

Branch E-Bulletin

May 2014



1. Introduction

Dear All,

Firstly, welcome to our new style 'on-line' Bulletin which now, due to your requests, replaces the hard copy which you have received in the past. This format will enable us to provide you with up to the minute information and will considerably reduce the paper flow you receive from the office.

It was good to see so many of you at the Conference at Epsom and thank you for all your kind letters and comments. We try to make the National Conference both instructional and entertaining at the same time giving you the opportunity to network and spend some quality time with friends and colleagues.

I am personally always grateful for topics and ideas that you would like to see included so do please let me know if you have any such ideas.

Next year's conference will again be at Cheltenham and the date for your diary is Wednesday 4th March 2015.

You will find on the Health and Safety pages of this Bulletin, contact details for our Child Protection / Safeguarding Officer, Christine Gould. If you have any issues for which you need some expert advice, Christine is on hand to help you.

Unfortunately there are still a number of Branches who are not keeping their Membership up to date on the database. Can we remind you that it is a Rule of The Pony Club that this information is kept up to date to satisfy our own Insurance requirements and Branches are in breach of our rules if they fail to do so (Please see page 91 of the 2014 Year Book).

If there are any Branches that still need advice on how to do this, please contact Marty Bibby (marty@pcuk.org, 02476 698318)

In Closing, all of the staff here at Stoneleigh join me in sending their very best wishes as we all look forward to the spring and summer seasons of activities.

Judy E Edwards
Chief Executive

2. Training



Rider Development Pathway - Nine very successful regional Training & Assessment days were held during the Easter holidays, with over 200 riders attending in total. The three most talented Dressage, Eventing and Show Jumping riders were selected from each regional assessment day to attend the National Rider Development Camp in the summer. In addition, a further three 'wild card' spaces have been offered for the Camp. For full details and results, visit the website:

<http://www.pcu.org/training/riderdevelopmentpathway/> and for photos from the regional assessment days, visit the RDP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PCRDP>

Congratulations to the 30 successful riders!!

3. Competitive Disciplines

COMPETITION REMINDER TO ALL BRANCHES

Please remember to check all your Member's eligibility before entering them for any competitions, especially the Area.

Note regarding Tack Checking at Branch and Area competitions in Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing

Please note that, although The Pony Club would like competitors to use plain tack and dress, there is nothing in our rule book to stipulate this.

There is a perception that The Pony Club only allows completely plain tack and dress. We do not want The Pony Club to be saddled with an 'old fashioned' label. We would rather retain Members and educate them, than alienate them.

The most important aspect of the Tack Check is the safety element, i.e. checking that the stirrups are the correct size, that hats are tagged and that stitching is safe and secure etc.

a. Dressage

Online Dressage Championship

Congratulations to all The Pony Club Branch and Centre Members who took part in and qualified for The Pony Club Online Dressage Championship hosted by Dressage Anywhere. We will have the results of the Championship classes soon with Members having a go at Walk and Trot, Introductory, Novice and Intermediate Pony Club Dressage Tests.

Hosted by Dressage Anywhere the competition gives the opportunity to all Branch and Centre Members to compete from home or from their own yard or field by videoing their test and uploading it to be judged by British Dressage listed judges.



Please go to www.dressageanywhere.com for more information and keep an eye on www.pcuk.org/index.php/disciplines/dressage/dressage_competitions_and_events for details of the next Championship.

b. Eventing



Young Event Horses Series – Now that the Eventing season has begun, please remind your Members aged 15 and over that they can take part in the YEHS 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 2014 in order to gain points. Rules and results cards can be downloaded from the website:

http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/disciplines/eventing/eventing_competitions_and_events/young_event_horse_series/

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. A current list of league events is available on the website:

http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/disciplines/eventing/eventing_competitions_and_events/likit_open_eventing_league/

c. Pony Racing



NOTE: There has been an omission from The Pony Club Pony Racing Rule Book 2014:

Rule 5 - Dress

e) Electronic devices (i.e. headphones, mobile phones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider) are not allowed whilst the rider is competing. No recording device is permitted (e.g. head / bridle cameras etc.)

d. Show Jumping



ELITE INDIVIDUAL SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION will be held at The Pony Club Championships, Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire on Monday 18th August 2014

