

BRANCH BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2012



Dear All,

It doesn't seem possible that four years have passed since the last Olympic Games, but 2012 is now here and in just seven months time, the world will be descending on London. I hope that many of you will have been successful in gaining tickets for this forthcoming spectacle and will be able to enjoy the sporting experience of a lifetime.

We wish the 48 successful Pony Club Young Games Makers the best of times for their Olympic volunteering experience and we hope to see past Pony Club Members up there on the podium for the equestrian events.

As you will read elsewhere in this bulletin, our National Conference is for the first time being held in Northern Ireland. Belfast has so much to offer so we do hope that as many of you as possible will be joining us. We have a very interesting programme lined up and the Belfast Waterfront Conference Centre is a beautiful venue overlooking the river Lagan.

This year we welcome a new sponsor to Eventing with Strutt & Parker and we all look forward to welcoming them to the various events and functions throughout the year.

With winter hopefully on the wane, we can now all look forward to another happy and successful Pony Club Year and as always we send our very best wishes and our thanks for all that you do.

All Best Wishes,

Judy E Edwards
Chief Executive

ANNUAL CONFERENCE – WEDNESDAY, 7TH MARCH, BELFAST WATERFRONT

If you have not yet applied for your tickets for the Annual Conference, the closing date is Friday 10th February. Tickets can be booked on line at <http://events.pcuk.org>. In the Olympic year, the conference is intended to be a celebration of The Pony Club and its strengths. For more information and to download an application form please visit the website:

http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/dcs_information/annual_conference/

We look forward to seeing you there!

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Please ensure that your Membership database is updated to reflect your current Membership. Instructions for processing renewals have been sent to all database users. If you would like a reminder of these instructions, please email database@pcuk.org

Remember that the database will also help you to do other tasks such as e-mailing your Members, keeping records of Tests / Achievements as well as ensuring that all your information is safely stored and backed up so even if your computer breaks, the information is safe and can still be accessed from another computer.

If you have any questions, please email database@pcuk.org stating your name and Branch.

COMPETITIVE DISCIPLINES

POLO

Arena Polo – dates for 2012 are as follows:

- Longdole Polo Club – Sunday 1st April
- Lynt Polo Club – Saturday 14th April

RACING

Pony Club Race Days 2012 – a full list of dates can now be found on the website.

GET THE PONY RACING BUZZ - Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at Cheltenham Racecourse
The home of Jump racing, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 4SH

- **Thrills & Spills** and tuition on the mechanical horse with top jockeys
- **Balance and bounce** challenge
- Meet Champion Trainer **Paul Nicholls** and other racing personalities
- 10:00am – 1:30pm followed by free admission to **The Pony Club Area 9 Race Day**
- Open to 8 – 15 year olds (Members or non—Members)
- **Free ticket** for racing at Cheltenham for every applicant
- **£5 per child**

Online applications can be made through <http://events.pcuk.org>

Closing date: Tuesday, 27th March 2012

Enquiries to: info@pcuk.org or telephone Clare Boardman on 02476 698301

Equestrian Day: Join the BEF and its member bodies, for a ‘celebration of all things equine’ on March 3rd 2012 at Newbury Racecourse. The day will include interactive displays, guest appearances from the world of equestrianism alongside some of the season’s best jump racing

Free tickets are available – see ‘Event Offers’ on www.pcuk.org for more details.

Retraining of Racehorses

If you own an ex-racehorse you can register online with R.O.R free at info@ror.org.uk.

All registered horses will be eligible for a prize if they qualify for and compete at the Championships.

TETRATHLON

Study Days- information will be available on the website as soon as details have been finalised.

If you would like competition schedules, dates or details for training courses put on the website please email them to sally@pcuk.org to be published online.

EVENTING

Eventing Officials’ Study Days – As usual, we will be holding two study days this year for any officials involved with Pony Club One Day Events. A Cross Country course walk with a Technical Adviser will start the day off and cover aspects of course design, fence selection *etc*, followed by an afternoon indoors to go over other aspects of safety, control, organisation and stewarding. This year, we will be visiting the following venues:

- Nord Vue Farm, Carlisle (Eden Valley BE Event) - Monday 16th April
- Milton Keynes Eventing Centre, Bucks. - Thursday 26th April

Refreshments and a light lunch are provided and the day costs £10.00 per person. Additionally, any Branch organising their Area Eventing Competition may send one official free of charge. Further details and an application form are available from the website (Member Activities - Eventing - Eventing Officials - Eventing Study Days) or contact jenny@pcuk.org.

