

# PONY CLUB



## NORTH SHROPSHIRE HUNT

**Newsletter November 2018**

Next year the North Shropshire Pony Club will be celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Pony Club started on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1929 and the North Shropshire was one of the 10 original branches. It was started by The Institute of the Horse in order to have a Junior Branch of their organisation and would be known as The Pony Club: "for the purpose of interesting young people in riding and sport and at the same time offering the opportunity of higher instruction in this direction than many of them can obtain individually".

Under the new scheme, the country was divided into districts, each under a District Commissioner, and helped by a Local Committee. Members joined at an entrance fee of 2s 6d (around 12.5p in today's money), which remained unchanged until 1976, and an annual subscription of 5s (c.25p). A Membership badge was given, the pattern of which is virtually the identical to the badge used today.

The District Commissioner of The North and South Shropshire (a combined club at the time) was Mrs Hugh Corbett (later Mrs. Victor Hurst). In 1932 an official Pony Club tie was created and Pony Club Tests were started and efficiency certificates given.

The Pony Club Office has asked us if we can send them information on the club, such as:

- Any interesting history of the branch
- The Names of members in 1929, and any information on what these members went on to do / are doing today
- involvement of the original members in the Pony Club now, including any family members involved with the branch today
- Major successes of previous / current North Shropshire members
- Any past photos, newspaper articles, stories, interesting facts etc, and anything that generally helps show the history of the branch

I appreciate it might be difficult to find things from years ago, but any information would be great! We would also like to throw a celebratory event for the club in recognition of our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, if anyone has any suggestions, or would like to get involved in organising, we welcome all ideas.



Now onto the present day ... Another great year for the club, which can be seen on the following pages.

We have been active in a very broad range of disciplines, with successes across all levels, and I send a massive thank you to everyone who has contributed throughout the year. We have also had a great year for test results from E level up to AH, with Lucy Lloyd Brown winning the prestigious Pony Club Golden Jubilee Trophy (presented by Colonel AG Stewart in 1979) for best Area 7 AH candidate.

We also have lots to look forward to next year. The North Shropshire is hosting Area 7 Dressage at Berriewood (please do let us know if you are available to help!). We have some very exciting news for Senior Camp 2019, which will now be held at Berriewood, with Junior Camp being kindly hosted again by the Bryers family at Merryfields (a big thank you to them from all the juniors members).

It's at this time of year that I also reflect on the significant level of time commitment the club has received over the past 12 months, and I personally want to say a special thanks to all the committee members, I know how much time and effort you all put in to club to make it such the success, all of which is very much appreciated. I would like to extend my thanks to the parents and families of our members, for all your support and dedication to the club. Last but not least, I want to thank all the members, whether it is at rallies, horse and pony care, or competitions around the country, you all do our club proud!

Finally, to close my note this year, I would like to thank Mr Robin Thompson for his long standing support of the club. This year Mr Thompson will be stepping down as our President and we warmly welcome Mrs Jo Grandfield into the President's role.

Happy Christmas, and wishing you all every success in 2019,

*Lucy*



# 2018 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 AH, B, B+ & Lunging Tests are only organized by the relevant Area.

## Area Test Results: held at Berriewood & Ettington

### Coaching Level 2

Lucy Lloyd Brown

### AH

Lucy Lloyd Brown

### B Test Full Passes (Ridden & Care)

Gregor Montgomery and Anna Warner

### B Test Passes (Ridden)

Dee Edwards

## Club Test Results: Senior & Junior Camp.

### C+ Test Passes (Both Ridden & Pony Care)

Alice Parton

### C Test Passes (Ridden)

Phoebe Cambray and Rufus Farmer

### D+ Test Passes

Shona Flatley, Jessica Bryers, Daisy Bethune, Eleanor Cecil, Ruby McArdle-Smith, Finlay Montgomery, Dora Prytherch, Bella Timmis, Jasmine Wheeler and Lottie Williams

### D Test Results

Barney Ing, Lucy Tonkin, George Cecil, Rosie Board and Eleanor Cecil

### E Test Results

Freddie Spencer-Blow, Isabella Harrison, Molly Barnes, Jemima Lea, Josh Bryers, Mila Wagner, Lexie Corcoran, Penny Lea and Iris Burton

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 and Regional Championships.

The year started with Alasdair Montgomery qualifying for the National Winter Triathlon finals in Milton Keynes in March finishing well.

