

## NORTH SHROPSHIRE HUNT

**Newsletter November 2019**

What an amazing six years it has been ... I have been so lucky to have had the opportunity to be DC of this wonderful club, making many new friends and watching so many children achieve their ambitions. We have had a few ups and downs along the way, the frustration followed by the joy when it all comes together has made it all worth it. From cantering for the first time off the lead rein or winning the Easter show, to achieving a B test or winning the PC championships. Watching every personal achievement has given me so much enjoyment, and sometimes I have felt like I have jumped every fence with them. Anybody at the recent team competition on Blenheim would not have wanted to stand behind me as my leg kept kicking back as each rider jumped every fence! The team of Emily, Anna, Dee and Grace finished a very credible 13th out of 40 teams, a real credit to our club as the summer of 2019 came to a close.

Summer has always been the busiest time of year, especially in July with all focus being on executing both senior and junior camps, aiming to strike that perfect balance between fun and education. Next year my focus will be on executing a wedding!

*Lucy winning pony club Hunter Trial on Rusty*



This year saw the successful move of Senior camp to Berriewood. Thank you to everyone who helped plan and deliver such a fantastic week – there are so many people behind the scenes, and it would not have been possible without you all.

The area dressage competition was also run smoothly, and received positive reviews from the other DCs at the Area committee meeting in September. There was again a huge team of helpers behind this event, including both current and past members, demonstrating the real meaning of Pony Club, team spirit.

Junior camp also had a fantastic new venue – thank you to Richard and Hannah for hosting our younger members flawlessly, following the two previous very successful venues. Without the support of parents offering their homes, neither junior camp nor rallies would be possible, or indeed have the same familiarity. In a marketing twist, if you feel you have a suitable venue for a rally, please do get in touch with the committee! We do try hard to move the venues around the county so rallies are convenient for everyone at some point.

On to a few more personal thank yous, I would like to thank my committee of Ann, Ben, Claire, Emma, Eve, Fiona, Helen, Liz, Nicola, Rachel and Steve. They have made my stint as DC a pleasure and without their continued support it would not have all been possible, from being hands on in events organisation to managing the accounts and memberships. Outside of the main committee I have so many other people to thank, including the discipline sub-committees, Vicky, Taff, Teresa, Sarah, Sue, Ryan, Jo, Simon, Tim, Chloe, Chris, Jayne and Ben but to mention a few.

This year has been another very successful one for the North Shropshire Pony Club, although I won't go into it here as you are about to read all about it over the next few pages. However, I would like to extend my congratulations to all of our members.

So to sign off for the last time. I am extremely proud of the club and have been privileged and honoured to lead this brilliant club. I now hand it over into the very capable hands of Ann.

Having been a member of The North Shropshire Pony Club as a child, representing the area when crowned Champion lady point-to-point jockey of the country, returning as a (very competitive) parent to being DC ... I hope to one day return again as a (very enthusiastic) granny if I'm lucky!!

*Lucy*



*Lucy winning HOYS on Serendignette*



*Lucy winning at Aintree on Let Me Think*

# 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 and horse & pony care. These have been very well attended and enjoyed by all age groups within the branch. Sadly we had to cancel the cross country rally to be held at Smallwood due to wet weather.

Both our senior and junior camps enjoyed new venues this year – senior at Berriewood and junior at Longnor Hall. Both proved to be ideal and the activities on offer were enjoyed by a large number of our members.

We had a significant number of test passes this year as follows:

E test	11 passes
D test	12 passes
D+ test	4 passes
C test	1 pass
C+ (care element)	1 pass
C+ test (full)	3 passes
B test (ride element)	1 pass
B test (care element)	3 passes
Lunge test	3 passes.

Well done everyone!!

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.

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 2020.

*Helen*

# 2019 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.

## Lunge Test

Alasdair Montgomery, Gregor Montgomery, Anna Warner

## B Test Passes (Care – now has full test)

Dee Edwards

## B Test Passes (Care)

Bella Jackson, Georgina Wixey

## B Test Passes (Ride)

Alice Parton

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

Kitty Ing, Euan Montgomery, Annabelle Wixey

## C+ Test Pass (Pony Care)

Jemima Warner

## C Test Passes (Pony Care)

Finlay Montgomery

## D+ Test Passes

Eleanor Barker, Barney Ing, Bella Spencer-Blow, Immy Spencer-Blow,

## D Test Results

Elia Bryers, Iris Burton, Lexie Corcoran, Lucy Adney, Maya Holzgartner, Amelie Holzgartner, Henry Hughes, Penelope Lea, Immy Spencer-Blow, Harry Timmis, Mila Wagner, Charles Warner

## E Test Results

Finley Beeston, Bess Corbet, Olivia Evans, William Evans, Darcey Evans, Grace Evans, Frank Heywood Lonsdale, Maisie Lay, Patrick McColgan, Grace Ravenscroft-Jones, Ellie Tonkin.



# Area Competitions

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

The year started with a number of members competing at the Area 7 triathlon qualifier in February all doing really well, some achieving personal bests and having lots of fun.

