

Newsletter November 2020

2020—What a Year!

When I took over from Lucy on 1 January I felt confident that as we had trialled Berriewood for Senior Camp, Longner Hall for Junior Camp and had organised Area Dressage in 2019, my first year as DC would be an easy one—HOW WRONG COULD I HAVE BEEN!!!!

The first two and a half months were 'normal' apart from issues caused by the weather, but by the third week of March we found ourselves in 'lock-down' which meant immediate cancellation of all that we had planned. As competitions and other activities were cancelled, the prospect of an active Summer looked unlikely. However, my view was that we should arrange activities as it would be much easier to cancel them than to arrange at the last minute. So with everything crossed that restrictions would be eased, we forged ahead with plans for both Senior and Junior camps, albeit in different formats to conform with the latest Govt. restrictions. I am so glad that we did this as we had 26 members at Senior Camp (only the ponies and a few adults 'camped' though) and 25 at Junior Camp (half of our total membership!). After 4 months of no activity, it was great to see so many of our members out enjoying their horses and ponies again.

As the months go by, it is becoming evident that this terrible virus will be with us for some time yet but we will continue to organise as many activities for our members as it is safe for us to do. I would like to thank the Committee, our Coaches and all our Parents for their continued help and support throughout these challenging times!

Happy Christmas to you all and fingers crossed for as 'normal' a 2021 as possible!

Ann

Rally Report

Sadly the report won't be as extensive this year as in previous years due to the 4 month gap in the Spring when Covid 19 prevented us from holding any activities. However, as soon as we were able to, we resumed Pony Club activities. We've managed to hold rallies in many different disciplines, games, working rallies, show jumping, arena cross country, outdoor cross country, dressage and horse & pony care/test training. These have been very well attended and enjoyed by all age groups within the branch.

Both our senior and junior camps enjoyed a return to their 2019 venues – senior at Berriewood and junior at Longner Hall. Senior camp saw the horses and ponies camping along with a few adults with the children going home for the night. Due to the Government restrictions around group numbers, the lead rein members had their own day and a half for junior camp followed by the older members who also had a day and a half.

A big thank you to all the families that have hosted rallies, training and camps this year. Without your support we wouldn't be able to offer as many rallies or opportunities for training. We must also thank our excellent coaches who continue to encourage and help our members to achieve their goals and have fun.

I hope you have all enjoyed the past 12 months attending our branch activities. I certainly have enjoyed watching everyone learning and improving whilst having fun with their horses/ponies and friends.

I am really looking forward to 2021 when, hopefully things will start to look more 'normal'.

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.

Area Competitions 2021 - Important Information:

If you wish to be considered for any of the area competitions in 2021 please make sure that you and the horse/pony you intend to ride at the competitions have attended 3 rallies. If you attended 2020 summer camp that counts as 1 rally. All rallies after 1st July 2020 count towards the 2021 eligibility, but at least 1 rally must be in 2021. 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.

2021 Camp, Area Qualifier & Championship Dates

Senior Summer Camp: Berriwood. Thursday 22nd ~ - Tuesday 27th July.

For those members aged 10 years and over.

Junior Summer Camp: Longnor Hall Sun 1st August ~ Tues 2nd August.

For those members aged 10 years and under.

Quiz: TBA

Winter Triathlon: TBA

Spring Festival Dressage Area Final: TBA

Spring Festival Arena Eventing Area Final: 28th February at Dallas Burston

Spring Festival Show Jumping Area Final: 27th March at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard

Horse & Pony Care: 8th/9th April, Alscot Stables

MG: 25th April, Dallas Burston

Show Jumping: 31st July, Wolverhampton TBC

Eventing: 18th July, Sapey

Tetrathlon: 10th and 11th July, Ettington

Dressage: 24th July, Berriewood

Racing: TBA, Wolverhampton Racecourse

Mounted Games Zone Final: 17th or 18th July, Stanford Hall, Lutterworth

Pony Club Championships: 13th to 15th August, Offchurch Bury

Polocross, Mounted Games and Tetrathlon

Pony Club Championships: 13th to 15th August, Offchurch Bury

Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing and Polo

2020 Tests Results

Well done everyone who has trained for and had a go at the Pony Club Efficiency Tests in spite of the many restrictions this year has had. You are all brilliant!

