

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



Dear All,

Only three months into the year and so much has happened already.

New Committee Members

As always, we start the year by thanking departing committee members, Nicola Nicholls and Tina Glasper, for all their hard work over the past years, and welcoming the new members, Lou Turner, Louise Dummett and Trudy Clist who have stepped up to replace them. Also, we would like to thank Belinda Humphry for being our Treasurer for far longer than either of us can remember! Belinda has given up the role of treasurer to Graham Harvey, but will remain on the Committee.

Membership 2011

With Spring well underway, everyone wants to be out with their ponies, 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.pcupk.org/tauntonvale](http://branches.pcupk.org/tauntonvale).

We are pleased to say that our current membership stands at 41, which is very promising for this early in the year, 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.

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

Area 15 Quiz Qualifier

Taunton Vale hosted the Area Quiz Qualifier in February at the Greyhound in Staple Fitzpaine. 14 teams from branches throughout the area took part in a tough competition consisting of eight rounds of questions. Taunton Vale entered two teams and were delighted when the Owls took 1st place. The team will now take part in the National Quiz at Moreton Morrell on Sunday 17th April – complete with mascot. Good luck to Jess North, Toots Salisbury, Pippa Hoyle and Ellie Clist.

Horse and Hound Competition

It was very exciting for our mini team showjumpers and runners to be chosen to take part in the Horse and Hound competition at the Equine and Game Fair at the Bath and West Showground on Sunday 13th March. They trained hard together, experimenting with dogs of all shapes and sizes to find just the right combination and form their team.

On a lovely sunny Sunday, children, ponies and dogs arrived at the showground to compete against the Cotley, Hursley and Dartmoor and Spooner branches. Sporting new 'Taunton Vale' numnahs, the rider and runners paired up to tackle a challenging course. All under 12 years of age, they put on a fantastic show in front of a large and enthusiastic audience. The four riders, Ellie Clist on Casper, Pippa Hoyle on Poppy, Harrison Dummett on Dinky Dan and Lauryn Turner on Prince William rode the course with great style and confidence. They were followed by the four runners and their dogs, Emily Cresswell with Blue, Howie Glasper with Waffle, Oliver Dummett with Jack and Letty Johnson with Tiki, all tackled the timed course with spirit and provided some great entertainment for a cheering crowd. The team took fourth place and were presented with their rosettes by the well-known showjumping couple, Graham and Tina Fletcher.



Look out for the article in the Gazette, Thursday 31st March.

Cross Country Rally, Pontispool, 21st March



This was a beautiful sunny day for our first venture out onto the cross country course this season. Four groups, lead by Sarah Thorne, Sue Kidner, Morwenna Dunstan and Catriona Goodman-Jones enjoyed the intensive 2 hour training. Unfortunately, Flora Johnson took a tumble shortly after setting off, resulting in a broken arm. We all wish Flora a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her at rallies again very soon.

New Showjumps and Trailer

They're finally here!! The new jumps and trailer arrived at Bickenhall earlier this week. Jim from JumpsOnline gave a brief run through of the loading and unloading procedure and safety considerations, and it all looks very simple and far easier to manage than anything we've owned previously. There are some really exciting and colourful fillers and wings that should add some interest to our training throughout the coming months, including road signs, waves and umbrellas. Lou Turner arranged for photographs to be taken after the rally at Bickenhall on Saturday 2nd, and these will appear in the Country Gazette on Thursday 14th April – look out for it.



Team Showjumping

Our mini team has started the season well with a competition at Stockland Lovell on Sunday 27th February 2011 hosted by Mendip Farmers.



Class 1 (under 10, 1' 3" – 1' 6")

Our mini team pulled off a fantastic 2nd place in class 1. Congratulations to Oliver and Harrison Dummett, Yanis Hammick and Lauryn Turner.

As individuals, Yanis took 4th place and Oliver took 5th.

Class 2 (12 and under, 1' 6" – 1' 9")

With the team one member short, Oliver stepped in to help the team take 7th place in class 2. Well done to everyone.

You may recall that the proceeds from the raffle held during the Bingo evening were used to buy branded numnahs for teams to use when competing. We now have these in the Taunton Vale colours of navy blue with pale blue branding – and very smart they are too!

