

## BENNACHIE JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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PLEASE SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY - WE'D LOVE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND POSSIBLY EVEN FIND SPONSORSHIP FROM WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY



HAPPY NEW YEAR

### Contact Us:

Liz Craigie : District Commissioner : [dc.bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:dc.bennachie@pcuk.org)  
Kirsten Douglas : Branch Secretary : [bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:bennachie@pcuk.org)

Website: [branches.pcuk.org/bennachie](https://branches.pcuk.org/bennachie)  
Event Bookings: <https://bennachiepc.entrymaster.online>

## Our New Year's Message from our DC, Liz Craigie



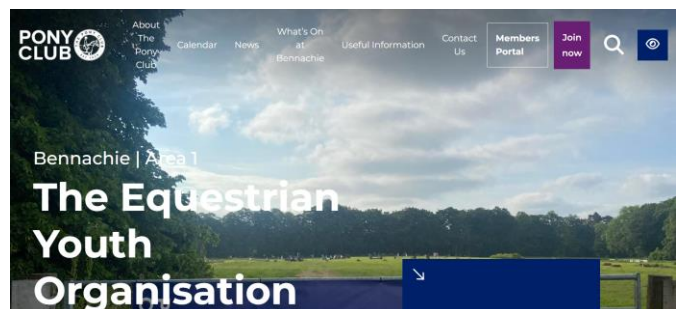
Happy New Year to all our members, parents, coaches, volunteers and supporters. 2025 is full of opportunities for fun and progress in our sport and hopefully Bennachie Pony Club will be helping you achieve your goals. We have lots of plans for 2025 and would really appreciate member input into what you would like to see on the calendar. Pony Club is here to support and encourage you in developing your all-round horsemanship with opportunities for training and competing in your local club, Area, Scotland wide and nationally. There is so much going on and there have been huge communication changes over the past 18 months so I'm going to point you in some directions to hopefully keep you up to date.

The Pony Club Website has had a huge overhaul, there is still some tweaking but overall it is much friendlier place to find out all things Pony Club <https://pcuk.org/> as a member you will get regular e mail updates from Head Office which are a great way of keeping up to date with national news. One particular page I would like to highlight to everyone is the links to all the rulebooks for 2025. These have all the information you need and have a standard format so if you get familiar with them you will always know what to wear, what kit the horse can use, who can compete, the format of competition and anything else you might need to know. There is a book for each discipline, they are key to focused training, easy prep, and low stress competition days <https://pcuk.org//pony-club-rule-books/>

There are new web pages for Area 1 and the individual clubs too. We are trying to build ours up to be welcoming, informative and a reflection of the club. If you'd like to help with the web page creation please let us know <https://branches.pcuk.org/bennachie/> Head over to our branch page and see if you can spot yourself or your friends and see how many ponies you recognise. There's lots still to fill in to make it really useful to members, parents and potential new members and we welcome submissions. The page I'd like to highlight is the Calendar. Lots of filters so you can see everything that's on Nationally, in Area 1, or just Bennachie, maybe just rallies or just socials

<https://branches.pcuk.org/bennachie/calendar/> click on the event you're interested in and it will take you directly to the event on the booking system. You can find member events, parent and volunteer training and coach training. 2025 dates are going up so grab your calendar and get your PC dates in early.

*(continue overleaf .....)*



*(DC's letter continued .....)*

We are 18 months into the Bennachie EntryMaster Booking system <https://bennachiepc.entrymaster.online/index.php?id=1> and I think most people are feeling more familiar with it now. All the event information and a calendar are



there including contacts if you are not sure if an event is suitable for you please message or phone the event organiser and find out more. We have so many ways of being contacted these days and everyone prefers something different which creates a challenge for us organising things:

- ❖ We have had a regular Newsletter this year which I've had great feedback about and is more fun when we get more updates from you all. It is sent out by email from the main database for you to read and share. It is made so you can print it out to share with friends and family. We hope you enjoy reading it and sharing it as members but also that our coaches enjoy seeing how their input is helping members progress and achieve their goals, that former members enjoy recalling their pony club days and that volunteers see how much their contributions are helping make our events fun and successful;
- ❖ We have a Facebook Group for members;
- ❖ We have a Facebook Page for everyone;
- ❖ We have a Club Info WhatsApp group for members over 13 and parents to remind you about booking in, to ask for help and other key information dispersal. There are other group specific WhatsApp chats for regular training;
- ❖ Bennachie EntryMaster emails with times and updates on info of events you have entered;
- ❖ We have Branch e mails: please make sure we are a safe sender: [bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:bennachie@pcuk.org); [dc.bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:dc.bennachie@pcuk.org); and [treasurer.bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:treasurer.bennachie@pcuk.org).

