



**Heart of England
Pony Club
Newsletter January 2012**



NEWS

We hope you all had a good Christmas and would like to wish all our members and their families a Happy New Year.

We hope you all enjoyed the rallies and events we held in 2011 and that you will take part in as much as you can in 2012. We have just had our first planning meeting so we have some rallies and exciting events planned already.

We had a Race Night at the end of last year which was great fun and we will hopefully be holding another one this year and maybe another Quiz night too.

The rally with Yogi was again a great success and he has confirmed that he is willing to do another rally for us which is great news. Thanks again to Wendy for organising this (and other) great opportunities for our members.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter as it is the start of the year. For the rest of the year we will be using the website and email for communication purposes so parents/guardians please keep checking the website and your email for updates and notifications so that your child doesn't miss out.

If you haven't got access to the internet or email then just let Sue know and we will add you to a mailing list for booking forms etc.

We have got quite a few different rallies booked over the coming months so please make sure you make a note of them in your diaries and book in early to avoid disappointment (**please see the rally booking process below**). This year we will again be holding specific training dates for those interested in having a chance to represent the Branch in a team in the Area Competitions (**please see the Area Competitions section below**).

Please remember that when you attend events you are representing the Heart of England Pony Club (whether you are riding or not) and therefore any reference on facebook or otherwise should reflect this.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Subscriptions were due on 1st January and if you are planning to renew your membership but haven't got round to it yet please note that your membership and the valuable Pony Club insurance cover terminates on 31 January and you won't be able to take part in any of the rallies until you have renewed. Also under Pony Club Rules, members who haven't renewed their membership prior to 31 January will not be eligible to compete in any Area Competitions. Renewal forms can be downloaded from our website if you have mislaid your copy (please see the Website section below for the address).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Area Competition Dates

Area Quiz at Weddington Social Club, Nuneaton - Friday 17 February (we are waiting for more information on format etc as we may enter a team)

Area Dressage at Moreton Morrell - 30 June

Area Eventing at Eland Lodge - 14 or 15 July

Area Showjumping at Solihull - 1 August

16-19 August - Pony Club Championships at Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire (Musical Ride Competition - Sunday 19 August)

Please see Area Competitions section for information on training for the Area Competitions.

Monday 27 February (and Monday 23 April) at UK Sport Horse Centre, Ryton - Training Sessions with Caroline Moore

More information with regards to booking, cost etc will be made available nearer the time via our website.

Friday 23 March - Presentation Night/AGM

More information with regards to booking, cost etc will be made available nearer the time via our website.



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Friday 13 April - Easter Games Rally at Hollyfast

Saturday 21 April - Structured X Country Course Walk with Philip Surl

More information with regards to booking, cost etc will be made available nearer the time via our website.

Monday 20 August - X Country Training Clinic with Yogi Breisner

More information with regards to booking, cost etc will be made available nearer the time via our website.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Albrighton Hunt Branch are running a Team and Individual Show Jumping Competition at Rodbaston on Monday 13 February.

If you are interested and want to be **considered** for a place in a team then you **MUST** have registered your interest with **SUE** by email or text by **31 JANUARY**. By all means check with Sally, Chief Instructor, if you are not sure if this event is suitable for you but you still **MUST** register with **SUE** if you want to be considered. Sally will put the teams together after this date from those members who have registered their interest. Members not selected for teams may still enter as an individual if appropriate.

REMEMBER FOR ANY RALLY/EVENT IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR OWN TRANSPORT THEN YOU MUST SORT THIS BEFORE YOU BOOK INTO ANYTHING AND PAY THE RELEVANT CHARGE DIRECT TO THE PERSON WHO HAS AGREED TO TRANSPORT YOU.

The West Warwickshire Branch are running a Team and Individual Show Jumping Competition at Wootton Hall on **Sunday 15 April (provisional date)**. More information will be placed on our website once the date is confirmed and schedules are released.

Keep a watch on our website for schedules of other Branch competitions. As we find out about these events we will put a link to them on our website. We won't necessarily be going to them

all but if it is an individual competition then there is no reason why individual members can't book themselves in. Just remember to let Dawn Viner (Acting DC) know that you are attending and representing the Branch and then let us know how you get on.

BADGE AND TEST TRAINING RALLIES

The next set of badge and test training rallies are booked for the following dates 6.30 pm - 8 pm (doors open at 6 pm) at Corley Village Hall. All members are encouraged to take the Horse and Pony Care Tests. Please use the booking form attached for February. All other booking forms will be available from our website.

