

NORTH SHROPSHIRE HUNT

Newsletter November 2021

District Commissioner's Report

The year started on a shaky note with Covid still a major threat to our activities and, indeed it halted us altogether for a month or so. Now, although it hasn't gone away, we are starting to learn to live with it and adapt our way of operating with the aim of keeping us all safe whilst carrying on in as normal a way as possible.

We had two really enjoyable Summer Camps – Senior at Berriewood and Junior at Longner Hall (thank you to Richard and Hannah Burton who allow us to invade their beautiful home for 3 days!). The great thing about both camps is seeing members interact with each other showing support and friendship whilst learning and improving their horsemanship skills. We were very lucky with the weather which, in the main, stayed relatively dry and warm. The year on year success of our camps is demonstrated by the fact that some 70% of our members attended one or other camp this Summer which is great. I was extremely proud recently when a lady who liveries at Berriewood said to me that we are not only the most organised camp she has experienced but the friendliest and particularly commented on how polite and helpful our members are. Well done everyone!



We have achieved some amazing results during the past 12 months at both Area and Championship level (Regional and National Pony Club Championships in eventing, dressage, show jumping, tetrathlon, horse and pony care and the quiz). Well done all! I get so much pleasure from sharing our members' successes, whether it be in competition or through reaching personal goals such as riding off the lead rein for the first time making all the hard work so worthwhile.

I would like to round off by thanking members of the Committee for their help and support over the past year and to all of our Parents and Members who are so supportive, helpful and friendly making the Branch such a happy and friendly organisation to be part of.

Happy Christmas to you all and I hope that our Branch continues to grow and be successful in 2022!

Ann

The Pony Club in this Country is split up into 19 areas, North Shropshire Branch is one of 16 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 and Regional Championships in August.

Area Competitions 2022 - Important Information:

If you wish to be considered for any of the area competitions in 2022 please make sure that you and the horse/pony you intend to ride at the competitions have attended 3 rallies. All rallies after 1st July 2021 count towards the 2022 eligibility, but at least 1 rally must be in 2022. 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 next Spring and will, at the same time, be emailed to everyone.

2022 Camp, Area Qualifier & Championship Dates

18+Camp: Berriewood. Friday 15th ~ Sunday 17th July.

For those members aged 18 years and over.

Senior Summer Camp: Berriewood. Monday 25th ~ Friday 29th July.

For those members aged 10 years and over.

Junior Summer Camp: Longner Hall Mon 1st August ~ Weds 3rd August.

For those members aged 10 years and under.

Quiz: 5th February at Weston Lawns Equitation Centre, Bulkington

Area Winter Triathlon: 6th February at Bromsgrove School

Winter Triathlon Championships: 27th March at Grantham.

Spring Festival Dressage and Show Jumping Final: 8th to 10th April at Arena UK

Arena Eventing Final: 12th to 13th February at Dallas Burston.

Horse & Pony Care: TBC

MG: 22nd May at Stanford Hall, Near Lutterworth

Dressage: 26th June, at Solihull Riding Club

Eventing: 3rd July (provisional), TBC

Tetrathlon: 9th and 10th July, Whitfield Farm, Ettington

Show Jumping: 23rd and 24th July at Solihull Riding Club

Mounted Games Zone Final: TBC

Pony Club Championships: Friday 12th ~ Sunday 21st August.

Racing: 11th September (provisional), Wolverhampton

Racecourse

North Shropshire Triathlons
Sun 20th Feb & Sun 24th April
2022



Area Competitions

Once again, North Shropshire has had a successful year with a significant number of members competing in Area competitions with some qualifying to compete at National and Regional Championships.

The year started with the Area 7 Quiz qualifier which was held over Zoom in March. This was a different experience but carefully monitored and run fairly. We entered 3 teams which finished a very creditable 3rd, 5th and 6th.

Sadly the Area triathlon, and Area Spring Festival finals were all cancelled due to Covid.

The Pony Club had decided that any member who qualified for Championships at either Intermediate or Open level at the Area Qualifiers in 2019 could, providing that they achieved a certain level at the Area Competition in 2021, compete at Championships this year. The reason for this was that Championships in 2019 were cancelled due to flooding and in 2020 they fell foul of Covid. We had some members who took advantage of this rule.

