



WELCOME TO THE ESSEX HUNT NORTH BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB

EHNPC BRANCH WEBSITE <https://branches.pcuk.org/essexhuntnorth/>

FACEBOOK PAGE: [Essex Hunt North PC \(Official Group\)](#)

THE PONY CLUB WEBSITE <https://pcuk.org/>



Welcome to the Essex Hunt North Branch of the Pony Club.

We would like to thank you for choosing to join our Branch of the Pony Club. Excellent choice! We are a busy, fun branch with lots going on for all ages. We have around 180 members. Lots of our members join when they are pre-school age and continue with us throughout their teenage years establishing lifelong friends along the way.

We are part of the Area 8 group of branches which covers a fairly wide area including branches in Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Essex and Norfolk. If you visit the website for Area 8 you will be able to find details of competitions and events being organized by other Branches within the Area.

<https://branches.pcuk.org/area8/>

We hope this will tell you most of what you need to know but do contact us if you have any questions and we will be very happy to help.

Useful Contact Information

Branch Email address: essexhuntnorth@pcuk.org

This is the best way to direct any general queries that you may have.

Sarah who monitors the email will then redirect your email to the appropriate person who will contact you directly.

Facebook

Essex Hunt North (Official)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1816894225261954/>

We have a very active Facebook page for current branch members only – if you go to this site and request access you will be asked a question and providing you are a current member will be given access.

EHNPC Events <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1842142659381497/>

- this is a public group page where we advertise the Competitions we are running that are open to others.

EHNPC Adverts -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/196806300931149>

This is our selling page where you can look for items to buy or sell things.

Essex Hunt North - Who's Who?

Visit our website (Meet the Team) to see a full list.

Joint District Commissioners – Georgie Mackley 07740 858588 & Oriel Gordon 07973 115193 will be happy to answer questions, help with which rallies would best suit your child and anything else.

Branch Secretary – Sarah Nelmes-Faint Email: essexhuntnorth@pcuk.org

Membership Secretary - Anna Billings Email: annaPC66@gmail.com. Anna can help with Membership Renewals, Membership queries and also, when you order a tie or badge.

Rally Secretary - Rosanna Cooper rosannacooper@live.co.uk. Rose can help you if you can no longer attend a rally or need to change a rally.



Rallies and Training Session

We hold rallies and training throughout the year at various venues across the area. Some rallies are discipline focussed ie. show jumping, cross country, dressage and sometimes these are aimed at a specific age groups e.g. Junior Members and Tiny Trotters (our youngest members on lead reins). Our 4 Summer Rallies held at Berwick Farm are all day rallies and include an hour or so of different disciplines eg. Working Hunter Jumping, Flatwork, Gymkhana, Cross Country, Show Jumping or Stable Management.

Full details of the activities taking place at each rally and who the rally or training is appropriate for can be found on our booking website.

<https://webcollect.org.uk/ehnpc>

Booking into Rallies and Training Sessions

- Plan ahead, book into rallies as early as possible. They often sell out quickly.
- All bookings are online via <https://webcollect.org.uk/ehnpc>. Once you book and pay you will receive an email confirming your booking.
- If you have to withdraw from a rally/training contact Rose Cooper as soon as possible rosannacooper@live.co.uk. This advance notice is very helpful and greatly appreciated by organisers as it then allows for somebody else to book into the space.
- Rally times for individual groups are emailed a few days before a rally or training session.
- Please don't assume you will be able to hop into a rally late and be given a space. We hardly ever have spaces available. A lot of advance planning goes into our rallies/ training and coaches/ venues need booking in advance around the numbers / abilities of riders received by the application deadline.

Attending Rallies/Training

- Please do not turn up to a rally or training session that you haven't booked into on the off chance that you can be fitted in.
- Arrive promptly and be mounted ready to ride just before your start time.
- Please remember that arriving late disrupts other members.

- Once mounted and waiting for a rally or training to start please walk or stand quietly on your horse. Please do not trot or canter around venue fields or arenas.
- If you have any spare tack please take it with you. You never know when you are going to snap a stirrup leather etc. Always check tack stitching before attending to make sure it is all safe.
- Very occasionally we experience rudeness directed towards our coaches or our volunteers – any member considered to be rude or disruptive at a rally or training may be asked to leave the rally.
- At the end of your rally or training please remember to thank your coach and to thank your organiser before you leave.
- Remember to remove horse droppings, hay, straw etc from parking areas before you leave, even if you are parked in a field please make sure that you clear up around your trailer/lorry. We use some lovely venues and it would be a shame to lose them because we don't clear up properly.

