

Taunton Vale Branch of the Pony Club Branch Newsletter - June 2010



Dear All,

So much has happened since our last newsletter, it's hard to know where to start. Many of you have been competing in the numerous shows and events that have been happening around our area, and with a great deal of success which is wonderful to hear. The grapevine is a great thing and it gets some of the news through, but don't forget to send the details and photos to Helen if you want to see your achievements in print.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members this month: Phoebe Crane (11 years old) and Yanis Hammick (8 years old). We look forward to meeting them and their ponies at a rally very soon.

Open Pony and Dog Show – 30th May 2010

Without doubt our Show was a great success and raised £1000 towards our trailer. We were blessed with good weather – not too hot and not too cold. Entries for all classes were good and our own members did well throughout the day. The entries in the fancy dress class were simply outstanding and our judge, Mrs Di Grabham, had a difficult job placing them. First place was awarded to **Teddy Bears Picnic**.



Whilst there are always lessons to be learnt and things we would change for next time, this is definitely something that we hope to repeat in future years. Many thanks to all who helped to make this such a success, from the planning stage through to clearing up afterwards.

An article and photos will be published in the Parish Magazine this month (Bickenhall / West Hatch area edition) and we managed to get a small article and photo into the County Gazette.



(Left) Lauren and Letty had a successful day in the showing classes. (Centre) Yanis and little brother were awesome cowboys. (Right) Wanna kiss!!





Here's Jess, leading Yanis on Indy in a showing class. Jess, now 17, started her Pony Club days on Indy and is now helping Yanis learn to ride on her – great to see our mini and senior members working together.

Lots of photos on the website www.branches.pcuk.org/tauntonvale – if you have any to add, please send them to Helen.

Mini Team Showjumping

Weston Harriers Pony Club Team Showjumping on Sunday 2nd May - Our mini team did the Taunton Vale Club proud on with a fantastic win in the – *their first outing as a team.* Well done all.



Team Members:

Josh Pring (1st Individual)

Ellie Clist (3rd Individual)

Harrison Dummett (5th Individual)

Lauren Turner

Quantock Branch TSJ at Stretcholt on Sunday 9th May - The mini team showed amazing determination and great team spirit take second place over a challenging course at Stretcholt.

Team Members:

Josh Pring

Ellie Clist

Pippa Hoyle (4th Individual)

Devon and Somerset Member



Taunton Vale Harriers Branch TSJ at Pontispool on Friday 4th June - This time we were out in force with two mini teams and a junior team. The mini's did a great job, but didn't manage a placing on this occasion. Instead it was the turn of the Junior team to bring home a 4th place rosette. Well done!

Pony Club Team Showjumping has finished for the time being, as it usually does throughout the summer months to give way to the many other shows and events that are on offer. It is great to see Taunton Vale 'back in the game' and worth mentioning the time and effort put in by the Team Managers to co-ordinate team training, make the entries and be there to encourage and continue coaching their team members on the day – which includes making sure that rider and pony are correctly turned out, walking the course with them, making sure they warm up properly, cheering them on, celebrating when it all goes well and boosting morale when it all goes wrong. Thank you for your excellent work - keep it up – there'll be another season along soon☺.

Mini Tri/Tetrathlon

Trudy Clist has taken on the role of Trainer/Manager for the mini tri/tetrathletes. Our mini tetrathletes, Harrison Dummett, Oliver Dummett, Ellie Clist and Lauryn Turner started their training on Sunday 13th June with a trip to Tiverton to try pistol shooting. All did very well and are looking forward to further training sessions through the Summer.

Polo Training

Polo training with Justin Stanhope-White is now well underway with regular Sunday morning sessions at the Taunton Vale Polo Ground. You don't need any special equipment to get started. Go to <http://branches.pcuk.org/tauntonvale/disciplines/polo-training> for more information. It's very low key and great fun. Some of our neighbouring clubs, Tiverton and the Harriers in particular, are keen to combine forces for polo training. If you would like to know more, call Helen on 07751062702.

