



BERKELEY HUNT BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB



Happy New Year 🌐 Time to look forward to 2025

Committee News

Firstly we must say a huge thank you to **Holly Dowsing** who stepped down on Dec 31st as District Commissioner after 6 years in the post.

Holly brought her warmth and strong sense of equality to the role, encouraging any child with a pony to join the PC and thrive in a kind community. She set a strategy to offer quality coaching and increasing knowledge through education to enable better standards of horse welfare and horsemanship whilst maintaining traditional etiquette.

Under her leadership we have grown from 46 members to 158 members today. We are now one of the largest Branches in Area 9 and known for our polite, courteous members who demonstrate high standards of turnout and horsemanship. This strategy has seen us starting to dominate the scoreboards in most disciplines which is a tremendous legacy.

Holly is staying on the Committee as Treasurer, a job role we have struggled to fill in recent years so we are very appreciative that Holly is happy to step into this role for us.

We welcome **Anya Hallett** as the new District Commissioner. Anya has been the Assistant DC for 6 years working with Holly to build the Branch and implement the strategy. Anya will be supported by **Paula Clarke** as Assistant DC. Paula has been our Secretary for the past 3 years. They both understand Berkeley PC very well and most importantly share Holly's vision.

Each committee member's term of office is 3 years, for 2025 onwards the roles are:

DC Anya Hallett

Assistant DC Paula Clarke

Treasurer Holly Dowsing

Secretary Georgie Daly

H&S Officer Anya Hallett

Safeguarding Officer Holly Dowsing

Rally & Training Coordinator Hannah Bryant

Badge Training & Test Coordinator Kirsty King

Grass Camp Coordinators Massey Rowe & Katie Rogers

Parent's Representative Camilla Doyle

YELA Coordinator Hannah Harkley

Social Secretary Rachael Kuczaj

Mounted Games Manager Julian Pearce

Triathlon / Tetrathlon Manager Emma Watson

Pony Racing Representative Karen Perry

Hunting Representative Massey Rowe

Polo Representative George Daly

Caron Myles has stepped down as Teams Manager. Caron has been a wonderful support for our members competing at Area Competitions and we are hugely grateful.

We welcome **Kirsty King** to the Committee in 2025 in a new post of Badge Training & Test Coordinator, Kirsty has in the past two years taken on all the organising and development of the fantastic badge dismantled training programme.

Rally Programme

We have a fantastic range of rallies to book from January to March on [Entrymaster](#). We are now launching rally dates quarterly so you can plan your pony diaries well in advance, if dates are added late we will let you know.

****New for 2025 is Tuesday Training** after school. By popular demand we have added a weeknight training session into the diary alternating between Rachel Sheldon's and Chloe Dawes' yards.

These sessions start on Jan 7th and will run through the year providing flat and jump training on a surface.

Berkeley Hunt Pony Club is part of Area 9. There is regular training offered at Area level particularly during the winter months for our older members and plenty of competitions run by other Branches so it is worth joining the **Area 9 Pony Club Facebook Group** to keep up to date with what's on offer.

Social Activities

I think it's fair to say we all had great fun at all our Christmas socials, from Cattle Country, to Clip and Climb to Karting. Thank you so much for joining us for some festive fun!

Awards Evening 2025 - Charfield Village Hall, Jan 24th at 6.00pm

This is our Annual Awards Evening celebrating our member's achievements in 2024 and awarding our Cups and Trophies. The Guest Speaker this year is **Polly Gundry**, which is really exciting: Polly is an ex Berkeley PC member and we look forward to hearing all about her journey from Pony Club to Champion Lady Jockey and horse trainer.

All members and families are invited to attend, it's a great social occasion!

Please book via [Entrymaster](#) so we have an idea of numbers.