The wonderful results speak volumes for all of those who tackled and were successful at both Area & Club level.

See the website for full details of requirements for future tests.

AH Test Pass—3 Sections

Gregor Montgomery

B Test Passes (Ride)

Euan Montgomery.

B Test Passes (Care)

Annabelle Wixey and Kitty Ing.

C Test Passes

Finlay Montgomery, Dora Prytherch, Bella Timmis, Bella Spencer-Blow, Immy Spencer-Blow and Jessica Bryers.

Road Rider

Eleanor Barker, Barney Ing, Bella Spencer-Blow, Immy Spencer-Blow, Daisy Bethune, Jess Bryers, Lottie Williams, Chloe-Brooke Rickett, Daisy Bickford and Dora Prytherch.

Mini Road Rider

Patrick McColgan, Alex Dale, Bella Burton, Izzy Perks, Emily Sneddon and Megan Cappaert.

D+ Test Passes

Alex Dale, Scarlett Chapple, Megan Cappaert, Tibby Galliers, Rosie Carter, Chloe-Brooke Rickett, Matilda Brooksbank, Henry Hughes and Cara Bennett.

D Test Passes

Matlilda Brooksbank, Maisie Lay, Daisy Bickford, Chloe Brooke Rickett., Rosie Carter, Scarlett Chapple, Tibby Galliers, Bella Burton, Florence Hughes, Izzy Perks, Patrick McColgan, Alex Dale and Emily Sneddon.

E Test Passes

Oscar Adams, Pixie Adams, Marni Slater, Sienna Pierce, Aria Wagner, Mia Beeston, and Angus Chapple.



The Spring Festival

The Pony Club Spring Festival has evolved from the Winter Series and includes Dressage, Show Jumping and now Arena Eventing. Riders will compete to qualify for the Spring Festival Championships, it will be one of the main sporting events in the Pony Club calendar!

For 2020/2021 the Spring Festival will be split into two regions with two separate finals with the England and Wales Final at Arena UK 9th/10th/11th April 2021.

We hope this will give everyone a really good chance of successfully making their way to their final.

Please be reassured that any competitions that have been arranged under the Winter Series rules will automatically be included in the Spring Festival 2021.

Qualifying Stages

There will be up to three stages of the Spring Festival depending on sport and region.

England and Wales:

1. **Preliminary Rounds** for Dressage, Show Jumping and Arena Eventing are held between August and March to enable competitors to qualify for their Area Competition.
2. **Area Competitions** for Dressage, Show Jumping and Arena Eventing will be held in March for those who qualified at a Preliminary Round.
3. Those who were successful at their Area Competition will go forward to the **Championships**.

Specific Sport Information

To find out more click on the links on the main Pony Club Website there you can find all the information you need about the rules for the various disciplines.

We really hope lots of our members will give it a go!

Triathlons

By Maisey (11) and Thomas (9) Lay

All set for a great season of triathlons with the pony club, it's been difficult as covid has got in the way!

At the start of the year we had a great time at the Mold Triathlons, the NSHPC event at Wrekin College and travelled to Worcestershire for another. Each time improving our scores, thanks to the shoot and run practices. During the first lockdown we tried to keep ourselves fit by running around the farm, and did some open water swimming to help build up more stamina in the water. We enjoyed making stimulated triathlons at home, using the inflatable pool in the garden before biking and running up and down the farm track.