Open Eventing League - The Open League is going ahead again in 2012. For more information on the league, and to register your Branch's competition, visit the website;
<http://www.pcuk.org/Disciplines/Eventing>

Young Event Horses Series - Enclosed is a small supply of Young Event Horse Series Results cards. Any Members aged 15 or over who complete a Pony Club Level 3 Eventing competition on a horse/pony aged 5, 6 or 7 can submit their results on one of these to be included in the series. Points will be allocated according to results and accumulated throughout the season. For more information, please visit the website;
http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/disciplines/eventing/eventing_competitions_and_events/young_event_horse_series/

DRESSAGE

Baker Tilly Dressage to Music Competition – Sunday 1st April at Warwickshire College.
A schedule and entry form can be downloaded from the Dressage to Music pages on the website (www.pcuk.org) or by contacting laura@pcuk.org.

MOUNTED GAMES

Study Days 2012

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

Remember, Mounted Games Study Days are aimed to inform Members, Trainers and Parents of the rules for the Games to be played in the current year. 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:

- Tuesday 14th February 2012, Askham Bryan, Yorkshire, 10a.m start.
- Saturday 25th February 2012, Warwickshire College, 1p.m start.
- Sunday 26th February 2012, Northop College Equine Unit, Deeside, Flintshire, 1p.m start.

All Branches/Centres are welcome to any of the Study Days; please contact Emma Holliwell at the Office if you wish to be sent an application form. Email emma@pcuk.org

External Shows

Pony Club Mounted Games teams are invited to display their fantastic skills at various external shows throughout the year. Please keep an eye on the website and apply for upcoming shows near you!

International Mounted Games Visit

The U.K Pony Club will be sending an International Mounted Games team to the Australia in April to compete in the annual exchange. The team will be announced shortly.

POLOCROSSE

Training & Umpiring Day

The Polocrosse Committee are holding a Polocrosse 'On Foot' Training day on Sunday, 29th April at The Pony Club Headquarters, Stoneleigh, commencing at approximately 10.00 a.m.

Also on this day there will be a separate Umpires Course being taken by Martin Brookes, Chief Umpire (UKPA).

The day would be open to non-players, trainers, coaches, parents and young persons from the age of 15 upwards from the various Branches and Centres who are interested in playing polocrosse and umpiring.

The relevant forms plus costs for the day for the two separate courses will be sent out shortly to all polocrosse contacts.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Child Protection

CRB forms are available from The Pony Club Office so please contact Hannah Clack on 02476 698315 or hannah@pcuk.org.

NATIONAL QUIZ

Please make sure your Branch or Centre sends in the Quiz Entry form by Friday, 23rd March, so that your Branch/Centre names and details can be included in the Programme. Any queries please contact hannah@pcuk.org.

TRAINING

Instructors' Conferences – A reminder that applications for the Instructors' Conferences are now being accepted. Yogi Breisner will be delivering four sessions, and will be including both flatwork and jumping. Applications can be made online at <http://events.pcuk.org>

- Myerscough College, Lancs. on **Monday 19th March**
- Hartpury College, Glos. on **Monday 26th March**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Instructors - We have received a lot of queries recently about whether or not certain instructors can be used at Pony Club activities. In order to teach for The Pony Club, instructors must:

- Have attended a Pony Club Instructor CPD (accreditation) course in the past two years **OR**
- Be present on the current BHS register of instructors (can be viewed on the BHS website) **OR**
- Have achieved UKCC Level 1 or 2 **with The Pony Club** (*these instructors must have received their certificate and their assessment must have been taken in the past two years*).
- In addition, accredited coaches for another BEF discipline body (British Eventing, British Dressage, British Showjumping, UK Polocrosse Association etc.) may be used in The Pony Club but only for the discipline that they are accredited in.

