

# Taunton Vale Branch of the Pony Club Branch Newsletter - September 2010



Dear All,

Why do we always think that the Summer hols will be a time to slow down, relax and take life easy? Instead the holidays have flown by in what seems like a non-stop whirl of activity. For many of you, it was straight out of school and into Summer Camp at Pontispool, shared again this year with Tiverton - more on that later. The Summer equine calendar offered an almost non-stop list of events and it's great to hear that so many of you have been competing successfully around the area. Read on for a round-up of the Branch news to-date and of what's to come.

## New Members

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to the Taunton Vale Branch:

Amber Cresswell (15)  
Emily Cresswell (11)  
Lewis O'Malley (12)  
Lucy Holberry (14)  
Harry Pittard (11)  
Felicity Watts (12)  
Olivia Woodhead (15)  
Annabel Woodhead (12)

Most have already joined us for rallies during the Summer, but as always, if you see any new faces please be sure to say hello and be as helpful as possible.

## Membership 2011

Now is a good time to encourage friends with ponies to consider joining Pony Club. Anyone joining now and paying a full subscription for 2011 will also get from 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31st December 2010 **absolutely free**.

## Summer Camp, Pontispool 2010

Shared with the Tiverton Branch again this year, we had a very successful 4 day camp. Despite fears that the preceding very dry spell of weather may limit use of the cross country course, the rain fell in time and we were able to make full use of all facilities. With an almost equal number of Taunton Vale and Tiverton members from beginners through to camp old-hands, everyone contributed to a positive and enthusiastic camp attitude and left at the end of the four days, happy and tired, but having benefited enormously from the very high level of tuition provided by the instructors. The intensive training at camp enables everyone to improve, build confidence and address any particular issues they may have with their riding, in readiness for a busy summer holiday to follow – this year was no exception. The standard of turnout was very good, the helpfulness and friendliness of all camp mates was also very commendable.

This year it was a great pleasure to welcome our mini group into camp for the final two days. With Mums on hand to assist with leading, tacking-up, etc, the minis fully embraced the training and social opportunities at camp, helping to bring out the true ethos of Pony Club, with young and old working, learning and playing together - after all - camp is as much about having fun as it is about progression. Thanks to Jess North and Megan Toon for helping out.

Busy days in the saddle eased into more relaxed and fun evening entertainments for all ages, including Mind Games, It's a Knock-Out and a Fencing demonstration provided by a National level fencer, Jenny McGeever.

As always our thanks go to Tiverton members for being such good camp mates; to our camp organizers, Sarah Salisbury, Belinda Humphry, Rachel Hoyle and Mary Bailey for their tireless efforts for months beforehand to make sure the wheels of camp ran smoothly; to all the parents who took turns with the many other jobs that needed to be tackled.



### Tiverton Mini Camp, 10th - 12th August

The Tiverton Mini's made our members welcome at their camp again this year. Oliver and Harrison Dummett and Chloe Allen went along for three very full, fun-packed days. Many thanks to Josie Lodge and Harriet Overhill for helping out during mini camp.

### Rally Review

A quick round up of the events from our last programme:

- 4th August **General Rally for all** at Bickenhall Farm  
The first rally after a busy camp and the first rally for some of our new members. We started off in beautiful sunshine which rapidly turned to torrential rain, but undeterred, the raincoats went on and so did the riding.
- 19th August **Introduction to TREC** at Staple Park Farm  
Unfortunately this session had to be postponed at the eleventh hour as the instructor was unwell. Look out for the new date and meanwhile you can find more information about this varied and fun equestrian sport, at the following sites or see YouTube: [www.trecsouthwest.com/TREC\\_info.htm](http://www.trecsouthwest.com/TREC_info.htm) or [www.trecuk.com](http://www.trecuk.com)
- 10th August **Visit to Taunton Vale FoxHounds Kennels**  
Mr Stuart Sharp, Master of Foxhounds, welcomed our group to the kennels and we spent a very interesting afternoon learning more about how the hunt operates. Stuart explained the feeding routine for the hounds (only for those with a strong stomach!!), how the hounds are raised and introduced to hunting, their breeding and naming conventions, the clothing worn by a huntmaster and other members of the field, plus many other fascinating facts.
- 26th August **All Day Rally at Wyatts Farm**  
This was a well attended rally with 4 groups and instruction from Tonya Ainsworth, Helen Mitchell, Jenny Lowe and Alice Leaney. After a picnic lunch, the older members stayed throughout the afternoon to learn about the benefits of equine massage and watch Hilary North demonstrate some massage techniques.
- 31st August **Cross Country Rally and Picnic at Bicton**

We are always blessed with fine weather when we go to Bicton and the day of our cross country rally was no exception. The sun shone as Tonya Ainsworth, Gaynor Lomas and Helen Mitchell led their groups out onto the course.



