

# TRAINING BULLETIN

## DECEMBER 2013



Dear All,

Welcome to the first Training Bulletin, which will share the relevant Training points from the Branch and Centre Bulletins with our Visiting Coaches, Assessors and eventually all Instructors and Coaches within The Pony Club.

### Review of 2013

I feel this year has been a real building block for the training of all our Members at Branch and Centre level.

The year started with the conclusion of the [AH Test](#) standard setting series, which began in 2012. Putting on smaller standard setting days for our assessors has allowed much more feedback and has enabled the Training Committee communicate more closely with the assessors. Smaller days with a small number of participants must be the way forward to enable the correct help and mentoring for our coaches too. I feel we need to continue these days but keep them focused at coaches at different levels so as to achieve the best result.

The Athletic Jumping Coaching Workshops delivered by Pat Crann and Mandy Kent followed the same principle; more courses with fewer coaches allowed Pat and Mandy to deliver a very helpful lecture demo to our coaches at C to C+ level throughout the Areas and the feedback from these courses was very positive.

Our 2013 [Instructors Conferences](#) were presented by Chris Bartle and Eric Smiley and were very well attended. The conference title was "Life is a Matter of Balance" and both coaches showed different exercises on the flat and over fences, discussing their views and ideas on training both the horse and the rider. The thoughts on balance and the rider's seat caused a lot of discussion but enabled those watching to understand why these two are regarded as some of our most talented trainers.

The [B+ Test](#) has now got underway. The feedback and the quality of their riding has made this Test in my view, probably one of the most important new ideas that has been developed for our older Members. During the spring, five B+ Standard Setting days were put on throughout the Areas looking at B Test through B+, up to the A Test. These were an ideal way for assessors to understand and compare the various levels expected in these Tests. I feel these days need to be repeated in different Areas again for next year, to further spread the awareness.

Due to the closure of Huntley School of Equitation, only two [A Tests](#) were held this year. The number of candidates coming forward is a little disappointing but I hope the B+ will motivate some of our older Members to keep working for A.

A new [written feedback report form](#) has been used for the first time in the A and B+ Tests, based on numbered criteria and I hope to introduce this for all the levels, working downwards from B. These written forms do not replace the verbal debrief but are a positive helpful report to take away, with the underlying criteria the candidate needs to focus on.

This year the [UKCC](#) has gone forward led by Pat Crann and her team of Organisers and Coach Educators, and I would like to give them a huge thank you for their hard work and dedication. We have begun to incorporate The Pony Club's 'Introduction to Coaching' and 'Coaching Development for All' courses with the UKCC, as they are an excellent induction for the Level 1 and 2 courses.

The Pony Club's first UKCC Level 3 course has a full intake of eight candidates and started this autumn. We are working in conjunction with British Showjumping in some classroom lectures and coaching sessions which will help to keep levels on a par across disciplines as well as being more cost effective.

The Pony Club [Coaching Certificate](#) is still in its developmental stage; we have assessed 20 candidates and eleven have achieved the standard. I would like to thank Hilary Wakefield for all her hard work setting this up and hope that it will evolve over the next few years.

The [Young Instructors Advanced Course](#) was again a real tonic and the standard of the riding and the coaching goes up every year. We were very lucky to have Corinne Bracken working with our A Test Holders this year and she was an inspiration to everyone.

The training in our Centres I feel is making a positive step forward under Katy Powell Jones; their new Chairman, and with the CPD courses she is introducing through her motivated Coordinators, I feel that the coaching in these Centres will go from strength to strength.

I was delighted with the uptake of The Pony Club [Ambassadors Scheme](#) in its inaugural year. The personal statements that all the candidates gave were humbling and very enthusiastic. Twelve Ambassadors were chosen from 44 nominations and each received a coat kindly donated by Toggi at the Championships. We are looking forwards to working with them all over the coming year.

Relaxation of the bit rule last year seems to have caused no problems and the [Rider Report Cards](#) are working well, with only four being issued this year.

Finally, I would just like to say a huge thank you to you all for your help and support in maintaining the standard of training in The Pony Club. I hope that you have a very Happy Christmas, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the New Year.

