

## **Newsletter November 2024**

### **District Commissioner's Report**

I thought that I'd look back at last year's report and in it I said that you probably were getting fed up of me saying what a fantastic Branch we are so I won't start by saying it again this year – but we are! I reported that we were the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest Branch in Area 7 and we are now the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest. We are fortunate to have a high percentage of boys and retain our older members which other Branches seem to struggle with.

I so enjoy being at rallies and competitions, seeing our members supporting and encouraging each other. As I have said in previous reports, Pony Club isn't just about improving our riding and pony care (although that is a very important part of what we do), it's also about learning life skills such as looking out for each other, being kind whilst having fun and making new friends.

I was at an Area meeting the other day and, listening to the discussion amongst DC's of other Branches, I realised what a lucky Branch we are to have so many supportive parents, grandparents, older members, friends, ex parents and ex members who are willing to come and help at the various events we run. We are very grateful for your help and support, without which our events (which are important fund-raisers for the Branch) wouldn't run and we therefore wouldn't be able to subsidise rallies, camps etc as we do.

I would also like to thank the Committee for their help and support throughout the year and we will endeavour to ensure that 2025 brings more successes, new friendships and plenty of opportunities for learning and fun.



*Ann*

# Inter-branch Show Jumping Explained

Many years ago three branches in Area 7, North Shropshire, Wheatland and Albrighton, came together to organise a series of Show Jumping competitions to be held over the winter months. Back in the mists of time it was held at Prescott but later moved to Rodbaston where it remains to this day. Each branch organises one competition and gets to keep all the proceeds which subsidises Camps and other fun activities during the year. North Shropshire runs the October event, which is why, if you were there, you will have seen so many familiar faces on the gate etc. All the competitions are open to Pony Club members from any branch or centre, you can have a go at any of the classes jumping cross poles up to 1.05m. It is a team event so even if you miss out on a top placing you may come home with a rosette if your team does well. Ann will put your team together so all you need to do is enter. Rodbaston has a large indoor school, spectator seating inside and the warmup is under cover too! It's an excellent opportunity to go to a big competition where you'll always see friendly faces.

The Pony Club in this Country is split up into 19 areas, North Shropshire Branch is one of 16 branches within Area 7 which stretches from the Welsh border over to Northampton and south to Warwickshire. Each Area holds qualifying competitions for a wide variety of disciplines, both mounted and un-mounted to qualify to compete at The Pony Club Championships and Regional Championships in August.

## Area Competitions 2025

The branch is required to submit details of the number of our members wanting to compete prior to the entries being made so Helen Elston will once again be collecting the Area Reply Slips from those who wish to be considered. The slips will be available on the website next Spring and will, at the same time, be emailed to everyone.

If you wish to be considered for any of the Area Competitions in 2025 enter yourself via the online booking system (it will be opened at a later date) and the entry will go to the DC for 'approval' as she has to confirm that you are eligible and that the member is competing at the appropriate level for their ability.

Please do ask Helen or Ann for further information.

### 2025 Camp, Area Qualifier and Championship Dates

**18+ Camp** 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July at Berriewood

*For those members aged 18 years and over.*

**Senior Camp** 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July at Berriewood

*For those members aged 10 years and over.*

**Junior Camp** 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July at Longner Hall

*For those members aged 10 years and under.*

**Spring Festival Qualifier SJ & Dressage** 18<sup>th</sup> Jan at Solihull

**Area Triathlon** 26<sup>th</sup> January at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre

**Area Arena Eventing Qualifier** 16<sup>th</sup> February at Rodbaston

**Spring Festival Finals** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> March at Addington Manor

**Area Quiz** 9<sup>th</sup> March *venue TBC*

**Area Mounted Games** 27<sup>th</sup> April at Rodbaston

**National Quiz Final** 4<sup>th</sup> May at Hillsborough Sheffield

**Area Horse and Pony Care** 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> June at Long Itchington

**Area Dressage** 21<sup>st</sup> June at Solihull

**Area Show Jumping** 28<sup>th</sup> June at Solihull

**Area Eventing** 13<sup>th</sup> July at Moreton Morrell

**Area Tetrathlon** 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> July at Berriewood

**Pony Club Championships** 8<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August at Offchurch Bury

**Regional Championships** 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> August at Kelsall.

# Rally Attendance Awards

As in previous years, we are recognising attendance at rallies by awarding Bronze, Silver and Gold rosettes for significant rally attendance throughout the year (1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024). Rallies include unmounted horse and pony care/badge rallies, games rallies and all other types of ridden rallies. Those receiving awards this year are:



## **Bronze**

Lucy Adney, Bay Brettell, Sidney Beynon-Brown, George Brettell, Eleanor Britton, Maisie Hargreaves, Phoebe Hargreaves, Arthur Haselwood, Beatrice Haselwood, Octavia Jones, William Jones, Charlotte Ratcliffe, Isobel Richards, Grace Richards, Hughie Shaw, Freddie Shaw, Daisy Mackenzie, Finlay Montgomery, Penelope Pound & Heidi Wilfort.



