

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This is a list (by no means exhaustive!) of terms that are commonly used in Pony Club with some hopefully simple explanations which may be particularly helpful to less horsey parents and new, younger members.

DC: District Commissioner equivalent to overall manager of pony club branch.

Committees: there is a Ledbury Hunt Pony Club Committee headed by the DC with managers and other members on the Committee who are responsible for the day to day administrative running of the Pony Club and its activities. There is also a Parents Committee run by parents to fundraise and run specific shows for the Pony Club. All pony club branches are controlled by Pony Club Headquarters at Stoneleigh.

Disciplines: a specific area of interest for members each has its own individual manager to oversee training and competitions. Eg Dressage/Flatwork, Show jumping, Eventing (Horse Trials), Mounted Games, Tetrathalon, Pony Racing and Polocrosse. For further questions it is probably easiest to refer to the website which lists all the disciplines offered by the Ledbury Hunt Pony Club. Please do contact the individual discipline managers who are always happy to answer any questions however basic and provide encouragement to parents and members.

Managers: there is an overall Junior and Senior manager who work in conjunction with the DC and individual discipline managers. The Junior/Senior managers are usually responsible for the working rallies and stable management. The discipline managers usually organise training specific to their discipline. Please note that ALL disciplines are open to every member and cater for all levels of abilities and degrees of competitive interest. Once again, contact the necessary manager to discuss; all are very welcoming and encouraging.

Instructors: the person taking the ride, at a Working Rally and Camps this person is an all round instructor able to teach general riding, flatwork, jumping and stable management. In discipline training sessions the instructor is often a specialist, single discipline instructor. All instructors have to attend CPD courses organised by PC HQ or be on the BHS Register.

Working Rally/Rally : a group riding lesson which is the backbone of the Pony Club and usually consists of flatwork and jumping.. Stable management may also be included. All members are encouraged to attend a minimum of three working rallies (Camp counts as one) and these must be attended if you wish to represent the Branch in competitions. Members wear their hacking jackets or pony club sweatshirt, light coloured jodhpurs, jodhpur boots/long boots and pony club tie and badge. Hat silks should ideally be dark coloured

and gloves worn where necessary. Long hair must be tied back or a hairnet worn, to keep it neat and for safety. No jewellery to be worn. Ponies and tack (ideally plain tack) should be clean and well presented. Rally's are usually an hour or two hours long with additional day and picnic rallies.

Progressive Rallies: a series of rallies over a time period, often weekly for five or six weeks where ideally the same Instructor takes the same group each time so there is continuity and members can consolidate what they have learnt each week.

Saturday Morning Lessons: group riding lessons. The Saturday lessons are just slightly more informal than Rallies in terms of what members wear and turnout of ponies given these lessons are held during the cold, wet winter months. For the younger members the sessions are often slighter shorter than an hour.

XC : cross country- rustic fences which can include ditches, water, steps and other obstacles in an open field.

SJ: show jumping-a course of jumps made of coloured poles in a cordoned off ring.

Dressage: riding set movements (eg circles) in walk, trot and canter. When in a competition the dressage arena is usually 20m by 40m and has set markers denoted by letters of the alphabet. This also builds the basics for jumping SJ and XC. Often referred to in Pony Club as "flatwork " and as 'dancing horses' in the press following the Olympics!

Tack: a term used to describe the bridle and saddle and some other equipment worn by a pony or horse.

Spurs: not to be worn unless member has attained their B Test, in the absence of this a permission form signed by the DC is required.

Stable Management / Horse and Pony Care: dismounted sessions without ponies where members are taught how to look after their ponies and their tack eg feeding, grooming. Ties in well with achievement badges and quizzes and must be attended to obtain Tests.

Achievement badges: badges awarded to members for specific knowledge and understanding relating to many different areas of horse care e.g. grooming, feeding, tack. Members often like to sew any badges they gain onto their pony club sweatshirts.

Tests: a series of Tests of different levels that members can work towards during their time in pony club starting at the youngest in Juniors to the more

experienced and older members in Seniors. Instruction is given and guidance as to which test the member should be aiming for. The Tests are voluntary and simply aimed to provide members with a goal and to improve their skills and knowledge. The first test is E and it progresses to D, D+, C, C+, B, B+, AH and A with Lunging and Road Safety tests. E and D tests are usually taken at Camp with D+ upwards being allocated specified days and B Test upwards are taken at Area rather than Branch level. Your Junior or Senior Manager will happily provide you with more information and guidance.

Camp: an intensive period of between 3 and 5 days where members attend daily with their ponies for riding and stable management/horse and pony care instruction with talks on wider areas of interest from visitors e.g. Ledbury Hunt, Chiropractors, Farriers. Children and ponies/horses are either dropped off and collected daily or Camp is residential. Members will usually be in set groups that they will stay in for the whole camp with the same instructor.

There are three camps:

Junior Camp: usually four days held at Gadbury for Junior members up to and including Year 6. Children and ponies dropped off and collected daily. Even the youngest junior members can be left at camp and those on the lead rein will be allocated a specific leader for the week, often a more experienced senior member.

Camping Camp: usually three days camping in tents at Gadbury for members aged 10-14

Senior Camp: residential for members and ponies/horses at Hartpury College for Year 7 and upwards.

Gadbury: the Ledbury Pony Club Branch Field which is leased from the Ledbury Hunt. This is a focal point for the pony club where many rallies, shows and camp are held. Crucially it also has our fantastic cross country course which is owned and maintained by the pony club. The use of Gadbury is a fabulous asset for the Ledbury Hunt Pony Club but it also brings responsibilities of maintenance, storage and general upkeep at a considerable annual cost to the Branch.

Areas: the country is divided up into different Pony Club Areas of which there are 19 Areas and the Ledbury Hunt Pony Club is in Area 9. There are Area Level competitions and on occasions individual members or teams qualify for National Championships.