

NORTH SHROPSHIRE HUNT

Newsletter November 2017

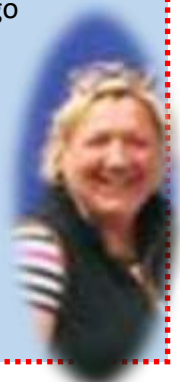
When I first said I would be DC little did realise what I was letting myself in for!

Four years later I can only say how much I enjoy it and what a pleasure it continues to be.

I am constantly getting comments from other pony clubs about how enthusiastic the North Shropshire children are when we are out competing. Everything from politeness to sporting to turn out has been mentioned. Highlights for me include; one parent saying what a lovely sense of team spirit we demonstrated and to quote an email from an organiser: "your teams conduct was exemplary".

On the competition front another excellent year with teams in Mounted Games / Dressage / Eventing / Show Jumping / Horse and Pony Care / National Quiz / Polo / Triathlon / Tetrathlon / Pony Racing / Musical Ride! Something for everyone I hope. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make all these possible. For the younger members or anyone wishing to get involved in the above, please if you fancy having a go contact Helen, Ann or myself for details and we will point you in the right direction!

The Regionals Competition has been a very popular new addition to the pony club calendar. A special mention goes to Bella Timmis for winning a very competitive Show Jumping final.



Our test results and coaching certificates have been excellent, more details later, but I just wanted to say a personal very well done to all those of you who have achieved any of these this year, the examiners commented that you were all of a very high standard which was extremely pleasing.

A newsletter isn't complete without a camp mention, and the highlight of this year's senior camp was definitely the canoeing – although I found it nerve racking! After telling everyone to remember to take a shower.... One camper replied “I didn't have time to shower” and continued proudly to tell me how they hadn't found their wash bag all camp ...!

Junior camp was also a great success at the Bryers. It was very kind of the family to make us so welcome and allow us to invade their stables and fields for three days.

We are already looking forward to next year, and if anyone has any ideas for camp, or rallies, please do let us know. Help is always greatly appreciated.

To round off, a committee update. We have said a sad goodbye to some committee members who have been instrumental to the club over recent years; Anona White, Diane Lloyd Brown and Jane Yeomans. Although we will still be seeing Jane around the club, as she has very kindly agreed to continue to look after the rosettes and trophies for us. We would also like to say a very warm welcome to the new committee members; Claire Ing, Helen Elston and Ben Wixey – we look forward to working with over the next three years.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year !



Lucy



2017 Tests Results

We have enjoyed another very good year training for, and passing, the Pony Club Efficiency Tests. The wonderful results speak volumes for all of those who tackled and were successful at both Area & Club level. All the tests up to, and including, C+ are organized by the DC within our Club; whereas the B, B+ & Lunging Tests are only organized by the relevant Area. This year one senior achieved the full B Test, and two the B Test Horse Care. At Club level six members gained the full C+. Thirteen members passed the C Test, three the D+, six the D and ten the E. Not to forgetting the ten members who gained their Road Rider qualification. Again, very well done to one and all, it has been a year in which we all can feel truly proud of what has been achieved.

Area Test Results: held at Berriewood & Ettington

B Test Full Passes (Ridden & Care)

Alasdair Montgomery

B Test Passes (Ridden)

Alasdair Montgomery

B Test Passes (Care)

Imogen Wixey & Gregor Montgomery



Club Test Results: held at Hopton Farm and Senior & Junior Camp.

C+ Test Passes (Both Ridden & Pony Care)

Grace Jackson, Bella Jackson, Dee Edwards, Georgina Wixey, Rosie Jones and Kaitlyn Wynn

C Test Passes

Amelia Farmer, Genevieve Bright, Darcy Connacher, Euan Montgomery, Rupert Drew, Kathy Jones, Annabelle Wixey, Ellie Painter, Kitty Ing, Jessica Hooper, Jemima Warner, Jenny Everall and Fae Corbett.

D+ Test Passes

Rufus Farmer, Fae Corbett, Phoebe Cambray.

D Test Results

Eleanor Barker, Tom Barker, Cara Bennett, Finley Jones, Isla Jones, Bella Timmis

E Test Results

Lucy Adney, Dylan Barkley, Archie Barnes, Amelie Holzgartner, Maya Holzgartner, Florence Hughes,

Henry Hughes, Barney Ing, Harry Price, Toby Williams

Riding & Road Safety Test

Genevieve Bright, Amelia Farmer, Rupert Drew, Charlotte Everall, Fae Corbett, Kitty Ing, Euan Montgomery, Jessica Horne.

Riding & Road Safety Achievement Badge

Finlay Montgomery & Rufus Farmer

Coaching Level 1

Lucy Lloyd Brown



If you are interested in taking your lunging test, please let Helen Elston know



Area Competitions

North Shropshire has once again enjoyed a successful year with a significant number of members competing in Area competitions, with some qualifying to compete at National Championships. *For anyone new to Pony Club and its competition structure, hopefully the section at the end of this report should make the following a lot clearer!*

The year started well in February with North Shropshire hosting the qualifier for the National Winter Triathlon finals. Darcie Connacher qualified for, and competed at, the finals in Milton Keynes along with Gregor and Alasdair Montgomery (who qualified elsewhere), all doing very well.