William Blane  
Chairman of Training

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## **IMPORTANT NEWS**

### **Winter Coaching CPD Evenings**

The Training Committee have organised two evening (approx. 6.00–9.30 p.m.) coach development (Instructor CPD) courses with Paul Tapner. The theme for these courses will be 'Teaching the Horse to Help Itself'. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, and can be purchased online at <http://events.pcuk.org>.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February** - [Bicton College EC](#), East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 7BY

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February** - [Reaseheath College EC](#), Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF

### **Annual Instructors' Conferences 2014**

The Training Committee are delighted to announce that the theme for 2014 Conferences will be 'Refreshing Rallies' and will include lots of ideas for incorporating Test training with the competitive disciplines. There will be two conferences:

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April** - [The College Equestrian Centre](#), Keysoe, Bedfordshire

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April** - [Blackdyke Farm Riding & Competition Centre](#), Carlisle, Cumbria

Applications can be made online at <http://events.pcuk.org>. In the event of over-subscription before the closing date for applications, numbers per Branch / Centre will be limited. If a conference is full on the closing date for applications (two weeks before the conference) any further applications received will be placed on a waiting list.

Both conferences will count as Pony Club Instructor CPD refreshers (accreditation).

## **B+ Test**

The B+ Test syllabus has been reformatted so that there are clear, numbered criteria for candidates to achieve. Written feedback sheets will be provided for each candidate at the end of Test, which will relate to the criteria in the syllabus, so that candidates know what to on for next time if they are unsuccessful, or how to move forwards and prepare for the next Test if they are successful. The Training Committee intend to reformat every Test to make the criteria more clear and self-explanatory, and introduce written feedback sheets for all levels. This will start with the B Test and work downwards through the levels.

The new B+ Test syllabus can be viewed on the website ([click here](#)). Assessor notes sheets and the candidate feedback forms can also be downloaded from the website ([Parents & Officials – Forms, Guides & Handbooks – Training & Test Nomination Forms](#)).

## **Coach & Instructor Requirements**

A reminder that the new Coach and Instructor requirements come into action on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Full details are on the [website](#) and page 5 of this Bulletin.

It should be noted that these are minimum requirements and new and/or young coaches will need more support and guidance than just one basic CPD course when they begin coaching for The Pony Club. The Introduction to Coaching, followed by the Coaching Development for All courses are an excellent basis to begin a coaching career, and are far more beneficial for inexperienced coaches, or those who are new to Pony Club, than just attending the closest or soonest CPD course. A document summarizing the recommended route for new coaches is enclosed, which also details the other coaching development options available through The Pony Club. Coaching Experience Logbooks have been designed to help coaches develop their coaching with a local mentor in between training and courses. These will be given to all candidates on the courses in the recommended route, as well as on all UKCC courses. If you would like to order some for your Branch, please email [training@pcuk.org](mailto:training@pcuk.org).

