

# BRANCH BULLETIN

## JULY 2013



Dear All,

With the Area Competitions already underway, our thoughts now focus on the National Championships which for the second year will take place at the stunning venue of Cholmondeley Castle.

This year we welcome Endurance which will be joining us with spectacular rides planned for all levels. We would love to see as many Members as possible coming to support their teams. It is a great day out and a really superb venue to visit.

Championships apart, we are all hoping for a fine summer so that everyone can fully enjoy all the Branch activities which are planned and thank you to all the volunteers who make these activities possible.

Every year there seem to be aspects of rules which need to be discussed and if necessary tweaked or changed so if any of you have any such concerns please may we ask you to let your Area Representative know prior to 23<sup>rd</sup> August so that they can be talked through at the Discipline Committee meetings.

I think all other aspects of our news are covered in the body of this Bulletin so all that remains for me to say is, 'Good Luck', for your Summer programmes and as always please remember that we are all here to help in any way which we can.

Very best wishes to all from myself and the Stoneleigh team.



Judy E Edwards  
Chief Executive

## THE PONY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire - 16 - 19<sup>th</sup> August

We are looking for helpers at the Championships - particularly stewards and fence judges for the Cross Country on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> August. If anyone can help for either or both days, please ask them to get in touch with Jenny Yates (02476 698305 / [jenny@pcuk.org](mailto:jenny@pcuk.org)). All help is much appreciated. It is a great opportunity to come and see what goes on, even if you don't have any Members competing.

**Trophies** - Please ensure that any Championships Trophies are returned to the office as soon as possible. Trophies should not be posted or sent by courier, and should be returned in the boxes they were provided in.

**Fence Sponsorship** - Do you know someone who would like to advertise their business very cost effectively? We have a great range of fences available for sponsorship at The Championships at very reasonable rates. For further details see the Championship pages of [www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org) or contact Clare Walkeden - [media@pcuk.org](mailto:media@pcuk.org) / 02476 698310

### MENTORING - New for 2013

**What is it?** Following a very successful two year pilot at The Pony Club Tetrathlon Championships, The Pony Club is expanding to include its Championship disciplines of Show Jumping, Dressage and Eventing. Its aim is to help and support Members and associates to perform at their best when it counts. Current and former elite riders have been carefully selected to be your 2013 Pony Club Mentors. They are available throughout The Pony Club Championships at Cholmondeley to chat informally to competitors about their competition and to go through the four mentor cards.

**How does it work?** NFU Mutual Pony Club Mentoring is designed to run alongside the competition. The mentors can be approached by competitors at any time during the competition including evenings to go through the mentor cards. Upon completion of each card, you will receive a wristband - there are 4 different colours to collect: Gold, light blue, blue and purple.

The mentor cards are designed to be completed individually or in groups with your mentor and can take anything from minutes to as long as you want. The content of the mentor cards include (1) **Winning habits;** (2) **Working with nerves;** (3) **Working through setbacks;** (4) **Being best prepared**

Your mentors can be spotted around each Championship venue or **at the mentor tent in the trade stand area** in their Pony Club Mentor kit. Grab them to talk to or they can come and find you.

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS for 2014 - Reminder

Membership Renewal Forms for 2014 will only be available through either database or a copy will be available to download from the website.

All Branches now have access to the Membership Database which includes an area for generating personalised Renewal and New Member Forms (i.e. the ability to insert you own Branch details in the blank spaces) which can then be e-mailed or printed.

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## TRAINING

### Requirements for Coaches and Instructors

Following feedback from a number of Branches the requirements for coaches and instructors have been amended so that all Branches, Centres and Areas will be able to cover all the usual activities for the education and fun of our Members. The enclosed paper summarises these new requirements.. They will come into force on 1st January, 2014. The Training Committee's original wish list is still ultimately the goal for best practice and we would encourage all of you who can to get as many of your coaches and instructors fully accredited.

### A Tests

There are three A Tests running this Autumn:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Brampton Stables, Northants.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Talland School of Equitation, Glos.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Huntley School of Equitation, Glos.

Nominated candidates can now book onto the Test they wish to attend. If you have any other candidates aiming to take their A Test this autumn, please send their nomination forms to the office.

### Test Training

There are a number of training opportunities available for Members aiming for their AH or A Test or Coaching Certificate. A summary of the training available is below, full details can be found on the website (*Training – Test Training for Members*)

Test	Date	Venue
A	11 <sup>th</sup> July	Warwickshire College
A	15 <sup>th</sup> August	Warwickshire College
A	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Brampton Stables, Northants.
AH	29 <sup>th</sup> July	Drovers Farm, Henton, Oxon
Coaching Certificate	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Beaumont Grange Farm, Slyne, Lancs.
Coaching Certificate	26 <sup>th</sup> July	Goodnestone Equi-Training, Faversham, Kent
Coaching Certificate	12 <sup>th</sup> August	Brooksby College, Melton Mowbray, Leics.