Also in February we entered two teams in the Area 7 Quiz qualifier. Both teams did really well finishing 3rd and 6th.

March saw the area finals of the Dengie dressage. To compete at the area final, members have to qualify, which they can do at various local venues. Caroline Vernon qualified for both the novice and Intermediate dressage finals, choosing to compete at novice level finishing an excellent 9th in her arena.

In April we had two senior and two junior teams competing in the Area Horse and Pony Care qualifier. There were teams from all over Area 7 competing with our teams doing exceptionally well. The seniors finished in 4th and 8th with our junior teams finishing 4th and 1st, therefore qualifying for Championships! This team consisted of Fae Corbett, Rupert Drew and Jasmine Wheeler who finished a fantastic 6th at Championships.

In May the Mounted Games Senior and Junior Teams competed at Stanford Hall, Lutterworth. The seniors won their tack and turnout and came six. The juniors came 2nd in tack and turnout and came fifth (see separate report).

June saw us fielding a number of teams at the Area 7 show jumping qualifier at Apley Farm Shop near Bridgnorth. Our intermediate team was placed 4th with Alice Parton finishing individually 2nd and so qualifying for championships where she jumped very well in rather muddy conditions. One of our novice teams came 3rd in a very strong field and one of our regional teams consisting of Bella Timmis,

and Championships



Annabelle Wixey, Ellie Painter and Tibby Galliers (Ellie and Tibby were substituted for Amelia and Rufus Farmer at championships) came 8th qualifying them to compete at the regional championships at Eland Lodge. The team jumped well but were out of the placings, however Bella Timmis (youngest competitor at championships) jumped amazingly well to finish individually in 1st place overall!

July was a busy month with both the dressage and eventing qualifiers at Wolverhampton Racecourse and Offchurch Bury respectively. At the dressage qualifier our two novice teams came 4th and 5th with a number of individual placings. The intermediate team came 4th with Bella Jackson finishing second in her arena and so securing individual qualification for Championships where she rode extremely well but was out of the placings. We had two regional teams competing and the team of Jemima Warner, Fae Corbett, Tibby Galliers and Ellie Painter (replaced by Jessica Bryers at Championships due to horse lameness), came 8th and qualified for Eland Lodge where they came 9th with Tibby finishing in 7th in her arena and Fae coming 10th. At the eventing qualifier we had a PC90, PC100 and a regional team all doing really well. Darcie Connacher qualified individually at novice level for the championships where, as a relative newcomer to eventing, she did really well. The regional team came 4th with Bella Timmis and Annabella Wixey both qualifying to compete at Eland Lodge as individuals where they did well.

At Championships we, once again, sent a team to compete in the musical ride (see separate report) and congratulations must go to everyone for coming a brilliant 3rd (joint second really!).

For the second year running, North Shropshire (with a couple of members drafted in from other Branches) competed at the Polo championships (see separate report).

As usual, we sent a show jumping team to represent the Branch at the Shrewsbury Flower Show (Alice Parton, Caroline Vernon, Bella Jackson and Emily Yeomans) and did brilliantly winning the competition.

For the second year running, we sent a team to compete in the arena eventing competition at Blenheim. This was an exciting experience for all our competitors having the opportunity to compete at such a prestigious event. The team did very well and had an enjoyable day out.

Congratulations to everyone and a big thank you to all parents for their continued support!

Helen

The Pony Club in this Country is split up into 19 areas, North Shropshire Branch is one of 17 branches within Area 7 which stretches from the Welsh border over to Northampton and south to Warwickshire. Each Area holds qualifying competitions for a wide variety of disciplines, both mounted and un-mounted to qualify to compete at The Pony Club Championships in August at Cholmondeley Castle. Very recently a new introductory level has established for dressage, show jumping and eventing called the Landrover Regional Competition. Qualifiers for this are held at the various Area competitions with those who qualify competing at a regional championship, which, this year for Area 7, was at Eland Lodge.

Area Competitions 2018 - Important Information:

If you wish to be considered for any of the area competitions in 2018 please make sure that you and the horse/pony you intend to ride at the competitions have attended 3 rallies. If you attended 2017 summer camp that counts as 1 rally. All rallies after 1st July 2017 count towards the 2018 eligibility, but at least 1 rally must be in 2018. Team training and practice sessions do not count towards this. Helen Elston will once again be collecting the area reply slips from those who wish to be considered and the slips will be available on the website early next year.

2018 Camp & Area Qualifier Dates:

Senior Summer Camp: Shrewsbury Showground. Sun 22nd ~ Fri 27th July.

For those members aged 10 years & over.