The Summer Area qualifying competitions for Show Jumping, Dressage, Tetrathlon and Eventing were all held in July on consecutive weekends, which made this month extremely busy! The Show Jumping Qualifier was first, hosted by the Albrighton Hunt Branch at Rodbaston. We were represented at most levels and enjoyed some great results. Our Intermediate team (105cm) came 5th with Lucy Lloyd Brown finishing 4th individually, qualifying for Championships. Bella Jackson competed and was eligible to use her 2019 qualification so joined Lucy at Championships. Both members did brilliantly at Champs with Lucy coming a brilliant 5th out of 90 starters! At Area Novice level (90cm) we had 2 teams competing with one finishing 8th. At Regional Level (80cm) both Maisey Lay and Mila Wagner qualified individually and went to Championships along with Amy Webster who also went on a wild card all doing very well.

and Championships



Next came the Tetrathlon qualifier with our Open boys team of Gregor, Alasdair and Euan Montgomery finishing first and going on to come 1st at Championships. Other qualifiers at Area were Finlay Montgomery (junior boy), Daisy Bethune and Holly Mehta (junior girls) who went to Championships and competed as a Junior mixed team coming 8th.

The Eventing qualifier followed at Sapey hosted by the Ludlow Hunt Branch. This took place on one of the hottest days of the summer which was very challenging for horses, riders and spectators! Our Intermediate Team of Alice Parton, Emily Yeomans and Anna Warner came 2nd and qualified for the Championships where Emily Yeomans came a fantastic 3rd in her section. We had 2 Novice Teams competing at Area finishing 3rd (sadly missing out on qualification) and 8th. At Regional level we had 2 teams both qualifying for Championships. The North Shropshire Yellow team of Shona Flatley, Lottie Williams and Amy Webster came 6th and the North Shropshire Blue team of Daisy Bethune, Holly Mehta, Maisey Lay and Mila Wagner finishing 3rd. Both Teams did well at Championships with the Blue Team finishing 7th and Mila coming 8th individually in her Section.





The final Area Competition was the Dressage hosted by us at Berriewood during our Senior Camp. We were really pleased to field lots of teams and individuals, some having a go at an Area Competition for the first time. Our Open Team of Bella Jackson, Alice Parton and Emily Yeomans came 3rd and qualified for Championships. Our Intermediate team finished 2nd, narrowly missing out on qualification, however Anna Warner came 2nd in her section to qualify and was joined at Championships by Dee Edwards who claimed her 2019 qualification place. We had two Novice teams and the one which was made up of Megan Cappaert, Euan & Gregor Montgomery and Dora Prytherch came joint 1st qualifying for Championships. Both Megan and Dora won their respective Arenas at Area. Sadly Dora was unable to compete at Championships so Annabelle Wixey, being the best scoring member from the other Team, stepped in. Disaster struck the night before the Championships with Megan's horse going lame so Finlay Montgomery was kind enough to loan Megan his horse which she rode for the first time at Championships – well done everyone! We had 3 teams at Regional Level of which the Blue team of Daisy Bethune, Rosie Board, Shona Flatley and Lottie Williams came 4th and qualified. We also had Iris Burton, Eva Stanley, Mila Wagner and Amy Webster qualifying as individuals with Mila coming 7th in her Area at Championships.

In September we sent a Senior and Junior team to the Area Horse and Pony Care Qualifier in Stratford upon Avon. The Junior team came a creditable 6th out of a large field and the Senior Team of Kitty Ing, Lucy Lloyd-Brown and Gregor Montgomery came 2nd. The Senior team were invited to the Championships where they came an amazing 3rd out of 22 teams.

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

Helen & Ann

The Spring Festival

The Barrier Animal Health Spring Festival is a competition series for Dressage, Show Jumping and Arena Eventing. Riders will compete to qualify for The Spring Festival Finals.

Qualifying rounds for the 2022 Spring Festival Area Competitions start in April 2021.

Those who have qualified at a preliminary round in 2020/2021 (and are recorded with the office) will keep their places for the 2022 Spring Festival Area Competitions.

There will be two sets of finals held in April 2022 – one for England and Wales and one for Scotland and Ireland.