## **Silver**

Alice Arthan, Beatrice Britton, Florence Chilton, Bess Corbet, Ferdie Corbet, Roly Beynon Brown, Scarlett Beynon Brown, Harriet Cameron, Jessica Handley, Barney Ing, Maddie Nicholls, Alice Ravenscroft Jones, Grace Ravenscroft Jones & Lucy Wagg.



## **Gold**

Annabel Street

Well done!

# 2024 Tests Results

We have had an incredible number of test passes this year (listed below). Thank you to all our brilliant Coaches for helping all our members pass their tests. Well done all!

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

## AH Test Pass

Kitty Ing

## Lunge Test Pass

Finlay Montgomery

## C Test Passes

Lucy Adney, Alice Arthan,  
Phoebe Hargreaves and Penny Lea

## D+ Test Passes

Maisie Hargreaves and Maddie Nicholls

## D Test Passes

Pixie Adams, Mia Beeston, Eleanor Britton, Megan Buckley, Wilfred Budgen, Ruby Edwards, Paris Ellams, Darcey Evans, Jessica Handley, Ruby Heckel-Perks, Octavia Jones, Freya Lowe, Maddie Nicholls, Millie Owen, Harry Price, Harriet Rainbow, Grace Ravenscroft Jones, Isobel Richards, Marni Slater, Piper St Pierre, India Thompson, Katie Trump, Aria Wagner and Hester Whiston

## E Test Passes

Katie Ainsworth, Emily Greenhalgh, Roly Beynon Brown, Isla Rose Hargreaves, Otilie Budgen, Grace Richards, TotTot Chilton, Willa Summerfield, Pip Corbet and Henry Trant





# Competitions and

What a successful Branch we are! Throughout the year we have had many successes in Area and Championship Competitions ranging from entry level through to 110cm/senior in Show jumping, Horse and Pony Care, Eventing, Dressage, Arena Eventing, Tetrathlon and Triathlon. In 2023, the Pony Club introduced the new 70cm level of competition and this year we encouraged more members to enter at this level which was great. Hopefully more of you will give it a go next year.

The year started well at the **Area Barrier Health Spring Festival** competition with Iris qualifying for the 90cm and 1m showjumping and, in the Arena Eventing qualifier, Harriet qualified at 1m, Iris qualified 2 ponies at 90cm and Grace qualified at 80cm. Grace went on to compete at the Championships doing really well.

Finlay Montgomery qualified for the **National Triathlon Championships** where he finished 15<sup>th</sup> overall which was a great result.

We were fortunate enough to be invited to jump in an inter Branch competition at Bolesworth. We sent a team of Immy, Bella T, Iris and Lucy Arrowsmith Brown who all jumped well.

Moving on to the Summer Area Competitions, we started with **Horse and Pony Care** at Berriewood fielding 2 mini teams, 1 junior and 2 seniors. Everyone did really well with our 2 senior teams being placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The team that came 2<sup>nd</sup> was lucky enough to receive a wildcard to compete at Championships.

The **Area Show Jumping competition** was next at Solihull. We must have been the most successful Branch there as ALL of our members who jumped qualified – 15 members! Our 70 cm team was 3<sup>rd</sup>, two of our members in an Area 7 team came 6<sup>th</sup>. At 90cm we had 2 teams which finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> with one winning the tack and turnout. Our 1m team came 6<sup>th</sup> and our 1.10m team came 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Area Dressage** came next, again at Solihull, where we were well represented. Out of our 7 70 level dressage competitors 4 qualified (Isabella won her arena, Lucy was 2<sup>nd</sup> in hers, Grace came 6<sup>th</sup> and Darcey was 10<sup>th</sup>). We also had Iris (5<sup>th</sup>) and Lucy (7<sup>th</sup>) qualifying for the Regional Championships. Our Novice team came 3<sup>rd</sup> and qualified, with Megan coming 4<sup>th</sup> in her arena, Iris 5<sup>th</sup> and Mila 5<sup>th</sup>. Bella Jackson won her arena therefore also qualifying at open level which was a great result.