Junior Summer Camp: Merryfields Sun 29th Jul ~ Tues 31st July.

For those members aged 10 years or under.

Winter Triathlon: 3rd Feb at Ludlow.

Quiz: 11th February, Location tbc.

Dengie Winter League Dressage Area Final: 10th March

Dengie Winter League Show Jumping Area Final: 24th March

Horse & Pony Care: 5th April location tbc.

Dengie Winter League Finals: 14th/15th April

Quiz Final: 15th April, location tbc

MG: 19th May, Stanford Hall.

Dressage: 7th July, Moreton Morrell

Tetrathlon: 14th & 15th July, Ettington

Eventing: 21st July, Offchurch Bury

MG Zone: 21st or 22nd July, location tbc.

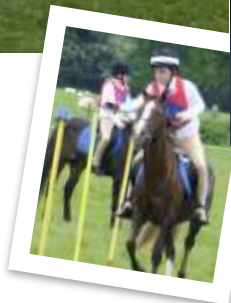
Show Jumping: 1st August, Solihull EC.

Racing: 16th September, Wolverhampton Racecourse

Mounted Games by Finlay Montgomery

I have really enjoyed being in the mounted games team this year. I think we have the best coach in the pony club (Steve)! We have done 3 demonstrations and been to several competitions. I changed ponies during the year as Tom borrowed my pony so I ended up sharing Floss with Euan. My favourite race is bending because you can go fastest in that race, though you have to slow up for the handover. Tyre is my least favourite race as you have to get on and off and the ponies don't always get on with each other so it's hard to keep hold of them.

We went to the Area competition and the junior team was myself, Tom, Lottie and Amy. Our mums spent a lot of time cleaning us and our ponies and we got 2nd place in the tack and turnout. We came 5th in the races overall and had a really good time doing all the races. When competitions last all day we usually have races in the morning and afternoon so get to play (and eat sweets) in between the sessions. My favourite demonstration was the one at Walford as we do it on their open day so get to look around and have ice cream after we have ridden and after everyone has stroked our ponies.



Xmas Competition
3rd Dec 2017
Come and Have Fun!

PONY RACING by Jess Bryers

On Sunday 17th September I had an amazing day because I had pony racing at Wolverhampton race course. In the morning I got up and I went to see my pony Teddy oh and guess what just as I got there he rolled.

So an hour before me and mum had to bath him because he was so dirty. Finally we were off to the race course. When we got there and I had to go and walk the course.

After that I had to go and get changed and get weighed before I could race. Then they shouted race one which I was in so I trotted down. Once we got down there they said walk forward until the green flag goes down. Finally he put the green flag down and we were off. It was so much fun galloping it went so fast once we finished I wanted to do it again. Then we had to go and weigh our saddles again, it was so cool.

Then we all got a rosette.



Eventing Championships at Cholmo

Having qualified at area in the Novice Eventing category I was off to Cholmondeley Castle for the Championships! When the times were released I found out I would be competing over two days...

Day 1:

With an early morning dressage time we set off in plenty of time, after being warned by Helen the dressage arenas for Eventing were a 15 mins walk from the lorry park. During the trek over to the arenas I got caught in really heavy rain which did not help with the nerves.

Thankfully when I made it over to the arenas Helen was there ready to warm me up before my test, which I was so grateful for and helped calm my nerves. After a successful warm up George and I entered the arena, despite the positive lead up the nerves got the better of me which reflected on our score. However we were ready to move on to the show jumping and cross country following day with lots of excitement. In the evening we walked the cross country course with Helen, who was giving extremely helpful tips and advice along the way.

Day 2:

Show jumping was first and another early start. After walking the course twice I was confident and couldn't wait to go! Thank you to Helen again for being there and guiding us through the warm up. The Pony Care team were there also as great support. After a good round I was very pleased with our performance and couldn't wait for the cross country course.

ndeley Castle by Darcie Connacher

As we made it over to the XC start - I was greeted by a encouraging face - Kaitlyn who mentally prepared me by advising not to fall off and close my eyes! After a calm warm up it was time to go and as soon as my horse, George, saw the start box he became very excited, this made me eager to go! The cross country course was tough with some tricky questions. Number six combination was my biggest concern, with its downhill pipes onto a huge brush, but I was over the moon when we flew through it with ease and I had a huge smile on my face. When crossing the finish line I wanted to do it all over again!

I thoroughly enjoyed myself and so did my horse, it was a fantastic and very rewarding experience which I hope to encounter again.

Thank you to my mum for all your efforts, helping me keep calm and making it a very enjoyable

experience. Thank you to Helen for all your advice, support and time that really helped me throughout the competition and thank you to everybody who supported me, it makes a big difference!





Area Dressage by Fae Corbett

It had been an exciting build up to the area dressage, but it had finally arrived on the 22nd July 2017.

We all had been practicing very hard for this day and luckily all the hard work payed off. Luckily the team all managed to get good percentages individually which definitely payed off.

