

Taunton Vale Branch of the Pony Club Branch Newsletter - August 2011



Dear All,

The summer holidays are now well and truly underway and I hope you're all enjoying extra time to spend with your ponies. For many of you it was straight out of school into Summer Camp without time to catch your breath - but was it worth it? Wow - just about the best camp we've ever had according to feedback from everyone. More about that later, let's catch up with some other news

Committee Members

I'm sure all of you have met Rachel Hoyle, either through camp or at a rally, so you'll understand how disappointed we are to lose Rachel from the committee. Rachel will be moving to the USA, with her husband and daughter early in the 2012 for two years, and will obviously need more time over the coming months to prepare for the move. Rachel's contribution to the Club has been enormous and endlessly cheerful, and we all thank her for that. It's not quite goodbye yet, as the Hoyles will still be around until the end of the year.

Membership 2011

We've reached mid-year and membership fees have reduced to £30 for a single membership, so now is a good time to encourage your friends with ponies to consider joining Pony Club. Membership application forms are available on our website at [//branches.pcuk.org/tauntonvale](http://branches.pcuk.org/tauntonvale).

Our current membership stands at 46, which is very healthy, but as always, the more members we have, the more activities we can offer, so if you know of somewhere appropriate to advertise the Taunton Vale Pony Club, please contact Helen for a poster.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Gracie Hammond	Isabel Gooding
Amber McCormick	Kate Shapland
Isla Ginbey	Millie Stewart

As always, if you see any new faces at rallies, please be sure to say hello and be as helpful as possible.

Round-up of Events

Firstly, many thanks to Chris and Sarah Salisbury who continue to support the Club by providing us with a venue for so many of our rallies and events. As well as the many general rallies that have taken place over the past three months, here's a snapshot of some other events from the programme ...

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Animal Rescue and Fire Safety Presentation, Thurs 21st April

This was a very well attended presentation and Neil Giddings from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service gave an excellent talk on fire prevention, and how to deal with fire should the worst happen. This was followed by a presentation on animal rescue and the role of the Fire and Rescue Service. Whilst we hope that we never find ourselves in need of rescue, knowing a little more about how to deal with such a situation is invaluable. Neil came equipped with a life size model horse, which, with the help of Darren (tractor driver), he used to demonstrate some of the rescue techniques with plenty of audience participation. An excellent presentation and we have donated half of the proceeds from the evening to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

National Pony Club Quiz, Sunday 17th April

This year our branch hosted the Area round of the Pony Club Quiz, and out of the fourteen teams that took part, the Taunton Vale Owls took first place. This meant that Jess North, Toots Salisbury, Pippa Hoyle and Ellie Clist had the opportunity to take part in the National Competition at Moreton Morrell in Warwickshire. The competition was tough and they took 17th place out of 19 teams. They all deserve a big pat on the back for taking part and for making such a fabulous mascot. We can all look forward to more quiz practice sessions throughout the Winter months.

Taunton Vale Open Show, Sunday 29th May 2011, Bickenhall Farm



This was our big annual fundraiser, and we raised £500 to add to the pot. Many thanks to all the helpers on the day including, stewards, runners, cake sellers, arena parties, setting up and packing up.



(Above) Evie riding Mia

(Above) When the serious riding is over - it's time for a lollipop.

Tri-it Day, Thursday 2nd June

We ran a taster session for all those who liked the sound of tri or tetrathlon, but weren't quite sure what it involves. On a very hot afternoon we all met at Venners Farm, Broadway by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Phillips. Trudy Clist took the children through shooting practice and running, before they tacked up their ponies for cross country instruction with Sue Kidner. The final session of the afternoon was a very cooling dip in the pool - but with some serious swimming practice of course. With all that exercise comes a healthy appetite and Mrs Phillips provided hotdogs, cookies and drinks for everyone. A great afternoon and one to repeat in the near future.

80th Anniversary Barn Dance



We celebrated our 80th Anniversary with a fantastic barn dance on Saturday 25th June. After much planning and publicising, the barn was full with past and present members of the club. Photos and memorabilia from past times were on display and tributes paid to all those who have contributed so much to the Taunton Vale over the years. Music by Dyer Cummings, guitar playing and singing by Aoife Cooper, together with a bucking bronco, delicious hog roast, strawberries and ice cream, and celebratory cake kept everyone entertained throughout the long, warm summer evening. Many thanks to Hilary North for providing the venue and to everyone for their help and support. Although intended as a celebration, rather than a fundraiser, this event raised over £1,000 for club funds.

Our search for past members brought some interesting responses, including the photo below, very kindly sent in by Miss Mary Hunt. It has been fascinating to learn more about the club's history, the people that have contributed to it over the years and most of all, to know that it has such a special place in their memories. We'll keep an album of the history and add any further items as they emerge. The information is also on our website, [Taunton Vale History](#)

Taunton Vale Pony Club Present



and Past



Summer Camp at Pontispool in 2011 (by kind permission of www.jayphotos.co.uk) and Summer Camp at Taunton Racecourse in 1952 by kind permission of Miss Mary Hunt.

Not much has changed - just the hairstyles and the jods:-)

Area Competitions

The following members represented Taunton Vale in the Area competitions:

Horse Trials at Bicton

Novice Challenge - Toots Salisbury, Olivia Barnes, Harriet Overhill

Intermediate - Aoife Cooper

Open Level 2 Class - Jess North.