Camps 2025

| | | |
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| Junior / Senior Spring Day Camp | Monday April 14th | Pontispool |
| Very Mini / Mini / Junior Spring Camp | Sat/Sun May 24th & 25th | Camp Field |
| Junior / Senior Residential | May 26th - 29th | Stockland Lovell |
| Frampton Camp | July 23rd - 27th | Frampton |
| Summer Very Mini / Mini / Junior Day Camp | August TBC | Tresham (tbc) |

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| Junior / Senior Autumn Day Camp | September TBC | Rectory Farm (tbc) |
| Very Mini / Mini / Junior Autumn Camp | Sep 20th & 21st | Camp Field |

In 2025 we are introducing new Spring and Autumn ****Day Camps** for Junior & Senior members jumping 70cm and above. These will be at venues offering a full course of quality cross country jumps to allow ponies and riders to ride a wider variety of jumps. We start with Pontispool on April 14th from 10am - 3pm.

Camp Field Needed

We are looking for a grass venue for our Very Mini, Mini & Junior Camps & Very Mini, Mini, Junior & Senior training rallies in 2025. If you know of a 5 acre plus field with established grass and good vehicular access, please do let us know!! We will cover the cost of topping, rolling and harrowing.

Teams & Training

Every Summer, Junior & Senior members, are invited by the DC to compete for their Branch in the Area 9 competitions. These competitions are qualifiers either for the **Regional Champs** held late August at Rectory Farm or the **National Champs** held early August at Offchurch Bury.

Look out for team training rallies from March!

This year we have discipline specific team managers who are going to coordinate team training, run some sessions on how to prep yourself and a pony for a competition, be there on the day to walk the course and help with warm ups:

- Show Jumping Team Managers (70cm - 110) **Ellie Chirnside & Helen du Heaume**
- Dressage Team Managers (Prelim - Open) **Chloe Dawes & Hannah Bryant**
- Eventing Team Managers (70cm - 110) **Sophie Hulme & Anya Hallett**

Check out the Rule Books for 2025 Competitions on the Pony Club [website](#).

The Area Qualifiers for the **Pony Club Quiz and Horse & Pony Care** are being held in Spring this year – see dates below.

Following our fantastic success last year, **Lily Clarke** will be organising the training sessions for these two dismounted competitions, so if you are interested in taking part, please let Lily know on **07985 619090**.

| AREA 9 & National DATES 2025 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb 15th 2025 | Fun Quiz - Ledbury | Staunton and Corse Village Hall, GL19 3RQ |
| March 9th 2025 | Area 9 Quiz Q - Stroud & Minchinhampton | TBC |
| April 12th 2025 | Area Horse and Pony Care Q - Cotswold | Andoversford, GL54 4LQ |
| April 18th 2025 | Area 9 Pony Racing | Cheltenham Racecourse |
| May 4th 2025 | Area 9 Mounted Games Q - CVF | Salter's Hill, GL20 7DA |
| May 18th/19th 2025 | Area 9 Mounted Games friendly | Three Counties Showground |

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| May 31st 2025 | Area Show Jumping Q - North Cotswold/Malvern | TBC |
| June 7th 2025 | Mounted Games Friendly - North Herfordshire | Abbey Dore, HR2 0AL |
| June 28th/29th 2025 | Mini International Tetrathlon | Oxstalls, GL6 8HZ |
| July 6th 2025 | Area Dressage Q - Croome | Spetchley Park, WR5 1RS |
| July 12th/13th 2025 | Area Tetrathlon Q - Ledbury | Gadbury, GL19 4PP |
| July 12th | Berkeley Polo Competition | Frampton |
| July 19th 2025 | Area Eventing Q - Beaufort | Oxstalls, GL6 8HZ |
| Aug 8th - 10th 2025 | National Pony Club Tet and Polo Champs | Offchurch Bury |
| Aug 9th - 17th 2025 | National Pony Club Championships | Offchurch Bury |
| Aug 23rd - 25th 2025 | Regional Pony Club Championships | Rectory Farm, GL7 7JW |

Dressage

We're delighted to share that **Chloe Dawes** will be our Dressage Team Manager for the Branch, supported by Hannah Bryant. Dressage rallies will be kicking off in January every other Tuesday with Chloe, and we'd love to welcome you. There will be the chance to work towards different dressage badges, and the opportunity to represent the branch at competitions later in the year too – Area Qualifier on 6th July at Spetchley Park.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with **Hannah Bryant on 07790 254412**

Mounted Games

We have had a brilliant first year offering mounted games training, and competing. This year we hope to do more! We would love you to come along and join the fun.