It had been a nerve racking wait for all of us, but finally the results were announced. We were all so pleased because we managed to come 8th as a team, which meant we qualified for the dressage championships at Eland Lodge on the 26th August 2017!

The team had been practicing extra hard for the championships because we knew we were up against the best in the region.

Once again the team had some really good scores, which meant the team had an overall placing of 9th in the whole competition! We were all thrilled with our result, and again all our hard work payed off.

Also, Tibby Galliers got an individual placing of 7th in her arena and, I got an individual placing of 10th in my arena.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing for our Pony Club at the Area and Regional Dressage; so a huge thank you to everyone who helped the team prepare, and for all the support we had on the day!



Area and Regional Championships by Amelia and Rufus Farmer

" First we started at Apley Farm, on the 25th June 2017. Two teams were entered at 70 & 80 cm. Unfortunately my horse was not sound so I was kindly lent a pony called Kit by Mrs Timmis. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of competing with him, I had only ridden him twice before. On the team was Rufus, Jessica and Bella SB.

We arrived early to be greeted by Anona. She walked the course with us, as a team, giving us tips along the way. We got tacked up and went to warm up. We found it hard to warm up as the collecting ring was very small and there was a lot going on in there. All this was going on on a grass field. There were two rounds regardless if you went clear or not. The first round was very straight forward as there were no scary fillers. We changed arenas for the second round, only to find it a big step up. There were many bright fillers and the height had gone up. The ground was fair, even after all those rounds, all the courses being on grass. The team all tried there best and there was a friendly atmosphere. We finished it up with a yummy ice cream.

As a result of the teams performance we qualified to go to the Regional Championships at Eland Lodge in Staffordshire. On Sunday the 27th August we had a even earlier start.

Course walk was at 8:15am. Helen greeted us and walked the course with us all giving us some top tips to make us have a clear round & mentioning to Rufus that he needed to sit up! The team was Bella T, Annabelle, Rufus and I.

It was a very hot day and Annabelle started us off with a very nice clear round. We ended the round with 0 points which was the best you could get. The second round was 85cm and the temperature were rising under clear skies and the mid day sun. The course was great because the jumps had flags of different countries so was easier to remember, Japan first followed by Jamaica, then round the Canadian double and the Ireland Spread etc . While we were waiting we decided to walk the course the amazing Cross Country course that Annabelle and Bella were doing the following day. (I want to do that next year, it looked great fun!) After course walk for the second round of Show Jumping, another 12 jumps, we had lunch and got our horses ready. Into the warm up ring at the allotted time. Trying to get our animals and us into the zone was hard, it was really hot by now. The team unfortunately couldn't pull off a double clear so we didn't get through to the jump off. However, Bella managed to come first in the individuals (she is only in year five and did a great job) We are all very proud of her!!

The whole competition was great because I learnt so much, enjoy being part of a team and I would love to have a go at the Eventing next time.

Now over to Rufus.

"Well what can I say, it all seemed like a lot of fuss. But when the day came I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

Helen really got me riding very well, I thought, in the competition. The sitting up & not resting my hands on Barney withers made a huge difference!

I personally found Area more nerve racking than the Championships, The Area was more cramped up with lots of people. Although there were a lot of teams as the Championships it seemed more relaxed.

I enjoyed walking the Cross Country course with my team mates & Helen.

I would like to have a go taking part in the Eventing next year too."



Regional Show Jumping Championship by Bella Timmis

We had to wake up really early as we had to walk the course with my team mates and Helen at 8.00am. The day before I washed his white socks and plaited him and Harry looked very shiny. I woke up really early and put Harry in the lorry and we set off.

When we got there we walked the course, watched a couple of ponies then we decided to go and warm up for round 1. I was last to go in the team and we had a good steady clear. Then we had a long lunch all together, a snooze and then Helen gathered us all together for the 2nd round course, she said we were being timed so we had to go a bit quicker in case time came into it if there were lots of teams with 4 faults. It came to my go I had a very good clear that meant I got into the jump off I couldn't believe it!!

Harry's old owners had come to watch so the pressure was on, but she gave me lots of tips on where to turn. Then it came to my go and he was AMAZINGLY quick and very tight and his time was 26.5! I was very happy, we had a long wait for the results, we watched all the remaining competitors go, the last person to jump was looking quicker than me but they got the last fence down so we thought I had got the fastest time!

It came to the results, we all sat down and listened to the results being read out, I couldn't believe it when they said that in first place is Bella Timmis on Harry in a Hurry and I felt so happy that I burst into tears! I won a silver plate, a sash, a numnah and a rosette.

We had a long journey home but it was all so worth it, Harry got a huge hug and lots of polos for being such a super star!



Rally Round Up 2017

Give yourselves a big pat on the back as a Club, we managed to surpass last year's total number of rallies and topped 50+ with over 57 of you attending a minimum of 5 rallies (50% of the membership) and 20% over 15 rallies. Well done to all your parents for getting you all to the different venues on time and for waiting in all weathers for you to learn and enjoy your time in the North Shropshire Pony Club Family.