- **ENG/WAL - 8th to 10th April 2022 @ Arena UK**
- **SCO/NI - 2nd to 3rd April 2022 @ Morris Equestrian**

Qualifying Stages

There are three stages of the Spring Festival depending on sport and region. England and Wales:

1. **Preliminary Rounds** for Dressage, Show Jumping and Arena Eventing (if required) are held between April 2021 and March 2022 to enable competitors to qualify for their Area Competition.
2. **Area Competitions** for Dressage and Show Jumping will be held in March 2022 for those who qualified at a Preliminary Round. There won't be any local qualifying rounds for the Arena Eventing Competition this time. The Branch will be allocated a number of spaces at each level and we will select those to go forward to the Area Competition based on their recent results (expressions of interest will be sought in due course).

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!

2021 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 we have experienced this year. You are all brilliant!

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

See the website for full details of requirements for future tests or speak to Helen or Ann who will be able to advise you.

B Test Passes

Euan Montgomery and Annabelle Wixey.

C Test Passes

Daisy Bethune, Matilda Brooksbank, Phoebe Cambray, Megan Cappaert, Barney Ing, Jasmine Wheeler and Lottie Williams.



D+ Test Passes

Amelie Holzgartner, Maya Holzgartner and Emily Sneddon.

D Test Passes

Florence Allmark, Evie Beckinsale, Angus Chapple, Grace Evans, Lexi Everington, Phoebe Hargreaves, Olivia Jarvis, Jemima Lea and Eva Stanley.

E Test Passes

Robert Aitchison, Scarlet Beynon Brown, Bay Brettell, George Brettell, Eleanor Britton, Ben Calcott, Olivia Caswell-Wedderkopp, Charlotte Driver, Jessica Handley, Charlotte Ratcliffe, Freddie Shaw, Hughie Shaw and Heidi Wilfort.



18⁺ Camp

As a branch we are fortunate to have many older members still very active within the branch and it was suggested holding an 18+ camp for those older members. We are therefore very pleased to be able to say we're having a camp specifically for our 18 years and older members. This will be held at Berriewood on 15th -17th July 2022 and will be run differently from main camp. We will open it up to neighbouring clubs who are not able to run an older camp and are aiming to have about 8 to 12 members attending. The members taking part will have specialist instructors for each discipline, rather than the same instructor throughout camp as happens with both junior and senior camp. The social side of camp will as always be as important but due to the age of the members there will be less supervision and no fixed bed times (though we do expect them to remember they still have to get up and look after their horses in the morning so the bell will be rung to wake them up!!). We really hope that this new camp will be a big success and continue each year so once our members have reached 18 and may not be able to commit to a full week due to work, they can still attend a camp.

Lucy Walker, our previous DC, was presented with a Cubitt Award for at least 20 years of service to the Pony Club in the summer.



Achievement Badges

Throughout the last lockdown in April, I ran online badge rallies for some of the junior members. It was a good experience for me, making some dreary days much more enjoyable.

For their part, I would like to think they came away knowing more about horses, their care, and other related activities than they did going into the lockdown. Beyond that, though, I would like to think they enjoyed reconnecting with the broader horsey world given the disruption of the past year, even if in a small way.

Although not as easy as in-person rallies, Zoom proved more than up to the task at hand, and the presentations went down well. There were a few teething issues, but the younger ones seemed to have taken very quickly to online learning and were well-behaved and engaged with the material.

Each rally consisted of an online meeting and quiz to learn the week's subject, taking around three-quarters of an hour on average. Then, we emailed them a worksheet with some questions related to the material and a creative exercise or two. The latter part of the worksheet was particularly well-received, with many going to great effort on some stunning drawings. Finally, we'd meet back up the following week to review what they'd done and learned. We also reviewed their answers to the worksheet. They were fast learners, picking up much of what we'd covered each week on top of their still-ongoing schoolwork, and nearly every week, all of them earned their badges!

We covered a wide range of badges, from dog breeds to hacking, native ponies, farming, and poisonous plants. When we return with more rallies this winter, I hope to have prepared more topics and more fun ways to learn about them.

I can only hope the club's younger members got as much out of them as I continue to.



Alasdair



Rallies by Izzy Perks



Hi I'm Izzy Perks and I'm one of the North Shropshire Pony Club members, and I'm 10yrs old.

I have been in pony club for a year and a half now and I find it so much fun.

Rallies are great ways to meet people, make friends, and they are always exciting. Here are the types of rallies on offer: cross country, dressage, show jumping, working rallies and much more. My favourite are jumping rallies. You can also earn badges (working dogs and poisonous plants etc. I achieved some of these during lockdown and to be honest I think my Mum enjoyed them as much as I did. You can also work towards your test badges.

