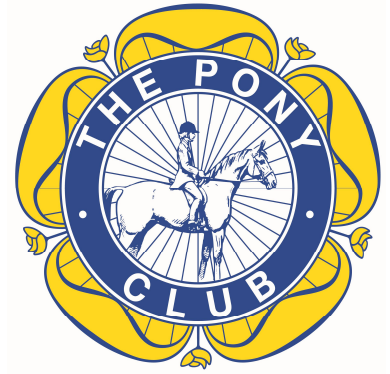


Branch E-Bulletin

March 2015



1. Introduction

Dear All,

This will be my final message to you all as Chief Executive so may I repeat what I said at the conference; that I feel enormously privileged to have served you all & this wonderful organisation for the last ten years & to thank you for your friendship & support during this time.

I was overwhelmed by the reception I received from all those of you who were at Cheltenham & I shall always remember the occasion with fondness & pride. Thank you.

I will not be disappearing altogether as I will be rejoining the ranks of volunteers as a show jumping judge at the Championships, so I will look forward very much to seeing many of you again in August.

In the meantime I wish my successor Mrs. Pip Kirkby all the very best when she takes over the mantle in April.

With Very Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judy', with a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the left from the start of the name.

Judy E. Edwards
Chief Executive

2. Training

COACHING

Coaching Conferences

This year's conferences are running with a theme of 'Coaching and Instructing through the Tests', and will explain the difference and similarities between instructing and coaching, and highlight the value of both approaches in different scenarios. This will be demonstrated with groups of Pony Club Members, encompassing all levels of Pony Club Tests, and four coaches will demonstrate different coaching or instruction styles and present attendees with new, fun and effective ideas and techniques for engaging and rider-centred sessions. Applications are being taken online <http://events.pcuk.org> for both conferences:

Tuesday 31st March – The Cabin EC, Aberdeen
Thursday 2nd April – Bridgend College, Pencoed

Both conferences count as a CPD refresher for BHS registered instructors in addition to counting as Pony Club CPD. Further details and the timetables are on the website: <http://goo.gl/rmv4yB> Book now as places are going fast!

Continual Professional Development (CPD) for Instructors and Coaches

There are a variety of courses available for CPD, which are listed on the website: <http://goo.gl/TQOqUu> We have received feedback from some coaches that they are not always sure which course they should do, so some existing courses have been renamed, to try and make the choices clearer. There are also some new CPD opportunities which may be of interest to your Branch or Centre. There is a summary of the courses available below, but please take a look at the website for course content and how you can organise them: <http://goo.gl/VIGN6Q>

- Introduction to Coaching – Step 1 – Ideal for new and young coaches
- Introduction to Coaching – Step 2 – Follow on from Step 1, and a refresher for more experienced coaches
- NEW! Introduction to Coaching Cross Country – Step 3 – Ideal for coaches who actively coach jumping and want to start coaching cross country, or as a refresher for other coaches already coaching cross country
- NEW! Coach Support Days – An alternative CPD refresher method which has been successfully piloted in Area 9. For these days, a coach supporter/mentor attends a day rally, or day at camp and spends some time observing each coach and then discussing, in a supportive way, their coaching, and ways to develop and or improve themselves as a coach. The trials in Area 9 have been extremely well received, despite a few coaches being nervous about it to begin with.
- General Coach CPD update courses - It was requested that the Training Committee suggest annual themes for coach CPD. The suggested theme for 2015 is Rider Balance, and a recommended format is available on the website, along with delivery notes for course tutors.