As a Club we welcomed 20 coaches through the year including William Blane Head of the Coaching Committee for the PONY CLUB who had nothing but praise for the standard of our children. We used lots of venues and were welcomed everywhere. A big thank you to all the parents and coaches that helped with the moving, setting up and taking down of all the equipment, it really is appreciated by the members.

The biggest success this year was the Easter training at Walford. We had 26 attend which was fantastic, as everyone who took an efficiency test passed, in fact we had 100% pass in C+, C, D+ and D this year so well done everyone (especially some parents who I think learnt or remembered lots of the horse care having helped the kids revise.)

I hope you all enjoyed the various rallies we put on this year and that you are looking forward to great programme for 2018.

Sadly my commitments to RDA mean that I shall not be able to contribute much to the Club next year. I know I shall miss the team spirit and "the craic" as we say in Northern Ireland.

Good Luck to you all. Happy Pony Clubbing Everyone,

Anona.



Horse and Pony Care by Rupert Drew

I've been asked to write a summary of NSHPC Horse & Pony Care team success this time. Earlier this year we entered the area 7 qualifier at Berriwood. The team consisted of myself, Fae Corbett and Jasmine Wheeler. We trained plenty & practised in the lead up to the event but even so we arrived feeling that if we just got placed it would be amazing, due to the fact that some of the teams looked like they meant business! All the while hearing Helen Elston say "it's not just about winning -make sure you have FUN!"

Anyhow, everything went to plan, we thought we had done well, but we were blown away when we won! Meaning we qualified for the champs.

So along came the championships, we worked really hard, training together despite holidays, tested each other, swatted up at home far more than I've ever done! (And actually it was very good timing for our C test!)

On the day some of the teams looked so professional, we were definitely a younger team-one of our team was four years younger than some other teams! This time the pressure was really on, we so wanted to do well.

The questions were really difficult, we were exhausted by the end, it was a long day. We weren't sure how well we'd done. So it came to the presentation and we were thrilled to be named 6th! Lots of celebrations!

And the following week Fae & I passed our C test!

We are looking forward to next year!

Achievement Badges

The Pony Club offers Achievement Badges with Mini for younger Members. These embrace both equine and non-equine activities. Both types of badge will help members to learn a wide range of skills like first-aid, farming, map reading, saddlery, road safety and grooming. There is a list of badges on the main Pony Club website and several of the badges can be studied in the member's own time. It is great for keeping the children busy during wet, cold dark winter nights

Once again our Members have been working away quietly and gaining these with everyone who attended Junior and Senior camp achieving several. Many were awarded throughout the year at unmounted Rallies a huge thank you to those families that hosted these and also a thankyou to the senior members who came along to help coach the children and to those parents and Grand parents that also helped make the Badge rallies fun.

When the children reach 14 mini badges they are awarded a Gold Badge and Certificate. 21 Main Badges they are awarded a Gold Badge and Certificate from Pony Club Head Quarters. We in North Shropshire Pony Club award those that attend 10 main badges a Bronze and 15 main badges a silver certificate. So it is happy sewing for the parents.

Anona





The Musical Ride

by Jemima and Charlie Warner

Musical ride this year was great fun. I personally was an elephant along with my team mate Harriet, also in our team we had ring masters, lions, lion tamers, clowns and also jugglers. As a team of 12 the atmosphere was great because we all had so much fun performing the act at championships as a team but also beforehand. Claire's fab designs were great and to complete the look we applied face paint to our faces. In our great team of staff we have Emma and Fiona who choreographed our routine for us but on the Sunday all of our mothers pitched in to finish all the last stitches and threads of the costumes before championships. On the day we all looked amazing in our homemade fabulous costumes and our horses looked amazing with bunting on their martingales and lots more. After we had finished our routine we all waited nervously for the results. Whilst the last performances were going on we were in joint second but as it came to prize giving we finally finished third out of 16 teams- as we lost a few marks on our music accompanying the routine. We were all thrilled with the result and had enjoyed the whole experience of competing as a team and all the fun had along the way!



Pony Club Camp by Katherine Jones

Although I have been to Senior Camp four times, 2017 was the best so far! Toilet rolling the members building and canoeing in the River Severn...oh and the riding was good too.

When I arrived I was running late, so I had to quickly unload my horse and my equipment then I could go to lunch. But this is hard to do with a new horse that had never been to pony club camp before, so instead of being quick it was slow and steady and very snorty! It was like he thought the ground was lava and he had to tip toe quickly and only touch the ground for a few seconds, so with him behaving like this we stayed calm and lead him to his new stable for the week.

After we finished up at the stables I went down to the dorm, unloaded my bedding and clothes then I finally got to go to lunch. It was lovely to see everyone, especially as I had not seen some of them since last year. After we had eaten, we were put in to our rides and then we tacked up. I was worried how my horse was going to react and he was a bit of a handful to start with but after a couple of days he settled down and acted like all the other horses and we had a great time.