Also in February we entered two teams in the Area 7 Quiz qualifier. Both teams did really well finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

March saw the area finals of the Dengie dressage and show jumping and we had a number of competitors representing the Branch. To compete at the area final, members have to qualify, which they can do at various local venues. We didn't have any qualifiers for the national finals this year but everyone did very well.

In April we had a junior and two senior 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> with our junior team finishing 9<sup>th</sup>.

The mounted games team went to Area in May and had a great time. They came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the tack and turnout and 4<sup>th</sup> in the competition.

July saw us fielding a number of teams at the Area 7 dressage qualifier, held again this year at Wolverhampton Racecourse. We were well represented by two intermediate teams (6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>), a novice team and two regional teams, both of which finished 8<sup>th</sup>. Individual placings included Hannah Chappell who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in her arena and qualified and two regional qualifiers of Jess Bryers and Euan Montgomery.

At the end of July we were represented by a number of teams at the area eventing qualifier at Offchurch Bury where we had an intermediate team which finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and qualified for

# and Championships



championships consisting of Alice Parton, Alasdair Montgomery (who was unable to compete at championships), Anna Warner and Emily Yeomans. We also had a novice team that came 8<sup>th</sup> with Bella Jackson (1<sup>st</sup> in arena and best dressage) and Darcie Connacher (3<sup>rd</sup> in her arena) both securing qualification. Two teams competed at regional level with one team qualifying (Phoebe Cambray, Amelia Farmer, Bella Timmis and Jemima Warner) and one individual (Rufus Farmer).

On 1 August we fielded a number of teams at the Area 7 show jumping qualifier at Solihull Riding Club. As the ground was very hard, all levels jumped on a surface which made for quite a long day. The Branch was represented by an intermediate team along with an individual, two novice teams and three regional teams competing throughout the day. We were really unlucky not to gain team qualification at novice and intermediate levels, both teams finishing fourth. Special congratulations must go to our members who qualified as individuals - Anna Warner at intermediate level finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and Annabelle Wixey and Jess Horne who finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively at novice level both qualifying. Our regional teams did well with one finishing 9<sup>th</sup> and Bella Timmis qualifying as an individual. We also did well in the tack and turnout competitions with our intermediate team coming 4<sup>th</sup>, a novice team 4<sup>th</sup> and a regional team 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We enjoyed supporting all our competitors at both national pony club championships and regional championships where everyone did well and were a credit to the Branch.

Grace Jackson (individual), Bella Jackson and Dee Edwards (pairs) competed in the dressage to music with Dee and Bella finishing 5<sup>th</sup>.



At the regional eventing championships the team finished 7<sup>th</sup> and Bella Timmis was a brilliant 3<sup>rd</sup> individually. As usual, we sent a show jumping team to represent the Branch at the Shrewsbury Flower Show (Dee Edwards, Bella Jackson, Grace Jackson and Emily Yeomans) and did really well.

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 2019 - Important Information:

If you wish to be considered for any of the area competitions in 2019 please make sure that you and the horse/pony you intend to ride at the competitions have attended 3 rallies. If you attended 2018 summer camp that counts as 1 rally. All rallies after 1st July 2018 count towards the 2019 eligibility, but at least 1 rally must be in 2019. 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.

### 2019 Camp & Area Qualifier Dates:

**Senior Summer Camp:** Berriwood. Monday 22nd ~ - Friday 26th July.

For those members aged 10 years and over.

**Junior Summer Camp:** Merryfields Sun 28th Jul ~ Tues 30th July.

For those members aged 10 years and under.

**Quiz:** 2nd February, Cannock

**Winter Triathlon:** 3rd Feb at Much Wenlock.

**Dengie Winter League Dressage Area Final:** *see PC website*

**Dengie Winter League Show Jumping Area Final:** 23rd March at Field House.

**Horse & Pony Care:** 16th April, Leicestershire.

**MG:** 18th May, tbc

**Show Jumping:** 22nd/23rd June Solihull EC.

**Eventing:** 6th July, Offchurch Bury

**Tetrathlon:** 13th & 14th July, Ettington

**Dressage:** 20th July, Berriewood

**Racing:** 22nd September, Wolverhampton Racecourse



**North Shropshire Triathlons:  
17th Feb & 28th April 2019**



# Mounted Games by Daisy Bethune



I have been doing mounted games for three years now and along the way I have been to 2 Area Qualifiers and many demos and friendly competitions as part of the Junior Team. This year has been an exciting and really good year for both the Junior and Junior Novice Teams.