# Championships




The **Area Eventing competition** came next at Moreton Morrell. We had competitors at all levels with our 70cm team qualifying in 4<sup>th</sup> place – Grace finished 5<sup>th</sup> in her arena, Bess 8<sup>th</sup> and Phoebe 10<sup>th</sup>. Iris was our only competitor in the 80cm finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in her arena and as a member of an Area 7 team which also came 2<sup>nd</sup> and qualifying for Regional Championships. Our 90cm competitors also did well with the team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and just missing out on qualification. Bella Timmis won her arena and Daisy was 2<sup>nd</sup> in hers (both qualifying as individuals) and Finlay finished 6<sup>th</sup>. In the 1m class Bella Jackson came a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> in her arena and Bella Timmis 8<sup>th</sup> in hers – both qualifying for Championships. In the Chairman's Cup, Gregor finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Anna 3<sup>rd</sup> both qualifying for Championships.

Last of the Summer Area competitions was **Tetrathlon** which was held at Berriewood. We had a number of younger members taking part in the competition all doing extremely well. In the qualifying classes, our Open boys team qualified again and Daisy finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Intermediate girls to also qualify.

Our Branch was honoured to be represented by Finlay and Gregor who took part in the International Tetrathlon event (in Ireland and the UK) – see separate report.

**PC Championships:** PC championships at Offchurch Bury spans a period of some 9 days with the tetrathlon starting things off. This was an International year and there were competitors from as far afield as Australia and New Zealand. Finlay and Gregor were selected to compete in the International travelling to Ireland. Our Open boys (Finlay, Gregor and Euan) were victors again at PC Championships which was a brilliant result. Grace was selected to compete for Central England at Stepping Stones level which is a real achievement. We then moved on to dressage, SJ, Horse and Pony Care and eventing with North Shropshire members competing on all 5 days. Starting on the Tuesday we had Bella J riding a borrowed horse in the Open dressage finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in an Area Team. We also had our 110cm Show jumpers but, sadly Immy was poorly so Harriet and Gregor on 2 horses jumped as individuals all doing well. On Wednesday, we had a Novice Dressage team of Mila (riding 2 ponies), Iris and Megan. They came 16<sup>th</sup> out of 44 teams which was great. Gregor was staying over so he took the opportunity to ride a dressage warm-up test which he won! We also had a team of 90cm show jumpers who all did well. On Thursday we had our 100cm showjumping team of Anna, Bella (on a borrowed horse) and



Gregor riding his two. They all did well, but special mention goes to Bella who finished individually 24<sup>th</sup> out of some 230 competitors! On Friday saw the start of the Chairman's Cup for Anna and Gregor with a trot up and vet assessment then the dressage phase. We also had Bella T competing in the dressage and SJ phases of the 100cm eventing competition.

Saturday saw the culmination of the Chairman's Cup and 100cm eventing with Gregor finishing 12<sup>th</sup> in the Chairman's Cup and Bella coming 10<sup>th</sup> in her section in the 100cm. Gregor was in an Area 7 team that finished 4<sup>th</sup> and Bella was also in an area team that came 5<sup>th</sup>. Our Senior Horse and Pony Care team of Immy, Gregor and Kitty was also in action on Saturday finishing a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 37 teams with Gregor being awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> best individual!

We then had a couple of weeks before the Regional Championships took place at Kelsall Hill at the end of August. Day 1 saw our Dressage divas in action with Grace and Darcey both being placed in their warm-up classes. We then had a 70 team of Grace, Darcey, Isabella and Lucy which did well and Iris and Lucy rode at Grassroots level (80). Day 2 saw the Show Jumpers in action with our 70cm team of Grace, Darcey, Phoebe and Harry doing a great job finishing on a zero score coming 11<sup>th</sup> out of 30 teams. The final day is eventing day with our 70cm team of Grace, Bess and Phoebe storming around to finish 8<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams. Bess finished 6<sup>th</sup> in her section and Grace was 4<sup>th</sup>. In the Grassroots (80cm) Iris was a superstar winning her section and the Area 7 team that she was in also won!

To round off the summer holiday period, Scarlett Chapple took part in the Pony Club Endurance Championships and won the inaugural Elite 80km section – well done Scarlett!