We also had lots of extra fun activities, for example: we went swimming, hound puppies came to visit, we went canoeing, had a water fight and a foam fight and let's not forget our little pranks through the week! My favourite activity was canoeing in the River Severn as I am sure others will agree and although we smelt awful afterwards it was a lot of fun. I am very grateful that we were allowed to do it.

Like I said, 2017 Pony Club Camp has been the best Camp I have been to so far and I am very grateful that I am a part of such a friendly and understanding pony club that has taught me so much.



Senior Camp by Phoebe and George Cambrey

The first day, my pony Whisper was really excited to be at Senior Camp, so she had to be lunged by Emma to calm her down. Alison, my instructor, made us go around in a circle, walking, trotting and cantering. Afterwards we went back to our lines, untacked our ponies and started work. This was the daily routine of camp but during the week we also did dressage, show jumping and cross country.

On the Sunday evening we all went swimming at the Suckleys, afterwards we all had ice creams in the sunshine before heading back to camp for supper.

On Tuesday afternoon we went to visit Twemlows Stud which was really cool and interesting. We learnt about breeding, artificial insemination and foal adoption. I stroked 26 horses and foals! We visited the Stallion Barns and met Big Star, who enjoyed the carrots we fed him.

That evening we played games such as apple bobbing, running races, over and under and afterwards we soaked Helen with the apple bobbing water!

One evening we all went canoeing on the River Severn which was great fun but rather wet!

On our last evening we had a foam fight, meanwhile the seniors were playing tricks in the dormitories.

The last day of camp was dressage tests for everyone followed by Handy Pony, to see how handy our ponies were! We also watched the Musical Ride team demonstrate their routine.

Camp finished with the Prize Giving with lots of parents joining us before we all packed up and went home.

Thank you very much to all the team who organised camp and made it happen.

Camp was amazing and we will be back next year!



Junior Camp by Lottie and Toby Williams



"Junior camp was brilliant this year! There were lots of amazing instructors (although we had the best.....Dean Price!). For the first two days we practised dressage, show jumping and cross-country in readiness for the show on the last day. On one evening we did shooting and a cross-country run for the camp Tetrathlon competition. Each day we had some yummy food/picnics. All of the Senior Members were really helpful. My Mum said she was really glad they came to help her with two ponies and children at camp this year!

In my group was Jess, Jas, Bella and Daisy we had a great time and can't wait to all go to Senior camp next year. This year was the first camp with my new pony Mickey he was amazing and we won the show jumping for our group and I was lucky to receive lots of rosettes and medals. Junior camp was the most fun this year!!"



"I really enjoyed getting my badges for pony care!"

"I jumped a big log on Angus and it was really fun".

We should also say a big thank you to the Bryers family for hosting!!!

Congratulations



Lucy North received the YELA Gold Award from The Princess Royal At RDA AGM today. Lucy has volunteered at several RDA events over the years.

Only one Gold was awarded in 2017. What a great achievement

Well done!

Area 7 show jumping novice team competitors.



Georgie Wixey, Rosie Jones, Hannah Chappell and Grace Jackson.

Tamsin, Kaitlyn and Georgie at a triathlon held by Ludlow Hunt Pony Club.



Annabelle Wixey and Bella Timmis

Area 7 Dressage



Area Tetrathlon by Daisy Bethune

I went to Whitfield Farm, Warwickshire with Amy Webster and Lottie Williams to do the Girls Tadpoles class at the Area Tetrathlon Qualifiers. None of our team had ever competed in a tetrathlon before. On Saturday Amy and I arrived early at the grounds to settle our ponies in the stables and get ready for the run part of the event. The two ponies had stables next door to each other and chomping at their hay, settled in nicely.

By the time we were back at the carpark, Lottie had arrived and we went to walk the run route. It was 1km route with a slight hill but mostly flat. In no time at all we were at the start ready to run. 5...4...3... 2...1....GO and we were off, starting slow and finishing fast. We all ran our best in hot conditions with our mums cheering us on. We all arrived one after the other puffed out at the finish line.

Next was the shoot which was a bit different to normal as the back of the barn was open and it very noisy. Ready, Watch and Shoot! Sadly we had a couple of issues with the guns but this didn't dampen our team spirits.

We had over an hour to wait for the next part of the event, the swim, so we went to check that the ponies were ok. We then went to Warwick University for the swimming leg of the event. After getting a bit lost we arrived and quickly got changed into our swimsuits and pony club swimming hats. As we walked in we were bombarded by the noise of the pool, of people shouting on their team members. We went and stood as side of the pool and watched until it was our turn. HONK...Splash we dived in and set off for the two minute swim.

After the first day our team was lying third and it was time to say good bye to Lottie and put up the tent. We fun evening camping with Amy, Darcie, Kaitlyn and Georgie. But before bed we had to muck out and ride our ponies.