We did really well in a lot of competitions including the Area Qualifier, we also took part in a number of demonstrations, including at the Vintage Car Rally and Weston Under Redcastle Village Fete. All the competitions have a tack and turnout which we try really hard every year to do well at.

When it's coming up the Area Qualifiers we try and train around once a week. The sessions are really fun and we practise all the races including, bending, flag, just chaps pyramid, old sock, stepping stones, the dreaded tyre. If we try hard Steve rewards us with sweets at the end and Steph sometimes bakes amazing cupcakes for us at competitions. But we never forget to reward the ponies with polos for all their hard work.

A team can consist of up to 5 members and in our Junior Team squad this year we had Annabella S, Amy W, Tom B, Finlay M, Lottie W, Barney I and me. The Junior Novice team comprised Amelie and Maya H, Toby W, Eleanor B, Barney I and Josh B. The Junior Novice are allowed assistance or to be lead if needed. The Junior Team had an eventful year with me breaking my foot and so missing much of the winter training and then Lottie breaking her foot on the run up to the Qualifiers and missing some of the practice events. Despite this, two nail biting run-offs and the judges miss counting our scores we managed to come 4<sup>th</sup>. We even got a very late invitation to the Zones (like the Regional Championships) but we sadly couldn't go as it was the same day as Camp.

The best thing about being in the MG team for me is the competitions. I love the team spirit, the banter and just all the fun. But if you don't like competitions you can still come along and enjoy the training sessions made fun by Steve Jones, Rachel Montgomery and Simon Ing.

I really hope we have a Senior team next year so that I can do it again in 2019, its been so much fun.

Xmas  
Competition  
2nd Dec 2018

Come and Have Fun!



# Pony Racing by Amy Webster

My pony, Munchkin, lives at my Aunt Deena's barns. Straight after breakfast my dad drove me to the barns so I could groom him. He had to be very smart for pony racing. My Nanna helped me bath Munchkin whilst my dad did some jobs around the barns. After we (Nanna and I) bathed Munchkin we used a sweat scraper to get all the wetness off him and then we put a rug on as well as tying him up so that he would not escape and roll. After a while we put him on the lorry.

As we arrived at Wolverhampton race course I was excited. Everyone was so friendly and helpful and told us what tack we needed. We had to borrow an Irish martingale as Deena already had an over-girth in the lorry.

We then walked the course to see where we had to go and start the race. After that I had to get ready. I had to get weighed in with the saddle and number cloth. I was number 8. Nanna walked Munchkin around the paddock until I came out from weighing in.

I then got on and we walked around the paddock some more and then walked all the ponies up to the start line. The race started when the flag went down. Munchkin and I got a good start and we were in the lead until someone overtook us. We galloped as fast as we could but we could not catch the leader. He was always a little bit in front. It felt like we were galloping for more than 5 minutes (it was 4 furlongs) before we reached the finishing line. I was really happy to come second.

After the race we had a presentation and I had to go on the stage to be presented with my rosette, a headband and some cream to put on Munchkin's legs. I gave Munchkin some treats and gave him a big hug. I loaded him onto the lorry and my dad drove me home. I felt tired and happy. I was so proud of us for coming second and I can't wait until I can go racing again."





# Rally Round Up

We've had another busy year of rallies and training in many different disciplines, games, working rallies, show jumping, arena cross country, dressage, cross country and horse & pony care. These have been very well attended and enjoyed by all age groups within the branch.

We held our Easter training at Walford College again which helped many members to pass the various test that they took later in the year. We had lots of members who enjoyed both our senior and junior camps.

A big thank you to all families that have hosted rallies, training and camps this year. Thanks must also go to Ben Wixey and his team for moving the trailers of jumps and equipment from venue to venue and everyone who helped unload, set up and re-load the trailers at the end of the day. We must also thank our excellent coaches who continue to encourage and help our members to achieve their goals and have fun.

We've had a 100% pass rate in E, D, D+, C [Ride only], C+, B & AH, you've all worked very hard to achieve this so well done everyone. A special mention must go to Lucy Lloyd-Brown for her excellent achievement of winning the trophy for the best AH pass in Area 7 this year and for achieving her Level 2 coaching certificate.

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 2019.