In March we entered a team consisting of Hannah Chappell, Kitty Ing, Euan and Finlay Montgomery in the Area 7 Quiz qualifier which came a very creditable 2nd. The parent/supporter's team of Claire Ing and Rachel Montgomery also did very well finishing 2nd!

Also in March saw the area finals of the Dengie dressage winter league with Kitty Ing finishing in 9th place in her section.

In April we had a senior team consisting on Hannah Chappell, Kitty Ing and Lucy Lloyd-Brown which competed in the Area Horse and Pony Care qualifier. There were teams from all over Area 7 taking part and our team narrowly missed out on qualification finishing in 2nd place.

The Area Mounted Games qualifier took place in May at Dallas Burston. We sent a Junior and Senior Team with our Senior Team finishing in 8th place and a third place prize for tack and turnout. Juniors came 6th and 2nd in the tack and turnout.

In June we sent a number of teams and individuals to the show jumping qualifier at Solihull Riding Club. Our intermediate team of Grace Jackson, Bella Jackson, Alice Parton and Anna Warner came 2nd and qualified for Championships. There were individual placings at intermediate with Grace coming 6th and Bella 8th. The team also proved that they can turn themselves and their horses out to a high standard as they also won the tack and turnout competition. In the novice section our team of Dee Edwards, Euan Montgomery, Gregor Montgomery and Annabelle Wixey came 5th in a big field of competitors and 10th in the tack and turnout competition. Euan did really well coming 2nd and qualifying as an individual for Championships. Dora Prytherch also did well at regional level qualifying for the Regional Championships.

July was a busy month for qualifiers. At the beginning of the month we were represented by a number of teams/individuals at the area eventing qualifier at



# and Championships



Offchurch Bury. We had an intermediate team of Grace Jackson, Alice Parton, Anna Warner and Emily Yeomans which finished brilliantly in 1st place and qualified for Championships. In their sections, Alice finished 1st, Emily and Grace were both 3rd and Anna was 8th in her section. Alasdair Montgomery competed as an individual finishing 5th in his section and also qualifying. We also had a novice team that came 8th consisting of Dee Edwards, Bella Jackson, Euan Montgomery and Annabelle Wixey, with Euan being placed 4th individually. We had two regional teams, one finishing 10th and the other 12th out of a considerable number of teams. Individual placings saw Dora Prytherch finishing 1st on one of her horses and 7th on the other qualifying both of them for Regional Championships and Bella Timmis finished individually in 9th place also qualifying.

In mid July we were well represented at the Tetrathlon qualifier held at Whitfield Farm, Ettington. In the boy's class, Alasdair and Gregor Montgomery both came 3rd in the open and intermediate classes respectively. The intermediate girls team of Darcie Connacher, Anna Warner, Georgie Wixey and Kaitlyn Wynn came 1st in area 7 and qualified to join Gregor and Alasdair at Championships.

On the 20th July we hosted the Area 7 dressage qualifier at Berriewood. We were well represented at all levels. Bella Jackson was individually 10th in the open and qualified. The intermediate team of Dee Edwards, Grace Jackson and Anna Warner (sadly Emily Yeomans was unwell so couldn't take part) came 4th and qualified. Individual placings saw Anna Warner coming 1st in her arena and Grace Jackson was 6th in hers. At novice level the team of Kitty Ing, Euan Montgomery, Alice Parton and Bella Timmis came 4th with Alice winning her section, Euan and Kitty coming 6th and Bella was 8th. At regional level, the team consisting of Daisy Bethune, Shona Flatley, Dora Prytherch and Lottie Williams came 7th with individual placings for Daisy who came 3rd and Jemima, Shona and Dora all coming 9th in their arenas. All of these individual placings secured them qualification for the Regional Championships.



Sadly due to the wet weather both the Pony Club Championships and the Pony Club Flower Show jumping were cancelled. Fortunately, the Regional Championships at Eland Lodge went ahead where everyone did well and were a credit to the Branch. Special mention must be made of Dora Prytherch who competed at Regional Championships in all three disciplines coming 5th on one of her horses in the eventing competition.

Despite the cancellation of Pony Club Championships, it was decided to continue to hold the national final of the Horse and Pony Care competition and we were fortunate enough to qualify our senior team of Hannah Chappell, Kitty Ing and Lucy Lloyd-Brown who went on to come 7th.

For the third 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 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 2020 - Important Information:

If you wish to be considered for any of the area competitions in 2020 please make sure that you and the horse/pony you intend to ride at the competitions have attended 3 rallies. If you attended 2019 summer camp that counts as 1 rally. All rallies after 1st July 2019 count towards the 2020 eligibility, but at least 1 rally must be in 2020. 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.

### 2020 Camp & Area Qualifier Dates:

**Senior Summer Camp:** Berriwood. Monday 20th ~ - Friday 24th July

For those members aged 10 years and over.

**Junior Summer Camp:** Longnor Hall Sun 26th Jul ~ Tues 28th July.

For those members aged 10 years and under.