**Visiting Coaches** - Two more Visiting Coaches have been approved by the Training Committee - please check the website for their contact details.

Caroline Jeanne - Discipline Specific (Eventing)  
Anona White - Recommended (Area 7)

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**\* PLEASE NOTE - The new Pony Club hat silk is acceptable to wear in all Dressage and Show Jumping competitions.**



## Dressage

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### Elite Rider Dressage Competition

A new Elite Dressage Competition will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August at the 2013 Championships at Cholmondeley Castle. The competition is open to any Pony Club Member or Associate riding any level of horse or pony. The BD Medium 73 (2007) test will be used. Direct entries can be made online at <http://events.pcuk.org>. More information is available on the website or contact [laura@pcuk.org](mailto:laura@pcuk.org).

### Dengie Winter League Dressage 2013/2014

Some Branches may have already received a Preliminary Round booking form, which is also available to download from the Winter League Dressage pages of the website. A copy of the rules is enclosed and is also available to download.

### Rule Book - Protests and Objections

The following paragraph has been omitted from the end of Rule 47 of the Dressage Rule Book:

“Should a breach of eligibility subsequently be discovered, then the Discipline Committee may disqualify the offending team or individual. If said individual was a Member of a qualifying team and their score contributed to the qualification the team will be disqualified unless the qualification holds up using the discard score.”

## DRESSAGE TO MUSIC

The Freestyle Dressage to Music Competition, generously sponsored by The Worshipful Company of Loriners, will be held at the Championships at Cholmondeley Castle. As in previous years, direct entry is permitted; riders are not expected to qualify at Area Competitions. The Competition will be split over two days with Open and Intermediate Individuals on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August and Novice Individuals, Associates, Pairs, Family Pairs and the Individual Ride-Off on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

For more information, a schedule and entry form, please see the Dressage to Music pages of The Pony Club website or contact Laura Armstrong ([laura@pcuk.org](mailto:laura@pcuk.org)). Online entries are also accepted at <http://events.pcuk.org>.



## Endurance

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### Rule Book Omission

Unfortunately, there has been an omission on page 27 of the 2013 Endurance Rulebook. Please note that the Performance Formula should be worked out as detailed below:

$$\text{POINTS} = \frac{(2 \times \text{Speed} - 8) \times 100}{\text{Heart Rate}}$$

Heart Rate

### Championships

The Pony Club Endurance Championships will be held at Cholmondeley Castle, this summer, in conjunction with the other disciplines. Riders must qualify at a designated Regional Qualifying ride, all of which are detailed on the Endurance pages of The Pony Club website. Entries for the Championship are being taken online at <http://events.pcuk.org> - the closing date for is 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013.



## Eventing

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### 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.

### 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. Full details are available on the website, along with results cards.



## Mounted Games

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### Zone Finals

#### SENIOR COMPETITIONS

The 1<sup>st</sup> placed team will qualify for the Prince Philip Cup Final at the Horse of The Year Show 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013

The 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Placed Teams will qualify for the Runners-Up Competitions at The Pony Club Championships; Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

The 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Placed Teams will qualify for the Intermediate Final Competitions at The Pony Club Championships, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

## JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Placed Teams will qualify for the Junior Final Competition at The Pony Club Championships; Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

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



### Correct Helmets

Some polo playing Members wear polo specific helmets, please ensure that these also meet the required minimum standard. It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet manufactured to one of the minimum standards listed in the back of The Pony Club Polo Rule Book. It must bear the CE mark and a quality symbol; either the BSI Kitemark, the SAI Global symbol, the official Snell label with number or the NOCSAE certificate. The CE symbol on its own is not sufficient to ensure consistent standard of manufacture.



### Championships

Entry Form 'A' will need to reach me no later than 26th July and Entry Form 'B' no later than 2<sup>nd</sup> August as the Order of Play will need to be done a week before the Championships. A reminder for Class 1 on Entry Form A - all Members **must** be from the same Branch or Centre, 3 Seniors and 3 Juniors.

All players must be active Members of the stated Branch or Centre who have participated at a minimum of three working rallies of this or their previous Branch or Centre since 1<sup>st</sup> July of the previous year, excluding team practices and coaching, and should have been Members of The Pony Club since at least the 31<sup>st</sup> January in the current year, except for Members who are completely new to The Pony Club, who may join up until the 31<sup>st</sup> March and still be eligible for Area Competitions and the Championships. Attendance at camp counts as one working rally. All Branches and Centres must have attended a Regional Tournament. Ponies must have genuinely participated at a minimum of three working rallies since 1<sup>st</sup> July in the previous year with a Member of The Pony Club, one of which must have been in the current year.