*Helen*



# Shrewsbury Flower Show 1963

by Caroline Shaw (née Eade)

The honour of representing your Pony Club at the Shrewsbury Flower Show was immense. To this day I can feel the pride.

Topthorn, the pony I competed on, was a bay mare. Brilliant, but not always, as she could be temperamental! She was 14.2hh and a pony who looked more like a small horse and I just cannot remember where my mother found her. Sadly I can only remember her being sold when I grew out of her at the age of 17 years. She was a brilliant hunter but would also rear and I remember some very hairy moments leaving the ground frequently at Forton Aerodrome.

The other big occasion I can remember, riding her at Meridian, Warwickshire in a big event. She flew around the cross country, doing a clear round, but in the show jumping went half way round clear, napped by the collecting ring and went over backwards! I remounted, finished the round, and then burst into tears! She disgraced herself. However at a big show near Wolverhampton, three clear rounds and won her class!

I competed at the Shrewsbury Flower Show with two friends. Peter Woodall and Louise Savage. Louise borrowed the brilliant mare belonging to her sister, Jessica. She was a 14.2hh chestnut mare and could jump the moon. Her sister Sue jumped her in the individual at the West Midland Show and she could clear 5ft (153cm)! She was just brilliant. Sue was a beautiful rider.

The atmosphere at the Flower Show was tremendous. Hundreds of people watching. To us, enormous show jumps, which filled us with a mixture of fear and excitement! We jumped clear rounds and were just thrilled beyond words, galloping proudly around the arena together, with our rosettes gleaming on our ponies' bridles. A happy, marvellous day and a wonderful memory.



***Mrs Shaw has very kindly donated the trophy she won to the club, it will be presented annually to the rider who rides the best round at the Flower Show.***



# Area and Regional Championship Dressage



by Jess Bryers



This summer I went to the Area Dressage at Wolverhampton race course. We arrived, we went to declare and then got ready to warm up. It was a really hot day but my fantastic pony Spirit didn't seem to mind too much. I was really happy and pleased with my test. It was great to have so many of us from North Shropshire. Lucy Walker and Charlotte Thomas had come to help and support us as well. I couldn't believe it when the scores went up and I had come second out of 30 in my section, which meant I'd qualified individually for the regional championship at Eland Lodge. Euan had qualified as an individual as well so we warmed up together. Spirit rode a lovely test again and I was so relieved that I hadn't forgotten where to go as we had to ride the test without anyone calling it. I couldn't watch Euan as we were on at the same time. Whilst we waited for the results I convinced mum to let me have a look around the tack shop. The results were in and I'd come joint 5th in my section.

I'm really looking to doing it again next year!



# Pony Club Quiz



This year we entered two teams into the Area Quiz. Gregor, Daisy, Kitty and Lucy came second and Finlay, Bella, Rupert and Lucy came fourth.



Lucy and Gregor also did rather well in the raffle!



*Show jumping at Rodbaston*



*MG Demo ride at Weston Under Redcastle Village Show*



## Shrewsbury Flower Show by Emily Yeomans

As we all know we had an incredibly dry summer. The groundworks team at the quarry had spent hours watering the arena, unfortunately the night before we jumped the rain finally showed its face. This made the ground similar to that of an ice rink. Horses and poles were flying everywhere including Tilly and myself before we'd even entered the warm up...oops...

The flower show is renowned for the big atmosphere and buzz it gives off but our horses and riders took it all in their stride. For Bella and I it was our second year jumping however, it was Grace and Dee's first year and they performed brilliantly. It was a fantastic experience for all of our team and an absolute privilege to represent our club.

## Dressage to Music by Dee Edwards and Bella Jackson

This year we competed at the Pony Club Championships at Cholmondeley Castle in the pairs Dressage to Music and we came 4<sup>th</sup>! We really enjoyed the fact that we could perform together as we have been best friends for 3 years, and we do a lot of pony activities together.



We made a floorplan with Michelle Parkyn and we performed it to Bond themed music because it suited our horses the most. Sarah spent a lot of time creating the music for us, she even locked herself in a caravan as a recording studio, thanks Sarah. Bell was a Lady and behaved herself but unfortunately the Bond music sent Tally crazy especially in the canter, so we had to change the floorplan numerous times due to the fact that the two horses cantering next to each other caused them to bomb off! Luckily it all came together on the day and we managed to stay in the arena, probably because Tally was exhausted after doing the Eventing.