There is a Coach CPD evening at Easton College, Norwich, at 6:30pm on Tuesday 24th March. The evening is titled “How the Basics Help the Grand Prix Training”, and is being presented by Jill Day, UKCC L3. Jill is an established and respected coach, and is the Coaching Lead for British Dressage. As a rider she represented GB 9 times at Grand Prix and has trained several horses to Grand Prix. Tickets cost £15 per person and can be booked online here: http://events.pcuk.org/?page_id=1538

Instructor Database Update

Thank you to everyone who has helped us to gather the information for the Instructors Database; we have received forms from in excess of 400 Instructors and Coaches. The data is now being uploaded, but it isn't too late for Instructors and Coaches to send their

details! We will continue to accept and upload Instructor information free of charge for the duration of the period we are uploading the data (approximately until the end of March), after which time a fee will be required for outstanding instructors, due to the additional staff costs incurred at The Pony Club office to input the information. Instructors will be able to access and update their own records from October, after which point, they will be responsible for keeping their own details up to date and in line with the coach requirements. If you have any queries about adding instructor information to the database, please contact Jenny Cowen: jenny@pcuk.org

UKCC

Congratulations to Caroline Hawkins, who passed her UKCC Level 3 on 5th January! Caroline is a Visiting Coach based in Area 12, and is the fifth coach to complete the qualification with The Pony Club.

New Visiting Coaches

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

- Alison Craig BHSI, UKCC Level 3 (Recommended - Area 11 and Discipline Specific - Dressage)
- Liz Madeley BHSAI, SM, Int.T, UKCC Level 3 (Recommended - Area 6)
- Amanda (Mandi) King BHSII SM (Recommended - Area 17)

TESTS

AH Tests

As you may know, it has been agreed that the AH Test can now be attempted modularly, so Members can attempt any number of the four sections at a time. In order to make record keeping as simple as possible, the Training Committee agreed that applications for, results and certification of the AH Test should be handled centrally by the office.

Therefore, all nomination forms (countersigned by your Area Representative) will now be handled by The Pony Club office.

The AH Test Nomination Form has been updated and is available on the website:

<http://goo.gl/nnDy8O>

B+ and A Tests

A Test Training days, which were previously only open to Members working towards the A Test are now also open to Members working towards the B+ Test. The training will follow the format of an A Test, so will include coaching in outdoor riding (jumping and cross country), indoor riding (dressage) and lungeing. Please pass on details to any Members who have achieved the B and/or AH Test who you feel might be interested in attending; details and dates are on the website: <http://goo.gl/AufpWl>

The Training Committee are also planning a small number of standard setting days for coaches who train Members for the B+ and A Tests. We realise that there are not many opportunities for coaches to observe the standards expected for these Tests, and so the aim is to put on two or three of these days regionally each year, so that everyone

becomes more familiar with the standards, which will be of benefit to the Members working towards those levels. More information will be available about these days, which will run before the summer holidays, will be sent out soon.

Assessor Training Workshops

The D and D+ Test assessor training workshops designed by the Centre and Training Committees (but open to Branch and Centre assessors) are proving to be very successful so far. Currently, these workshops are being arranged by Centre Coordinators, but may also be put on by Area or Branch officials (the format for the workshop is attached).

Currently, this workshop is not compulsory, but from January 2017, all new assessors at this level, will be required to attend this workshop before beginning to assess.

There will be a C Test assessor Training workshop introduced in 2016 (format will be circulated later this year); this will also become compulsory for new assessors for new assessors at this level in 2017. For further information and for workshop dates, visit the website: <http://goo.gl/Uaqx2N>

A Test Reunion

We've had a really positive response to the A Test Reunion so far; thank you to everyone who has been helping to spread the word! A Test holders can now book their tickets, either online: <http://events.pcuk.org> or by downloading an application form www.pcuk.org/training/a_test_reunion The A Test Reunion comprises two events:

- Monday 22nd June - Gala dinner at the Best Western Buckingham Hotel. After dinner speaker: William Micklem, FBHS, A Test Honours. 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Dress Code: Lounge Suits Tickets: £25 to include an arrival drink and three course meal. Accommodation is available, please check the website for details on how to book.
- Tuesday 23rd June - A Test Celebration and training day at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre, hosted by Richard Davison, four-time Olympian, European Medallist and A Test holder, and John Ledingham, Olympian and celebrated International Coach. 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Detailed timetable to follow shortly. Richard and John will work with past and present Pony Club Members to bring attendees a series of riding sessions celebrating The Pony Club's highest accolade. Tickets: £15 to include lunch.

Ticket discount offer: £38.50 to include tickets to both events.