As well as improving riding and horsemanship skills our rallies are where our members make friends that often last a lifetime and with that thought, a Plea from our Rally Organisers.

'THE RALLY ORGANISERS PLEA'

It can be extremely hard for the Rally Organisers to create perfect rides at every rally! We frequently have about 50 children to organise into rides - it is a big and time consuming task.

Sometimes it is easy and all works out with no problem and everyone is happy. Sometimes, it is almost impossible to arrange the groupings well and there might be a bit of a mixture of ages and abilities. This is just the way it goes. And please bear in mind that we do not simply group based on ability, we also try to put friends together or sometimes we are asked to accommodate members travelling together and siblings. We also watch the rides ourselves, listen to feedback from coaches and often move children who we feel are not in the right group.

Please encourage your child to be kind, patient and supportive if someone in your group is having a tougher day. You never know when it will be their turn

to need some kindness and support and we can assure you they all need it at some point!

All of our committee are volunteers, we give our time freely and try our absolute hardest to make every pony club event we organise a wonderful day for your child, so please just spare a thought for the Organiser before you tell them your child is in the wrong group or something goes a little bit wrong! A kind word and a thank you literally make our hearts sing!

Tack and Turnout at Rallies and Training

Riders - Mounted

- Please dress smartly: White shirt and pony club tie or an EHNPC navy polo or EHNPC sweatshirt (from time to time Fancy Dress is actively encouraged - we will let you know!)
- Pony Club badge and felt
- Beige or plain dark jods (beige, navy, brown, black, dark grey)
- For XC: Compulsory long sleeves either long sleeved shirt/EHNPC skin/EHNPC sweatshirt plus body protector – Body protector rules 2021 [HERE](#)
- Please ensure your hats are tagged with an aquamarine PC hat tag - if not please let a committee member at your first rally know. For Cross Country over 80 cm, a skull cap must be worn, fixed peaks are not allowed. Please see the rule [HERE](#)
- Hat silks – plain black, navy, no pom poms!
- Long hair must be tied back in a hairnet
- Short jodhpur boots, short jodphur boots and chaps or long riding boots in black or brown
- No jewellery (watch acceptable)
- Gloves, if worn, brown, black or navy
- No hooded clothing

Spurs/Whips/Bit

Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, and spurs that have a smooth rotating ball on the shank may be worn. If the spurs are curved, the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 4 cm in length. The measurement is taken from the heel of the boot to the end of the shank. Any misuse of spurs, whips or bit will be reported to

the District Commissioner, Area Representative and Training Chairman and riders who are reported will be recorded and monitored.

Riders - Unmounted

- Poloshirt/Sweatshirt, jodhpurs or similar and suitable boots (no trainers or flip flops!)
- Hat & gloves should be handy
- Remember to dress for the weather!

EHNPC ties are available on our webcollect page.

<https://webcollect.org.uk/ehnpc>

EHNPC branded clothing is available from <https://www.gggear.co.uk/>



Horses and Ponies

- Ponies should clean and well turned out, with no visible stains
- Manes and tails should be brushed out
- Eyes and nostrils should be clean
- Hooves must be picked out
- Ponies that might kick should have a red ribbon tied to their tails.

Tack

- Horses and Ponies should be in plain tack with dark coloured, plain numnahs in black, brown, navy or white with no logos apart from Branch logos.
- If boots or bandages are worn they should be in plain dark colours.
- Ponies do not need to be plaited apart from at the 4 all day Summer Rallies at Berwick Farm.

- Tack must be well fitted and clean, in good condition with no loose stitching.
- Remember to check your stirrup irons, there should be 14mm clearance either side of your boots which is about a thumb width.
- Reins should not be so long that they could loop over the rider's foot.
- Martingales need rein stoppers and a stopper where the martingale meets the neck strap.
- If not using a martingale, a neck strap is useful.
- Grass reins and balance support reins are permitted at rallies and competitions jumping up to 50cm, or in the Walk and Trot Dressage Test subject to strict guidelines – see full information on website

Parents - Health and Safety

- When arriving at rallies or training sessions children remain your responsibility until their Coach arrives and takes charge of them. This also applies at the end of the session.
- Children must not be left unaccompanied by an adult. If you can't stay please make sure that there is a responsible adult prepared to look after your child and also make sure that the Instructor knows who this is.
- Children not taking part in rally/training activities (whether members or not) remain the responsibility of their parents at all times.
- Coaches are being employed to instruct and look after the Pony Club members. So unless specifically asked to do otherwise please would all parents and spectators at rallies, training and events please keep a safe distance away from the riders.
- We understand that you want to watch your child, but keeping everyone safe is a major concern, especially at cross country rallies - parents, please keep your spectating children out of harm's way and under your watchful eye – they are entirely your responsibility.