We had to practice lots of times and the first time on grass was at the Championships, luckily they were both fine on grass. We had to practice because we found it hard to get them working in the same rhythm and we had to get them used to working together, but practices were always fun and we had lots of giggles. Overall, we would recommend other people doing it as we had a great time but check your horses are fine cantering next to each other.

We'd like to thank our parents and all the supporters who came to watch us on the day.





# Junior Camp



by **Amelie Holzgartner**

This year we did our second Pony Club camp. My teacher was called Sam. In camp I liked jumping and cross country. I've got a lot better at jumping and now I can jump 20 and 25cm jumps.

and **Maya Holzgartner**

This was my second Pony Club camp. Sam was teaching me and I got my highest mark in dressage. I enjoyed getting High-vis from the Royal Airforce. They said that if we do not wear the high-vis they will not see us from far enough away. By the time they see us they would not be able to turn, they would fly over us and scare the ponies. So we should always wear the high-vis!



# Senior

## by Rosie Board

Camp was the best thing I have ever done. I won loads of rosettes and made lots of new friends. I had only been in the pony club four months, and done one mounted rally- but I still really wanted to go!

On the morning of camp, I was ecstatic, I couldn't contain my excitement. I was also extremely nervous. As we parked the lorry, I sprinted to unload my pony, Billy. We came off the lorry and I took him to stable seven. He settled in fine. I said goodbye to my mum, and that's when camp really began.

We then sat down for lunch- we also met our instructors. I was in the red ride so I had Becky Fitter. She was so nice and really helped with my confidence. My first lesson was straight after lunch (everything is so quick but you get used to it). My first lesson was flatwork. I loved it- and Billy was amazing. I was loving camp.

Before I went to camp, I really didn't like jumping- I was scared so I only jumped 20-30cm. Now, after camp, I am jumping 85-90cm. it is now my favourite discipline. I learnt so much about myself as a rider, and what my pony liked and didn't like.

We even got to play polo on proper polo ponies. We did evening activities every night which were so fun!!!

I also have problems sleeping away from home (separation anxiety disorder) but everyone was so kind they helped me stay the full 5 nights away from home.

Camp was awesome. It not only changed me as an equestrian... it changed my world completely. I can't wait for next year.



# Camp and Lottie Williams

I went to senior camp this year for the first time and it was amazing. To start if I was a bit anxious about staying on my own with my pony for a whole week, but after the first day it was all fine. The food was great and filled everyone up for the hard work after eating. The whole of senior camp got split up into different lines of stables and we had to all work together to make the lines as tidy as possible so then we could get more points to add up at the end of the week. I could not believe it that the line that I was on actually won, because I'm not a tidy person at all usually! The teachers were awesome, but in the pink ride that I was in we obviously had the best instructor, Dean Price! All through the week we were practicing for the competition at the end of camp. We did a dressage test and a show jumping round. In the dressage test I forgot which way to turn but it was fine and I came 6th place in that. I was put in the 80cm round for show jumping and I came second out of all of the older people as well which I was quite proud of!

On some of the days we did activities like swimming and relay races, canoeing, polo etc.

I wanted to say a massive thank you to all of the people who volunteered to do all the little extra stuff because although they were only little things they made a big difference.

All in all, I had a great few days so thank you everyone for an amazing time at my first senior camp. See you next year!







## Intermediate Eventing Championships by Anna Warner

On the 21st August the north Shropshire pony club, intermediate eventing team went to Cholmondeley castle to compete at the championships. Our team consisted of Alice Parton, Emily Yeomans and myself. Alasdair Montgomery played a massive part in helping the team to qualify but unfortunately could not make the championships.

We all walked the cross country course on the Sunday before several times, and we were all a little nervous at having to face such a tough track, which included six technical combinations, the most challenging we had ever faced.

As well as the cross country being a challenge we dreaded the dressage test just as much! As it was composed of some advanced moves, especially difficult on the undulating ground. Alice Parton performed a beautiful test despite this to put her in 3rd place in her section!

The ground was no better in the show jumping where there were many slopes and jumps placed on interesting angles than tested us. Finally the build up to the cross country was intense and we were all feeling sick warming up for it. Fortunately this did not affect our riding as we managed a couple of clear rounds. Unfortunately due to my concentration on completing a clear round, I did not look at my watch and came home with a ridiculous amount of reverse time penalties. Especially well done to Emily for coming home clear on her young horse at such a high level!