Like the A Test Reunion Facebook page to keep up to date: <http://goo.gl/LVxO9t>

Test Badges



A reminder that we have cloth badges available which Members can sew onto their sweatshirts to display which Test(s) they have passed in the same way that the badge and felt does. These were requested by instructors, who suggested

that when Members have body protectors on, or are not wearing their badge, these would be an alternative and safe way to recognise the different levels of riders. The badges, available in all colours up to B Test level, cost £1 each and can be ordered from the Merchandise department.

New Achievement Badges

Some new achievement badges have been created, and are now available from the Merchandise department. Some of the badge suggestions we receive now are geared more towards Members working above the C Test level. These badges (marked with an asterisk*) are therefore identified by having a yellow background, and are a different shape. Read more on the website: <http://goo.gl/f4Oo2k>

- * Understanding Training
- * Sequence of Footfalls
- * Lungeing Equipment
- Mini Colours
- Mini Footfalls
- Mini Plaiting

OTHER TRAINING NEWS

Ambassador Scheme

Nominations are now open for a new intake of Pony Club Ambassadors: Do you have any exceptional and invaluable Members who go over and above to support your Branch or Centre?

- 18 years old or over
- Actively supportive in the Branch / Centre / Area
- A Pony Club member for a minimum of five consecutive years
- Committed to The Pony Club aims and ethos.

Nomination forms and further details on the process for nomination and the opportunities for Ambassadors can be found on the website: <http://goo.gl/Qjik6Z>

Stonar Eventing Training Days

Stonar, the sponsor for Pony Club Eventing are also kindly sponsoring an Area Eventing Training Series in 2015. These are being organised within each Area for Members interested in Eventing at levels 3 and 4, and will focus on giving riders the skills to promote and maintain horse and rider balance to ride cross country safely and effectively. For more information, and training dates, please visit the website: <http://goo.gl/22Vnc2>

Rider Development Pathway

Applications for the RDP assessments are now closed, and the list of riders going forward is on the website.

There are still a few Winter Training Days open, which run up until Easter; Members do not need to fulfil the criteria for RDP assessments to attend, so please encourage those interested in applying in future years to have a look!

For further information on the RDP, visit the website <http://goo.gl/YsRChE> or like the RDP Facebook page www.facebook.com/PCRD

3. Competitive Disciplines

a. Dressage



Dengie Winter League Dressage

Members who were successful at Preliminary Rounds are now competing at their Area Competitions to try and qualify for the Championships at Warwickshire College in April. Thank you to Branches and Centres who ran Preliminary Rounds, keep an eye out for information on the 2015/2016 series!

Dressage to Music Competition

The Baker Tilly Freestyle Dressage to Music Competition will be held at Warwickshire College alongside the Winter League Championships on Saturday 4th April. There are individual Novice, Intermediate and Open classes, a pairs class and a team competition. More information can be found at the Dressage to Music Competitions page on the website: <http://goo.gl/PAHwt4> and entries can be made online at <http://events.pcuk.org>

Dressage Anywhere Online Championship

The qualifying period has been extended to 15th August. If travelling is difficult but you want to enter a championship or you want some extra competition experience, choose your test from the Dressage Anywhere monthly schedule (D Level Walk and Trot, C Level Dressage Test, Novice 2009 or Open) ride it at home and get it videoed. It will be judged by a British Dressage listed top judge and you will receive your easy-to-read typed score sheet online. Go to the Scoreboard to see your placing - complete with your Branch or Centre name and see if a rosette might be following in the post. Riders with the highest percentages during this period will be invited to ride in the Championships. For more info go to www.pcuk.org or www.dressageanywhere.com

b. Eventing



Young Event Horses League

Now that the Eventing season has begun, please remind your Members that they can take part in the YEHL if they have a horse or pony aged 5, 6 or 7 years.

There are no specific qualifying competitions – they can submit their results from any Pony Club Level 3 Eventing competition run in 2015 in order to gain points.

