

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



Dear All,

Hope you all had a great, white Christmas. Good for sledging - not so good for riding, but I'm, sure you all had lots of fun and managed to keep safe and warm. It's a great shame that our Christmas party was postponed, but as all the schools had taken the decision to close early along with many offices, etc, we decided it was best not to encourage you all out onto icy roads during the evening. Rachel had some great games lined up for us, so we'll set another date in January and let you know as soon as possible.

## **Pony Club Annual**

The 2010 Pony Club Annual is now available and we have one free copy for all members. We'll hand these out at the belated Christmas party early in the New Year.

## **Annual Membership Renewal**

Your membership renewal form for 2011 is attached. If you have trouble downloading the form, please let Helen know. **All forms and subscriptions are due in now.** If you are booked in for the rally on 16th January, please ensure your form reaches Belinda beforehand.

## **Summer Camp, Pontispool 2011**

Please make a note in your diary that Summer Camp 2011 will take place at Pontispool from 22nd July to 26th July. We have given a lot of thought to how best to run camp, looking at different venues and comparing prices and facilities with the aim of keeping costs down whilst at the same time providing a successful camp. We've spoken to all other clubs in Area 15 about how they run and fund their camps to make sure that we're in line with them. If you have any suggestions as to how we can keep camp costs down, new things to do at camp, etc please do let us know in good time. As many have booked holidays around our original camp dates, we have decided it is best to stay with our original plan. It's an unfortunate fact that running camp at Pontispool is expensive when accommodation, facilities, instruction, catering are all included, but it's a package that is hard to replicate elsewhere. Our options include subsidizing camp from Club funds, but this will require some hands-on fundraising.

## **Activities during October/November/December**

To take a quick review of our activities over the past three months:

### **Pony Club Achievement Tests**

The following members were successful in their Achievement tests during the October half term:

- E Test - Lauryn Turner
- D Test - Yanis Hammick  
          Lewis O'Malley
- Oliver Dummett
- D+     - Felicity Watts  
          - Lucy Holberry
- C       - Melanie Pocock
- C+     - Toots Salisbury  
          - Olivia Barnes (Stable Management)  
          - Steph Amery (Stable Management)

***Well done to you all.***

### **Rallies/Stable Management**

It's wonderful to see that the majority of rallies are very well attended by all age groups, as are the stable management sessions. The winter months mean that our rallies now have to be run at staggered times, which seems a little less social, but it won't be for long - hopefully!

These rallies and stable management sessions form the foundation of your progress through the Attainment Test levels and regular attendance is of great benefit.

### Visit to Mounted Police Section at Bower Ashton

This was a great visit and the mounted Police officers and grooms at Bower Ashton went to great lengths to make us welcome and with them. We were introduced to learnt about their training and work, helmets worn by mounted officers, exercises in the arena.



make sure we got the most from our time their twelve beautiful, gentle giants, got to try on the very heavy jackets and and took part in some amazing training



### Team Showjumping

Our mini and junior teams have been very active this season and taken part in competitions at Stockland Lovell and Badgeworth. All the results and photos are posted on our website, take a look at <http://branches.pcuk.org/tauntonvale/tsj-results>. If you're interested in joining a team, please let us know before the season starts again in 2011.

### Christmas Bingo Night at Neroche Hall

This was a great fun evening and made us £250 to add to the pot. Chloe Allen's grandad was a very entertaining Bingo Caller. Lots of lucky people took home festive goodies and the WoWee was won by Nicola Nicholls. Our raffle also raised funds which will enable us to buy branded numnahs for our team showjumpers ready for next season.

### Christmas Carol Singing

A great little group turned out on a chilly Friday evening to entertain shoppers in front of the Tesco store in Ilminster. We had the added bonus of some fantastic solo singing/guitar playing from Aoife Cooper, some saxophone solos from Megan (despite a rather chilly saxophone) and a wonderful Jingle Bells solo from Ellie Clist. Thanks to everyone who added some festive sparkle and gave their best to raise £67 for the World Horse Welfare Fund.

### Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to all those who sent in such wonderful entries for our Christmas Card competition. It was a difficult job for our judge to choose just one winner from each category, but we're that Pippa Hoyle won the 11 and under section, and Eloise Brown won the 12 and over section. Pippa's design has been produced as a placemat and Eloise's design was printed as a Christmas card - *and we've now sold them all.....Fantastic!*

### Mini Tri/Tetrathlon

Trudy Clist has been working hard to get our mini tri/tetrathletes into shape and introducing them to competitions. Again, all results and photos are on our website at <http://branches.pcuk.org/tauntonvale/disciplines/tetrathlon>. Newcomers are welcome - just get in touch with Trudy if you like to take part.

### Sport England Award

We were very pleased to learn back in October that our application for funding from Sport England was successful and they have awarded us funds to buy a new, and much needed, showjump trailer and complete set of jumps. We're hoping to finalise the purchase of this equipment early in the new year.

### Area 15 Quiz

Taunton Vale Branch will be hosting the Area quiz in 2011. This will be held on Thursday 24th February, venue to be confirmed. You may have noticed that the Stable Management sessions on the rally programme included practice for the quiz, but unfortunately the weather was so cold that we were unable to run the first of these sessions. We will provide practice sessions after Christmas, so get swatting and let's make sure we have at least one, if not two or three teams taking part this year. Teams are made up of members from all age groups.

### 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, snugly 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

There is a second children's meet on the Taunton Vale Foxhounds calendar for **Wed 19th Feb at Manor Farm, Cricket Malherbie**.

If you would like to try hunting, this is the ideal opportunity. This meet is especially aimed at introducing children to hunting with plenty of adults on hand to guide and explain the rules and etiquette of hunting. If you would like to go along, please call Mrs Brown in advance on (01823) 480441.

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

From the Committee, we wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

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	