Day 2...The fun bit....cross country. Amy and I woke up bright and early in the morning to go and feed and ride the ponies out before the cross country later on in the day. Not long after massive breakfast cooked by Joan (Amy's Grandma) Lottie arrived and we walked the cross country course with a little foal following us on the other side of the fence. The course was 11 jumps up to 45cm in height. All the jumps were nicely spread out in an enclosed part of the field. We all had amazing clear rounds in our clubs cross country colours of red and blue.

After an enormously long wait the results were in....and we realised that we were in third place as a team and I came third individually.

It was a really fun first experience of a tetrathlon and I recommend it to anybody.





Tetrathlon Championships

This year a junior girls team and two individual boys (one open, one intermediate) represented North Shropshire at tetrathlon championships at Bishop Burton. Upon arrival we registered ourselves, collected our wristbands and headed off to unload the horses. The horses had to be vet checked on unloading and were then taken to their allocated stabling, which this year was in the permanent stabling on site. This actually produced a few grumbles from the girls as they were facing the prospect of carrying their tack to the stables from the campsite, which was a good 900m instead of the 60m for the temporary stables. But, in the form of their mothers, help arrived and they were driven to the stables to ride their horses. Having dealt with the horses we went to the campsite to set up tents and lorries.

With tents ready and lorries parked up, we headed to the shoot practice. The shooting varied from mediocre to actually near decent for once and showed some positives for the actual shoot in the morning. Having been fed by our friends in the area 9 camp (with puddings provided by North Shropshire), we went to our tents for a decent night's sleep after a final horse check.

In the morning the boys were up in time for their shoots at 9 and 10am, although whilst Alasdair was shooting, I made the unfortunate discovery that my horse was lame! This didn't help matters but, after a vet saw Bullseye and declared that he couldn't be competed, the aptitude and resilience of the modern pony club mother, combined with the fact we had permanent stabling, Pickles was fetched (he may not have got on well with temporary stabling). This meant mum missed the day's competition to drive 4 hours home to change horses and then drive 4 hours back, showing real dedication.

With reasonable shoots from the boys, they headed off to the swimming, thanks to a lift from our Welsh friends, whilst the girls who had been swimming in the morning with good results, came back to campus to shoot. They all shot well, and surprisingly for everyone, including herself, Georgie beat both Kaitlyn and Darcie in the shoot, scoring 920 an all time pb! We then faced a course walk in the heat, with a helpful pony club mentor, who was especially useful

for the boys who were noticing a distinct lack of parental advice (mum was still in transit somewhere on a motorway!). Another night of being well fed, with fish and chips for all, especially needed mum who arrived just in time for it after her 8 hour drive.



by Gregor Montgomery



On Saturday the life of the weekend began with the riding. Alasdair was 4th off and he had an impressive jumping round on Harvey, going well until he had a run out at a skinny after Harvey had launched himself off the drop. He came back slightly disappointed not to have gone clear but also delighted to have made it round a tough open course. Next up was me. On Pickles. Well that was fun at least, with the gate at the fifth fence. Pickles was confused having never encountered a gate on a cross country course before and we ended up going back and forth through the gate a good few times whilst I tried to shut it. Then in the wood he spooked at a fence judge wearing a hi-vis jacket so we missed the second part of the ditch log combination and we had a couple of runouts at a tricky downhill skinny combination and at a corner. But we made it round his first 1m course and to do justice to Pickles, whilst mum was stood by the water telling another mum they hoped I took the L option, he did it perfectly.

The girls rode in the afternoon, and time seemed to fly so suddenly there was a rush to get ready and it was all hands on deck to get horses and children to the start on time. The pony club mentor again was brilliant at warming them up and getting them wound up (Georgie) or calming anxious nerves and ponies (Darcie and Kaitlyn). Despite a few hairy moments, with some genuine horses they all went clear though we were all in for another shock, as Georgie and Tubby was quickest of the three!

That evening was the party, with the theme for the fancy dress being holiday. After a good meal of spaghetti bolognese cooked in mum's lorry by an Albrighton competitor's mum (and with the mum's consuming a bit of prosecco) we decided it was time we left the parents to party so we dressed up in our Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts (boys as well!) and headed over to the marquee. It was, I'm sure we all agree, the best night of the lot. Everybody had good fun even with some "amazing" dancing, mostly from the boys of course.



On Sunday the run took place on the very hilly cross country course, with Alasdair running 3000m, me running 2000m and the girls 1500m. With some close running, and being far too early in the morning, particularly the boys who started at 9am feeling a little jaded, we completed the championships. After a steady hack on the horses, it was time for the presentation. Darcie was in the area team which came 2nd and all the girls got clear round rosettes. We all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and are all definitely going to be trying to qualify next year.

Pony Club Polo by Ester McLaughlin

This year the NSPCP (North Shropshire Pony Club Polo) had five members, instead of the usual four team players used in outdoor polo. There was Scott, Milo, Ned, Lily and I. Lily was the newest addition to our team, and we were looking forward to having her fresh perspective and experience, and putting it to use during the intense 6-minute chukkas.