I aim to attend at least one rally a month, sometimes more. Rallies combined with regular lessons have brought my riding on lots.

Here's me on my new pony, Rolo, at the Arena XC Rally on the 24th October. It was epic!!



Junior Camp at

By Evie Beckinsale



It was my first pony club camp and I didn't know what to expect. When I first arrived at the venue I was surprised by the amount of lorries of trailers there. I was quite nervous but as the day went on my nerves disappeared and I was really enjoying myself.

The next day, one of the first activities we did was cross country. Our riding instructor, (Jane) told us to do a course of jumps then find a partner. After that, in our partners we had to jump a telegraph pole at the same time, it was so fun!

Later that day, we did grid work. It started by jumping around 30cm cross poles, then as a challenge Jane told us to tie a knot in our reins and canter over the jumps with one hand. When everyone had had a few goes Jane made us canter over the jumps but with our arms to the side of us and then pick up the reins and go through two blue fillers. I wanted to do this a thousand times as it was so much fun!

On the last day we did competitions. First we did dressage, then we did a course of show jumps. We were all waiting for our turn and when it came we went as fast as we could but clear. Then we did cross country. We had to jump a log, pole, stack of sticks and a ditch. At the end of the day we did prize giving.

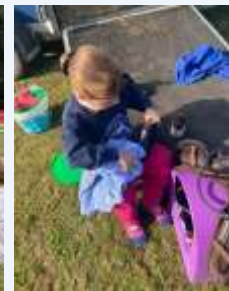
I LOVED IT!!!!!!



Longnor Hall

and **Scarlett Beynon Brown**

This is my first pony club camp. I had this Instructor called Helen she was really nice. She taught me a lot and helped me to ride. At lunchtime I loved going to the tuck shop with my friends. At lesson time we learnt to put a bridle back together and how to pick up a hoof. On Mischief my pony I did jumping that was really fun. We painted on a pony with different colours. I enjoyed going for a hack to cool the ponies down. I have lots of new friends and we all had lots of fun in the sun with our ponies. I am really really looking forward for next years camp with Mischief. I hope the tuck shop will still be there.



Senior



This year started off in another lockdown, forcing competitions and rallies to be cancelled. Although it was very much touch and go whether camp would go ahead or not, Ann, Helen and the rest of the pony club committee pulled it off and made it possible for camp to happen.

For many of us, camp is the highlight of our summer! Spending the week with ponies and friends and no parents, what's not to love! Last year we weren't able to stay over and although everyone had fun and loved playing ponies for a week, it just wasn't the same. This year, the camping, the evening shenanigans, late night stables and the FOOD, is something we all didn't realise how much we'd actually missed!

We arrived at camp on the Thursday, and quickly got into the swing of things, starting off with 2 lessons, followed by a fun-filled evening of rounders organised by our camp 'mother', Fiona! This year we had a lot of new starters, so it was a perfect way to meet everybody and for us as the older members, to introduce each other.

As far as evening entertainment goes, this year has to be the best by far! From rounders, to an evening spent on an equicizer, to Deano's fabulous disco!! They rounded off each day in the perfect way!

Camp

by **Shona Flatley**

Here in the North Shropshire, we like to mix things up and add pressure to ourselves. So this year we threw an Area Dressage competition into the middle of the week! What could possibly have gone wrong...?! As it turns out, nothing! Between an incredibly organised committee and hard working members, the day ran swimmingly. And as usual, our branch made us proud, we had qualifications for champs all over the place, so a very well done! Then in true North Shropshire style, we celebrated, with a disco! Our very own DJ Dora on the music, it was a night filled with classic 80s tunes! Although the boys would like to tell you they 'hate' ABBA music, they somehow seemed to know all the words to 'Voulez Vous'!!

Despite the rain on Show Day, no spirits were dampened, only jackets! Every child at camp did their instructors, themselves and the North Shropshire proud, and that was certainly highlighted at prize giving!

Now, all that's left for me to say is, 'thank you!' to everyone involved who made camp 2021 so much fun, and such a success! I'm afraid due to that you'll have to put up with us for another year!

So, here's to camp 2022!! Hope to see you there!!