Many congratulations to Toots on taking 1st place in the Novice Challenge horse trials, with an outstanding dressage score of 22 - the best of the day.



Showjumping at Mark, Highbridge

Novice Challenge - Josie Lodge, Harriet Overhill and Jess North

Very Novice Class - Ellie Clist. Ellie was part of a mixed team and

helped them to a fantastic 2nd place with just 4 faults in the first round and a clear round in the 2 ft 6 jump off.

Many congratulations to Jess on taking 2nd place in the Novice Challenge showjumping.

Dressage at Taunton Racecourse

Novice Challenge - Harriet Overhill and Jess North

Intermediate - Aoife Cooper

Very Novice Class - Ellie Clist

And again, many congratulations to Jess on taking 1st place in the Novice Challenge Class and to Aoife on taking 7th place in the Intermediate Class.

This is a huge success for Taunton Vale! It's five years since a Taunton Vale member qualified for the National Championships and this year we've qualified in all three disciplines. Both Jess and Toots will represent Taunton Vale at the **NFU Pony Club Novice Championships** on 27th/28th August in Cheshire. It takes a lot of work and dedication to get this far and we wish them both the very best of luck. Something for our younger members to aspire to in future years. *So exciting!*

Summer Camp 23rd – 27th July 2011 at Pontispool



Well - we promised that camp would be a great combination of intensive learning and fun-packed activity – not to be missed - and it did not disappoint! Thirty six campers and ponies, fine weather, great instructors and some hilarious activities. Everyone learnt something new, tried something new, met new friends, and generally contributed to a very successful camp. Camp is the highlight of the Pony Club year and it's great to see everyone working together, encouraging each other and wholeheartedly entering into the spirit of things. I'm sure you've all checked out the fab photos at www.jayphotos.co.uk - it's impossible to choose a favourite, so here's one sent in by the Mum of our youngest member having fun her first camp.

CAMP POLO SHIRTS – you can wear these to rallies during the Summer, but rules demand that you wear a long-sleeved T-shirt underneath for protection.

Well done to all members who won awards and/or passed a Progressive Test while at camp. A full list is on the website.

Can't wait until Easter Camp!!

Coming Up

Thursday 11th August - All Day Rally at Wyatt's Farm, Capland, Ashill, Ilminster TA19 9NN

Tuesday 23rd August - Mini Rally for 10 years and under at Old Manor Barn, Beercrocombe, Taunton TA3 6AJ

Lookout for the new rally programme in the next few days. Your suggestions for items to include on the rally programme are always welcome.

Member's Story

In a bid to keep the format of our newsletter varied and interesting, it would be good to publish a story from a member, parent or someone associated with the Club. This might be along the lines of how you started riding, your first pony, your most successful moment, your most embarrassing moment, etc. If you'd like to volunteer your story for the next newsletter, please email it to Helen at jhtoon@btinternet.com.

What our members have been doing

Toots Salisbury is having a cracking year with Georgie! Amongst her successes are 1st place in the open working hunter at the Taunton Vale Fox Hounds show at Bickenhall on the 19th June. She also won the Dikler Challenge Cup and stood Reserve Champion. Toots also took 3rd place at the Silverton Hunt ODE in May. Keep it up Toots - the big one is yet to come:-)

Chloe Allen has had another very successful showing season with her pony Cosford Veronica. They qualified for the Open Show Pony Lead Rein class at Royal International Horse Show which took place in July, and have also qualified for Horse of the Year Show in the Show Pony Lead Rein class. They qualified at East of England Show where they were also Mini Reserve Champion. How exciting! We wish Chloe the very best of luck.

Don't forget to send in all your news, results and photos – can't publish it if we don't know about it☺

Pony Club Annual 2012

I know, I know - it's only August 2011, but it won't be long before HQ starts the long task of compiling the Pony Club Annual for 2012. If you have any favourite Pony Club photos - maybe taken at camp or a rally - please let me have them. We haven't managed to feature in the last two editions, so *let's go for it this year*.

Rally Booking Procedure

Don't forget to get your reply slips in early, **at least one week ahead. This helps so much with planning groups and instructors. Late booking may incur a charge of 50% extra.**

- 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.
- Return slips to: Graham Harvey, Old Manor Barn, Beercrocombe, Taunton, TA3 6AJ

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, showerproof jackets, etc. 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. 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>

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/ Membership Secretary	(01460) 281315 (07751062702)
Graham Harvey	Treasurer/Rally Replies	(01823) 480791
Sarah Salisbury	Merchandise/Child Protection/Health and Safety	(01823) 480256
Helen Toon	Secretary/Website/Newsletter	(01460) 281315 (07751062702)
Hannah Perry	Senior TSJ	(01823) 443536
Belinda Humphry	Various	(01823) 281597
David Lodge	Minute Secretary	
Louise Dummett	Mini/Jnr Team Showjumping	
Rachel Hoyle	Test and Achievement Badge Records	
Louisa Turner	Media	
Judith Wakley	Branded Clothing/Cakes Sales	
Hilary North	Various	
Trudy Clist	Triathlon/Tetrathlon	