Click for here for full competition details and how to enter:

http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/disciplines/show_jumping/show_jumpingshowjumping_competitions_and_events/elite_individual_show_jumping_competition/

e. The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Competition

The Horse and Pony Care qualifiers are now well under way! If any teams are still interested in attending a qualifier; please check the qualifier dates on the Horse and Pony Care page below:

http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/activities/activities_the_blue_cross_horse_and_pony_care_competition/

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 horses that are under 14.2hh on Saturday 16th and between 14.2hh and 16hh on Sunday 17th. 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 16th or 17th August please email assistant@pcuk.org

We would like to remind Organisers that we need a hard copy of your Area's results which can be posted to The Pony Club Office, Stoneleigh Park. Thank you to those of you who have already done this. If any Organisers or participants have any photos from the Area qualifiers please email these to assistant@pcuk.org as we would like to include a selection on the website.

f. The Magic Musical Ride

Entries are now open for the Musical Ride at Cholmondeley Castle on Sunday 17th August 2014. Entries can be made online at <http://events.pcuk.org>

This year, teams may consist of 6 to 12 competitors. Rules can be found online at www.pcuk.org – Members Activities – Magic Musical Ride. New for 2014, all Teams wanting to enter a Pony Club Musical Ride competition will need to ensure that one of their team is responsible for the musical license and as such must be a British Dressage Music Member.

Please note that entries for this competition will close on Friday 11th July 2014. Please provide all competitor names and themes to lucy@pcuk.org by this date. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

4. Other News

a. Merchandise

We have some great new merchandise now available to help celebrate our 85th year: <http://shop.pcuk.org/85th-commemorative.html>

We are exhibiting at Badminton Horse Trials (7th – 11th May). Come and see us on stand number 135 where we will have our usual range of merchandise plus our new commemorative 85th items.

Endurance Riding written by Nicola Parsler is our brand new full colour publication which describes the equipment, preparation, veterinary, training and practical considerations which an endurance rider will encounter:

<http://shop.pcuk.org/books-dvd-s/books/endurance-riding-and-trekking.html>

b. 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, as was done for the 80th Anniversary. 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 Marty Bibby, marty@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 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, include the Newbury Races, Royal Windsor Horse Show, London Pet Show, Bramham Horse Trials, Blenheim Horse Trials HOYS and Olympia.

<http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/news/51>



London Pet Show - The Pony Club will again be enjoying a large presence at The London Pet Show at Earls Court during May 17-18th 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://www.pcuk.org/index.php/activities/london_pet_show_2013/

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://www.pcuk.org/index.php/dcs_information/pr_marketing/ 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

c. The Pony Club SEA Art Competition



Entries are now open for our annual Art Competition. The competition will run until 15th June 2014 and the finalists will once again have their work displayed at The Pony Club Championships.

Members should enter online at <http://memories.pcuk.org> - a full set of rules is available on the site, as well as current entries. For further information please contact Marty Bibby, marty@pcuk.org

d. Safeguarding

Mrs Christine Gould is now the contact for all Pony Club Safeguarding issues. Her email address is christine@cgould9.wanadoo.co.uk and her contact phone numbers are 01709 366651 (Home) or 07833 523626 (Mobile).

A note from Christine Gould, Pony Club Safeguarding:

Following a case from another member organisation we would like to remind you all that if you are taking groups of children to camps, competitions or other events inside and/or outside of this country the escorts must have obtained a DBS clearance or similar in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. If the group contains male and female members then the escorting adults must include men and women. The escorts should also have undergone some first aid training in order to be in a

position to deal with any incidents which could occur, and must be in a position to prevent any bullying or harassment on the part of the young people in the group. If there are any such serious incidents, the group leaders should not be afraid to contact the parents and send the young person home. No escort should ever share a room with an individual child particularly one of the opposite gender unless the child is so ill that they need to be monitored all night and the escort is undertaking nursing duties. Sharing a room with a single child who is not related to the adult leaves both parties open to allegations being made against them.

We know that most of you are aware of the above guidance, but due to the position another organisation found itself in when not following this guidance which resulted in a number of incidents and culminated in a serious incident, we feel it is necessary that we reinforce the guidance.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks - Can Branches and Centres please let Hannah Clack know the DBS information on applicants, as DBS only send the certificate to the applicant, therefore D.C.'s and Centre Proprietors will need to see sight of their employee's DBS certificates and make a note of the date, disclosure number and organisation doing the check and also send a copy of this information to The Pony Club office. All information to be sent to hannah@pcuk.org