Senior Camp

by Florence Allmark

First Time ever at Pony Camp 2021

My name is Flossy Allmark and I had my first camp this year,

I really enjoyed camp this year. I wasn't in pony club for long and didn't know many people at all, but now I have made loads of new friends that I wouldn't of met if I didn't go to camp.

Jane was my instructor at camp. She taught me and my pony loads! All the adults there were very helpful and kind.

I think everyone that went to camp can say that the food there was very nice. I never got hungry once! Even when I was riding, we had biscuits.

My birthday was at camp, it was great because for tea we all got to have birthday cake.

I think Berrriwood was brilliant place to have camp because all of there facilities! My favourite part was the XC and the water. They also had a great indoor, and sj arena. I slept very well and had a lot of sleep in the bell tents.

Pip my pony also settled in very nicely since it was her first camp as well!

Before I went to camp I was vey nervous about coming and that I wouldn't know anyone there but by the end of camp I almost spoke to everyone that went!

Thank you to all the adults and members for making me feel welcome!



Dressage

by Dee Edwards

With lock down and being away at University, this has meant that I had to focus on elements of my riding when I could. I enjoy dressage as an element of eventing usually, rather than pure dressage. So, I was delighted to represent the branch as part of the Intermediate Team at Area with Anna Warner, Emily Yeomans and Kitty Ing. Our Intermediate Dressage Team was placed Second, but missed to qualify for Championships this year due to less teams than normal for our Area. We had a number of teams and individuals representing Area 7 at Championships, the Novice Dressage Team of Gregor, Euan Montgomery, Annabelle Wixey and Megan Cappaert. Intermediate individuals were myself, Dee Edwards and Anna Warner. We also had an Open Team too comprising of Bella Jackson, Emily Yeomans and Alice Parton. Everyone did exceptionally well and this is a great achievement for our club. If you are interested in dressage, just give it a go! Looking forward to 2022!



by Kitty Ing

This year has been a very good year for Horse and Pony Care. At Area the senior team of Lucy, Gregor and I came a very close second to the Warwickshire, fortunately we were still able to compete at Championships as we were offered a wild card. So, on the 24th of October, we headed to High Cross

Equestrian Centre in Leicestershire. There were 21 senior teams (their biggest ever entry) so we were split into two sections to compete in. We were in section one so it was an early start to the day. We had 11 sections to work through ranging from saddlery to fitness which tested all our knowledge. It was a very good day with us finishing third overall. From Area 7 three teams finished in the top four showing how well as an area and a club we do at this. Hopefully next year we will be able to get more teams together. A massive thank you to Helen and Anona for helping us prepare for championships. Hopefully we will be back again next year!



and Florence Hughes

My horse and pony care got off to a very promising start with a pizza and revision evening at Jasmine's house! We learned about shoeing, feeding, grooming, wounds, tack and, most important of all, that a Pony Club scrunchie and spotless boots are essential when taking part in the competition!

I was one of the youngest competitors there but everyone was very friendly and encouraging. Our team had a great fun time together representing the North Shropshire and we came 6th in a large and competitive field. I am really looking forward to taking part again next year and would recommend having a go to any members - it was a great experience!





Shrewsbury Flower Show

By Lucy Lloyd-Brown



Back in July I had a message from Anna Warner to ask if I was interested in being part of a team to enter the show jumping competition at the Shrewsbury Flower Show along with her and Emily Yeomans. The competition was not being held on the day but in advance where it would be filmed and shown on the big screen on show day.

At the last minute we were told we would be jumping in the outdoor arena at Radfords at Llanymynech where we knew the surface was good so we were very relieved.

I had entered the 1m individually as a warm up and the 1.05/1.10m as part of the team as my mare Rosie is only 6. I have produced her from being just broken at age 4 and knew the experience of jumping in a different arena would be good for her. The weather on the day was lovely and there were lots of spectators from other clubs having a picnic and a good day out. Anna and Emily arrived looking very smart and we all warmed up together.

The first class I jumped was the 1m individual and it was a two phase class, being timed after fence 8. I was the last competitor to go and with the fastest double clear I won! The prize giving was to be filmed and so those placed 1st to 3rd went out of the arena to put the beautiful embroidered rugs on our horses and go back into the ring for the official presentation after which we did a lap of honour.