If the instructor you wish to use does not fulfil at least one of the above requirements, they cannot be used for Pony Club activities. In exceptional circumstances, you may apply for permission to use this person for a limited period of time - please email the office in this situation.

Visiting Coaches – The 2012 Visiting Coach lists are now on the website. Branches may use one or more of the coaches from these lists once each holiday period for the activities outlined on the website and their travel expenses (or a proportion of them) will be met by the Training Committee. For more information, please see the website: http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/training/training_visiting_coaches/

Instructor CPD (Accreditation) - All Instructor CPD (Continual Professional Development) Courses are listed on the website under Area Instructor courses in the Training section. Please note that if your

Branch is organising their own course, this must be approved by the Area Representative, and details should be sent to the office (jenny@pcuk.org).

B+ Test - There will be a new B+ Test introduced later in the year. It will be a non-compulsory riding test taken after the Lungeing Test and either before or after the AH Test. It is being designed to be a 'stepping stone' between the B (full test) and A Tests, to help Members work towards their A Test.

Minimum Ages for Taking Tests - At the recent Training Committee meeting, the following minimum ages were agreed with immediate effect for all Members taking Efficiency Tests:

Test	Recommended Minimum Age	Mandatory Minimum Age
E	4+	
D	8	
D+	10	
C	11	
C+		13
B		14
Lungeing		16
B+		16
AH		16
Coaching		18
A		18

Test cards that need revising to this effect will be updated as the merchandise stock is replenished.

ENDURANCE

If you would like competition schedules, dates or details for training courses put on the website please email them to sally@pcuk.org to be published online.

CUBITT AWARDS 2012

Closing Date for the Nomination form sent to you in October is no later than 5th March 2012.

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.

Please remember that Cubitt Bars can be awarded to those who have volunteered for more than 30 or 40 years respectively, please ensure that the recipient has already received the Cubitt Award before nominating them for a Cubitt Bar.

The nomination form is available to download from the website and must be completed in full and returned to Emma Holliwel at headquarters. Please note that Area Representatives and DC's will be responsible for presenting these awards once they have been approved.

OVERSEAS BRANCH

We are pleased to announce that The Mallorca Branch of The Pony Club is now up and running. The contact for Mallorca is Sarah Dion (ukponyclubmallorca@yahoo.com).

All other overseas details can be found in the yearbook.

MERCHANDISE

Enjoying its biggest overhaul in a decade, the 14th edition of The Manual of Horsemanship boasts numerous improved and updated features while still staying true to its original concept of being a

complete basic guide to horsemanship and horse care in one volume. No other single volume contains so much information on such a wide range of equestrian topics. Priced at £12.95 it can be ordered via the online shop, over the phone or by post.

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 BEF Equestrian Day, Newbury Races, Royal Windsor Horse Show, Badminton Horse Trials, Bramham Horse Trials, HOYS and Olympia.

THE PONY CLUB ANNUAL

The Annual was delivered to Branch DC's in bulk during November. If you have not received your allocated copies of The Annual please contact Mandy Welton (membership@pcuk.org) immediately, so that your Members do not miss out on this Membership Benefit. There is also a supply of Annuals available to purchase from Merchandise at just £3 each.

PRESS, PR & MARKETING

Recruitment & Marketing Packs: We are putting together a printed recruitment/marketing pack containing a set amount of leaflets, promotional items etc as we now receive so many requests from Branches for material of this type. It would be really good to have for your input - please let us know your thoughts on what this type of pack should contain, how much your Branch would be willing to pay towards it and any other thoughts you have: media@pcuk.org Thank you in advance of your help!

Logo Usage: 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.

Enclosed

- Year Book 2012
- 2012 Rule Books:
 - Health & Safety
 - Dressage
 - Show Jumping
 - Eventing
 - Mounted Games
 - Tetrathlon
 - Polocrosse (DC's only. Secretaries may have one on request)
 - Racing (DC's only. Secretaries may have one on request)
 - Polo (DC's only. Secretaries may have one on request)
 - Endurance (DC's only. Secretaries may have one on request)
- Get The Pony Racing Buzz leaflet
- Wainwright Price List 2012