

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



Dear All,

April has been a busy month in the Pony Club calendar, and we've captured lots of news and some good photos for the newsletter. That rare and wonderful thing called sunshine has played a large part in bringing everyone out to enjoy the various competitions, rallies and camp.

## **New Members**

We are pleased to welcome two new members this month: Hettie Holden (3 years old) and Tom Trickey (4 years old). We look forward to meeting them at a rally very soon.

## **Easter Camp at Bicton**

Easter camp was a huge success and definitely something to repeat in future years. Thirteen members attended camp, split into three groups, seniors, juniors and minis.

Nicola Norman, Helen Mitchell and Emily Wootton provided 4 hours tuition each day and made full use of the excellent facilities at Bicton, putting each group through their paces in flatwork, showjumping and cross country training. Everyone came away from camp feeling very happy with the progress made during the two days, and ready to continue the good work with their ponies through the Easter holidays. Bicton provides wonderful stabling for the horses/ponies, but no accommodation for people so, after a glorious first day, we pitched tents, put camp beds in trailers, or snuggled into the back of the car with a couple of duvets. We survived a chilly night to wake to another gloriously sunny day, a hearty breakfast and another busy day in the saddle.

Many of the parents were able to stay during camp and I think they all enjoyed it as much as the children. It does take an enormous effort to prepare for a pony camp and to tidy everything away afterwards, so thank you very much to all parents who helped to get children there, sort out camping and food, take fantastic photos and generally keep an eye on things.

Also, congratulations to all members on their turnout – always smart, clean and tidy. It was noticed and commented on by our instructors. Well done all – can't wait till the next time.

Unfortunately Morwenna Dunstan couldn't join us for camp as her son was very ill and they spent the Easter break in hospital. I'm pleased to say that William is now out of hospital and recovering well at home.

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



### Mini Cross Country Rally

A group of mini riders enjoyed a fantastic cross country rally with Emily Wootton at Swallows Barn Farm, West Hatch by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Minchin. Parents and ponies alike got plenty of

exercise that day as the photos show (more on the website). All this training is really paying off as many of you are out and about attending hunter trials and mini showjumping events – *well done minis – keep it up.*



### 19<sup>th</sup> April, General Rally at Bickenhall

This was the first of our evening rallies for 2010 – a sure sign that Summer is on its way. Following the BE Event held at Bickenhall Farm the previous weekend, Sarah and Chris very kindly left the dressage arenas in place so that we could take the opportunity for some flatwork training. Morwenna and Emily instructed the two groups, seniors and minis. Not sure where our juniors got to that day – we missed you – no doubt the demands of school getting in the way of our fun again ☺

### Fundraising

#### 25<sup>th</sup> March, Quiz Night

What a fantastic turnout – we filled Neroche Hall with members, families and friends, past Pony Club members and some people with no direct association with Pony Club, but who were kind enough to come along and support our cause. A great team effort from those who sold tickets, cooked lasagne and puds, helped set up and tidy up, and of course our excellent Quiz Master, Judith. **BIG** thankyou to all. We raised an amazing **£700** towards our trailer.

#### 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> April, Cake Stand at Bickenhall

During the Bickenhall BE Horse Trials, we were able to run a cake and sweetie stall. All cakes were baked by Pony Club Mums and Grandmas - we had an outstanding selection – brownies, fruit cakes, flapjacks, iced buns, chocolate tray bakes, etc. We raised £162! And – the highlight of *my* weekend was selling a whole tray of cakes to Matt Ryan and his entourage.

#### COMING SOON - 30<sup>th</sup> May, Fun Pony and Dog Show at Bickenhall

Our next major fundraiser – keep spreading the word. Schedules and flyers are out in Rosemills Feeds, Countrywide (Taunton), Unicorn Saddlery and Henry Bowers. Also available from the home page of our website. If you can spare an hour or so the day before to set up, or on the day to help with the myriad of tasks that need doing, please let Helen know.

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



It's been great to see so many of you competing throughout the hunter trial season and here are some of the results that you've sent in:

#### Open Hunter Trial, Bicton, 14<sup>th</sup> March

Olivia Barnes and Breeze achieved 8<sup>th</sup> place in the 2' 3" class.



Pippa Hoyle and Poppy achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 2ft class.

### **Tiverton Foxhounds Open Hunter Trial, Cuckoos Nest, 19<sup>th</sup> April**

Olivia Barnes and Breeze achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 2' 3" class and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 2' 9" class.

### **Showjumping, Cossington, 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Josh Pring achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1' 3" class and 1' 6" class.

Harrison Dummett achieved 3rd place in the 1' 6" class.

*Well done everyone – don't forget to send any news and photos in.*

### **Mini Team Showjumping**

Zoe Pring has kindly offered to take on the role of Mini Team Showjumping Manager. Zoe will be organizing teams for events coming up throughout the Summer and will contact all those eligible to take part. Please try and help Zoe by responding promptly if contacted.

### **Mini Tri/Tetrathlon**

Trudy Clist has kindly offered to take on the role of Trainer/Manager for the mini tri/tetrathletes. For those who may not be familiar with this discipline, competitors will run, swim and shoot for a triathlon, or run, swim, shoot and ride (XC) for a tetrathlon. Look out for training information from Trudy.

### **Polo Training**

Polo training with Justin Stanhope-White will start again on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Taunton Vale Polo Ground. Some of our members attended sessions throughout last summer and made very good progress. 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.

### **Trip to Badminton Horse Trials, 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Apologies to all who showed an interest in this trip. Unfortunately the cost of travel made it too expensive to run this year and so we decided to cancel. If you're planning to go under your own steam, have a very pleasant day (*more money to spend in the shops*).

### **Festival of the Horse, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July**

This is a new event and it looks very good. We thought of perhaps making it a two day trip, either camping or booking some other inexpensive accommodation overnight such as a Travel Lodge. Take a look at [www.festivalofthehorse.co.uk](http://www.festivalofthehorse.co.uk) and let me know if you're interested. Experience tells me that we need to get organized sooner rather than later to get the best deals on tickets and travel, etc.

### **Rally Booking Procedure – CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

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 Wakely 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.

### **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**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May                      Taunton Vale Pony Club Fun Pony and Dog Show at Bickenhall Farm

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June                      Taunton Vale Hunt Horse Show at Bickenhall Farm. Contact Mrs Alison Brown.

### **HELPERS NEEDED FOR BOTH SHOWS – JUST AN HOUR OR TWO FROM EACH OF US WILL GET THE JOB DONE.**

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 Wakely	Branded Clothing/Cakes Sales	
Hilary North	Various	