Then I had to move onto the team round which was the most important as we wanted to do well for the Club. There were lots of brightly painted fences, scary fillers and fluttering flags that the horses hadn't seen before, very off-putting. Anna was first to jump, then Emily and I was last to go and I was very relieved to finish once again with a fast double clear to secure the win for North Shropshire P.C. We were all presented with a rug again and filmed as before doing our lap of honour. Overall a very successful day and good practise for the P.C Championships.

Show Jumping

by Mila Wagner



Qualifying for regional championships was a dream come true for me

and I was lucky enough to qualify for all three disciplines. On Sunday, at 7:00am we got up and went down to the stables to feed Oscar, I was so nervous for the day ahead, but also excited. After sorting Oscar and his stable I went back to the caravan to get dressed, after that we went to walk the course with Helen and the team, so exiting!!!

Helen was great and talked us through our turns and strides during the course walk. Then, soon enough I was in the warmup and nervous as ever! When it was my first round in the main arena Oscar strode in, my heart was thumping like thunder! Sadly, we ended up having a pole on number three of course, we were going too fast!

I was a bit upset but still so proud of Oscar. After we untacked, we ate a burger and watched others doing their rounds. Not many were going clear.

The second round had gone up to a full on 90 course which was the biggest I've ever done, but whatever happened Oscar and I were going to give our best shot. Oscar was amazing and cleared all the big jumps with ease but on the last double I'd been so worried about all the jumps that scared me I relaxed and allowed him to get too fast and flat, this resulted in us getting two poles on both parts of the double. I was devastated because I was so upset with myself.



However, I was so happy that I had got this far and got over all the jumps that frightened me. When I was on my own, I did cry but the tears turned into happy tears as Oscar was the best pony ever! In the evening we watched the jump off! It was nail biting to watch! Some of the turns and gallops seemed impossible to make, the atmosphere was amazing. After that Daisy, Amy, Maisey and I had a barbeque and looked forward to the eventing.

The overall experience was amazing. I met so many riders from all over and had the best weekend of my life. I really hope we will all be there next year. Thank you, Anne, Helen and Fiona and Dean, for all your support, regional championships was BRILLIANT!!!

Taking my D+ Test

by Emily Sneddon

I recently sat the D+ test with my best friends Amelie and Maya. I learned all about the D+ test at mounted and unmounted rallies held by the Pony Club. On the day of the test, the examiner, Sarah Warner, was really nice and kind and made us feel at ease. The test was fun. Since taking the D+ test I feel more confident and knowledgeable when caring for my ponies Rosie and Jinx. I really feel I learned a lot about riding and pony care and I am now working towards the C test.



Young Equestrians Leadership Award

by Meg Cappaert



In April of this year, I started my Bronze YELA. I needed to volunteer for 20 hours over a minimum of 8 weeks. To start, I spent my weekend as a volunteer fence judge at Weston Park Horse Trials where I watched lots of professional riders like Oliver Townsend, Laura Collett, Ros Canter and Michael Owen compete in the Novice, Open Novice, Pony Trials, Intermediate, Open Intermediate and Advanced classes. The table in the “b” element of our fence in the Advanced was HUGE and it was so cool watching ponies jumping fences that were almost the same size as them! These classes caused a lot of issues and I had to be on the ball to record falls, runouts and refusals as well as discussing incidents with the Technical Adviser when the penalties I awarded to combinations were questioned. It was lovely to not only log hours for my YELA but also to give back to the sport that I love. I completed a total of 17 hours over the two days, but I still had to keep logging hours until my 8 weeks was finished. I then went on to log 4.5 hours at the Easter Show at Radfords where I pole picked, score collected and helped younger members before I competed in the last classes myself. To finish my bronze award, I spent another weekend as a volunteer fence judge but this time at Chillington Hall Horse Trials in the BE80, BE90 and BE100 AFQ and AFC classes. These classes were very competitive as it was one of few chances combinations get to qualify for the prestigious Badminton Grassroots Championships however there were still plenty of problems out on course! Once I had logged all my hours and had them signed off by the respective event organisers, I spent an evening answering the bronze award questions about my time spent volunteering then sent it off to be assessed.