Rules and results cards can be downloaded from the website here:

<http://goo.gl/L72k3x>

Open Eventing League

Don't forget if you are running a One Day Event and are including an Open (Level 5) class, you can apply to include this class in the Open Eventing League.

Likit kindly supply prizes for competitors competing in the league and once results are sent into the office they get added to the national league table.

A current list of league events and further details on the Likit Open League is available on the website here. <http://goo.gl/MU67un>

Eventing Study days for Stewards and Officials

For 2015 Eventing and Tetrathlon have teamed up to share the running costs of their Study Days. This Study Days are open to all Branch officials, stewards and trainers involved with Eventing and Tetrathlon Competitions in 2015. We still have space at the Northern Study Day;

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 Burgham are still open online at

<http://events.pcuk.org>

c. Mounted Games



Pony Club Mounted Games Study Day

This will be held at Banwen Pony Club Onllwynon, Saturday 28th March 2015. The day will cover the new games, rules, tack & turnout, line stewarding and will be followed by a friendly competition.

Please contact Dennis Whitney by Wednesday 25th March if interested on 07977 616388 or email whitney_onllwyn@yahoo.co.uk

Further information can be found on the website here: <http://goo.gl/zs8vek>

d. Polo



Pony Club Members are welcome to join their neighbouring Branches for polo, if it is not offered by their own Branch. A list of upcoming polo rallies can be found at the Polo Training page of the website: <http://goo.gl/suOCCL>

If you are new to polo and would like more information or have Members who would like to have a go please contact laura@pcuk.org

e. Polocrosse



Polocrosse Home International

Please note that there are only 7 weeks to go before the closing date for the Nomination Form for the Polocrosse Home International, which is taking place at Celyn Polocrosse Club, Backford, Cheshire on Saturday and Sunday, 25th & 26th July. Please send in your nominations as soon as possible.

4. Other News

a. PR and Marketing

The Pony Club Logo

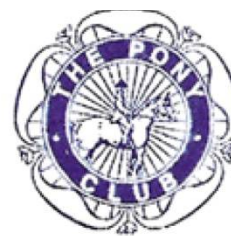
Does your logo look like any of these?



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 now at the end of our 85th Anniversary year please can we ask that you revert to using the standard Pony Club logo, not than 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/RGr043> 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. Merchandise

New for 2015

- Fleece Saddle Cover priced at £14.99. Black fleece saddle cover from Snuggly Hoods featuring embroidered Pony Club logo on one side. <http://goo.gl/1DYynM>
- Dog lead priced at £5.95. Funky webbed dog lead in Pony Club colours. <http://goo.gl/yBc4TN>
- Rider Safety Wall Chart priced at £3.95. An informative laminated A2 wall chart about essential safety information on rider equipment. <http://goo.gl/6Q30UI>

The Trade Stand will be at Badminton from 6th-10th May, please come and visit us!

If you haven't already don't forget to order your 2015 Membership Cards from Caroline: caroline@pcuk.org or Kirsty: Kirsty@pcuk.org

Drop them an email stating how many you would like and where you want them delivered.

c. Finance

CAF Bank charges and solution

Branches who bank with CAF bank should have received a letter from CAF bank lately notifying them of plans to charge them if they pay in more than 50 cheques per month. CAF bank do offer our Branches an online dual authorisation system which is very useful to make payments with and so if you are thinking of stopping banking with them due to these new charges it is probably worthwhile considering whether you could instead reduce the number of monthly cheques going into CAF bank. One such way would be to have a normal high street bank account to pay all Member's cheques into and then simply transfer funds once or twice a month via a single cheque to CAF bank.