We were lucky enough to go to a Pony Club Biathlon in Gloucestershire in the summer. With great results, Thomas won the run, had a shoot PB and came 3rd overall. Maisey, came 2nd in the shoot with a PB too, and 2nd overall. It was a boiling hot day. We loved watching some of our older members compete in the tetrathlon too.

Really hoping we can have a full season next year.





Taking the AH Test

by Gregor Montgomery

As some of you will know, I undertook my AH Test in September, passing 3 of the 4 sections. It was a different format throughout the training and the test this year. Almost all of the Area 7 Organised our training was online, with two sessions of Face-to-Face training with Nicola Fitter at her yard, to practise the lunging and ride and lead. All the rest of the sessions, once a week for about 2 months, were a zoom call with Nicola running through a set of questions she had sent us, looking at our answers and then explaining the right answers. It worked really well and meant that we could do training in the evenings and we could all answer the questions by ourselves which allowed you to see the gaps in your knowledge better. I also used the online training that Area 19 (Scotland) put on, which was also very useful. This was the distinct advantage of everything being online, as I could access their course, which under normal circumstances I couldn't have done. Their course was very different from Area 7 as they put on specialist AH talks undertaken by a vet, nutritionist, eventer etc.

The Test was a couple of weeks into September and I travelled down to Warwickshire for it. Because of COVID-19, the test was run slightly differently, where you would normally be in groups, you did the test one to one with examiners with slightly shorter sections to give everyone enough time. This meant that you had nowhere to hide, and you couldn't hope for the other person to answer, however because the training had been done in a similar way, it meant I was used to it and thus I was able to perform well through most of the test. The test was well organised, and the examiners were really good.

I was disappointed to discover I had only passed 3 of the 4 sections, mostly because I although I would have been happy with to have passed just one section, passing the 3 sections was annoyingly close. I was even more disappointed to find out that I had failed the fourth section because I bandaged the wrong way around the leg, which just goes to show that whatever you do, don't forget the basics of your Pony Care.

Junior Camp a

By Lucy Adney &

Junior Camp was very different this year due to Covid but it was still lots of fun! We managed to fit in lots of riding as well as some unmounted. Everyone improved so much and we all learnt something new.

The instructors made it all fun even when

our ponies didn't

quite do what we asked!
One thing I learnt at Camp is how important it is to look after your ponies field and how poisonous ragwort is. Oh.... and to sit up straight!

I am sad it was my last Junior Camp but I can't wait for Seniors!
Thank you so much to everyone who helped and taught at camp.
p.s The tuck shop was great ! (the Polos sold out of course!)



t Longnor Hall

Oscar and Pixie Adams



Camp was
really fun
I liked the
jumping
Thank you
PIXIE
(aged 4)

At camp, I really liked the jumping and
contesting. Thank you Dean for teaching me.
OSCAR
(aged 6)





Senior

by Phoebe Cambray

Though this year has been hard on everyone we were all so excited for camp and were all looking forward to a whole week of ponies.

Even with the Covid circumstances camp still felt the same with the happy faces of all the instructors and helpers.

We arrived at camp on the Monday and quickly all got into the swing of things whilst remaining 2 metres apart. This year was my fifth senior camp and it was different to be the oldest at camp and being looked up to by the first timers.

The first day everyone was introduced to their instructors for the week and became aware of the incredible facilities Berriewood has to offer. Though we were all disappointed to not have Sue's amazing meals we all had a great picnic with our pack lunches each day.

By the second day we all knew our routine, Jemima Warner and I were the only ones who did not have to arrive at camp by 8:30am as we were taking our horses home each day. So, whilst everyone else was stressing about mucking out we were having a great time watching TV in our lorry!

This year's instructors were brilliant and I personally learnt a lot about my horse and our relationship. However, it was quite worrying for both of us being able to hear Vicky and her microphone from the other side of the cross-country course and then see a group of horses come towards us!

The Friday of camp was the usual competition day of both Dressage and Show Jumping. This year we had some amazing dressage and show jumping judges who were very supportive.