Each group had its own agenda for the session; the senior group focused on the requirements of their forthcoming B Test; the junior group met the challenges introducing new horses and building confidence in both horse and rider; the mini group,

constantly eager to push the boundaries, had a great time encouraging each other along and tackling anything their instructor suggested. The morning was wrapped up with a get-together picnic and chill-out in the sunshine.

### **Rally Venues**

We are very fortunate to have had a number of venues made available to us for rallies during the summer months. This is invaluable as it not only gives us variety, but also helps us keep costs as low as possible. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Salisbury, Mr and Mrs Phillips and Mrs North for hosting rallies over the past few months.

### **Mini Tri/Tetrathlon**

Trudy Clist has been working hard to get our mini tri/tetrathletes into shape. Ellie Clist, Lauren Turner, Oliver and Harrison Dummett, Lettie Johnson, Yanis Hammick and Pippa Hoyle have been introduced to pistol shooting, are working hard on their swimming and riding (not sure about the running!) They had hoped to take part in the Tiverton Pony Club Tri-It day last weekend, but unfortunately it was cancelled. We hope to compensate for this by organising a training day during halfterm for anyone interested in having a go.

### **Pony Club Polo**

Pony Club Polo is reaching the end of the season now, but there are still some interesting events happening at the Taunton Vale Polo Ground throughout September, including Pony Club Polo on the 19th and a Have a Go at Polo Day on 11th September. Just call Katrina Stanhope-White on (01460) 234440 if you'd like to know more or to book.

### **Pony Club Attainment Tests**

The new rally programme for September and October is geared towards preparing you all for your next level of Attainment Test. The Pony Club Training structure encourages Members to take tests which enable them to learn progressively about horse and pony care and riding. The tests are taken at recommended ages and are designed with certain objectives in mind.

The tests start at level E for our very young members, through to B test which some of our older members are working towards at the moment. If you would like to know more about the tests and the requirements for each stage, go to [www.pcuk.org/Tests-Achievements/](http://www.pcuk.org/Tests-Achievements/).

Don't be put off by the word 'Test'. You will already have learnt much of what you need to know through regular attendance at rallies and stable management sessions and whilst the tests are optional, we would encourage you to take them as it enables us to measure your progress and gives you a wonderful sense of achievement.

Your contacts are:

- for D and D+ level candidates - Rachel Hoyle
- for C and C+ level candidates - Sarah Salisbury

### **B Test Candidates**

Four Taunton Vale members, Josie Lodge, Harriet Overhill, Jess North and Aoife Cooper, have been working hard over the past year to prepare for their B test and will be taking the Riding and Stable Management modules on Saturday 18th September. We wish them all the very best of luck.

Josie, Harriet and Jess North also attended an Introduction to Coaching day on 19<sup>th</sup> August. After an afternoon of theory, several younger members went along with their ponies to be guinea pigs for Josie, Harriet and Jess to practise their instructing techniques on. Many thanks to Emily and Amber Cresswell, Lewis O'Malley, Lauryn Turner, Pippa Hoyle and Yanis Hammick.

We hope that Josie, Harriet and Jess will be able to put their coaching knowledge to good use and assist in stable management sessions and at mounted rallies under the guidance of fully qualified instructors. *Well done and keep up the good work.*

## What our members have been doing this month.....

Here are the results that you've sent in:

### Saturday 3rd July, Seavington Pony Club Open Show

- Ellie Clist achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1ft 6 showjumping and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Working Hunter Pony 2ft class.

### Saturday 17th July, Novice/Area Dressage Competition and Very Novice Competition

- Toots Salisbury achieved 5th place in the Novice Challenge Dressage competition (a great achievement in a very large class).
- Pippa Hoyle achieved 1st place in the Very Novice Competition (under 10's).
- Ellie Clist achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Very Novice Competition (under 10's).
- Pippa and Ellie also came 1<sup>st</sup> in the pairs class.



### Chard Show, Sunday 11th July

- Ellie Clist achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 1ft 6" nursery stakes.

### ODE at Cuckoos Nest, Saturday 31st July

- Olivia and Breeze achieved 7th place in their class.

### ODE at Pontispool, Sunday 1st August

- Olivia and Breeze achieved 6th place in their class

### BE ODE at West Buckland, Sunday 1st August

- Josie Lodge and Harriet Overhill both took part in the BE ODE at West Buckland on Sunday 1st August. Both had fantastic clear rounds over the cross country course and Harriet also had a clear round in the showjumping.

### British Show Pony Society, Summer Championships, August 2010

What a fantastic achievement for Chloe and her pony Daisy! Here's a diary of the event and photos. Also look out for the photo and write up in Horse & Hound.