Tuesday 7 February
Tuesday 21 February
Tuesday 6 March
Tuesday 20 March
Tuesday 3 April

We will be holding a Test Day for all Levels on Wednesday 11 April for those members that we feel are ready to take their next test. If you are not sure what Level you are working towards then please email or text Sue to find out.

We will also be holding Road and Ride Safety Training for those members who haven't done it yet (both badge and test levels). More information will be provided via our website once we have it organised.

Don't forget to check out The Pony Club learning based website to help with general knowledge and test preparation. Take a look at:
www.PonyPrep.org

WORKING RALLIES

Working Rallies will begin again on Wednesday 29 February at the UK Sport Horse Centre at Ryton. They will move to a Wednesday evening at Hollyfast on Wednesday 28 March. All rally information and booking forms will be available on our website.



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AREA COMPETITIONS

If you are interested in representing the Branch in a team at Area Competitions then please register your interest by sending a text or email to Sue **BY END OF MARCH 2012 AT THE LATEST.**

Please Note: Pony Club Rules state that you must have renewed your membership before 31 January 2012 to be eligible to represent your branch in any Area Competitions. Once we know who is interested we will let you know the training dates. Once registered, to be eligible to be **considered** for a place on a team you **MUST** have attended at least 3 ridden working rallies prior to the event and the majority of the specific discipline training dates.

RALLY BOOKING PROCESS

Attached to this newsletter is the Rally Booking Form for February to get you started.

Please Note: You are required to submit the booking form and relevant payment by the cut off date (will usually be 2 weeks prior if time permits) to be booked into a rally/event. You will then be sent an email confirmation that your booking and payment has been received. This is to allow us to plan the groups in advance so we can communicate times etc to you in plenty of time so that you can also plan, but more importantly so that we can book instructors. Times for the different groups (if applicable) will then be posted on the website. If you do not receive an email confirmation of your booking then it is your responsibility to check to make sure we have received it.

Future Rally Booking Forms will be available from our website. It will therefore be your responsibility to check when rallies are happening and book in as required by the cut off dates.

PLEASE NOTE: Members who have not submitted a booking form and payment by the appropriate cut off date will not be given a place on the rally as a matter of course. It isn't fair to those members who have bothered to book in properly and causes problems with the amount of

instructors we have available and group sizes. If there are spaces in a group at the appropriate level you may be allowed to take part but there is a late booking charge of an additional £2 per rally.

Please do not pester the instructors to see if you can get a place. You **MUST** follow the booking procedure so that we can keep correct records and be fair to everyone.

If you do not have access to the internet or are unable to print off booking forms then please let Sue know.

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS (3-7 MAY)

We have been discussing the possibility of organising a trip, so we need to ascertain whether there would be any interest as it will take a bit of organising to make sure we have appropriate adult cover etc. We would also need to organise a coach or minibus for the special rate to apply.

We need to apply before April so if you would be interested then just send an email with names (and parents/guardians) to Sue and we will see what response we get. We haven't decided which day we will go yet so if there are any days that you wouldn't be able to go then you need to let Sue know on your email.

Thursday is Grassroots competition, Friday and Saturday are Dressage days, Sunday is Cross Country and Monday is Showjumping.

Thursday	£4.25
Friday	£10.62
Saturday	£10.62
Sunday	£20.40
Monday	£8.92

NOTE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

This is just a reminder for parents/guardians that it is their responsibility to make sure that their child gets to and from a rally safely and on time.



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Children under the age of 10 years must be supervised by a parent/guardian or someone that has agreed to look after them for you to get ready for the rally, get to the rally and return from the rally.

Once the rally has started then they will be supervised by the instructors but it is not the instructors responsibility to supervise them before and after.

If your child is on lead rein then it is your responsibility to either lead them during the rally or organise a leader.

DRESS CODE

We thought it might be useful to provide a reminder of the dress code that is expected.

At certain events there will be specific dress codes for that event. You will be advised if this is the case.

Hats

All riding hats must have a CE symbol and either:

A kite mark and BS EN 1384:1997
Or PAS 015: 1998
Or Snell E2001 and Snell number

They must be black or navy (including silks).

All hats will be checked at the first ridden rally and tagged. You are not insured to ride if your hat does not meet the standard and therefore we cannot "bend" the rules. If you have any doubt please contact **Dawn Wilson** who carries out our hat checks.