If you are struggling with membership numbers as parents or members let me know. Last year we created car stickers to help you out with member numbers on.

There are big changes in the Spurs Rules as of 1st January 2025. You can only wear spurs at Pony Club training, competition or any other Pony Club event if you have a spurs tag on your hat. Hat tags are available through me for members who have passed their C+ test. Other members need to pass their Spurs Test and the first opportunity is on 9/2/25 booking through Area 1 (follow the link on the calendar). The syllabus can be found here <https://resources.pcuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Spurs-Test-Syllabus-v21.5.1.pdf>

For all the updates on what we achieved as a club and what you achieved as individuals in 2024 come along to the AGM on January 18th – Booking on Bennachie EntryMaster! All members, parents, past members, coaches and club supporters welcome. It will include a premiering of the camp video, a 2024 video, trophies, food, dancing and lots more.



# The past year in pictures



## VAULTING

Aberdeen Vaulting Club was founded earlier this year by international Vaultler and Coach, Katie Henderson, in association with British Equestrian Vaulting. The club is the most northerly in the UK.

We are excited to be able to offer vaulting lessons to young people in the north of Scotland. Our sessions are open to children between the ages of 5-14, and take place on Fridays between 18:30pm and 20:30pm. We operate at Hayfield Equestrian Centre, where we have taken time to train a selection of horses and ponies, which are available for the club to use. Currently, our members are working at beginner level. In the next year we will be developing a competitive team as our members continue to progress.

For more information contact [katiehenderson13@gmail.com](mailto:katiehenderson13@gmail.com)

CONTACT:  
KATIECHENDERSON13@GMAIL.COM

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**ABERDEEN  
VAULTING  
CLUB**

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FRIDAY EVENINGS  
18:30-20:30

Hayfield Equestrian Centre



## Spurs Training Link

<https://resources.pcuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Spurs-Document-for-Members.pdf>

## All New Horse Care Sessions for our Seniors 11-14 years olds and those working at C/C+ level for 2025

We are very lucky to have Gemma Ellis as a parent in the club volunteering to run the winter stable management, quiz and horse and pony care prep for our 11-14 year olds (the junior section – yes it is a little confusing: our junior seniors) every third Wednesday from January to March.

Gemma has an HND in Equine studies, qualified as a BHSAI in 2001 and spent the next 8 years as a freelance coach, competing BS and BE and work riding for renowned showing judge, Bridget Millington. She taught regularly for Fourborrow, Western and Curry Hunt pony clubs in Cornwall.

Moving to Scotland in 2009 and becoming a Mum meant a step back from the horses and competition but she continued to teach for Eglington and then Deeside pony clubs.

Qualifying as a primary school teacher in 2018 Gemma currently teaches full time at Aboyne. She has taught all stages across primary and currently has a P1/2 class.

Rosie, Gemma's daughter, loves the ponies and is a keen Bennachie member and competitor so Gemma is now enjoying spending time on the side lines supporting her but may return to freelance teaching in the future. In the meantime, we are lucky to have her, with her depth of experience and knowledge to support our Junior Care competition teams and help develop knowledge for the C and C+ test.

We are very lucky to have been offered a great new venue for the Wednesday evenings at Sophie Whiteford's yard just outside Milltimber, very accessible for all our members.



Gemma riding Eric

For anyone signing up to the sessions there will be a parents only WhatsApp chat for the group to remind you about the day and what to bring. Entries are open for this Stable Management group on EntryMaster now:

<https://bennachiepc.entrymaster.online/index.php?id=1#event188>

**REJOINING PONY CLUB THIS YEAR?** Our events require a lot of planning and we need to book instructors in advance to ensure the best opportunities for our members. We therefore ask that you please consider rejoining the club promptly, this would really help with this planning process.



*We would like to invite all our members,  
family, friends and supporters to our AGM  
followed by a Buffet, Prizegiving & Ceilidh  
to celebrate our achievements in 2024*



**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Ley's Hotel, Blackburn**

**AGM: 18:00 – 18:45**

**Prize Giving with Buffet & Ceilidh**

**19:00 – 23:00**



## Tickets

**AGM ONLY : FOC (but please book in on EM)**

**AGM, Prizegiving & Ceilidh**

**£15.00 Adults**

**£10.00 Members**

**£10.00 Non-Members (16 and under)**

**Live Band**  
(kindly donated by  
a Member family)

**ALL Tickets need to be  
booked on Entry Master  
as numbers attending  
are required (before 10/1)**





## CORE STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



For Seniors 12years and over now THURSDAY 6-7pm at The Garioch Sports Centre.