After the successful morning of competing, we all packed up then all the parents and children watched the prize giving whilst remaining two metres apart.

Overall camp was a lot of fun with many memories made.

I would like to thank Penny for allowing us to use the amazing facilities and the incredible committee who spent hours organising each detail.

Thank you all and here's to next year.

Camp

and Angus Chappell

First Time ever at Pony Camp 2020.



Hi I am Aggie and I am 11. I'm not really a pony boy but I live in a pony family. I joined Pony Club really to do the mounted games with my friend Patrick. My sister started last year and I had to go along and watch it looked like fun.

1) How did you hear about pony camp?

Because I didn't do school leavers camp and things, year six leaver days (Covid), my mum asked if I would like to go to pony club camp for the first time with my sister. It sounded like good fun when she went last year and she was really looking forward to going again so I said yes.... then the work started I had to learn to put my own bridle on and do jobs but it was OK. I guessed Scarlett would help me out if I got stuck and didn't know what to do.

2) What did you think about it before you went?

I got worried that I wouldn't be any good until I went because I don't usually do riding. I wished I hadn't said yes I would go.

3) What did you do at Pony Camp?

I got to do loads of learning about riding and how to look after my pony. I got a nice helper Emma who helped me do tacking up. As the week went on everything got easier and I started riding better, we did dressage training, jumping and cross country and there was a competition. We had to be really smart.

4) What were the people like?

The people were very fun and great at teaching.

Dean my teacher was really funny, making loads of jokes and making everything easier.

I made good friends with Barney, he had a new horse and he still helped me lots. He was fun. I made a lot of new friends.

5) What did you enjoy most about it?

I liked the dressage and tacking up the most I've told my mum I want to stick to flat work. Making friends and having good fun.

6) What do you hope to do next year?

I want to do the same next year learn more and get better and I hope that we will be able to camp next to our ponies and eat the proper camp food. Mum did us packed lunch this year and her food is boring, Scarlett said they had lovely food every day last year and water melon and cake.



We drove Dean to a coffin

The Taskmaster



2020 started with a great deal of promise and lots of exciting things to look forward to! However all of a sudden life as we knew it seemed to change overnight as the COVID 19 pandemic struck. One by one all the things we had been looking forward to for months started to be cancelled - rugby tour, skiing, EuroDisney, school residential trips. That was bad enough - but then we were told that we wouldn't be going to school for the foreseeable future, that we would be staying at home 24/7, that we wouldn't be able to see our friends and, worst of all, the only applicant for the role of home tutor was our Mum! Home school was "interesting", for both children and teacher, as we battled with fronted adverbials, Vikings, Egyptians, Spanish - not to mention maths and science! Though it was amazing to be given the opportunity to spend more time at home with our family and ponies, we did find that there were the odd times times when we weren't quite sure what to do with ourselves in our "free time"! Then the North Shropshire Pony Club launched Taskmaster! All of a sudden English became significantly more interesting as we wrote poems about our naughty ponies instead of St George and the Dragon and we discovered that our house contained more than enough books to rival the entire stock of Waterstones! School were fab and allowed us to substitute some of the work that they had set with our completed Taskmaster challenges. Mum said that she wasn't sure that OFSTED would approve but at least we were using our initiative! In Week 1 and 2 we willingly

ter Challenge

uploaded onto the school GoogleDrive our “impressive” photographs and pictures of our best homemade horses in place of our abstract art assignment. Week 3 reminded us of what characters Mickey and Sky were when we wrote our horse themed poem. The following few weeks became progressively more fun for us as we converted our beds into aeroplanes and cars, rode a pony right through the front hall into the kitchen and drove a go-kart into the house! Henry converted his top bunk into a Spitfire, complete with propeller and wings, and then slept in it every night for over 3 weeks! It made his bedtime cuddle quite challenging as our parents struggled to get into the cockpit! We dressed each other in stable and tail bandages, flags and rugs! We spent hours searching for things around the house to bring our designs to life ... but most of all we had an incredible amount of fun during a very surreal time. We would like to say a massive thank you to Kathy Jones for taking the time and effort to organise the Taskmaster and also to Ann Gregory, all the judges and everyone else who helped behind the scenes. We really looked forward to the new challenge each week with the highlight being the look on our parents’ faces when they realised how much mess we were likely to make with each task! The Taskmaster proved to be a great distraction during LockDown and has helped to give us many happy and unique memories of 2020!