**Quiz:** 22nd February, Cannock.

**Winter Triathlon:** 9th February at Much Wenlock.

**Winter League Dressage Area Final:** 22nd March at Solihull Riding Club

**Winter League Show Jumping Area Final:** 29th March at Kingswood Equestrian.

**Horse & Pony Care:** 16th and 17th April at Alscot Stables, Stratford Upon Avon

**MG:** 23rd May at Onley Grounds

**Show Jumping:** 25th July, Wolverhampton Racecourse

**Eventing:** 4th July, Sapey

**Tetrathlon:** 11th & 12th July, Ettington

**Dressage:** 18th July, Berriewood

**Racing:** 20th September, Wolverhampton Racecourse

**North Shropshire Triathlons:  
23rd Feb & 19th April 2020**

# Triathlon

For those of you who don't know about Pony Club triathlon, it is a competition consisting of three disciplines – pistol shooting if the member is 8 or over, or bean bag throwing for the younger competitors, swimming and running (in the summer this turns into tetrathlon with the introduction of cross country riding).

North Shropshire Pony Club hosted three successful triathlons this year; one in February at Wrekin College, another in April also at Wrekin and a beginners triathlon in May at Packwood Haugh School.

All three triathlons were extremely well supported with around 120 competitors at each of the Wrekin competitions representing around 15 different Branches. Lots of North Shropshire members took part, some experiencing triathlon for the first time.

The triathlon at Packwood was another successful event making the most of the superb grounds that Packwood has to offer. We had some 60 competitors representing 9 different Branches. North Shropshire was represented by 15 younger member all doing extremely well and having fun.

If you are interested in taking part in triathlons, **please contact the tetrathlon manager Rachel Montgomery (07415494413)** who arranges regular shooting practices and co-ordinates our competition entries.

## Interview with Freddie Spencer-Blow

### § Freddie, what is your favourite Pony Club activity?

My favourite things are mounted games and show jumping

### § Which was your favourite mounted games session?

At the show ground, in the summer, with all of the people watching and Steve talking to them on the microphone.

(Vintage vehicle show, west MIDS show ground)

### § What was your favourite part of the day?

I liked riding and being in the 'blue diamond' team

### § Which was your favourite race?

Stepping stones, because I had to get on and off Charlie.

### § Do you like being with other pony club members?

I like being with the boys, especially Finlay and his big brother, Gregor, because he always talks to me.

### § Who is your mounted games teacher?

My teacher is Steve. Steve always tells me how to do the games and he is really fun. Finlay was my team captain and he let me go first a lot.

### § Who is your favourite mounted games pony?

Its Charlie because he is awesome and he is mine and he does steady jumps.



# Margo *Pearl of Atlanta*

Some of you may remember seeing me out and about over the past few years on my mare Storm. Last year we made the very exciting decision to put her in foal, and in May this year, a whole 5 weeks early, little Margo was born. She was so tiny we could pick her up and she had to wear a dog coat to keep warm!



What she lacked in size she most certainly made up for in personality and after 10 nail-biting days at the vets she finally came home. Not completely out the woods yet she had to have 10 weeks box rest to allow her bones to mature before the exciting day came where she could go out in the field for the very first time. Since then Margo has gone from strength and strength and will be weaned in the new year. However, for now Storm and Margo are enjoying their time together which is filled with endless scratches and being treated like the princesses they are! We are feeling so lucky to have her after such a dramatic start and I cannot wait to be able to ride Storm again soon too. Maybe in a few years' time you will see me out and about on Margo too!

## *Hannah*



# Horse and Pony Care

by Lucy Lloyd Brown



Looking back at the Pony Club Horse & Pony Care Area Competition in April, when Hannah, Kitty and I competed as the Senior Team it seemed so long ago! I had put away my revision books and all thoughts of the millions of equine facts I had bouncing around in my head. Then in early October we had a message to say we were going to the Championship finals in 1 weeks' time..... that was a shock! We didn't have time for lots of revision we had to rely on what we already knew and hoped between us we could get that knowledge out.

Since joining the Pony Club, I have gone along to the H&P care rallies and tried to have a go at the competitions as I believed that they were helpful to building up my knowledge of how best to care for my own horses. Care is an important part of owning a horse, it's not as much fun as riding but there could be no riding if you don't know how to care for your horse properly.

In Pony Club whatever point you start at we all learn as we go along, at the various rallies, camps and competitions. We are taught and we observe others around us and hopefully we learn. We absorb knowledge by being around other riders, from seeing and hearing their situations and watching how they progress. We file these things away in our heads, mostly we don't realise we know about something until the situation arises and then all sorts of information pops into our heads.

The amount of information regarding every aspect of keeping, riding and caring for equines is vast and that knowledge is not gained in a short time, it is built up over a whole lifetime. New ideas, old ideas, things often change for the better, but many older remedies still work. After passing my B test and feeling pleased with myself I soon realised it was another big step up as I began working towards my AH test. I realised how much I knew.... and how much I still had to learn! But don't be put off as everyone starts somewhere and in Pony Club the tests are a great structured way to build up your knowledge. I passed my AH test and that was great relief but again it was just a starting point towards a life with equines.