Shortly after, I received my badge and certificate and then immediately applied for my silver award. Junior Camp was the first entry into my silver logbook, I was one of 5 volunteers over the 3 days and I completed a total of 24 hours of leading ponies, tacking up, tack checks, plaiting, setting up for lessons and assisting instructors. I even shared my birthday with one of the youngest members on the last day too! I did 5 hours volunteering at one of Steve's Games Rally's and Cerys Clarke's Working Rally and then spent another weekend at Weston Park (2) Fence Judging in the BE80, BE90, BE90 TC, BE100, BE Novice and BE Novice Masters Classes. These classes were quite quiet in terms of problems at our fence since we were the last fence but there were plenty of issues over the radio at both waters and combinations early on in the course. I loved attending the prize giving for the Novice Masters at the end of the last day as they won so many prizes! I haven't finished my Silver Award yet as I need to take charge of an activity and volunteer for a minimum of 16 weeks before I can answer the questions about my time spent volunteering and send off for my certificate, but I am hoping to have it finished soon so I can start the highly recognised Gold Award!



Olivia Caswell Wedderkop



Badge Rallies

by Olivia Caswell-Wedderkopp

Badge and Care rallies are one of my favourite pony club activities to do. I love learning about different things and then hopefully getting a new mini badge as well. So far I have 7 Mini badges.

My first care rallies took place at other members yards with their ponies, but when lockdown happened again in January 2021 we weren't allowed to visit. I was really pleased when mummy booked me in for the badge rallies on zoom.

Alastair Montgomery gave really good presentations each week for the different badges we were working towards. We then had to complete a workbook and the following week Alastair would do a quiz to check we had learned enough to get the badge.

I completed 5 zoom rallies and got my badges.

I'm really pleased that Alastair is doing the zoom rallies again in November and December. We are going to be doing Field Safety and Poisonous Plants.

Thank you to all the instructors who have taught us at all the rallies both in person and online.



parts of the
Pony



Colours and
markings



pony
behaviour



birds

Triathlons

By George Brettell

This year I got to shoot !! Now I am 8 years old, I can shoot at pony club triathlon. I am shooting with 2 hands as I am still under 12 years old. To learn to shoot I went to lots of shoot practices at Rachel

Montgomery's. Mum made sure I listened carefully to the safety instructions, Rachel was really friendly and helped me with aiming to hit the target and there was lots of biscuits and squash!

At Packwood School we had a go at triathlon. My little sister did bean bag throwing first, she did a great job. I was worried about shooting in the gym hall but Mum was allowed to stay and I remembered the command 'stand by, fire! reload'.

I liked the swimming at triathlon best of all! I swam the fastest I could in front crawl and my little sister had a woggle to help her swim. After swimming I got to stay and cheer on my friends, all the shouting by the pool side was lots of fun.

Running 1000m was hard work and I was begging to walk so I did walk a little bit of it. I made it all the way round and sprinted at the end, everyone cheered at the finish line.

I got to hang out with friends while we waited for the results and some of my friends did really well with team scores and everyone was happy.



Pony Racing

by Matilda Brooksbank



Whilst at a Gallops Rally we found out about a Pony Club Race Day that was taking place at Wolverhampton Racecourse in September and decided to go for it.

So Mila and I headed to the race track and when we got there, there were lots of different rules that we weren't used to, like: you have to lead your horse on a bridle or chifney; you cannot tie the horse to the trailer; you needed lots of different safety tack and everyone wore racing silks, mine was yellow and blue.

We then walked the course and tacked up ready to race with our number cloths on. Next we went to a place where all the jockeys stand together in the middle, whilst our mums walked the ponies around the outside of a mini track, but for professionals this would be done by their trainers.

There were five people in my race. We trotted to the start line and then we were off. It was an amazing feeling zooming round the race course, it took my breath away. Most people in my race came from racing academies and had proper racing ponies but Tom kept close behind and raced his heart out. I had an amazing day and an incredible experience. I feel very lucky as not many people will have the opportunity to race on an actual race track.



The Quiz

By Immy Spencer-Blow

On the 27th of March I took part in the Area 7 online Pony Club Quiz. We were separated into teams of 5 and divided up the topics between us. My topic was Pony Club Eventing. I really enjoyed learning information for the quiz but it was very annoying when my whole family got involved and started testing me every meal time!

The evening of the quiz required heavy IT management. I was locked in one room with a computer. My mother was locked in another room as an online adult supervisor for another team and my father had to move between the two rooms helping with the IT problems! Of which there were many!

Our quiz master was from another pony club and she was really lovely and fun. The questions were good and I was pleased with my answers. We were very lucky to have Alastair Montgomery on our team, he knows a lot!

