

BENNACHIE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

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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

Club News

RACING ROUND-UP

We have had a fabulous Summer learning about Racing which finished in October with a return to the Gallops. Ian Duncan led a super session completing racing badges whilst developing member knowledge about fitness and interval training. It was brilliant watching members build up their confidence and control riding in walk, trot and building up to a strong canter in pairs and threes. The atmospheric morning mist and colour changes on the trees added to the experience of those watching. The ponies and riders looked to be having such a good time, from learning to circle and keep those warmed up muscles moving, to learning about the racing position of the rider, to building trust between pony and rider so they were having fun together.

We definitely have members who could race with their ponies next year and Bennachie Pony Club would support you in getting you training with knowledgeable coaches and the local Pony Racing Authority rep so you are confident you know what you are doing. I am certain there are club members who would love to cheer you on. So, if you are keen to continue let me know and we will build it into the 2025 Bennachie Calendar and get you accredited to race. You can find out more on <https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/> and <https://pcuk.org/pony-racing/>

Thank you to Eleanor Bosenquet for lending us the racing colours and giving us a real feel of the fun and to all our instructors who embraced racing at camp and gave our members an insight into their broad knowledge.



Contact Us:

Liz Craigie : District Commissioner : dc.bennachie@pcuk.org
Kirsten Douglas : Branch Secretary : bennachie@pcuk.org

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

THE SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL OF VIENNA CAME TO ABERDEEN

By Claire Moore

Several Bennachie members went to see the Spanish Riding School at P&J Live on the 26th October. It was a very inspiring evening for us all, watching the beautiful Lipizzaner Stallions performing high school movements. The horses were beautifully turned out, with gleaming white coats, goodness knows how much purple shampoo that took to achieve!



Although their tack may not meet traditional pony club standards it was very eye-catching, sparkling under the lights of the big arena. The riders were very elegant in their tail coats, bicorne hats and very tall black boots. I don't know how they can long rein those horses so well in them!

The Spanish Riding School have a very long history of training horses in these traditional movements. It was fascinating to learn about their home in Vienna and how the trainers could spot future stars from when they are just a few days old!

The 'airs above the ground' as they are aptly named are unique to the Spanish Riding School. The Levade, Capriole and Courbette 'jumps' are very specialist movements which take years of training to perform. They demonstrated the incredible strength and power that these beautiful horses have. It was clear that the horses required quite a sassy personality to perform such movements, a couple enjoyed sharing their cheeky characters throughout the night! I'm sure they would fit right in at a pony club rally!

The highlight of the evening was the Quadrille finale. A beautifully choreographed performance with 8 horses dancing alongside one another perfectly in sync. I for one however think that our Caroline Cup Grassroots Teams could have given them a run for their money!! We all left thoroughly inspired and hatching plans for a **Bennachie Musical Ride** next year, who would like to join us?



Great Ambassadors for the Club !!

Holly & Evie had a great time working behind the scenes when The Spanish Riding School were in Aberdeen. A fun & interesting experience for them both that they thoroughly enjoyed. In return they were both thanked by being invited back to enjoy the show as front row spectators and given a fantastic bag of gifts.



GAMES

Pony Club Games is a great way to develop your partnership with your pony and friendship with your team mates. Bennachie has had great fun with games over the years with many of our current seniors having first represented Bennachie at Games Areas and Games Zones (Regionals for Games).



The Games for the 2025 season have been announced and can be found at <https://pcuk.org/mounted-games/> where you can also read about the competition opportunities and key dates for next year.

As we head into winter we have planned instructor-led games and stable management sessions every month to help members become familiar with the games and learn general games technique. We have chosen a cosy indoor venue for practicing. The first location is Oyne Equestrian and then Ladyluck at Wardhouse, Inch where we have access to the school and meeting area and can hire stables too if you would like them.

Amanda Kilgour is our coach for Games who completed the Games CPD in 2024 for us. She will bring knowledge and fun to training. You don't have to want to compete to join the practices. Hopefully we will have a team or two for 2025 but you are very welcome to come along and join in, get a chance to ride your pony indoors and help create the race feel as the skills and confidence of everyone develops.

Come along to check out the Bending, Old Sock, Tack Shop and Pyramid games. Get proficient at tyre, two mug and 4 flag. Lots of the rules are in the 2024 Games Handbook so you can check them out. Format will depend a little on the interest we get. We are going to open the training up to other local club members too, so invite along other pony club friends.



EQUINE INFLUENZA

With confirmed cases of Equine Influenza in the area in unvaccinated horses please be vigilant with your horse hygiene when out and about. Don't share equipment, don't let horses touch.