If a Branch or Centre requires any further entry forms for the Polocrosse Championships please contact Hannah Clack, Polocrosse Secretary or email: [hannah@pcuk.org](mailto:hannah@pcuk.org) with your details.

Each Branch or Centre must secure the services of one umpire and one horse for the Championships which must be filled in on Entry Form 'B'.



## Pony Racing

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The Pony Racing Authority (PRA) will be running a 'Pony Racing Taster Day' on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at Haydock Racecourse. This is a chance for Members and non-Members to find out more about Pony Racing; instruction on Equicisors, go behind the scenes of a racecourse and try your hand at tacking up with racing tack. Entry is free but places need to be booked in advance.

This morning session will be following by the Area 4 Pony Club Race Day.

For further information, please contact Ruth Hurley on 078737 269662 or [ruthhurley80@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruthhurley80@yahoo.co.uk)

### PONY CLUB RACE DAYS 2013

8 <sup>th</sup> September	Area 4	Haydock Park Racecourse
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Holderness Hunt	Beverley Racecourse
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Eridge Hunt	Lingfield Park Racecourse



## Show Jumping

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### 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 2013 show on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> 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://www.pcuk.org/disciplines/show\\_jumping](http://www.pcuk.org/disciplines/show_jumping)***

***Closing date for applications to The Pony Club Office is  
Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013***

### 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 2013/2014 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 2013 / 2014** – enclosed.

Some Branches may have already received and returned this form from an earlier mailing. The Preliminary Round runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Additional forms are available to download from the website.

**WLSJ Rule Book 2013 / 2014** – enclosed.

These Rules are also available to download.



As Katie Hubbard, the Tetrathlon Secretary is leaving us at the end of June, the Tetrathlon Championships will not be organised by The Pony Club office this year. They will instead be organised by the Tetrathlon Committee.

All enquiries to [tetrathlon@pcuk.org](mailto:tetrathlon@pcuk.org) where you will be directed to the appropriate person. All telephone enquiries to Judy Hardcastle 01296 688070.

## THE BLUE CROSS HORSE AND PONY CARE COMPETITION

Congratulations to those Branches and Centres who have already attended their Area qualifier and will be joining us for the Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Championship at Cholmondeley Castle on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August. This year we are taking entries online- all team managers of qualified teams should have received an invitation via email. If you are a qualified team manager and have not yet received the link please contact us as soon as possible. If you have received the link but have not yet entered please do so at the soonest opportunity. The closing date for entries is the 19<sup>nd</sup> July. The entry fee is £39 per team. Please contact Sarah Hargreaves or Jessica Holton on [assistant@pcuk.org](mailto:assistant@pcuk.org) for more information.

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## MERCHANDISE

We have some exciting new items for Summer 2013. The eagerly awaited fourth title in the Stablemate Series, All Systems Go has now been published. Priced at £8.50 it is a comprehensive guide detailing everything you need to know about Equine Fitness.

The Pocket Guide to Equestrian Dress priced at £4.99 is a brand new and important guide to correct, safe and practical clothes for young people involved with horses.



The Daily Feeding Planner priced at £5.95 is also available to purchase and is a write on wipe off chart to record your horse's daily feeding routine.

Our brand new Pony Club scrunchie to match The Pony Club stock is now available priced at £3.00.

Also now arrived is our new riding hat cover. Priced at £9.95 it is a navy blue cover with an embroidered Pony Club logo on one side. Both are perfect accessories for your Pony Club wardrobe!

Now available to purchase is the Hunting Badge which accompanies the hunting certificate. Priced at £2.50 it is a purple enamel badge featuring a silver hound's head.

## PRESS, PR & MARKETING

### Logo Usage

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](mailto:media@pcuk.org) with the format you require.

### **\*\*Important\*\***

Please can we ask that you **do not use** the logo medal graphic we produced for the London 2012 period as this is not an official logo, and was only intended for use during 2012.

## 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](http://www.pcuk.org). Events, as they become available, include the Newbury Races, Stoneleigh Pet Show, Badminton Horse Trials, HOYS and Olympia.

### **The Pet Show, Stoneleigh Park**

Following the recent success of our attendance at the London Pet Show, The Pony Club will be enjoying a large presence at The Pet Show at Stoneleigh Park 20-21<sup>st</sup> July 2013. We will be running three different areas at the show designed to introduce young people to ponies and what being a Member of The Pony Club is all about!

### **The Pony Club Centre**

The Pony Club Centre will feature our tradestand in situ with a range of educational and fun merchandise, alongside all the advice you may need to get you started as a Pony Club Member. There will also be the opportunity to practise online for Pony Club in the virtual world of 'PonyPrep'; where users can create their own pony avatar before taking part in tests, quizzes and watching videos online.