This year we hope to compete at the following, so please save the dates if you are interested:-

- **Atherstone Friendly** – 8th March
- **Wylve Valley** - 12-13th April - Stay away
- **Area 9 Qualifier** - 4th May – Salters Hill – GL20 7DA
- **Area 9 Friendly** - 17-18th May - Stay away
- **North Hereford** – 7th June
- And hopefully **Atherstone Friendly** (provisional - 21st September tbc)

Meanwhile, are you having a clear out? We can help you recycle... **We need:-**

rubber quoits, cones,
 tennis balls, plastic boules sets,
 tennis rackets, hook a duck or similar
 mountain bike tyres (approx. 44cm internal diameter)

If they are in reasonable condition, let us help you make space!

Contact Julian on 07872 631396

Pony Club Racing

As 2025 is now upon us and Easter Eggs are already on the shelves, it also means the countdown to the Area 9 Pony Racing Day at Cheltenham racecourse is on. Mark your calendars - Good Friday, April 18th 2025. No previous race experience is required - it really is a fun, friendly event giving the opportunity to ride at this iconic racecourse on your own pony.

Please come along to our monthly rallies, which are open to all.

If you are hoping to compete this year please contact our Racing Representative **Karen Perry on 0774 7847795**, who can answer any queries and advise on entering plus the six-month vaccination rule.

Polo

Berkeley Polo Competition at Frampton Court Estate on 12th July.

Please contact **Georgie Daly** if you are interested in playing polo for the club on **07771 547702**

Triathlon/Tetrathlon

Huge congratulations to all of our athletes that have been competing since September and achieving fantastic results. There have been A LOT of individual and team rosettes, medals, and incredibly impressive PB's! It is rewarding witnessing our members improve following all their hard work. Equally exciting is watching our new members achieve so well both individually and within the teams. Well done to everyone!

Special congratulations to our four athletes that are currently ranked 1st in their age category of the Area 9 Triathlon Series - Rory, Ben J, Tabitha and Will J. Having four Berkeley Hunt members at the top of the league table is absolutely fantastic!

A BIG Thank you to all our helpers at our recent Triathlon – you all did an amazing job and we raised just over **£2,000** for club funds!!

We are always looking for new members to join us across the age groups. Non-ridden PC members are also welcome to compete in triathlons. Please contact **Emma 07841 717763 or email tetrathlonberkeleyhuntpc@outlook.com** if you'd like to join us at any of our events in the New Year!

| Upcoming Tri/Tet Dates | | Entries close |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Jan to Apr | Area 9 Postal Shoot | Schedule coming soon |
| 12/01 | Monmouth Triathlon | 04/01 |
| 26/01 | Malvern Triathlon | 12/01 |

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| 09/02 | Beaufort Triathlon | 24/01 |
| 16/02 | Beaufort Tet phase (optional) | 24/01 |
| 30/03 | National Tri Champs | Qualification only |
| 05/04 | Cotswold and Minch Triathlon | n/a |

YELA

Thank you to all our Young Equestrian Leaders who volunteer their time to help at Pony Club and other equestrian organisations. If you would like to know more about this YELA Award (similar to Duke of Edinburgh Award) please contact **Hannah Harkley – 07712 300796**

Tests & Training

Pony Club is first and foremost a training organisation. The test structure starts with E Test at a minimum age of 4 and works up to A Test which member can take up to the age of 25. The Pony Club training structure encourages members to take tests which enables them to learn progressively about horse and pony care and riding.

** The next **E Test** will be on **March 23rd**.

We are currently working on a programme for training and tests in 2025 for **C/C+ & D/D+**, the dates will be announced very soon.

B Test training has started and is ongoing.

For more information on the Test Levels visit: <https://pcuk.org/tests/>

Thank you

Berkeley PC Committee is run purely by volunteers, all the administration is unpaid work and we are hugely grateful to the Committee for giving so much of their time. As always, please get in touch if you have any suggestions or want to get involved!

See you all very soon,

Anya and Paula