I just want to say a huge congratulations to the team for qualifying for the championships and for their results on the day.

Looking forward to next year!



# Novice Show jumping Championships

by Annabelle Wixey



My fantastic horse Tubby and I qualified for the Pony Club Championships at Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire this summer as an individual in the Novice Show jumping competition along with Jess Horne. To qualify we went to the area show jumping at Solihull along with other members of our club. We were competing against other clubs in Area 7. Georgie, my sister, Amelia Farmer, Jess and I made up one team. The club also had other teams at novice, intermediate and grassroots level.

The first round was outdoor on a surface. This was good because the very hot summer had made the grass fields really hard. The second round was indoors. Everyone who had done two clear rounds went on to do a third round. Everyone in our team jumped well but unfortunately we did not qualify for the championships as a team but we did come fourth.

The third round was very nerve racking and the warm up arena was full of nervous people riding and watching. Thankfully Tubby stayed calm and we managed another clear round, slow and steady but clear. We came fifth out of the whole class. There were only five competitors who had three clear rounds. So Tubbs did really well. That meant we could compete as an individual at the championships. Jess had an unlucky pole role in the last round but she had a good time so that meant she qualified as well. Kitty came with us and she was a big help getting us and the horses ready.

The day of the Championships came with my Dad being more nervous than me. Georgie and mum helped pamper and prune Tubby, it was nice having Georgie as my groom for once! She is very good at plaiting especially tails. Dad had taken the day off work to take us all and Mum packed a big picnic for us all. When we got there we were parked next to people who had come all the way from Scotland and Anona's Irish friends were in the row in front. Anona and Helen were there to walk the course with me and to help me warm up and give me useful hints. There were also some friendly faces who came to support me.

The warm up ring was nice and big so it didn't seem cramped like Solihull and almost more relaxed, definitely less stressful as there more room. I was number 74 one of the later competitors. In the first round I had a pole down on fence nine, which was bad luck but everyone got to do a second round. Unfortunately I had a stop at one fence which is very unusual for Tubbs so it was probably my fault, it was a big twisty course, we also had another fence down. We didn't get anywhere but just getting to the championships was a great experience. Cholmondeley Castle is a brilliant place. We have been before doing the musical ride. It is great to see other competitors doing lots of other things like eventing, dressage, mounted games and polocrosse and the musical ride is lots of fun to watch seeing all the different themes and costumes. Hopefully I will get the opportunity to compete at the champs again to represent the club.



# Horse and Pony Care by Emma Waland

Horse and pony care started for me with a phone call from Helen Elston, asking if I wanted to do the senior horse and pony care competition, feeling excited for my last year in pony club I said 'yes of course I would love too'.

With horse and pony care training at Mr & Mrs Jackson's house, we were learning all about the muscles and skeleton of the horse, bandaging the knee and knowing the ligaments of the horse.

So the day of the competition came, and Hannah Chapel was picking up Lucy Lloyd Brown followed by myself, with the car packed of Hats, boots, jumpers, food, horse and pony care Manuals, B test folders and Kathy's AH folder we were cramming as much as we could in all our way there.

We got there and the junior team were still in the middle of their rounds and scores were not up, so we decided to pet the giraffe, that was standing proudly in the hall.

They called the senior teams up and over to the stables we went, going round the stable with different topics in each, it didn't seem as hard as I had planned for, with field management being our weaker topic that felt the longest round.

We finished and were happy both teams got together and were seeing how we all felt it went. Waiting for the scores didn't take too long and we got our score sheets back, with a couple of errors on our sheet we had a few more marks, and were pleased to know the teams came 2nd and 4th, everyone did really well, and thanks most go to Helen and her family for the time they give to the club and to Mr & Mrs Jackson for allowing us to run the training at their house.





# Achievement Badges



What a busy year it has been with badges in our branch! Late last year I took over organising the badges from Anona, after a couple of meetings to learn how to use the ever-growing spreadsheet we were underway. Over the past year as a branch we have held multiple badge rallies that have been well attended by a variety of ages - having the juniors and seniors come together at these rallies is lovely to see and it really gives the younger members something to aspire to.

This year the members have worked very hard to achieve badges both at rallies and camps as well as at home. Over the past year nearly 150 badges have been awarded to the members, with many of them also striving to earn enough badges in order to gain their next certificates. The Pony Club award a gold certificate to members who have 21 main badges and as a branch we have introduced a silver certificate for 15 main badges and a bronze certificate for 10 main badges, as well as a mini gold certificate for younger members with 14 mini badges.