CHECK YOUR PONY'S VACCINATIONS ARE UP TO DATE (which they should be for all Pony Club events and for most local venues) and keep an eye out for symptoms pyrexia (raised temperature/fever), lethargy, dry/harsh cough, mucous nasal discharge.

Member Accomplishments

Pony Club International Dressage Show 2024

For the 2nd year Holly was selected to be part of the Uk Pony Club Team for the USDF First Level Test 1.

The run up to submitting the test wasn't great for Holly as she ended up breaking a bone in her wrist which resulted in less practice & preparation than she would have liked. Thankfully the cast came off two days before the final date so she was still able to ride the final test required. A few weeks later we were delighted to hear that the UK Team had been placed 1st and Holly was 7th overall in her section.



British Dressage U21 Team Quest Finals

The Dance Monkeys' Team, all Bennachie members (Lucy Douglas, Tess Dalgarno, Harry and Charlie Moore), have been given a wild card for the British Dressage U21 Team Quest finals at Arena UK in Lincolnshire on the 9/10th November.

They are all very excited and looking forward to a road trip!



Caledonian Showing Championships

Heidi Thomson and her beautiful horse Henry won several classes at the Caledonian Showing Championships at Howe Equestrian Centre last weekend.

They won Overall Champion Riding Club Horse/Pony in the evening performance on Friday. Heidi was then Reserve Champion in the Novice Ridden on Saturday night, Richard Telford took the championship.

It was an honour for Heidi to be riding in Supreme of Show on Sunday.

We had a fabulous weekend.



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.

Other News

Congratulations to one of our Coaches, Jen Morris

We would like to offer our heartfelt Congratulations to Jen Morris, who after 12 months of observing coaches, doing theory work both online and face-to-face and completing lots of practical coaching practice has attained her **British Eventing Certified Coach Level 3** Status.



A Level 3 Coach is a fully independent coach who is a role model at Regional level. This qualification enables Jen to plan, deliver, analyse and review annual programmes of rider development.



Well done Jen.

AREA 1 Introduction to Coaching – Step 1

Who is this course for?

- ❖ Pony Club Members aged 16 years or older who are enthusiastic to teach at D/D+ level (This group will have priority for places).
- ❖ Past Members, supporters or parents over 25 years who have sound horse knowledge and are enthusiastic to teach at D/D+ level
- ❖ Pony Club coaches at any level who want a CPD opportunity to refresh their ideas or check they are in line with best practice.

What's Involved?

- ❖ These courses develop participants through discussion, group work and most importantly, activity. All participants will have the opportunity to teach.
- ❖ This course focuses on the basic skills needed to begin coaching, including planning riding and horse care sessions and the values underpinning Pony Club coaching. Participants are required to complete 20 hours of Coaching Experience (shadowing or assisting with coaching) before moving on to Step 2. The Tutor : Participant ratio is 1:6.



To book onto a Step 1 course at Scholland Equestrian, follow the link:
[Area 1 Introduction to Pony Club Coaching ~ Step 1 at Scholland](#)

Sadly, we had to cancel our Beetle Drive Club Social.

Please note that the event has been rescheduled and will go ahead on **25th October 2025** so you can Save the Date into those shiny new diaries.



Christmas Raffle

Please support our Christmas Raffle.

Tickets are £2 for Child Hamper Prize; £5 for Adult Hamper Prize & £5 for Horse Hamper Prize. Prize Draw will be on 1st December at 7pm. The draw will be a live draw on our Facebook Group. The Children's Hampers will be drawn in 1 draw and the Horse/Adult Hampers will be drawn in another draw. Prizes will then be delivered to our Lucky Winners.

We are asking you all to please donate to these hampers with items that are appropriate for the 3 different types of hampers so we can put beautiful, exciting hampers together for you all to WIN. Donations can be given to any Committee member before the 11th November or passed directly to Louise

Thank you.



**CHRISTMAS
RAFFLE**

Fabulous Christmas Adult, Child & Horse Hampers to be WON!

**DRAW WILL BE ON 1ST DECEMBER
(Live draw on Facebook Group at 7pm)**

Donations will be appreciated. Please pass these to a committee member before 11th November or directly to Louise Burgess.

Tickets can be purchased: £5 for Adult or Horse Hampers / £2 for Child Hampers by making payment to Louise on PayPal La5bur@aol.com (Use Friends and Family so no extra charges are incurred) Please specify in reference whether your tickets are Adult/Child/Horse tickets and your name. Your numbers will then be allocated to you.

WINTER STABLE MANAGEMENT

Stable Management is where we incorporate the unmounted learning into Pony Club life. It is where the members learn about Pony Care and develop the knowledge that they can use to pass efficiency tests and to join Quizzing teams.

