to be sent first class we are still reliant on Royal Mail and this service can often take up to 2 working days to reach you. It is also one of our busiest times as it is yours so please do allow a little bit longer when placing orders.

Also can I remind you to include postage on all orders sent to us with cheques. The costs are as follows;

Nil - £9.99 - £1.00

£10.00 to £29.99 - £2.00

£30.00 & over - £3.00

The Pony Club sale is now on. Visit <http://shop.pcuk.org> to grab a bargain with many items up to 50% off!

b. Online Helpdesk

Over the next couple of weeks we will be rolling out our new online Helpdesk, which you will be able to use to get support for all Pony Club-related queries.

We already have IT support queries (sent via database@pcuk.org) going through the Helpdesk, and the plan is to also have general enquiries sent to it as well. This will allow us to more efficiently pass queries onto the relevant people and therefore offer our volunteers an increased level of support.

The Helpdesk will also feature a Knowledgebase of Frequently Asked Questions which will be added to and updated over time – this will provide answers to the most common queries which we receive at the office.

Full details of how to access the Helpdesk will be sent out to officials once it is launched.

c. 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.

85th Anniversary Logo

As you will be aware, 2014 sees the 85th Anniversary of The Pony Club and as such we have produced a special logo to commemorate the occasion.. We invite you to use the logo on any Branch literature that you print for this year, as well as on your Branch's social media accounts.



To obtain a copy of the logo, please email Vicky Kangurs: vicky@pcuk.org, stating the name of your Branch and the file format you require (formats available are JPG, PNG, EPS or PDF). We have also produced a set of guidelines for use of the logo, which are available to download as a PDF document from the PR & Marketing section of <http://www.pcuk.org>

Event Offers

Details of offers for Pony Club Members to major events can be found under 'Event Offers' on the News section of www.pcuk.org. Events, as they become available, including Blenheim Horse Trials, HOYS and Olympia. <http://goo.gl/ceLCNz>

The Pet Show

The Pony Club will again be enjoying a large presence at The Pet Show, Stoneleigh Park, August 2-3rd 2014, where we will be running four different areas at the show designed to introduce young people to ponies and what being a Member of The Pony Club is all about! <http://goo.gl/l3zbzy>



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/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 or have any questions regarding the Marketing Pack please 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

d. 85th Anniversary Camp Certificate

Following feedback from the Annual Conference, we have produced a commemorative 85th Anniversary Pony Club Camp certificate which can be downloaded and given to your Members at Camp this year.

The file is a PDF file and can be easily printed on a home computer. Alternatively, it is also possible to send to a local printer if you require a larger number.

The certificate can be downloaded by going to the PR & Marketing section of our website: <http://goo.gl/eyXI9E> and selecting the '85th Anniversary' tab.

e. Young Equestrians

You may shortly start to see mention in the equestrian media about the Young Equestrians' product, delivered by Hoof and aimed at creating social / training hubs in riding schools for 13-18 year olds, which is due for roll out on the 28th July in partnership with The Pony Club.

Young Equestrians seeks to provide young people with a weekly two hour session at their local riding school where they can make new friends, gain experience that can be incorporated into their CV, get the opportunity to ride and take responsibility for their own learning. For further information please visit www.hoofride.co.uk or if you have any questions about The Pony Club's partnership with the scheme contact Clare Walkeden: media@pcuk.org

f. Health and Safety

There have been some detail changes to the Pony Club rules for riding hats. These have been made to accommodate the use of hats that do not require a cover.

Hats, ~~with a cover~~ must be worn at all times (this includes at prize-giving) when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall. ~~Hats with vertical plastic/metallic strips are permitted.~~

For Show Jumping and Mounted Games the cover, **if applicable** shall be dark blue, black or brown only. **For Dressage – hats and hat covers must be predominately black, navy blue or a conservative dark colour that matches the rider's jacket for Area competitions or above.** The Pony Club hat silk is also acceptable.

The fundamental requirements remain unaltered, hats must be worn properly fastened when mounted.

g. Posted Items

The Evidence of Insurance, Certificate of Insurance and both Dressage & Show Jumping Dengie Winter League Rule Books will be posted directly to DCs. All copies can also be downloaded from the website: <http://goo.gl/konC5f> (Evidence of Insurance - available from 1st July 2014), <http://goo.gl/yDknUL> (Dengie Winter League Dressage Rule Book), <http://goo.gl/YlfgPi> (Dengie Winter League Show Jumping Rule Book)

h. Finance – Questions and Feedback from Branches and Treasurers

Iain Heaton has recently joined the Pony club office as the new Director of Finance and Operations. He is available to help answer any questions that treasurers or other committee members might have about financial procedures within their branches.

He is also looking at trying to improve a number of areas so as to make the workload of treasurers easier but if treasurers or other committee members have suggestions as to what would help them with handling the finances for their branch he would welcome the feedback.

Iain can be contacted via email on iain@pcuk.org and by telephone on 02476 698314