### **The Pony Club Show (on foot)**

The Pony Club Show will give visitors a taste of the three Olympic Disciplines of Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing with lots of information on hands as well as the chance to tackle the Minijumps course and the chance to win a Pony Club rosette!

### The Pony Club Stables

The Pony Club Stables will be the place to be to meet some real life ponies courtesy of some of our Area 7 Centres! There will also be advice on tacking up, grooming, and how to use lots of the other equipment involved in caring for horses and ponies.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Risk Assessments

A risk assessment must be carried out and recorded for all Pony Club activities and should be signed and dated for each event, even if the same venue is used.

To use a previous risk assessment is not acceptable for insurance purposes.

### Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Application Forms

Please make sure you read the instructions carefully before completing the DBS forms as Sections X & Y are still being filled in. These Sections are for BHS only as they are the registered body. Only Sections A, B, C and E should be completed, in BLACK ink and BLOCK CAPITALS. The person checking identity documents, e.g. driving licence, passport, birth certificate, utility bill, etc, to complete **Section W only** on the back page. All cheques to be made payable to **The British Horse Society** and **NOT** The Pony Club.

All forms **must** be returned to The Pony Club Office for checking and recording. **Do not** send forms to the British Horse Society or the Disclosure & Barring Service.

If you are in possession of any of the old forms that have the letters CRB in the top right hand corner please destroy these as they are now obsolete. If you require any new forms, please contact Hannah Clack at The Pony Club on 02476 698315 or email [hannah@pcuk.org](mailto:hannah@pcuk.org).

### Volunteers Information on the Internet

Please do make sure that when including your volunteer's details, such as home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, in online space that is shared (E.g. on web pages and documents hosted on web pages not the PCUKMAP) that volunteers are happy for this information to be displayed and understand that until the documents or information on the web pages is removed their details will be available to anyone who searches for them online.

### Stirrups

Please ask your tack checkers to ensure that stirrups and boots are correct. Our rules require:- "Standard riding or jodhpur boots with a fairly smooth, thin sole and a well defined square cut heel" and "Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots. They must have 7mm (¼ inch) clearance on either side of the boot".

These rules together with the requirement not to wear other unsuitable footwear, including boots and stirrups with interlocking treads, are there to minimise the risk of the foot becoming caught in the stirrup in a fall which can cause very serious injuries. It is worthwhile reminding parents that when they buy new jodhpur boots for their children to check the size of their stirrups with the new boots.

**Changes to the Dress Section of the Health & Safety Rule Book for 2014 have been agreed as below:**

**a. Hats**

The Pony Club rule for riding hats is given in Appendix G. This rule defines the quality of manufacture that is required with proof that batches of finished hats are sampled and tested before being delivered to retailers. The individual disciplines also have additional requirements with regard to colour and type. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.

**Hats must be worn at all times when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall.**

**b. Body Protectors**

The Pony Club does not make the use of body protectors compulsory, except for all cross country riding and Pony Racing whether it be training or competing. For general use, the responsibility for choosing body protectors and the decision as to their use must rest with members and their parents. It is recommended that a rider's body protector should not be more than 2% of their body weight. When worn, body protectors must fit correctly, be comfortable and must not restrict movement.

Level 2 body protectors are designed to provide a level of protection that is considered appropriate for use in low risk situations. These do not include riding on roads or other hard surfaces and riding young or excitable horses.

Level 3 body protectors are designed to provide a level of protection that is considered appropriate for normal riding including competition and working with horses.

Riders who choose to use the Woof Wear Body Cage EXO must lodge a key with the Event Organiser when they collect their number.

**Air Jackets**

**Air jackets are not recommended for use other than for cross country riding. When an air jacket inflates the sudden noise startles horses in the immediate vicinity thereby causing difficulties for the other members of a ride if used for a group ride in a confined area, e.g. an indoor school or outdoor ménage, air jackets are therefore discouraged for group rides.**

If a rider chooses to wear an air jacket it must only be used in addition to a normal body protector. **Parents and Members must be aware that riders may be permitted to continue after a fall in both competition and training rides.** In the event of a fall, it must be fully deflated or removed before continuing, **the conventional body protector will continue to give protection.** Air jackets must not be worn under a jacket and number bibs should be fitted loosely or with elasticated fastenings over the air jacket.

# ENCLOSED

- Dengie Winter League & Open Show Jumping Booking Form & Rule Book (DCs only)
- Dengie Winter League Dressage Rule Book (DCs only)
- Coach & Instructor Requirements
- Evidence of Insurance 2013 - 2014 (DCs only)
- Insurance Certificate 2013 - 2014 (DCs only)
- Horse of the Year Show Leaflet