Tri/Tetrathlon

We will be running a taster day for all those who would like to know more about triathlon and tetrathlon. This will consist of short sessions for shooting, running, swimming and riding. It's not a competition – just a chance to find out what it's all about and have some fun.

Pony Club Polo

Pony Club Polo training will be starting again soon at the Taunton Vale Polo Ground. Just call Katrina Stanhope-White on (01460) 234440 if you'd like to know more or to book.

Pony Club Riding and Road Safety

There are several dates included on the new programme for Riding and Road Safety tuition. *This is now an integral part of the Achievement Tests, right from E test level through to C+, which means that you cannot take your next level of Achievement Test until you have attended the appropriate riding and road safety training.* More details of the requirements are available at <http://www.pcuk.org/Tests-Achievements/>.

The syllabus for both the Mini Achievement Badge Road Rider test and the Road Rider Achievement Badge are attached. The Road Rider Achievement Badge requires 5 hours of tuition which we've tried to run in 1 hour sessions on Wednesday evenings, but it seems to be proving difficult for members to attend consistently, which means that the sessions and members learning cannot progress. A review of how we approach the training may mean that we set aside one day, during the holidays, for an intensive session covering all 5 hours. This should be easier to commit to. Road Rider training is essential on today's busy roads and we really can't start teaching this early enough. As with all training, this is designed to be fun as well as informative.

Coming Up

BE Event at Bickenhall Farm, 16th and 17th April 2011

Many thanks to those who have offered to help with the multitude of tasks throughout the weekend. It's a great chance to experience the different roles needed to make an event like this happen. We wish Sarah and Chris a very successful and safe event, with some good weather to help things along. We have the opportunity to raise some money for our branch by running a cake stall at this event, so all contributions of cakes, buns, biccies, etc will be very welcome.

Devon and Somerset Fire Service Animal Rescue and Fire Safety Presentation, Thurs 21st April

Open to all members, family, friends, neighbours or anyone interested in horses and safety. This promises to be a very interesting evening, with practical demonstrations (outside the hall☺) and plenty of audience participation. It is also geared towards the syllabus required for Pony Club members working towards their Fire Marshall Achievement Badge. Entry is £3 per person with light refreshments available through the evening.

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

Our big annual fundraiser, we hope to make this our most successful show yet. Spread the word and put out flyers to make sure everyone knows. Helpers will be needed for various jobs on the day including, stewards, runners, cake sellers, arena parties, setting up the day before and packing up at the end. A task list will be circulated shortly and perhaps you would be kind enough to enter the job/time that you would be able to help. This will be short time slots, so no-one will be tied up for too long. If you have family or friends who might be willing to help – that would be great as the more help we have the easier it is on everyone. We will also run a cake stall, so all contributions of cakes, buns, biccies, etc will be very welcome.

Taunton Vale Foxhounds Hunt Horse Show, Sunday 19th June 2011, Bickenhall Farm

A great show with classes for all. Look out for the schedule. Again we have the opportunity to raise some money for our branch by running a cake stall at this event, so all contributions of cakes, buns, biccies, etc will be very welcome.

Summer Camp at Pontispool, 23rd – 27th July 2011

Nice to see that so many of you have signed up for Easter Camp – there are still some places available, so if you're interested and would more information, please contact Rachel Hoyle or Sarah Salisbury as soon as possible. For those who maybe haven't experienced camp before – it's a great combination of intensive learning and fun-packed activity – not to be missed.

****Taunton Vale Branch 80th Anniversary in 2011****

Plans for 80th anniversary celebrations are underway with June 27th booked for a celebratory hog roast and dancing at Wyatt's Farm, Capland. Do you know any past Taunton Vale members? Do you have any photos or other memorabilia that would help to make this a trip down memory lane? Taunton Vale was one of the earliest branches to be founded – *that has to be worth making a fuss about.* Any ideas for how we can make this a great occasion, please let us know.

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

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 2011

If you haven't received your copy of the Pony Club Annual yet, please let Helen know.

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, 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.equineturism.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

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	