Stable Management is also where members can hang out and have fun with their pony club pals and not worry about ponies while they're learning. It is great fun and they have the added bonus of earning lots of badges for their PC sweatshirts.

We'll be running Stable Management a little differently this winter. We'll run SM sessions on Thursday evenings at Caskieben. These will be run by Claire Moore and Gemma Ellis, as well as alongside our other winter training, as follows:

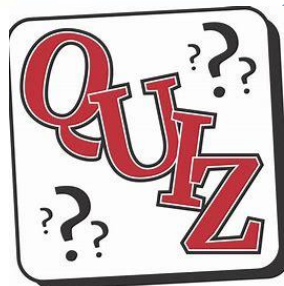
- Flatwork Training – stable management will be about Tack. Members will learn all things related to Tack and the various kit you would use for your ponies;
- Jump Training – stable management will be about Feeding. Members will learn about feeding & fitness and related topics; and
- Games Practice – stable management will be about General Pony Knowledge, this will include topics like Points of the Horse; Colours and more.

You'll be able to book into Stable Management in conjunction with the training on that particular day or just the Stable Management class in that training event on Entry Master and/or you can block book Stable Management on Thursdays in a separate event. The Thursday Block will start on 7th November at Caskieben. We look forward to seeing our members learning lots this winter.



Area Quiz 2025

Horse & Pony Care Quiz



Exciting National Competitions

**Lots of fun while learning with pony club pals
Friendly quiz competitions leading up to Area
& National Competitions**

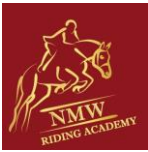
Area Quiz Rounds 2025:

D&H Quiz | ThePonyClubUK.org (pcuk.org)

*23rd November : East Aberdeenshire Quiz Friendly in Mintlaw
Please book into the SM Block at Caskieben if you're keen to join*

Pony Club Vision:

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



NMW RIDING ACADEMY : BADGE TRAINING

Super excited to offer the Pony Club Human First Aid badge session.

Saturday 16th November

Our trainer is from @forrest training ltd.

The Venue is at [Bogenraith Equestrian](#) 5.30 there will be a guided tour of the new facility which is a fantastic competition centre. Then a buffet will be provided then our first aid training will be in the function room at approx 6.30.

Bookings will be on horse monkey in the next few days.

[The Fern Restaurant](#) will be open for parents to go have an evening meal while members are busy. Pre booking a table is recommended.

This is open to all Pony Club members in Area 1



[Riders Minds](#) are a fantastic organisation set up to support those in the equestrian world with their mental health.

Encouraging and promoting good mental health and well-being is something we feel really strongly about at NMW. [The Pony Club](#) has teamed up with Riders Mind to offer a badge that we are delighted to roll out to our riders on **Sunday 10th November**.

Please see info below - this is open to all Pony Club members

and can be booked via Horse Monkey. For any further info please message NMW directly.



AREA 1 : EFFICIENCY TEST TRAINING

Online training courses for D and D+ are closing soon.

To book a place on the D test please go to Horse Events and book before Sunday 10th and D+ before Sunday 3rd (midnight). (Please still make contact if you are interested in D+ training).

A fun and interactive start to learning.



[Area 1 D Test Online Training with Frances Sutherland](#)



[Area1 ~ D+ Online Training with Milly Morrison](#)



HACKING CHALLENGE LEADERBOARD



25 Miles:
Natasha Drysdale

OVERALL BRANCH/CENTRE LEADERBOARD:
26th with 75 Miles

50 Miles:
Brooke Tetley

These are all the published results up to September 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
Evie Craigie PC90
Lachlan Milne PC90

Arena Eventing (cont):
Natasha Drysdale PC90
Isla Mardon PC100
Kelly Grant PC100

Show Jumping:
Lachlan Milne PC70
Maria Dougall PC70
Emma Stewart 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.



PONY CLUB VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Pony Club provide training opportunities for committee members and volunteers. There is lots of information in the link provided. Most is free and can be done in your own time.

Please let us know if you complete any. We need more Safeguarding trained parents in particular.

<https://pcuk.org/volunteers-training/>

What's On in November / December



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

2nd November
- Autumn Social TBC -

3rd November
- Flatwork Training -
- Stable Management -

16th November
- Jump Training -
- Stable Management -

24th November
- Games Practice -
- Stable Management -

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND ENTER ON ENTRYMASTER





8th December
- Flatwork Training -
- Stable Management -

14th December
- Jump Training -
- Stable Management -

27th December
- Christmas Beach Party -

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND ENTER ON ENTRYMASTER



PLEASE note that events close 1 week before to allow Organisers, Venues & Instructors to properly plan the event/rally