My job, working with lots of top competition horses and ponies, plus any visiting animals, is to care for those animals and help them to be the best they can be. I need to know their normal behaviour, routines, likes and dislikes. I need to be able to look at them and tell if they look "off" colour just because I know how they

normally behave. Do they normally cough, roll, lie down, get warm, feel the cold? How do they have their feed and supplements and medications but also what they are allowed or not according to FEI competition rules? What about any lumps and bumps.... I need to know which ones are old and look for what maybe new and think what caused them and do they give pain? I need to know how and when their legs should be bandaged or not. What bits, bridles, girths do they prefer. Do they like or need to be walked in hand, for how long at what intervals? Does the hay they eat need to be steamed? Do they need a nebuliser, do they want a grill to stop crib biting and wind sucking?

I need to think where any stallions are stalled, it's a good idea not to put them between young mares and some need a high sided pen with electric around the top as they get very excited. Not all stallions are the same though, some are calm and easy to handle but those that are not may need a chifney when being taken out in a head collar. When a stallion has been castrated I need to care for the surgical incisions, check the cuts several times a day, looking for any changes and I can use my mobile telephone to take photographs to send to the vet so we can discuss the care. I routinely work with the vets to calm the horses while they administer injections or see to all sorts of procedures after surgery and other ailments. I am now well versed in the different ways colic may present in horses, with certain symptoms often being present and other symptoms only shown in that certain horse specific to them. I need to know how to combine the different symptoms so that I know when to make that very important call to get the vet out.

When it comes to exercise I have lots of options to use. Depending upon what result we need. Do they go on the walker each day or more often, how long and at what depth should they exercise on the water treadmill for, maybe they should be lunged or put on the walker or maybe they would benefit from being simply turned out in a field? From just broken youngsters to Olympic hopefuls, from Spruce Meadows Champions and International Team Pony Champions I work with them all. Lists on a white board are great but so much else is in my head and somehow it all fits in and every day I learn something more.

If I turn back time and look at myself at 10 when I joined the Pony Club, I would have been amazed at what I know now and wondered how it's possible. Well it happens little by little.... By going to the care sessions and going to camp and by testing yourself at the Area competitions and by completing badges. Eventually it becomes second nature, you just know it, it's in your head and you can thank the Instructors, helpers and parents who shared their knowledge along the way to help your knowledge grow.

# *Area Dressage*

*by Anna Warner*



On the 20th July the North Shropshire Pony Club hosted the Area Seven Dressage Qualifier at Berriewood Farm.

The weather was blissful and the day's proceedings went accordingly. There was a huge turnout from all the pony clubs in the area, and also many of the North Shropshire's members competed across the range of classes; from the grassroots to Bella Jackson competing individually in the Open class.

As a whole, the club was extremely successful with the majority of its teams and competitors qualifying for the National Pony Club Championships to be held at Cholmondeley Castle and Eland Lodge later on in the summer.

A particular highlight for me was the Intermediate team doing very well and qualifying in our category, and to take an individual win. Huge congratulations to Grace Jackson and Dee Edwards, my teammates, for their highly commended performances on the day as well as at the other 2019 qualifiers. We missed Emily Yeomans on the day as unfortunately she was too ill to compete.



As well as some top-class dressage, and beautiful weather, there was a delicious cake sale selling tasty treats to raise money for the North Shropshire. It was also lovely to see the RDA stall being strongly supported by the public as well.

This rounded off a highly enjoyable day, which was all thanks to the North Shropshire committee, who all worked very hard to pull off such a reputable event.

# Regional Championship Eventing

by Dora Prytherch

On what happened to be one of the hottest August Bank Holiday this year, Mum and I set off with a lorry full of horsey paraphernalia and of course Mojo and Red, for Eland Lodge Area Eventing Regional Championships.

The day started with Mojos dressage with a score of 33, we then moved into the show jumping arena where he got a pole then finally onto the XC, Mojo was amazing and went clear! Considering the heat I was so pleased with him. Reds dressage was imminent thankfully Helen, Emma and Shóna were well prepared with lots of water and kindly got Mojo cooled off.

Red and I went off and did a very calm dressage test but unfortunately rider error as I forgot my 20cm circle! But came out with a score of 29. Next to the show jumping where she only knocked a pole. XC was the best, she went clear and she absolutely loved it as did I, she was a superstar! Overall I finished individually 5th on Red.

It was an amazing day, despite the heat and I couldn't have done it without the help of a Helen, Emma and Shóna and the never ending support to mum, Mike, Dean and Mandy.



## Gethin Harrison's review on

### Pony Club Triathlons

Pony club triathlons include running, swimming and shooting, if you are eight or older, or been bag throwing if you are seven or younger. They normally last between three or four hours. (Though you only spend a quarter of that doing the activities.) Depending on your age you swim for different amounts of time and run different distances. Also if you are twelve or older you shoot one handed.

I am eleven, I have done triathlons for two years and still find them fun and exiting. I run one kilometer, swim for two minutes and shoot two handed. I do triathlons for the exercise and to meet up with my good friends Finlay, Barney and Ben whom I don't see much of out side of triathlons.

In-between the activities, there is a break where you can sit around and play cards or chat with your friends and rest up for the next activity. You also normally walk the running course. Plus there's also normally someone selling tea and cake.