Alternatively you could consider whether your Members could make some or all payments to the Branch via online bank transfers, rather than using cheques. If you are considering receiving money online from Members it is best to set up a system to allow you to easily identify what the amounts are for. Different Branches have different systems but the two most common are either a simple reference system for each event which can be entered into online banking software by the Member when they make the payment or via stipulating that emails should be sent each time a Member makes a payment to the branch saying the amount and what it was for.

d. NFU Mutual National Quiz

The NFU Mutual National Quiz Final will be taking place at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell on Saturday, 4th April. Can all qualifying teams please send in their entry forms by Friday, 27th March so that their names can be included in the printed programme.

e. young equestrians Pony Club in partnership with hoof

A new social and training programme for young people launched at The Weatherbys Private Banking Pony Club Championships last 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.younequestrians.club for more information.

f. The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Competition

The following Area Qualifiers are still to take place:

| Area | Date | Venue |
|-------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 17.04.2015 | Cowton Riding Centre |
| 2 | 09.04.2015 | Linnel Wood |
| 3 | 10.04.2015 | Lower Rookes Farm |
| 4 & 5 | 25.04.2015 | Aintree Racecourse |
| 6 | 27.05.2015 | Ivanhoe EC |
| 7 | 10.04.2015 | Hollyfast Meadows |
| 8 | 10.04.2015 | Barnston Lodge |
| 9 | 09.04.2015 | Old Berks Hunt, |
| 10 | 31.03.2015 | Underhill Riding Stables |
| 11 | 28.06.2015 | Littlebrook EC |
| 12 | 10.05.2015 | Wormwood Scrubs Park |
| 14 | 12.04.2015 | Skylands |
| 19 | 28.06.2015 | Terona |

We look forward to receiving the results, and would appreciate some photos and write ups if any are taken on the day! Full details of Area Qualifiers are available via the following link: <http://goo.gl/el6KQC>

A reminder for those who qualify that the Championships will take place on Saturday 22nd August 2015 for the Juniors, and Sunday 23rd August 2015 for Seniors.

g. Health and Safety

Clarification about the three recent Health and Safety issues (hat tagging, the withdrawal of the EN 1384 hat standard and the securing of portable fences) can be found on the Health and Safety page: <http://goo.gl/RuLI9X> The page is under the 'For Officials - Rules and Guidance' tab, but there is also a link from the Rules of the Pony Club page under the 'For Parents - Useful Information' tab so parents and Members can access the information easily. If you have any queries relating to Health and Safety please email Vicky Kangurs at vicky@pcuk.org

h. Hunting Exchange 2015

The United States Pony Clubs have extended a very exciting invitation to an International Foxhunting Exchange to take place in the Lexington KY area, to commence on October 22, 2015 and end on October 31, 2015. For more information on how to apply, including being a chaperone please click here: <http://goo.gl/X59eri>

i. Kent & Masters Saddles

The Kent & Masters range of pony saddles has been officially endorsed by The Pony Club. Made in England, the Kent & Masters range feature a changeable gullet system, so the width fitting can be altered from narrow/medium to xx wide to enable adjustment to fit the pony, as its condition changes. The saddles are flocked with British wool and feature different girthing options. Find out more:

<http://tinyurl.com/ojoqyz6>

j. The Blue Cross



Looking for a new horse or pony?

Blue Cross has many horses and ponies in Pony Club homes, and is always looking to rehome into experienced homes.

Benefits of the Blue Cross loan scheme

There are a number of benefits of rehoming a horse or pony using our Blue Cross monitored rehoming loan scheme:

- You can "try before you buy";
- We'll give you an honest history of the horse;
- It's value for money;
- You're supporting a charity and making it possible for us to help more horses in need.

If you rehome a non-ridden horse from us, you'll be given ongoing support through a tailor-made financial package agreed between you and our horse team.

Please visit our rehoming pages to have a look at the horses currently looking for a new home, and fill in a Homefinder form which you can find at <http://goo.gl/SyrKvk> or call 0300 777 1570 for more information.

Unwanted horses urgently need you!

If you want to do something to help with the terrible welfare crisis facing so many horses at the moment, please consider giving a Blue Cross horse a short term home. This frees up valuable space in our centres so that we can take in more horses who urgently need our help, and could be the perfect solution for you if you have the time and facilities for a horse but you're not looking for a long term commitment.

We desperately need short term loan homes for:

- Youngsters - somewhere they can grow, be handled, and then returned to us to be backed before going to a long term home;
- Horses recuperating from illness or injury - these horses need that extra bit of care and attention to bring them back to full health.