

## BENNACHIE BRANCH : MAY NEWSLETTER 2025

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*Updated Calendar of Events inside to print for your Fridge!*

### BARRIER SPRING FESTIVAL 2025

The Barrier Spring Festival is a competition series for Dressage, Show Jumping and Arena Eventing. Riders compete to qualify for one of three finals in England/Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

There are levels for every competitive member depending on eligibility:

- Arena Eventing – 70cm, 80cm, 90cm and 100cm;
- Dressage – Grassroots, Novice, Intermediate and Open;
- Show Jumping – 80cm, 90cm, 100cm and 110cm.



We had 4 members travel to Morris for the Spring Festival this year and here are their stories:

#### Brooke Tetley : AE70 – 36<sup>th</sup> / SJ70 – 55<sup>th</sup>

The Barrier Spring Festival is a lovely and welcoming environment. I had a lot of fun qualifying but even more fun spending the weekend with Pony Club friends and cheering each other on. I really want to qualify for 2026 and I hope more Bennachie members will come next year. And the more Bennachie members coming the more fun we'll all have together.



#### Lucy Douglas: Dressage – Prelim 5<sup>th</sup>

As Lucy went in to ride her test, first rider in her class, she said "i've got a feeling this is going to be my best one yet!" She left the arena grinning from ear to ear

**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.

### 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>

## BARRIER SPRING FESTIVAL 2025 (continued)



### Harry Moore : Dressage – Grassroots 6<sup>th</sup> / Novice 5<sup>th</sup>

We had a fantastic weekend down at Morris Equestrian Centre for the Spring Festival. We were excited to finally be there after spending lots of our winter practising for it.

It was nice to have my friends (Lucy, Lachlan and Brooke) there to support too. Goldie was very excited to be at a big party on Friday but by Saturday he calmed down a lot and behaved really well in my tests.

Lucy set the bar high first thing in the morning as one of the first competitors of the day, she did a beautiful test earning an amazing score! I did lots better than I expected, improving a lot on my scores last year which was my aim. Even getting placed in both classes, 5<sup>th</sup> the Novice music and 6<sup>th</sup> the PC 80 Grassroots test. I even won a new red water bucket at the prize giving!

Another highlight of the weekend for me was the awesome food (an important priority of mine!) at the restaurant, the pizzas were amazing!

Sadly, we had to head home on Saturday night but it was cool to be able to watch Lachlan and Brooke's amazing SJ and Arena Eventing rounds on Horse and Country TV when we got home! I was quite inspired by them and maybe next year might have a go at the jumping days too! (Maybe! 🤪)

I would recommend the Spring Festival to everyone, it's a really friendly and inspiring competition and so cool to ride in the posh arenas! With classes for everyone and a big mix of levels. It would be so much fun to have a big Bennachie team there next year to add to the adventures.

### Lachlan Milne : AE80 – 8<sup>th</sup> / AE90 – 2<sup>nd</sup> / SJ80 – 20<sup>th</sup> / SJ90 – 31<sup>st</sup>

My favourite moment was when I was sitting in first in the 90 Arena Eventing. I probably enjoyed the most was how I could bike every where and having everything inside from shops to the stables. Yes! I would go again because the atmosphere is just great and meeting new people.



### Pony Club Vision:

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





## BLUE CROSS HORSE & PONY CARE QUIZ

Well done to our Super Duper Minis Olivia and Izzie and their team mate from Fife, Mhairi.

They were 4th out of 14 teams at the Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care competition at Hayfield on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

*Liv & Iz, you've truly captured the spirit of Pony Club, supporting each other, cheering one another on, and making every challenge a little more fun. Watching you both grow, not just in skill but in friendship, has been so inspiring.*

*Your kindness and encouragement of Mhairi at the Horse and Pony Care competition made her feel accepted and valued.*

*Keep being good team mates, you have made your club very proud!*



## AREAS 2025

### Auchlishie 18th – 20th July 2025

The Areas Competition is one of the highlights of the Pony Club Calendar where all pony clubs and centres in Area 1, (20 branches and 20 centres) send teams and Individuals to compete and to hopefully qualify to go to Regionals and Championships in Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing. Area 1 is the North of Scotland from the Forth and Clyde up to the Shetland Isles.

Area 1 Pony Club Qualifiers competition is on Friday 18th to Sunday 20th July at Auchlishie, Kirriemuir which is about 1- 1½ hours away. For those who are new to Areas, there is stabling on site, and riders camp in tents, trailers or lorries.

All riders should be competent at the height/level they choose and should have been competing successfully at that level. You must be capable of jumping 10cm more than the level chosen, as Areas is 'beefy' and more technical than your average classes at local pony club shows.