We entered a 90cm and 1m team into the Pony Club Eventer Challenge competition at Blenheim International Horse Trials. Everyone jumped well with the 90cm team coming 7<sup>th</sup> and the 1m team in 6<sup>th</sup>. Individually Gregor won the 1m class which was a fantastic achievement. Iris and Harriet joined with a North Staffs member to Show Jump on the Sunday at Blenheim and the team won which is fantastic!

Phew, what an incredible list of achievements. Most importantly though, everyone entered into the team spirit and supported each other through the highs and lows of competitive riding making us all proud to be associated with the Branch.

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

*Ann & Helen.*



# Working towards (and passing) my Pony Club C Test



By Lucy Adney

I have enjoyed working towards my C Test, it's a lot more work and preparation than my D+ so has encouraged and pushed me to take part in training sessions and Pony Care rallies which has really helped me to learn all the elements of pony care. I have learned lots about feeding, stable management, correct trot and canter leads and this has really helped in my ridden work.

The test isn't easy! I was asked lots of questions so I needed to be confident with my answers. There were four of us in the test and it was great as we all passed with lovely comments and things to now work on for C+!

Well done to Penny, Phoebe and Alice who also passed and thank you to Helen for all your help with the test training for Pony Care!





# Senior

## First Time at Senior Camp 2024

Hi, I'm Jemima and I am 10 years old. My horse is called Mimosa and she is 16, she's really special to me, she looks after me when I'm out on a fun ride with my sister and her friends and she does this after all she has been through (for anyone who doesn't know Mimosa, she suffered a brutal attack many years ago which left her with facial paralysis, it's now her super power and she loves to be ridden).

July 2024 was my first year of senior camp and for anyone who knows me will know I love home. Staying away for a whole week is a big deal. I chose to go to senior camp but a couple days before I started to regret it but thought I must do it. We got to the morning of senior camp. I was really scared but I knew I could do it. When we got to Berriewood I had butterflies in my stomach. My mum was helping me unpack my stuff. We finished unpacking and my mum was getting ready to go. I started to tear up. I couldn't look my mum in the eyes not because I was angry but because if I did I would flood into tears and not let her go home.

The first couple of days were really hard, up early, bed late and I did everything for Mimosa (with a little bit of help from my line leader and deputy, Scarlett and Alice). The riding was really fun and I only fell off once (when trying to get on!). The days were great, I learnt a lot and had fun with my friends. The nights I found difficult not being at home, but with the support from Matilda and Maisey they got me through, I couldn't have done it without them.

# Camp

by **Jemima Lea**

By mid week I was getting into a routine, there was a lot to remember and everyone was really helpful and kind to make sure we all were in the right places at the right time. Cross Country and Show Jumping were my favourite rides. The night time activities were great too, my favourite was Helens bingo closely followed by Dinos disco. Also, the food was fantastic, full english breakfast, snacking lunch and my favourite spag bol for tea.

At the end of the week I was tired and ready to go home, but I felt so proud of myself for achieving an entire week away at Senior Camp with my pony Mimosa.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped me throughout the week, especially Matilda and Maisey.



# Senior Camp

by **Tori Bennett**



Senior camp is definitely the highlight of most people's summers and this year's certainly didn't disappoint. This was my third camp with AP and as he isn't mine, I enjoyed having him to myself for a week and improving with him, and I think he definitely enjoyed getting everyone's attention and probably a few too many treats!

My instructor this year was Alice and I definitely learnt a lot from her and by the end of the week AP and I had definitely improved together. As a ride we worked towards our Lorinery badges, learning about biting and the different types of bits which was very interesting. My lesson highlights would definitely be our cross country days, improving on our flatwork and going bareback on AP, as he is so comfortable!!

Being one of the oldest members at camp this year, I had the responsibility of being the line leader for Quorn and I have to say (not being biased) I think we were definitely the best line. Aswell as helping the younger members at camp tack up and look after their ponies, I had an amazing time with my friends and definitely enjoyed catching up with each other.

Alongside riding we had an evening activity every day and my some of my highlights were definitely having visit the North Shropshire Hunt's hound puppies, who were adorable; Bingo night, which got very competitive as always; and of course Deano's disco on our last night in which we all had an amazing time!

By the time our week at camp had ended we were definitely all very tired and ready to go home and sleep, but we had all enjoyed ourselves very much and couldn't have done so without the amazing people who helped organise, and feed us (the food is always amazing!!) so a huge thank you to you all and hope to see you all again next year!!