There are medals and you can do it competitively but personally I only do it for the fun and the social.





# Junior Camp by Grace Evans and Maisey Lay

'Thank you for letting me and Darcey and our ponies come to camp. We loved every second. I love my 1<sup>st</sup> place rosette for jumping.'



*Darcey being led by Isla doing her dressage test*

I was really looking forward to going to PC camp with friends. I felt quite nervous, but didn't need to as everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I was put in a riding group ideal for my ability which gave me confidence and I knew I could just ask if I didn't understand anything. I had so much fun, jumping, games, running, shooting and cross country. Rachel taught me how to shoot, she was really helpful. I came 3rd in the tetrathlon then got the overall Best Girl Cup. I loved the whole camp and can't wait till the next one.



# Senior

## by Georgie Wixey

Camp 2019 was completely new, as after many years, the venue changed to Berriewood which meant we had surfaces, both indoor and outdoor to work on and the added bonus of a cross country course. Another change was having tents to sleep in which I wasn't very keen on after my experience of D of E staying in a two man tent in Cardingmill Valley. Perhaps my tent erecting skills need some attention! The bell tents were surprisingly roomy (But no easier to keep tidy)

Camp had a great atmosphere and all the rides had great instructors. The food, as usual, was delicious, provided by Mrs Sue Cope and her daughter Charlotte who used to be in pony club herself. Dare I say it but we are better fed at camp than at school or home (Sorry Mum) I like Charlotte because she thinks my horse pretty.

Another change was having to do our own washing up which actually wasn't that bad but I don't think many of us would have won a 5 star hygiene rating. It was really good to be with my friends and I learnt loads. It helped me prepare for my B test horse and pony care which I had coming up in August. I had a lovely line Quorn and we managed to come second in the line competition. Amelia was my deputy and we were well supported by Bella SB, Ella C, Jasmine W and Lottie W. My sister Annabelle who was deputy line leader to Anna Warner managed to pip us to the post but she has always been tidier than me!

We had some great evening activities with the assault course competition being my favourite and the running for the tetrathlon training was fun. I think we were even allowed on supervised water fight, we survived a thunder and lightening storm which kept the adults on high alert for hours but most of us slept though it, thankfully nothing was damaged or hurt, we even had our phones charged so we didn't feel we had gone back in time.

The Wixey girls left camp very happy, having had a brilliant week even picking up the odd prize. We then had a race to catch the midnight Chunnel train to take us to France, so no pressure but Kaye and Rachel were very helpful taking things home for us.

Roll on next year!!!



# Camp and Eleanor Barker



Hi, I'm Eleanor Barker and my pony is called Spikey. It was my first time at Senior Camp this year. I was sooooo excited to go and there was sooo much stuff to remember to take. The day before camp started my friend Anna and I took a lot of our things over to Berriewood and set up our beds in the bell tent we were sharing with eight other girls.

I was in Dean's group for the week (best group and best instructor). In my group were Anna, Cara, Scarlett, Barney, Bella and then later in the week Isla joined us. We rode twice a day every day for five days. It was hard work, but brilliant fun. There was a cross-country course, two outdoor arenas, one indoor arena and loads of stables.

My line was Heythrop and our team were Mary, Rosie, Annabella and Jemima with Kaitlyn as line leader. After tack cleaning there were evening activities which included team building, rounders, swimming and lots of other fun things.

The food was delicious too! We had full breakfast everyday with cereal and toast. Lunch was fab and the dinners were glorious. I don't think I've ever eaten so much over five days before.

Thank you so much North Shropshire Pony Club for allowing me to be part of Camp this year. I can't wait for Senior Camp 2020. I would definitely recommend any ten year olds to come. You won't regret it!!





# Achievement Badges

We have had another fun filled and successful year with the achievement badges. It has been wonderful to see so many members attending our badge rallies over the year from our youngest members through to some of our older members. Senior and Junior camps saw many members gaining badges and it was great to see their keenness to learn and their knowledge expanding. A big thank you must go to all of our coaches for their hard work and the families who let us use their brilliant facilities and provide the much-needed refreshments! Also, a thank you to the parents who stay to give an extra helping hand and the children for being enthusiastic and participating so well. I look forward to seeing you all over the coming year, with lots of exciting things planned, fingers crossed it's a good one!



*Hannah*



# Young Equestrian Leader Awards

By Kitty Ing



**YELA is open to every member from the age of 13 and up.** Having completed my Bronze award last year, this year I have been working towards my Silver YELA. It's a bit trickier because I've got to volunteer in two different ways but then that's good as I'll get to experience more than helping with Mounted Games (which I love).



If you want to find out more have a look at [yela.org.uk](http://yela.org.uk)



## Gregor achieves YELA Gold

Well done Gregor Montgomery for achieving the Gold Young Equestrian Leaders Award (YELA) which was presented at the British Dressage National Championships. Not only was he treated to a smart lunch in the sponsors marquee before being awarded his certificate (and hoodie) but he then watched great tests by Charlotte Dujardin and Sophie Wells in the glorious sunshine.