All riders are expected to take part in organised training so please attend all the training dates you can and use competitions such as the Arena Eventing, the Spring Show and Camp to gain experience and confidence, plus get some feedback to make the most of your time at Areas. We want you to do well, enjoy the experience and want to go back and do it again the year after!

All members and horses must be active within Bennachie PC to compete at Areas. If you are not able to go to Regionals or Champs but would still like to be considered for Areas then just let us know.

Please note your interest **now** to Liz, and don't be afraid to ask any questions! Email Liz on : [dc.bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:dc.bennachie@pcuk.org)



## Tackling Miles & Mastering The Hacking Challenge

By Brooke Tetley, 11 with her pony, Pride

I have had so much fun doing the PC Hacking Challenge.

Hacking is good for your pony's mind and physical fitness. You can also go to new places to hack, it also provides a change of pace and scenery. Hacking isn't only good for the horse, it's also good for the rider to get a break from schooling and hacking is also good for exploring new places. Hacking also helps to build a pony's fitness particularly when going on new terrain. Hill work when hacking helps with balance.

Variety in their routine helps keep them engaged and interested in their work. It also provides a nice change and can reduce stress.

But remember : **ALWAYS WEAR HI-VIZ!**



## HACKING CHALLENGE LEADERBOARD



### 25 Miles:

Natasha Drysdale

### OVERALL BRANCH/CENTRE LEADERBOARD:

4<sup>th</sup> with 375 Miles

### 100 Miles:

Anna Mclean

*These are all the published results up to April 2025.*

*To join the Hacking Challenge click this link:*

### 250 Miles:

Brooke Tetley

[The Equilab & Hy Equestrian Hacking Challenge | The Pony Club UK](#)



## POLOCROSSE

With The Kelpies  
Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May  
Bennachie Pony Club Field

Come and join The Kelpies for Polocrosse practice.

This is open to EVERYONE, young and old who would enjoy having a play.

More information will be shared on how to book ASAP.

# BENNACHIE ARENA EVENT

## 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025



## ARENA EVENT

### 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Bennachie Pony Club Field**

AB51 5LX

W3W: ///drizzly.though.sling



### X-Poles to 100cm

*(including Spring Festival Qualifiers; and  
Points for **SRCES** can be gained at this competition)*



Enter on EntryMaster

**ENTER HERE**

This is a fun event on grass, all abilities welcome and  
we look forward to seeing you there.

**Home - Bennachie**

**Entries open on EntryMaster: Bennachie Arena Event 1**



# Spring Show 2025



## BENNACHIE SPRING SHOW 2025

*By kind permission of Mr & Mrs D Fyffe*  
Netherton Business Park, Fetternear, Kemnay

**WORKING HUNTER**

**NOVELTY CLASSES**

**SHOW CLASSES**

**SHOW JUMPING**

*Turriff Show Qualifier: SJ 90cm*  
*Spring Festival 2025 Qualifiers: SJ 70, 80 & 90cm*



*Professional Photographer*

*Coffee & Cakes*

*Tuck Shop*

**1st June**  
**9am start**

Enter now on <https://bennachiepc.entrymaster.online>

(Surcharge for entries on the day)

Full schedule online

[Bennachie Pony club: Spring Show](#)

Online entries close: 25/05/25



**Entries are open on EntryMaster: Spring Show Entries**



# PONY CLUB CAMP 2025

## 67 DAYS TO GO .....

### 7 – 11 JULY



### **IMPORTANT CAMP INFORMATION**

Gallop into adventure and make unforgettable memories at Pony Club Camp 2025, where every day is packed with FUN, LEARNING and a whole lot of HOOFBEATS!!!

Camp 2025 is running for 5 days between Monday 7th - Friday 11th July at Fetternear Estate, Kemnay.

A massive shoutout goes to everyone who paid their deposits by the end of February .... We have 41 members entered so far, thank you all so much, your early deposits makes it so much easier to organise camp and make sure we have lots of fun things planned for the week.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR BALANCE OF £200 IS PAID INTO THE BENNACHIE BANK ACCOUNT BY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025. PLEASE USE REFERENCE: 'Child's Surname'C25 ON YOUR PAYMENT.**

Entries will re-open on EntryMaster on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025. This will be 1 payment of £250. The link will be in the next newsletter, on Facebook and on the website.

We will have our traditional Food Van Celebration for all the family following our Unmounted, Parent-free day on the Thursday.

And, of course, don't forget Competition Day on Friday with Prizegiving afterwards to close Camp 2025.

Any queries please contact Camp Lead - Kirsten Douglas 07789403248 (Facebook Kirst Doug) or email [Bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:Bennachie@pcuk.org).





## Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime and Police Scotland need our help!