An additional rule concerning cross country states that hats must not have a fixed peak and that this is compulsory for all cross country fences of 0.80m and above. As we do not measure all fences at rallies we are adopting this rule for all cross country rallies.

Boots

These must be either long riding boots or jodhpur boots (leather or rubber) - not muckers (long or short) or wellies.

Boots must have a smooth sole and a small square cut heel.

Chaps

Optional - plain black or brown half chaps. Tassels and fringes are not allowed.

Shirt

White - long sleeved

Sweatshirt

Branch Sweatshirt

Tie

Pony Club or Stock

Jodhpurs

Cream, Beige or White

Jewellery

No jewellery is allowed for safety reasons with the exception of a wrist watch, a wedding ring and a stock pin worn horizontally. Please note earrings and piercings of any kind are not allowed.

Body Protectors

Body protectors are compulsory for cross country. They are strongly recommended for all jumping activities.

Hair

Hair must be tied back and out of your eyes. It is dangerous to have loose long hair. Your instructor will check your hair is safe. A hair net is recommended.



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Tack

All tack will be inspected for safety and suitability by the instructors. If you have any doubts please ask.

CHECK BEFORE YOU BOOK

If you are a member who hires a pony for rallies from Hollyfast then please remember that you **MUST** check with Sally before you book into any rally that there will be a pony available for you to use and that the rally is suitable for them and you to take part in.

Please Note: Checking that a pony is available **DOES NOT** constitute a booking. You must complete and return the booking form and payment (you must also have organised your transport if applicable before booking in).

If you are a member that has a Hollyfast horse or pony on loan you must check in advance of any special training/events whether the event or training is suitable for the horse or pony and you and that it will be available to use.

Please Note: This check **DOES NOT** constitute a booking you must complete and return the booking form and payment (you must also have organised your transport if applicable before booking in).

BRANCH SWEATSHIRTS

Sweatshirts are available to order. If you need one please send an email to Sue stating your size. Prices and sizes can be found on the website.

Hoodies are also available to order but you **MUST NOT** wear hoodies for any ridden rally/event.

YOUR COMMITTEE

The Committee are a group of volunteers who run the Branch for your benefit. Please work with us by following the relevant processes so that we can all build a smooth running and fun Branch.

You may or may not know that Heather has decided to step down from the committee and role of District Commissioner. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather for her many years of service to the Branch and wish her well for the future. We will hopefully still see her at some of our rallies.

Dawn Viner Acting District Commissioner
07811 048570*

Wendy McGowan Assistant DC/Treasurer/
Merchandise/Child
Protection Officer
07748 545112*

Sally Baker Chief Instructor/Youth
Committee

Dawn Wilson Hat Tagging/Youth
Committee

TBA Health and Safety

Sue Hall Secretary/Website/Clothing
info@spideradmin.co.uk
07703 211319*

***Please Note:** No calls after 9.00 pm

Social/Events Team

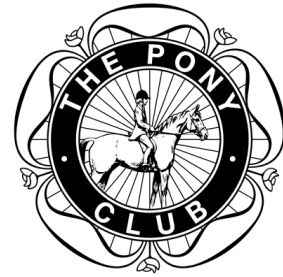
Jenny Stokes
Kerry Burgess
Helen Spence
Sam Ison

Our next committee meeting is Thursday 16 February.

If you have anything that you want raising, any ideas or subjects that you would like us to try and organise talks on or anything that you would like covered in the next newsletter or put on the website then please let a committee member know so that it can be raised/discussed at our next meeting.



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YOUTH COMMITTEE

Some of our members have asked if we can set up a Youth Committee for the Branch. If you are interested in being part of the committee and haven't already registered your interest then just let Sue know via email or text.

We will be having an initial meeting for you to find out more after the first badge rally at Corley Village Hall on Tuesday 7 February at 8 pm.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and that it gives you lots to look forward to. We have quite a few Special Rallies organised (thanks again to Wendy) as well as the backbone Working Rallies and Badge/Test Rallies.

Members must therefore show support for the branch by attending the working rallies and/or badge/test rallies as much as possible.

Members will not be allowed to just choose to do the Special Events. The exception to this will be those members who work or attend college/university as we recognise that the usual timings of working rallies and badge/test rallies would mean that they would not necessarily be able to attend.

Please use the website (and ask your parents/guardians to use it and check their email) as these will be the main sources of information. If however, you do have any problems please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee as we are here to help you.

WEBSITE

The Heart of England Pony Club Website address is:

<http://branches.pcuk.org/heartofengland/>