The 4 separate tournaments were each fast-paced and laced with adrenaline. To begin with was Cirencester, where the pace of the chukkas and the violence of the riding off between players shocked the newcomers to Pony Club Polo. After galloping for a solid 6 minutes, and playing a heavily defensive game, the team returned to the lorry red-faced and sweaty under their hats. We were playing against two other teams, the Royal Artillery, and North Cambridge. After scoring no goals against either team, we felt defeated but rallied against our loss by reminding ourselves that this was only our first tournament, and we had plenty of time to prove ourselves.



The next day of chukkas were at Longdole Polo Club, and due to unfortunate circumstances, our coach had had to forgo meeting us there, leaving us our trusty steeds and flying blind against the two other teams. Having started to figure out the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition, we thought up tactical positioning, and used the fact that we had a spare player to our advantage, changing the line up according to whom we were playing against. Placing Scott and Milo in attack, with their stronger shots, helped us take the ball further down the pitch, whilst Lily or Ned (depending who was playing) backed them up so that they knew they were supported. Meanwhile, I went to the strongest player on the other team and rode them off for as much of the game as I could so that they could get as little time with the ball as possible, giving our team a larger chance of getting possession. We managed to score a goal, due to our stronger team playing, but driving rain and wet conditions lead us to another day of defeat.

A few days later, Lily, Scott and I reunited at Hurtwood Polo Club, where the absence of Ned and Milo meant that we had to recruit a new member into our team. Having a new player in our midst slightly threw us off in the chukkas, as we got confused as to where everyone was, and we didn't stick with our players, meaning that the play was much messier and the games became scrappy. However, we managed to place joint 2nd with the Cambridge team, as we drew 0-0 in matches against them. This slight success, combined with being awarded a pink plastic mug announcing 'I'd rather be playing polo' managed to cheer up the team and make us eager for the final weekend of the tournament.



Cowdray weekend rolled swiftly around, and once we'd arrived on the campsite and erected the huge 10-man tent (due to excellent teamwork) we settled down for dinner with the Royal Artillery teams, and proceeded to dance and talk well into the night. The next morning we rose early, and once we had the team together, we cycled past the beautiful polo pitches of Cowdray Park to meet our coach, Glynn, and get ready for the forthcoming days. The chukkas our team played that weekend were inconsistent, with us sometimes backing each other up, and sometimes standing by and watching the game. However, by the last day we only needed to win one match in order to place 2nd, and we played our hardest and strongest game against Cambridge, but unfortunately we drew 0-0. Determined to leave all of our energy out on the field, we went into the final chukka against the Royal Artillery, our strongest opponents, with a plan to play defensively and try and get another draw of no goals scored. However, the Royal Artillery were determined and brought their fastest game to the field, and unfortunately they were able to score a few goals.

As far as we could see, we could only place third due to the fact that we had won no matches and the placing's were being awarded according to matches won. Our team were slightly demoralized as we had had less goals scored against us than Cambridge, which was an example of our stronger defence, yet we were still to come third.

However, when the prize giving began, and the Royal Artillery went up to claim their 1st prize, instead of Cambridge being announced 2nd, it was the North Shropshire! We were shocked and ecstatic, as we realised that the judging had been altered to goals conceded, allowing our team to overtake Cambridge.

Overall, the teams emotions throughout all four tournaments was up and then down, but our play improved and our teamwork and communication got better and better every game and there are some fantastic memories created from the drama of polo.

Last year we placed 3rd, this year 2nd, and so surely next year the North Shropshire team will be claiming 1st?

Shrewsbury Flower Show by Alice Parton

The Flower Show was a great success. We had a great team of Emily Yeomans, Caroline Vernon, Bella Jackson, and myself. When we arrived, Helen was there to help us walk the course which was a full up course in a well-dressed large spooky arena! Helen was a great help throughout the day, she also helped us warm up and gave us support. Well done to all the team, there was some great riding, making us joint 1st after two rounds. After the two rounds on a big course one member of each team had to jump off against each other, Helen had nominated myself to jump off against Tanatside PC. Tanatside's rider had one pole, meaning to win, I would have to go clear, and fortunately I went clear resulting in North Shropshire winning.

Well done to the team and thank you to Helen and the parents for the great support.



Thank you!

Many, many thanks to those members and their families that have hosted a NSH Pony Club event of some kind at their home during the past year. Thank you for allowing us to hold mounted or un-mounted rallies, for letting us use your fields, arenas, stables, garages and outbuildings, and for making our members feel so welcome.

As our range of local facilities has recently decreased, and we are ever mindful of costs, the ability to hold events at members homes is greatly appreciated.

If anyone has facilities that they would be able to allow the club to use during the forthcoming year please contact Helen Elston or Lucy Walker.

Thank you also to all our coaches for their dedication and support, it is greatly valued by all our members.



Xmas Show 2nd January 2018