SPARCi and Police Scotland need their new marketing campaign to keep equestrians safer in Scotland and they want Pony Club Branches and Centres to create it for them.

They have created a short video to provide some hints and tips, but it can be anything you want, from a poster, banner, video or all of these, please do not be limited to what is in the video.

Equestrian Crimes can be anything from Thefts – tack/trailer/lorry/horse/stables, to Road Safety (Horse I App) wearing high viz/helmet camera use your imagination and if you need any help please get in touch with their team who will be there to support in any way they can.

[policingtogetherrabpreventionsteam@scotland.police.uk](mailto:policingtogetherrabpreventionsteam@scotland.police.uk)

We are incredibly lucky that Scotland's golden Olympian, Scott Brash, is choosing the **Winning Campaign** and the prize for the winning club/branch is massive – a full day rally with Olivia Wilmot (5\* eventer), Equestrian Fitness Scotland and Outline Chartered Physiotherapy at a mutually agreed venue and date.

SPARCi will be announcing the winner at the RHS on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of June and the closing date for the competition is 26<sup>th</sup> of May at 2200hrs.

We are looking forward to seeing all your wonderful ideas.

**“If you would like to be involved in a group Bennachie entry please let us know. Ideas very welcome and we will get a team of members and parents to bring it together. Entries can be from groups or individuals.” Email: [Bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:Bennachie@pcuk.org)**

**ORKNEY HAVE MINIS AND JUNIORS KEEN TO GO TO GAMES AREAS ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 BUT NEED MORE TEAM MEMBERS ANYONE INTERESTED EMAIL: [Bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:Bennachie@pcuk.org)**





Pony Club are excited to offer Members the chance to compete in the **2025 PCIA Virtual Training Challenge**, an International Virtual Dressage Competition.

Teams will participate in two rounds, improving their scores with feedback between rounds.

We're invited to send a team of four for each of the two classes:

Class 1: Training Level, for Members 14 and under

Class 2: Prix Caprilli, for Members of any age

Members can apply based on a scoresheet from a specified test.

**Apply by Friday, May 9th at 12:00pm!**

To find out more, or to apply, head over to <https://pcuk.org/pcia/>

UK Teams kindly sponsored by [Agria Equine Insurance](#)

## AREA 19 PONY CLUB RACE DAY Kelso Race Course on SUNDAY 1ST JUNE 2025

- ☐ You don't need a Racing Pony and its not about going flat out from start to finish
- ☐ OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN WHO ARE 9 ON 1/6/25 (new rule)
- ☐ Races for all levels and abilities including a HIGHLAND PONY RACE

Entries will Open on Horse Events for Areas 1,2 &19 on WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL & will Open to other areas on MONDAY 5th MAY.

ENTRIES ON:

<https://www.horse-events.co.uk/>

We have a Face Book Page 'Pony Racing Scotland and North of England'

The Pony Racing rule book link:

[Pony Racing Rulebook](#)

Please have a look and ask any questions.

[Janerox10@gmail.com](mailto:Janerox10@gmail.com) Tel 07977053634



# SPORT FOCUS OF THE MONTH:

## May

### PONY RACING



## What is Pony Racing?

### ANSWER:

Pony Racing mirrors the Horse Racing you see on the television.

Held on racecourses across the UK (such as Ascot and Cheltenham), Pony Racing allows Pony Club Members to experience the thrill and experience of racing – but on ponies!

The Pony Club works closely with The Pony Racing Authority (PRA), pony racing's governing body, to provide young people with opportunities to race in point-to-point and the Racecourse Series.



## JOIN OUR RACING TRAINING LESSONS?

This training builds confidence in open spaces, is controlled and FUN! Join our Racing Training Sessions on EntryMaster now .... [Entrymaster - Home page](#)

# What's On in May / June

what's  
on?

4<sup>th</sup> May  
- Flatwork Training -

5<sup>th</sup> May  
- XC with Jen Morris -

7<sup>th</sup> May  
- Racing Training -

10<sup>th</sup> May  
- Rally -

18<sup>th</sup> May  
- Arena Event -

21<sup>st</sup> May  
- Racing Training -

25<sup>th</sup> May  
- Polocrosse -

- Thursdays -  
Core Strength & Conditioning Classes -

## May

PLEASE CHECK  
WEBSITE FOR  
DETAILS  
AND ENTER ON  
ENTRYSMASTER



what's  
on?