The Pony Club Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians and the Pony Club Code of Conduct for members can be found on the Pony Club website. We would ask that you take the time to read both these documents.

Rally Refunds

Set out below is the Branch's policy on cancellation.

- If a rally/training has to be cancelled a full refund will be given to all members who have booked and paid.
- If you cannot make a rally or training session that you have booked and paid for and you let us know before the closing date (normally 7 days before the rally) we will give you a full refund.
- If you cancel after the closing date we will only give a refund if we can fill your space – exceptions only at DC's discretion and will usually only be given for child/horse injury or sickness and other exceptional circumstances.
- Cancellations should be made by email to Rose Cooper rosannacooper@live.co.uk



Pony Club Tests

Any queries regarding tests please contact Georgie.

Efficiency Tests

All members can work through the Pony Club tests as follows:

E Test suitable for the younger riders

D Test 8 or 9 years old

Both E and D tests are taken by members at mini-camp

but D test training and test can be arranged for any members not attending mini camp

D+ Test 10 and over

C Test 11 or 12 years old*

*Riding & Road Safety Achievement Badge must be passed before C Test can be awarded

C+ Test 14 and over

Training courses for D+, C and C+ and Riding & Road Safety are organised throughout the year.

B Test (Horse & Pony Care and Riding) ** - 15 or over

Extensive training which can last over a year is usually recommended before this test is taken. Often a group of members wishing to do this training will group together and find a suitable timetable for training sessions either spread over a longer period of time or sometimes if it suits a group better then intensive training over a short period of time.

**Either BHS or Pony Club Riding and Road Safety Test must be passed before attempting either part of the B Test

Lungeing Test - Before taking the Lungeing Test, Candidates must have passed the B Test or B Standard Horse & Pony Care. It is necessary to pass the Lungeing Test before attempting the B+ or AH Test.

AH Test (Stable management) –17 or over and hold the full B Test

A Test (Riding) – must hold the AH Test.



Achievement Badges and Mini Achievement Badges – Training for badges usually takes place at unmounted rallies over the colder months of the year or at rallies and camps in the summer. For more details please contact Georgie.

Further details of efficiency tests and progressive tests and achievement badges are available on the Pony Club website.

Camps

We hold a minimum of three camps in the summer (which are the highlight of the year). These are

Event Camp – for our older members confidently jumping 85cm plus at SJ and Cross Country. This camp runs for 2 days during the Easter holidays. It is held at Great Witchingham in Norfolk and we all stay up there for the night.

Junior / Mini Camp – for children aged 12 and under. This is usually run held in Half Term of the Summer Term. Everyone goes home each day and sometimes if the weather is kind we plan a sleepover (just children, no ponies) for the last night!

Senior Camp - for members aged between 11 (at the start of camp) to 16 years (on 1st January of that year). It is a 5 day residential camp held at the start of the summer holidays.

Full details of camps will be publicised.

Team Competitions

The Essex Hunt North has over the years been very successful at Team Competitions! We have been extremely lucky to have been very well represented at the Pony Club Championships every year for as long as we can remember!

Information on Pony Club disciplines are available on the main PC site .

Details and forms to complete if you are interested in representing the Branch at any of the disciplines will be emailed to everyone during the early part of the year.



Hunting

Lots of our members enjoy hunting and there are several children's meets throughout the season. If you are interested in hunting please contact Bird Collins 07790 518688 who will be happy to help.

Insurance

The Pony Club insurance policy is provided by Howden Insurance Brokers Limited.

All Members of The Pony Club are covered by our insurance policy . It is strongly recommended that you review the information on the Pony Club website regarding the policy.

Vaccinations for Ponies attending Pony Club activities

All horses/ponies must have had an annual flu vaccination. See Pony Club regulations regarding this. Stricter requirements can be requested at some venues so make sure that you always check before attending somewhere new for competitions etc. This is the current rule as of 2021 but please check it as it does change.

[THE PONY CLUB VACCINATION RULE](#)

Useful publications

- The Manual of Horsemanship is a very useful publication and it is recommended that all members purchase a copy. Available at Amazon or Ebay
- Discipline Rule Books – recommended for any members competing in teams or any Pony Club competitions. Available to download online at www.pcuk.org
- Pony Club Handbook - All information concerning the Pony Club