Members can join our Core Strength and Conditioning classes from the Christmas of S1. We are very lucky to have the support of the Inverurie Youth Sports Foundation (IYSF) for these classes encouraging our members to develop their skills and body strength benefitting their riding training and preventing injury.

IYSF support local young athletes who are representing their clubs at Regional levels and beyond (for us this is any area level competition and beyond). We have access to the IYSF S&C room and a personal trainer at an amazing price because IYSF fund 50% of the cost.

The sessions take place in the dedicated IYSF room so members are just with their Pony Club peers and not in the main gym. Sessions are great fun and also challenging. Members often come out with jelly legs and jelly arms after pushing themselves but with big smiles on their faces. The Personal Trainer working with them sets age and stage appropriate challenges so each member progresses at their own pace. The benefits are clearly visible when they are riding with benefits to stamina and stability. Learning about resistance training from an early age is great life skill too.

We will have some 'Pay-As-You-Go' spaces at the beginning of the new block for members to try the classes after which payment is by term block. There is a WhatsApp group for parents and members 13 and over with updates and to let the trainer know if you are unable to join a session.

IYSF is an amazing local charity here is more info about them:

<https://www.iysf.org.uk/>

More info about the Garioch Sports Centre Facility here:

<https://www.gariochsports.co.uk/sports-facilities>

Bookings for the next block of Core will open shortly ..... The next block will start on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