2020 is my 2020 I will love the
likes and the love of the
Dance Dicks. Jump
High not low
we like going to school
I like to brush the
clean Taz is not meat
Taz look best better
than one rest

LOVE
He jumped into the garden
And shot into the house
He ran glassing the ribbon
And into the stall hall
My Mummy said it's lady that
He isn't very tall!
He got up at breakfast
And tried to drink
The only thing that some her
Was if something got his his out
Luckily we heard that
Cousin found the house
It made them school today and
Trying to eat our dinner!
by Florence



Horse and Pony Care

by Kitty Ing



This year has been a bit of a weird one but what did keep going was horse and pony care. From test training to online activities for all and now thankfully badge rallies are up and running again.

Euan, Annabelle, and I took part in online B test training over lockdown this year. We started with an eight-week course with Carol Board hosted by Area 19. It was great to be able to go over everything we needed to know, we had to make presentations on each topic we were given, from saddle fitting to conformation, it was a great opportunity to practise skills not just for the B test but for the future.

After that Annabelle and I took part in a 12-week course hosted by Area 7. This time we had a different instructor every three weeks, giving us the opportunity to hear different perspectives. It was extremely helpful this time for us to be able to go over the little details or the things we missed in the last sessions. Instead of presentations we were given a series of questions to prepare and answer, this really gave us a chance to see what we needed to work on. Sadly, due to Covid-19 we were not able to practise much of the practical side of the test.

Horse and pony care is great for all levels, I personally have always found it interesting as it has given me a wider knowledge around horses and how they perform. It was one of the only things I really enjoyed (other than tack and turnout) when I first joined as I had a somewhat cheeky little pony. Since then I have had the opportunity to compete at Championships and multiple Area Quiz and Horse & Pony Care competitions. So I highly recommend that anyone who may be interested comes along and gives it a go!



The Quiz

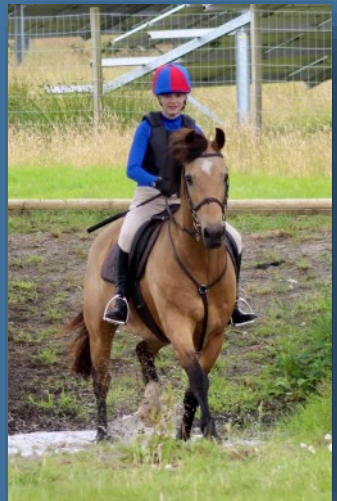
by Jasmine Wheeler

I enjoyed the quiz as it was a long 'project' I could work on. This was because I could spend my spare time searching up about all sorts of things about horses. We were put into teams and given a section of the quiz to research and learn about. I was given the country that they pick differently each year, this year it was wales. I searched up about different famous people in wales and the kings etc... The other categories were split between your team. Birds, Respiratory system of a horse, farrier tools, horseshoes etc...

On the day we were allowed a small bit of last-minute revision before the test started, and we were also allowed snacks to bring as we would be there a while.

During the quiz we were also allowed to have a break for a bit during the different categories so we could get up and walk a bit. Most of the categories were sitting down and answering questions but a few included getting up and walking to one side of the room to see some horseshoes or farrier tools and write down what they were or splitting the team up into youngest and oldest and going over to a different area and answering the questions written out.

The quiz was great fun, and I would love to do it again.



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 especially during this strange time.

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

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