# Puppy Walking by Annabelle Wixey

This is our third year of puppy walking, and we are still smiling, but now know what we are letting ourselves in for. Mr Barnfield arrived the first year with two bundles of joy, one being significantly smaller which meant he got mum's sympathy vote straight away. Brisbane and Broadway soon became part of the family bringing joy and mischief to the household, finding fun digging holes, chewing sponges and playing with our other dogs. They soon learnt they had to respect the cat who left them in no doubt who is boss at Milford. One of them did blot their copybook by thinking that one of mum's runner ducks was on his menu choice. Nevertheless, it was a sad day when Aidan came to collect them to take them back to the kennels. Chatter and Chequer were last years batch and they were livewires in comparisons to the two dogs the year previous. They had wanderlust and many an afternoon where spent driving around looking for them. They thought they were free range and made escaping their enclosure look easy. Peter has had some success showing them this year particularly Chequer. At our puppy show we came home with the trophy. Dad says we won just to keep us on board for years to come. Mum went to watch them compete at the Peterborough Festival of Hunting where Chequer won her class, not that we take any real credit for that, but it made mum proud agreeing to the next couple after we returned from holiday.

So, this year's puppies have recently arrived: Chelmarsh and Chervil, a dog and a bitch and they are still at that adorable age loving lots of cuddles and attention. They have no table manners eating their food noisily and with great gusto. Our dogs, Tilly and Barney, enjoy having them around and Tilly actually runs around the field with them. She is a very lazy overweight whippet cross who normally spends most of her life searching for sunny warm spots to snooze in. Barney the spaniel expects them to play ball or chase sticks which as yet they don't understand.

There are bound to be lots more stories and adventures during their stay, but one thing is for sure we won't, or they won't get bored.



# Eventing

by Euan Montgomery



So I am Euan Montgomery, I did the Area Eventing in July and I had an amazing experience: it all started the day before when we left school and drove to Offchurch, where the event was being held, to walk the cross country course as I was on early in the morning on the Saturday. When we got home I had to pack all I might need for the competition, as well as washing my pony, Lucy, and cleaning the tack to look smart. However, because I am a boy and I can't plait very well, I had mum do them for me. On the day, we woke early and left by 6am and were there by 8am. When I got there we went and got our numbers and got our passports checked, then we had to tack up and ride. I was in a team with Dee, Bella and Annabelle doing the 90cm course, and Helen and Ann were there to help and support us all. First we all have Dressage, which I have grown to like. I did a great test of 29.8 (the lower the better) and after a couple of group photos, we went back to the horseboxes and got ready for show jumping. Unfortunately I had one silly pole down because I didn't sit up enough coming around the corner. When we had all jumped we headed back to the horseboxes again. This time we got changed for cross-country (the best bit) and got our horses ready, putting on cross country boots, and we changed into our cross country colours. We headed over to the start area and warmed up. After about 10 minutes I was heading into the start box and I had been told to go faster than last time by my mum as I had been 20 seconds too slow in my previous event. However this was a mistake, as I was so fast I was 30 seconds under the time so I got time penalties for being too quick! I was though really pleased to have had a clear round jumping as it was a difficult course and lots of people were getting eliminated. After washing off my horse, we checked the scoreboards and I was placed 4th individually which was better than I could have hoped for, and we were 8th as a team. As Alasdair was competing in the afternoon, we sorted Lucy out and put her on the lorry while he competed and Gregor and I went and watched the other North Shropshire teams, and took photos of them too. The experience of the whole day was absolutely amazing.

# Tetrathlon Championships

Tetrathlon this year has been, once again, an amazing experience with a brilliant team of 'athletes', parents and horses, all of whom make it worthwhile.

The area competition was a success for all our athletes. All of us qualified for the National Championships - a girl's intermediate team, and one of each an intermediate and open boy as individuals. The girl's team won at area, with all riders jumping clear to finish a strong performance throughout the weekend. Well done to the team of Darcie Connacher, Kaitlyn Wynn, Georgie Wixey and Anna Warner for the fantastic performance.

Having qualified for championships, training started to ensure a brilliant performance at the championships. Unfortunately Darcie's mum had booked their family holiday whilst champs were on, and Georgie had to return from her holiday early to get to champs - better planning needed next year!! Teamwork was key in getting horses (both our own and borrowed) and the competitors to Offchurch for the championships. Everyone made it to Offchurch as planned except for a minor detour through Leamington Spa for a certain member (who was supposed to be following a lorry in a car so everyone could get to and from the swim phase but decided to ditch the lorry at the end of the motorway and then got quite lost!). The horses were settled into their stables, and then all headed to the shoot practice. On the Friday the shooting and swimming took place. As usual both boys had performed better in the practice than in the actual competition, whilst the girls team had mixed results. The swim phase produced good results all round, in a very smart new pool at Warwick University. We walked the course twice that day to make sure we knew our lines and all the alternative routes if they were needed.