**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Aug** - took part in the Part Bred Lead Rein class.

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Aug** – 1<sup>st</sup> in the Restricted Lead Rein class and the Classified Lead Rein.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Aug** – placed 3rd in the Open Lead Rein and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Classic Security Challenge Lead Rein.

Became Classic Security Challenge Mini Champion and won the Classic Security Challenge Supreme (see photos) .

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Aug** - 1<sup>st</sup> in the Timberwolf Supreme Champion 2010.

Left the show at midnight to begin the 6 hr journey home, tired but worth every minute. All this with a novice 5 yr old pony that had never been indoors before and a first experience of the Championships for Chloe – quite remarkable. Huge well done to Chloe, Daisy and Pete Thomas who led them so perfectly.



Chloe and her pony Whiteleaze Delphine (Daisy) winning the Classic Security Challenge Supreme

#### Cotley Pony Club ODE, Tuesday 31st August

- Josh Pring achieved 6th place in the 10 years and under unassisted class.

#### RaceHorse Re-Homing Centre Show, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September

- Ellie Clist achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in both the 1ft 6" and 1ft 9" classes.

#### Taunton Vale Harriers Mini ODE, Sunday 5th September

- Ellie Clist achieved 1st place in the mini Novice class
- Harrison Dummett achieved 3rd place in the combined training and 9<sup>th</sup> place in
- Pippa Hoyle achieved 4th place and Josh Pring was 6th (on Duke) and 7th (on Sandy) in the 11 yrs and under expert section

What a great day for everyone!

*Please send any results, news and photos in - giving as much detail as possible.*

#### **Best Wishes to .....**

We would like to send our very best wishes for a very speedy recovery to two members - Olivia Barnes and Venetia Speke. We hope you'll both be feeling much better very soon.

#### **Pony Club Annual 2011**

Last year saw the re-introduction of the Pony Club Annual which was handed out to all members at Christmas 2009, and throughout 2010 to new members as they joined us. The Pony Club Head Office begins collecting stories and photographs from each Branch at this time of year, with a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October for entries. We sent lots of photos last year from camp, painted ponies, various rallies, but were not lucky enough to be included. If you have any photos or stories from 2010 that you think would make a good addition to the Annual, please let me have them as soon as possible.

#### **Rally Booking Procedure**

Don't forget to get your reply slips in early, **at least one week ahead:**

- complete the rally slip (you can send more than one at a time)
- enclose a cheque for the cost of the rally. If you are paying for more than one rally with a single cheque, please write on the back of the cheque the dates you are paying for.

#### **Medical Armbands/Sweatshirts/manual of Horsemanship**

All available from Sarah Salisbury Medical armbands are compulsory for cross country rallies and highly recommended at all other rallies. Please note that these must be worn on your arm – not on your leg.

#### **Branded Branch Clothing**

Judith Wakley has a list of branded clothing – polo shirts, snuggly fleeces and showerproof jackets – ideal for this time of year. Contact Judith on (01823) 480343 if you'd like to purchase anything.

#### **Secondhand Register**

Buying or selling - if you have anything to add to the list, please email Louise on [louiseoverhill@aol.com](mailto:louiseoverhill@aol.com). The current list of items is available on our website. It also helps our fundraising effort, as 10% of the proceeds go to Pony Club.

#### **Reminder of Contacts**

If you have any **general queries**, complaints or issues, **Helen Toon** will be your first point of contact (07751062702) or (01460) 281315. If she is unable to take your call immediately, please be assured that your call will be returned at the earliest opportunity.

### Dates for your Diary

Rather than list the dates of the many events that will be on during the coming weeks, here are links to some of the useful websites to visit. Also any schedules that I receive will be available on our website under the [Schedules](#) tab.

<http://www.equinetourism.co.uk/>

<http://www.tivpc.org.uk/calendar.htm>

[http://www.ridingdiary.co.uk/newregions.asp?Region=SOUTH\\_WEST\\_&id=903](http://www.ridingdiary.co.uk/newregions.asp?Region=SOUTH_WEST_&id=903)

That's it for now - we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best regards,  
The Committee, Taunton Vale Branch of the Pony Club

### Committee Members

Helen Toon	DC	(01460) 281315 (07751062702)
Belinda Humphry	Treasurer/ Rally Replies/Membership Secretary	(01460) 281597
Sarah Salisbury	Junior TSJ/Merchandise/Child Protection/Health and Safety	(01823) 480256
Helen Toon	Secretary/Website/Newsletter	(01460) 57492 (07751062702)
Hannah Perry	Junior/Senior TSJ	(01823) 443536
David Lodge	Minute Secretary	
Tina Glasper	Various	
Rachel Hoyle	Test and Achievement Badge Records	
Nicola Nicholls	Instructor Bookings	
Judith Wakley	Branded Clothing/Cakes Sales	
Hilary North	Various	