1<sup>st</sup> June  
- SPRING SHOW -

4<sup>th</sup> June  
- Racing Training -

7-8<sup>th</sup> June  
- Senior Camp : Lindores -

11<sup>th</sup> June  
- Evening Lesson -

14<sup>th</sup> June  
- Summer Rally -

18<sup>th</sup> June  
- Racing Training -

25<sup>th</sup> June  
- Evening Lesson -

29<sup>th</sup> June  
- Polocrosse -

- Thursdays -  
Core Strength & Conditioning Classes -



## June

PLEASE CHECK  
WEBSITE FOR  
DETAILS  
AND ENTER ON  
ENTRYSMASTER



# Can you help?



**Contact Us: [Bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:Bennachie@pcuk.org)**

## **ARENA EVENT 18/5 & 7/9 SPRING SHOW 1/6**

We always need volunteers for our Summer Events. Stewards; Time Keepers; Judges; Entry Takers; Field Prep; Tea/Coffee Helpers; Arena Crew; Set Up; Clear Up.

## **SPARi COMPETITION ENTRY CO-ORDINATOR**

We have a fantastic opportunity to enter the SPARi Competition that was promoted in the March Newsletter. The prize is a much coveted one. We need someone who can pull our entry together.

## **FIELD MAINTENANCE TEAM**

Laura needs a small team of helpers who she can lean on to help with the Field Maintenance jobs. This only requires a little bit of time at the beginning and end of the field season and maybe a few jobs in between.

## **FIRST AID-ers**

Every rally needs First Aid cover. We currently have a shortage of First Aiders within the Club. We would like to request that **all** parents/carers try to attend First Aid courses that we make available to them. This will make cover at rallies/events so much easier.

## **FIRST AID CO-ORDINATOR**

This role entails updating First Aid bags every summer; making sure the list of First Aiders is up to date; Organising First Aid Training once a year & Ensuring first aid bags are at our training venues.

## **AREAS VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteer lists for Areas & Regionals are already being compiled. Please let the DC know if you are interested and available to help.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We would like to start a database of volunteers to help make our events a success. If you can spare a few hours of your time once or twice a year please get in touch. This help can come from friends and family members outside of the club. All helpers are welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please email: [bennachie@pcuk.org](mailto:bennachie@pcuk.org)





# 2025 Bennachie Events

## JANUARY

- 5 Flatwork Training
- 9 MINI Stable Management starts
- 15 JUNIOR Stable Management starts
- 18 AGM & Prizegiving
- 19 Jump Training
- 23 MINI Stable Management
- 26 Indoor Rally (Games/SM/Lesson)
- 29 Junior Stable Management

## MARCH

- 2 Flatwork Training
- 5 Jnr Stable Management
- 6 Mini Stable Management
- 8 Indoor XC, Area 1, Bogenraith
- 9 Area 1 QUIZ. Aberchirder
- 22 Jump Training
- 30 Indoor Rally      30 Flatwork Training

## MAY

- 4 Flatwork Training
- 5 XC Training with Jen Morris
- 7 Racing Training
- 10 Rally      14 Evening Lesson
- 18 ARENA EVENT
- 21 Racing Training
- 25 Polocrosse      28 Evening Lesson

## JULY

- 2 Racing Training
- 7-11 5 DAY SUMMER CAMP
- 18-20 AREAS @ Auchleshie
- 27 Racing Training
- 27 Polocrosse

## SEPTEMBER

- 7 ARENA EVENT
- 14 CLUB TEST DAY : E to C incl Road Rider
- 21 GRASSROOTS/CAROLINE CUP
- 27 Spurs; C+; B; B+; Lunge @ Mosswood

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Flatwork Training
- 6 Mini Stable Management
- 9 AREA 1 Spurs Test @ Bogenraith
- 16 PC Dressage Show
- 19 Jnr Stable Management
- 19 KAHOOT QUIZ (C, C+, B)
- 20 Mini Stable Management
- 22 Jump Training
- 23 Indoor Rally
- 28 Team Online Quiz

## APRIL

- 5-7 SPRING FESTIVAL
- 10 Horse & Pony Care QUIZ, Hayfield
- 12 Easter Rally with Jen Morris
- 13 Easter Fun Day
- 23 Racing Training
- 27 Polocrosse

## JUNE

- 1 SPRING SHOW
- 4 Racing Training
- 7-8 Snr Camp – Lindores
- 11 Evening Lesson      14 Summer Rally
- 18 Racing Training
- 25 Evening Lesson      29 Polocrosse

## AUGUST

- 1-3 REGIONALS @ Auchleshie
- 10 Summer Rally
- 21-24 SCONE
- 30 Test Practice Rally
- 30 AREA 1 AH Test @ Fosterseat

## OCTOBER

- 11 Rally      25 SOCIAL : Beetle Drive

## NOVEMBER

- 5 PC CONFERENCE, Edinburgh

## DECEMBER

- 29 Christmas Stable Management Party

**All bookings on Entry Master online**