Fundraising

Cake Sales

Everyone loves a homemade cake and sweeties☺. Sales from the stall at our own show and at the Taunton Vale Hunt Horse Show on Sunday 20th June have helped contribute another £200 to our trailer fund. Many thanks to all Mums who baked, to Louise for providing the Gazebo, and to everyone for helping man the stall on both occasions.

And just in case you haven't seen our trailer...
This is what we're working so hard to replace. →



Pony Club Attainment Tests

As the Summer holidays approach, we will gear our rallies and stable management sessions more 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/.

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.

Novice Challenge and Area Competitions

Some of our older members will be taking part in the Novice Challenge and Area Competitions held during July and August. These competitions cover three disciplines, Horse Trials, Dressage and Showjumping - the dates and venues are shown below. Support is always very welcome at these events for our participants and this year, to encourage more people to go along, there will be Open and Junior competitions and Clear Round Jumping running at the same time. This will give those not ready to take on the Area Competitions themselves the chance to experience the atmosphere, take part in a lower level competition run on Area rules and be inspired to achieve the level required to take part in the Area Competitions themselves in years to come.

The schedules are attached. Entries for these classes must be made by 27th July. Please contact Helen if you would like to take part in:

Dressage - Class 4 Very Novice (10 and under) or (14 and under)
Dressage Test: Introductory Dressage Test 2007

Showjumping Class 4 – Junior Introductory Area Show Jumping (50 cm in first round)
Showjumping Class 5 – Junior Novice Area Show Jumping (70 cm in the first round)

COMING SOON – PRE-CAMP RALLY AND BBQ

Plans are now well underway for Summer Camp at Pontispool. All forms, kit list and advice on how to prepare your pony for camp are on our website at branches.pcuk.org/tauntonvale/summer-camp/summer-camp-forms-and-information.

If you haven't signed up yet, but would like to go, please contact Belinda Humphry. For those new to camp this year, there are bound to be lots of questions, so our general rally and BBQ at Wyatts Farm on Friday 9th July will give you the opportunity to get these questions answered, pay the balance, etc.

Note: The rally and BBQ are open to all members, not only those going to camp.

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

Here are the results that you've sent in:

Taunton Horse Show

[Erin Watson and Jet](#) achieved 1st place in the 2'6" showjumping class.

Taunton Vale Fun Show

[Olivia Barnes and Josh Pring](#) won the 2' 3" Showjumping Pairs

[Toots Salisbury, Mr Taffy and Murphy](#) won the Horse and Hound Class

[Lauryn Turner and Prince William](#) won the First Ridden Class

[Olivia Barnes and Breeze](#) won the Best Pony Club Pony Class

[Toots Salisbury and Mr Taffy](#) won the Best Family Pony Class

[Ellie Clist and Waffle](#) won the Doggy Obstacle Course

Polden Hills Open Show

No specific details for this one, but I know there were lots of rosettes awarded to Taunton Vale members in a variety of classes. Well done to everyone.

There are so many more results that I don't have details for!! Please send any results, news and photos in.

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. The current list of items is available on our website. This is a great way to get those extra white shirts and jods ready for camp – all at very reasonable prices. 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) 57492. 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

July 10 - 11th Area Tetrathlon at Stonar School

July 11th ODE at Cuckoo's Nest - Tiverton PC

July 17th Area Dressage at Sheldon Grange, Dunkeswell, Honiton

July 23rd – 27th Summer Camp at Pontispool

July 25th ODE at Southcott - Tetcott Hunt

July 25th Show at Broadclyst - Sid & Otter Valley RC

July 27th Area Horse Trials at Treborough, Watchet

August 3rd Area SJ at Moorhen Farm, Cannington

August 10th Tetrathlon - Cattistock PC

August 11th – 13th Tiverton PC Mini Camp at PennyMoor (open to our Mini members)

August 20/21st Tetrathlon Championships - Hartpury

August 29th ODE at Southcott - Mid-Devon PC

September 5th TVH Mini Novice ODE at Regency House

Don't forget to send in any photos, stories or news that you would like to see in the newsletter. 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) 57492 (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	