A big thank you must go to the families within our pony club who have hosted the unmounted rallies and provided us with the important supplies of juice and biscuits! Also, to the parents and grandparents who come along to the rallies and offer a helping hand to make the sessions fun and enjoyable for our members. A final thank you should go to our team of instructors and senior members who coach the children without them these sessions would not be possible, and of course the children whose dedication and willingness to learn has made this past year and my first year in this role so enjoyable. Thank you!



Hannah



# Young Equestrian Leader Awards

## By Gregor Montgomery



For those who aren't familiar with the YELA awards, they are designed to encourage young people (14-25 years) to volunteer and gain leadership skills within the equestrian sector. There are 3 levels of award – bronze, silver and gold, each with increasing hours of volunteering and with additional member bodies.

I completed my silver award in 2016 and decided to continue with my gold award. This involves volunteering for a minimum of 60 hours with 3 different member bodies, over at least 32 weeks. During the last 1½ years I have helped at many pony club rallies, junior camp, horse and pony care sessions, mounted games etc and I helped with the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) holidays, which is where disabled riders go to a riding centre for a week's holiday and I have also done pole picking at British Show jumping competitions. All of these activities have been thoroughly enjoyable and a great way to help others get as much out of riding as I have over the years.

There is a requirement with the gold award to run a project to benefit one of the member bodies. Through my involvement with the RDA, I discovered that the West Mercia region were hoping to produce a region wide magazine, to cover their activities over the past year. I agreed to plan and produce their first ever magazine. This did involve a large amount of time on the computer getting information on the activities of the local groups across the 5 counties, getting the layout right and in a suitable format for the printers. Whilst it was quite a bit of work, the magazine was so well received by the groups that they asked if I could produce one quarterly for them!

I have recently submitted my gold award paperwork (there are questions to answer, as well as writing up about your volunteering activities and a presentation to be done for gold), so will hopefully receive the award soon. I would thoroughly recommend anyone aged 14 or over to join up as it is great fun helping younger children at rallies/camp and through helping with the RDA, I realised how much they get out of riding and horses, and it was great to be able to help them.



# Eventing by Phoebe Cambray

On 27th August Dougie, Jester, Jemima Warner and I travelled to Eland Lodge Equestrian Centre. We took a lorry for the ponies and a caravan for us to sleep in! We went up the night before because our Dressage was at 8:15 in the morning. When we arrived we stabled the ponies, walked the cross country course and then had a BBQ with other team members and their families. We then walked the Show jumping course in the dark ready for the morning. We woke up quite early to plait and bath the grey parts of the ponies. Once ready, we did our Dressage tests which went really well. Back to the lorry to switch bridles and bits, then a quick run to the Show jumping arena. We had a few poles down but the team had two clear rounds. We then changed into our Cross Country colours and went and warmed up. The team went clear cross country and then walked the ponies back to the lorries for a well deserved drink. Another change of clothes back into our Hacking Jackets and ties for the presentation. After a nail biting wait for the results, the team came seventh out of twenty teams. I came twenty third in my section out of fifty individuals.

Everyone was so pleased with our result. Then it was time to pack up our ponies and all their kit and set out for home.



# Tetrathlon Championships

Our 2018 Intermediate girls tetrathlon journey started at Ettington in Warwickshire where Area 5 and Area 7 held the qualifying event which was fun as it gave us the opportunity to meet up with friends from other clubs who we regularly compete against.

It was the first time Anna, Darcie, Kaitlyn and myself had competed as a team at intermediate level. Last year Kaitlyn, Darcie and me competed as a junior girls team. Anna joined us this year having done a few practice competitions and she had done quite a bit of running with her school. Ettington is always a fun competition, this year we had Alasdair Montgomery as company as he was competing in the open boys competition as an individual. Gregor was on a school trip to South Africa so he had to go to another area competition in Yorkshire to qualify on a different date. We also had some younger members competing representing the club which was nice: Jess and Ella Bryers, Amy Webster, Lottie Williams and the Holzgartner twins.

Our team were lucky enough to win our class which meant that we could compete at the Tetrathlon Championships which were held at Offchurch Bury this year for the first time which was lucky for us as it is a lot closer than Bishops Burton in Yorkshire.