On the Saturday the boys started the riding early. The rain meant lots of problems were had on course, and as such a few stops or penalties from L fences were spread throughout the team, although Kaitlyn did well to go clear riding Darcie's pony with just time penalties. There were few clears inside the time across all competitors in both the open and intermediate classes so it was quite influential over the competition. We had all finished riding by lunch time with the juniors riding in the afternoon so we all prepared for the good party we were looking forward to that evening.





# by Gregor Montgomery

The party went well, with all competitors enjoying the main party and the parents having their own party in the marquee, although some may say the party had a slight impact upon the results of the run the next day, especially the boys who had to run at 10am the following morning (fortunately our parents did our horses in the morning before the run!).

Well done to the whole team and a special mention must go to Kaitlyn who performed extremely well and got a personal best placing of 17<sup>th</sup> and got the best placing of the group despite borrowing Darcie's horse, who she had only ridden on a handful of occasions before championships.

The end of season tetrathlon ball at Hereford racecourse was also a huge success for the team. Sadly not all could make it, due to university and sports matches, however all competitors and parents who went enjoyed the entire evening and had a great time and reminded us all why we do tetrathlon!

The entire season has been brilliant for everyone and all of us have enjoyed another summer of riding, a modicum of exercise, and plenty of partying, so we want to encourage any members to get involved as it is a brilliant discipline, giving you the challenge of cross-country riding, without the boring dressage part!



# Senior International Tetrathlon

Tetrathlon this year has been incredible. The International 100 competition was one of the best I've ever been to and had the most fun course of the year to ride through.

The sport seems to have grown again this year, with the numbers of competitors increasing in all categories and this was reflected in the showing everybody gave and the amount of sheer effort that was put in by all competitors. Being held in Scotland, at Kelso, over a course which will never be used again, the Senior Regionals were incredible. The course was designed as his last and had everything, a

six part water, jumps where the second part was completely hidden from view, jumps so skinny you could barely fit your horse through with you on top. And yet we rose to the challenge, having already slogged through the more physically gruelling phases in the earlier hours of the day and the previous afternoon.

As always, the party was incredible, with the inclusion of a ceilidh, because when in Scotland there cannot be a party without a ceilidh. For those unfamiliar, it's a form of dancing where the live musicians walk you through the moves before



# by Alasdair Montgomery

each dance, and is done in groups as small as three or four or as large as 30, depending on the specific dance. The relative levels of familiarity with ceilidh dancing were quickly exposed, but it seemed only

the English regions who hadn't been to Scotland before struggled to grasp it. And so began 3 fantastic hours of dancing, picking up dance partners and throwing them around and at other people (which when done right and at the right time is in fact a legitimate dance move).

Of course, as expected, the Irish teams took the majority of the top places in the categories they entered, but the rest of the tables were a fight and a struggle to win, with the top individual boys being composed mainly of the Welsh and various English competitors. The only downside to the location in Scotland, however, is the weather. After a glorious if a little chilly first day and a smattering of rain overnight after arriving, the ride and run day was warm, until time for prize giving, when a storm hit, and the rain came thundering down, forcing everybody into a too small marquee, huddled together, with very little room left to actually give out prizes.

Overall, tetrathlon has once again given a fantastic time and a great year of fun experiences. Hopefully next year can be even better!

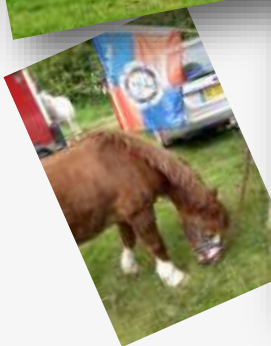




## Mounted Games by Barney Ing

This years mounted games has been a lot of fun . I have had some falls ( one with a medic ) and some tumbles . At Area I fell of whilst trying to vault onto Smartie but it dramatically failed and I came off the other side and I managed to get the medics out which I personally thought was a bit dramatic, I don't really know how it happened but that doesn't matter. Another good example of a mounted games competition is when we went to Shrewsbury Showground and we came 1<sup>st</sup> (out of the Cs) it was really fun to do and we competed against Ireland!

Unfortunately Smartie went not long ago (*back to his old owners so he's very happy*) I still haven't really recovered but it is a chance for me to get my new horse which I want to be like Harvey who is my sister's horse unfortunately she hasn't grown out of him yet!



# My Pony Club Memories 1965-1974 by Edward Dorrell

With parents who had both ridden all of their lives, it was inevitable that I would sit on a horse before I could walk and then become a member of the Pony Club.

Dad had been a very successful Point to Point rider and was a prominent member of the North Shropshire Hunt. He was Clerk of the Course at Eyton on Severn for many years and also acted as a Point to Point Steward, Starter, Judge and Course Inspector.

Mum had also been a member of the North Shropshire Pony Club so at an early age, I was entrusted into the care of the legendary District Commissioner, the formidable Mrs L. Betts. The North Shropshire Pony Club's activities were centred around the annual Pony Club Meet of the Hunt, Pony Club Rallies, various inter branch social occasions and the annual Party at Baschurch Village Hall. Compulsory attendance at three Rallies was required before entries would be accepted for any Pony Club competitions. They were usually held at members farms and I particularly remember Dickin's of Aston and Barbara Ward at Stoke on Tern . Rallies were an unfortunate inconvenience to a young rider who only wanted to gallop, jump and compete in gymkhanas and hunter trials, and they necessitated Pony, tack and rider to be immaculately turned out for the obligatory inspection. The remainder of the day would be spent being taught dressage and doing trotting poles and cavalettis. Only years later whilst riding racehorses did I appreciate the necessity for horses to be well schooled and taught to jump properly ! Once the rallies were completed the hunter trial/show season began, and with three younger sisters also in the Pony Club, the summer holidays were spent attending multiple events with Mum's famous picnics to sustain us.