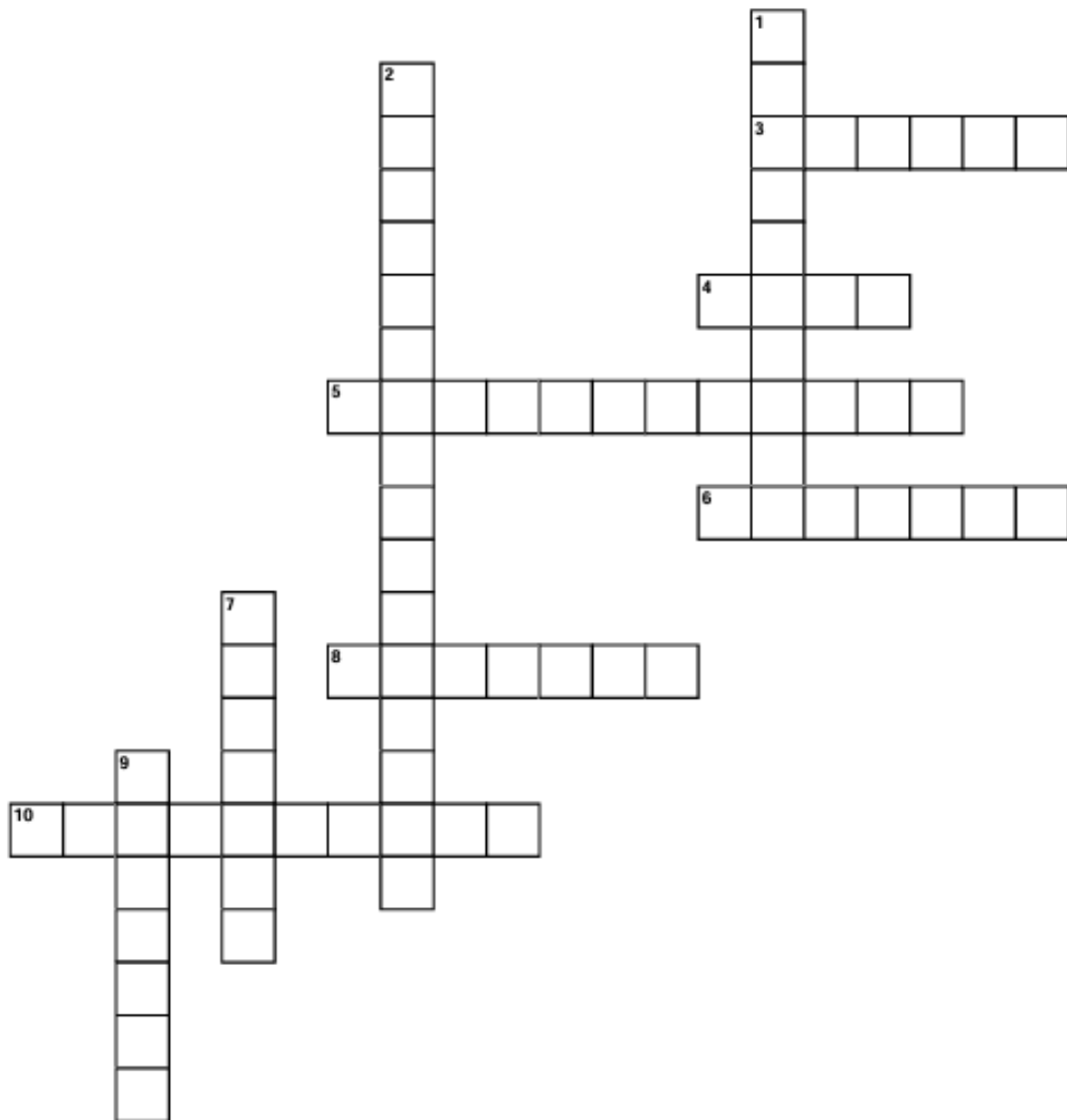
### *Pony Club Vision:*

*“Lifelong Love of Horses through Fun, Friendship, Horsemanship and Sport”*



# Crossword Fun

## Pony Club 2024: A year in focus



### Across

- [3] Surname of area 1 Trustee
- [4] Number of pony club sports listed on the website
- [5] Which county will host the 2025 Pony Club JCB National Finals?
- [6] Pony Club through the \_\_\_\_\_ is the theme of the 2025 pony club Thelwell art competition
- [8] Surname of Bennachie DC
- [10] The park at \_\_\_\_\_ hosted the equestrian events in the 2024 olympics.

### Down

- [1] Venue for area 1 ridden qualifiers 2024
- [2] Sponsors of the Pony Club quiz final 2024
- [7] Which month is Bennachie AGM?
- [9] Surname of puissance winner at the London Horse Show 2024

(Answers on the last page)



# HACKING CHALLENGE LEADERBOARD



**25 Miles:**  
Natasha Drysdale

**OVERALL BRANCH/CENTRE LEADERBOARD:**  
13<sup>th</sup> with 225 Miles

**100 Miles:**  
Brooke Tetley  
Anna Mclean

*These are all the published results up to December 2024. To join the Hacking Challenge click this link: [The Equilab & Hy Equestrian Hacking Challenge](#) | [The Pony Club UK](#)*

## SPRING FESTIVAL QUALIFIERS

**Arena Eventing:**  
Maria Dougall PC70  
Brooke Tetley PC70  
Tiana Wainwright PC80  
Heidi Thomson PC80  
Lachlan Milne PC80  
Eilidh McCombie PC80  
Darcie Halliday PC80  
Evie Craigie PC90

**Arena Eventing (cont):**  
Lachlan Milne PC90  
Natasha Drysdale PC90  
Darcie Halliday PC90  
Isla Mardon PC90  
Isla Mardon PC100  
Kelly Grant PC100

**Show Jumping:**  
Lachlan Milne PC70  
Anna Maclean PC70  
Maria Dougall PC70  
Brooke Tetley PC70  
Emma Stewart PC80  
Lachlan Milne PC80  
Erin Ritchie PC90  
Lachlan Milne PC90

**Dressage:**  
Holly Burgess : Novice



*These are all the published results so far, we realise some of you have qualified but aren't listed. As soon as your names are published we will list you in the forthcoming newsletters.*

## What's On in January / February

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

what's on?

January

2025

4<sup>th</sup> January  
- Senior Training Day -

5<sup>th</sup> January  
- Flatwork Training -

8<sup>th</sup> January  
- Stable Management : JUNIORS -

9<sup>th</sup> January  
- Stable Management : MINIS -  
- Core Strength Training -  
(New block is weekly on Thursdays 6-7pm)

18<sup>th</sup> January  
- AGM -  
- PRIZEGIVING & CEILIDH -

19<sup>th</sup> January  
- Jump Training -

26<sup>th</sup> January  
- Rally : Games/SM/Lesson -

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND ENTER ON ENTRYMASTER

Please note: Events close 1 week before to allow Organisers, Venues & Instructors to properly plan the event/rally

what's on?

February

2<sup>nd</sup> February  
- Flatwork Training -

6<sup>th</sup> February  
- Stable Management : Mini's -

14<sup>th</sup> February  
- ♥ Love Your Pony Day ♥ -

19<sup>th</sup> February  
- Stable Management : Juniors -

20<sup>th</sup> February  
- Stable Management : Minis -

22<sup>nd</sup> February  
- Jump Training -

23<sup>rd</sup> February  
- Games Training -  
- Stable Management -

Thursdays  
Core Strength & Conditioning Classes

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND ENTER ON ENTRYMASTER

Be Mine

### Roles we are looking to fill:

- ❖ Spring Show Lead
- ❖ Assistant Secretary
- ❖ Health and Safety Officer
- ❖ Web Page Assistant