## **A Test Reunion**

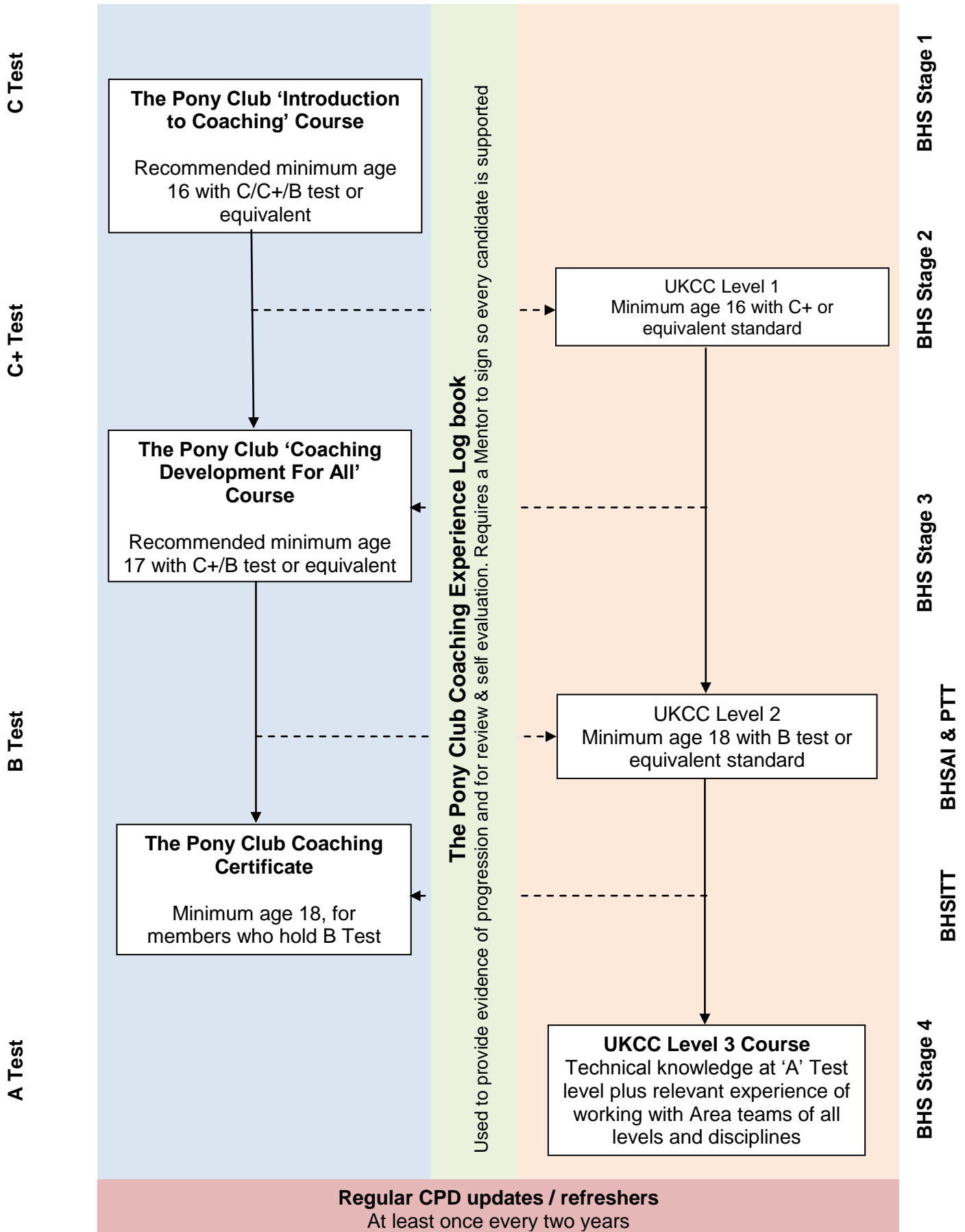
The Training Committee will be organising a reunion event for anyone who has achieved their Pony Club A Test. This is planned for spring 2015. We don't have contact details for all A Test holders, so please help us to get hold of them and pass the message on. If you know of anyone who has achieved their A Test, please send their details to, or ask them to contact us at [training@pcuk.org](mailto:training@pcuk.org). Further information on this will be available soon.



# Recommended Route for Young and New Coaches

Route for best practice for all new or young Pony Club coaches

Optional additional professional qualifications available





## Coach and Instructor Requirements From January 2014

Pony Club Coaches and Instructors will be split into four categories according to their use and role within The Pony Club. Each category will have specific requirements as laid out below:

**1. Fully Accredited Equestrian Coaches / Instructors**

*These Coaches / Instructors can take sole charge of the groups they coach.*

**2. Supervised Coaches / Instructors**

*These Coaches / Instructors must not earn their main income from coaching riding. They may be paid to coach for The Pony Club. They must be supervised by a Fully Accredited Coach (category 1), the DC or Centre Proprietor, or any other official who fulfils the requirements for category 1.*

**3. Volunteer Coaches / Instructors**

*These Coaches / Instructors must be unpaid and supervised by a Fully Accredited Coach (category 1), the DC or Centre Proprietor, or any other official who fulfils the requirements for category 1.*

**4. Coaches / Instructors for non-riding / horse related activities**

*These Coaches / Instructors can be used for coaching sports / disciplines other than riding for Pony Club activities e.g. Swimming, Shooting, Running.*

The requirements for each category of Pony Club Coaches / Instructors are detailed below:

PONY CLUB COACH / INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS	1. Fully Accredited	2. Supervised	3. Volunteer	4. Non-Riding
Be present on The Pony Club Instructor Database	✓	✓	✓	✓
Have attended a Pony Club Instructor CPD course in the past two years	✓	✓		
Have a current DBS or PVG or Access NI check	✓	*	*	✓
Have a current first aid certificate	✓			✓
Have attended a Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshop	✓	*	*	✓
Own The Pony Club Instructor's Folder	✓			
Have access to The Pony Club Instructor's Folder		✓	✓	

Accredited coaches for another BEF Member Body (i.e. are currently listed as a coach by the Member Body and have attended CPD as required by that Body) may be used in The Pony Club but only for the discipline that they are accredited in, if the Member Body is specific to a particular sport.

\* Where Supervised / Volunteer Coaches are coaching regularly (i.e. four or more times within any 30 day period) a DBS (or PVG or Access NI) check and attendance at a Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshop is required.