I was lucky enough to be selected for the North Shropshire Pony Club One Day Event Team for both the Area Trials and Kinlet. My Pony, Secret, was half thoroughbred, brilliant across country, a little erratic show jumping but would regularly boil over in the dressage and on one occasion I remember cantering through the entire test !

Pony Club Camp at the West Mid Showground was usually at the beginning of the summer holidays and the dangerous recipe of a handful of adolescent boys being mixed with their female counterparts at a ratio of 10:1 produced its own set of problems !

I was appointed as a Line Leader for my last year at camp, and with the sterling help of my assistant Louise Muir my line produced gleaming tack and pristine muck heaps to rival the Household Cavalry and we managed to win the Best Lines Competition. However, all my pocket money was spent employing others to clean my tack and plait my pony!

The same year I was lucky enough to win the Boy's Spur and still feel very grateful for the wonderful opportunities that the Pony Club gave me.

Horses have continued to play a big part of my life and having been a Second Row Forward whilst playing Rugby at School, it was always going to be an uphill struggle to be a jockey. However, with a "strict "diet and some lovely people to ride for, I was able to ride successfully in Hunter Chases and Point to Points for nearly 10 years with the highlights being, finishing 6th behind Grittar in the 1981 Aintree Foxhunters and winning the 1983 North West Area Riders Championship.

Subsequently I was asked to become a Point to Point Steward and Course Inspector and since 1993 have acted as a racecourse Steward at most of the Racecourses in the Midlands and North West. Latterly I have been a member of both the BHA Licensing and Disciplinary Committees and currently serve on the Independent Judicial Panel.

However, some of my best memories and oldest friends were made during those happy days as a member of the North Shropshire Pony Club.

# The Pony Club Quiz

by Finlay Montgomery

I was asked to do the Pony Club Quiz which I have done in previous years so I was happy to do it again. This year there was only 1 team comprised of: Hannah, Euan, Kitty and myself. The quiz has several rounds, some of which stay the same and others change every year. Before the quiz we all found out about each of the topics and e-mailed it to each other. Some of the new topics this year were Working Dogs and Scotland. We also had a session in Dean's yard to learn about tack, bits, girths etc. Having done as much research as possible we set off for the quiz. At the quiz we settled at our table and we all agreed Hannah would write the answers for us. It was good fun answering the questions and we all tried really hard to remember what we'd learnt. In between some of the rounds we were able to buy cakes at the cake stall, we also played a fun game in between rounds when the other team members tested my spelling ability. After all the rounds the results were announced – WE HAD COME SECOND!!! As well as a lovely rosette we were each given a book on cross-country riding which was an added bonus. The parent's team consisting of just my mum and Claire Ing also came second and won a box of Maltesers. Overall it was a really great afternoon and I hope to go again next year.



# Show Jumping

by Emily Yeomans



Back in July a group of members competed at the Area Show Jumping competition. We had a team for every class bar the open. I competed as an individual in the intermediate. Show jumping is not Tilly's or my fort e however, we had a little turn for the better that day. We had an incredibly unfortunate pole in the first round (pilot error) but we put this behind us and kicked on to the second round. The warm up isn't big at Solihull and every pole that clatters in the main ring echoes into the warm up. All I could hear were the words 'elimination' and '(X amount) of faults'. Poor Till and I didn't stand a chance. In fact I had a little chuckle to myself as we wandered around the warm up. We were next in and I don't think I took a single breath from the moment the bell rang to the moment I crossed the finish. I had to breathe at that point because I was grinning like a Cheshire Cat and was a little overwhelmed and emotional to say the least. Our branch is one big family and that is evident when you come out to a gathering of friends who are sharing the same emotion as you. Till and I finally managed to come out of a ring having left every pole up in what proved to be a very testing track. Even though I didn't qualify, the intermediate team did and did so in a very collected and stylish manner, its just a shame they didn't get a chance to execute the same result at Champs. C'est la vie.

## Blenheim by Dee Edwards

The North Shropshire team and supporters had a great day at Blenheim Palace on Friday 20th September 2019. I was drafted in the night before to represent North Shropshire Pony Club (*because poor Alice's horse was unwell*) with Grace Jackson, Anna Warner and Emily Yeomans. We all had so much fun competing and I was definitely the most vocal and entertaining round of the day! The team finished in the top 3rd out of 40 teams, we all did our best on a really challenging, twisty up to height BE100 arena eventing course on grass and did the club proud. Some of us walked the HUGE 4\* XC course after ... wow! Amazing day!!



## 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 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 Ann Gregory.

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



Xmas Show 15th Dec 2019