Kaitlyn's mum took their caravan and my Mum took ours. Sue Connacher, Rachel Warner and Rachel Montgomery took the horses down who stayed in temporary stabling. We all set up camp with other people from central England. We stayed from Thursday to Sunday. On Thursday evening there was a shooting practice for everyone and on Friday we did the swim and the shoot part of the competition at Warwick University. Anna had a personal best in her shoot, Saturday was the cross country which was the biggest course I have ever done. Rachel Montgomery walked it with us and gave us some helpful tips at the more challenging fences. It actually rode





# by Georgie Wixey



better than it walked and I did really enjoy it although I was scared at the beginning. I did have one run out which was my fault. Tubby jumped a jump at the top of a hill bigger than I thought he would and I couldn't steer him to the next jump at the bottom of the hill which was on a bend in time. I also got a few time faults but lots of people did. I thought I was going really fast though. Gregor, in the intermediate boys class, got one of the few clear rounds within the time.

On the Saturday night we had a big party. The theme for dressing up was famous historical people. We went as Greek Gods and Goddesses. We had great fun getting ready and putting temporary tattoos on the boys. The mums went to get pizzas for us. On Sunday the run was held which is always a killer for me but I got round. Alasdair had a great run with a fantastic sprint finish meaning he achieved a personal best. We then had the presentation in the afternoon before going home. Our team of four came fourth which for our first intermediate completion wasn't too bad. We must thank all the Mums for arranging time off work to take us and a special thanks to Rachel Montgomery who organises us all and coordinates the shoot practices and tells us of other competitions to enter for practice. It is great fun as we all muck in together to look after the horses and we get to meet other pony club competitors from all over the country including Ireland and Scotland

Why don't you have a go at a triathlon or tetrathlon and come and join our fun?



# BLenheim

*by*

ALASDAIR MONTGOMERY



Earlier this year, we sent a team of riders to Blenheim International Horse Trials to compete in the pony club section of the event there. Originally Alice was to have been in the team, but 2 days before competition, her horse was unwell so Darcie stepped in her place and we were all very grateful that she did, as with all team competitions it's much better to have a team of 4 than the pressure of being in a team of 3, so the team that competed on the day comprised of myself, Anna, Darcie and Dee. It was a team effort getting all the riders and horses to the competition. Dee and Darcie travelled together and my horse went with Anna's, whilst I had to fly down as I had started university that week, so left Scotland at 5am and was collected from Birmingham airport and then driven on to meet my horse at Blenheim.

We were entered into the 100cm class, and due to the nature of this aspect of the competition, it being an limited entry event which is oversubscribed, we felt quite lucky and honoured to have been felt to be good enough to come back and compete again. The day was lovely, with good ground conditions, and as the competition was all in one small grass arena, the good conditions were needed to cope with all the people who would be tracing out the same course for the whole day. The atmosphere is great, as over the road from our arena is the dressage phase of the main event, and there is the shopping village and all the other attractions of a such a prestigious competition. The pony club classes are sponsored by Dodson and Horrell so on arrival we were given a complimentary bucket, feed mixer and a baseball cap.



We were luckily placed after the lunch break, so we had time to walk the course before going back and tacking up. Thankfully Helen came to walk the course with us and gave an incredible amount of help there and in the warmup. The course was lengthy and technical and had two distinct phases as per the format of the competition, a show jumping phase at the beginning, for about nine jumps, and then immediately around the corner and into a cross country section, with some difficult lines and turns for several more jumps, to end on a cheekily placed uphill upright show jump at the end, which was the most knocked down fence of the day. Helen gave us a lot of help and advice on how to negotiate some of the trickier turns and jumps they had placed in the arena, but for the most part it seemed to flow as a course.

Getting inside the time was a challenge for all competitors throughout the day, and we all did fairly well, achieving respectable times. None of us had a disastrous round, though unfortunately none of us managed a clear as we all had either a missed line or accidental pole down. However we were all pleased by our rounds as clears were few and far between throughout the whole day. As a team we weren't placed, but weren't holding up the bottom of the table either. After the horses had been put away we were able to walk the cross country course for the 3\* that was going on over the duration of the same weekend. It was good fun to see the jumps and theorise about the course and work out the optimal line, pacing, and striding. Besides that, the atmosphere created by everything and everyone else at the event was wonderful, we all had a great time, and hopefully they will want us to come back again next year.



## 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 16th Dec 2018