It did take a long time, waiting for people to sort out IT problems but it must have been a lot of effort to arrange and overall I really enjoyed it!



Tetrathlon

by **Holly Mehta**

I joined North Shropshire Pony Club in Spring after moving house and Tetrathlon has been a big part of what I have done so far! Tetrathlon consists of four different parts, shooting, swimming, running and completing a cross country course with your horse! I was completely new to Tetrathlon when I started it this year, in fact, I hadn't even heard of it before, so don't be put off if you haven't done one of the aspects before - I only started shooting a few weeks before my first tetrathlon competition but regardless of that, I had a great day out and everyone was really supportive and provided loads of helpful tips throughout the day!

This year, North Shropshire had two tetrathlon teams at the Pony Club National Championships at Offchurch Bury and it was an amazing few days; on the first day, we had the shoot and the swim, on the second day, we had the cross country and also, the party, and on the third day, we had the run. The atmosphere at the Championships was amazing, not only was it about doing the four different aspects of tetrathlon, but, also about friendship; the party at the end of the second day was terrific and we had a lot of fun making the Olympics themed costumes for it - Daisy and I went dressed as shuttlecocks! We also had a barbecue and a pizza night on two of the evenings, and everyone got together for that! Staying in a tent with your friends is also a lot of fun (and we did even manage to get some sleep!)

I can't wait for next years season of tetrathlon!



Eventing

by Amy Webster

Hi I'm Amy Webster with my pony called Chum. This was my first year eventing. My first One Day Event was at the Sapey Area Qualifiers, I was so nervous. I was in the North Shropshire green team with Lottie and Shona. We were all great, coming home with a sixth even though Chum and I had an unfortunate stop in the cross country and we went clear in the show jumping and making it through the dressage test. Chum was so amazing and I was so happy with him. We then went to prize giving and realised we came sixth and qualified for Eland Lodge (the Regional Championships)! Chum had a lot of treats and some rest. The weather was amazing.

We then went to Eland Lodge. Our dressage wasn't as good, the ground was hard and he could feel the it. We then went to show jumping and he was good but we had a pole and in the cross country we had two stops but we made it to the end safe. He was a very tired boy. I hope I can do it again next year as we are doing some more training!



Endurance by Scarlett Chapple

I would like to tell you all a bit about my experience of becoming the Pony Club National Endurance Champion at the Red Dragon Festival of Endurance in Builth Wells at the end of September. I have completed the 48km Novice Championship ride twice before at Red Dragon. This year I wanted to start bigger distance rides. Endurance Rides are between 18km up to 160 km per day. Luckily the amount of distance I have covered in rides this year (despite covid) meant I was well qualified to enter. I was given special permission to ride alone (without an adult escort) as this is such a challenging ride (very steep hills) you are supposed to be 14 and over. I really wanted the full experience of navigating alone and keeping my own pace without a lead.

At the start I was really nervous, Tansy was hyper and she can bronc really well. After we had stormed up the first hill a 600 ft climb, we began to agree on going forward. A few spooks later and having dropped me into a ditch, she really did steady up and by time I reached the vet gate out on course I was grinning.

This distance involved 3 vettings, one at the start, one past half way and then one at the end. At each Tansy needed to be sound, hydrated and have a heart rate of less than 64 bpm. This is one of the most worrying moments of Endurance, and over 40% of entrants were eliminated at this years Championships. I was the only one to complete the distance and pass the vetting this year, as was Alex Powell in the intermediate pony club championship (36km). A few more did well in the Grassroots (18km) PC Champs. The reason I wanted to go for it was to hopefully encourage some North Shropshire members to come and give endurance a go, make up a North Shropshire Team.

It's a great family sport, you can ride with friends or parents and you need family support as crew. It really is a great way of spending quality fun time out and about the country, working with your pony, improving it's health and fitness and it's fun. I have met some amazing people out on course.



Mounted Games

By Finley Beeston

I like pony club games because I get to do lots of different games. My favourite game is bottles on the barrels. Steve makes it great fun and I get to see my friends.



And Mia Beeston

I like pony club games because it's lots of fun. We carry batons. We like to move cups to different poles. We go in and out of bendy poles.



Xmas
Competition

Sun 12th Dec

Come and Have Fun!

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.



Xmas Show
19th Dec '21