# Junior Camp

by Emily Greenhalgh

*I liked EVERYTHING about Junior Camp!*

*My instructor was Helen and our group had lots of fun doing something different every day – I enjoyed meeting up in the morning to find out what we would be up to. My favourite thing of camp was the pony obstacle course (Handy pony) which I think my pony also enjoyed a lot. But it was also great to do some jumping, even over a little cross country log.*

*The lunchbreaks were fun too as we could play with friends and visit the tuck shop. I loved the show and presentation at the end of the week and was very happy to receive my E test - my first Pony Club test.*

*A big thank you to all the organisers and coaches and the Burton family for hosting us at Longner Hall.*

*I'm looking forward to next year,  
Emily x*





# Eventing

by Bess Corbett

I LOVE EVENTING. It is the best thing in the world and my favourite thing to do on my pony. As my pony, Harry, was lame last summer I didn't get much chance to event but this year I took my new pony, Rio to the area qualifiers at Warwick as part of the North Shropshire team with Grace, Darcy and Phoebe. It was SO much fun.

Eventing is a mix of dressage, show jumping and cross country. The dressage is fun but quite tricky- my pony is not a fan of dressage and only really likes jumping so its not our best bit. Then comes the showjumping, followed by the cross country- which is awesome. My pony goes crazy for it. It is quite a long course of jumps, spread over fields and sometimes through woods- they are all natural, rustic fences like ditches and hedges and logs and water jumps. You can get quite wet! The good thing about eventing is that if something goes wrong in one part of the competition then it doesn't matter because you might have done really well in another part- you need to do well in all 3 parts really.



We all did so well at the area qualifiers that we got to go to the Regional Championships at Kelsall which was really exciting. It is great fun being part of a team- we all cheer each other on and look after each other. You get quite nervous and excited when you're waiting to go cross country. Rio was really excited too- he couldn't stay still! Helen and Ann are there to help you and give you advice and everyone is really kind and encouraging. We all did so well- the team came 8<sup>th</sup>, which is especially good because we only had 3 people in our team and I came 6<sup>th</sup> in my section.

Everyone should definitely have a go at eventing- it is the best fun and the best feeling in the world going cross country. I love eventing and so does my pony.



# The Showing Scene

## By Penny Lea

Hi, I'm Penny and I'm 13 and this is my horse Annabelle, she's 6. We've been a team for almost 2 years now, participating in all sorts of disciplines from senior camp to hunting and anything in between.

Earlier this year I decided to give showing a go. We had been told by friends that the SEIB Search 4 A Star Showing Series was a brilliant introduction to showing. There were 2 classes that I could take part in. The first being the Working Horse category and the second being the Pony Club Open category. I knew that being placed in any of these classes would be hard and the competition would be fierce but nothing prepared me for the first show of the season, Stoneleigh Park.

May 27th, at 3am the alarm went off, having plaited the night before and wrapped Annie up like a 'mummy', we were able to load up and make the journey to Stoneleigh. Our first class was at 8:30am and we needed to warm up. The collecting ring was packed with at least 40 horses, the smell of show shine in the air and riders almost silently riding around with the odd shout if they were using the practice fence. Annie took it all in her stride, I'm told she was shown as a yearling. We were called into the ring and all collectively walk/trot/cantered past the 3 judges. After a while we were asked to line up and each take in turn to perform the set show and jump followed by removing the saddle for a conformation review and trot up. I am quite sure I was the only child in this class and unfortunately we didn't get placed. The next class wasn't till 3pm which was the Pony Club Open category. It was a similar set show but in this class I was competing against children my own age. It wasn't very well attended with only 3 competitors and one by one they fell away and withdrew from the competition meaning I WON!





I couldn't believe my luck, although winning this was felt a little hollow. We went to the show secretary office to collect our ticket only to find out Annie's passport had an irregularity which meant my ticket was revoked. I've never felt such highs or lows in all of my life. We packed up after hand grazing Annie and set off for home. Tears rolling down my face and the anger inside me raging. There is only one thing to do and that's do it again, so that's what we did!

Second attempt, Value View Equestrian on Sunday 9th June. This time we focused on one class which was the Pony Club Open. The class was well attended with 8 competitors, this was a real competition and it was strong! I was nervous, Annie looked beautiful, the sun was shining making her dapples look amazing. Warming up in the practice arena was less chaotic than at Stoneleigh, parents fussing around children and ponies, giving last minute pep talks whilst my mum was chatting to some of the SEIB organisers (she says she's transport manager and finance and doesn't do the fussing part). We were called into the ring and one by one performed our show. Annie was pure magic, everything was perfect, her strides, canter leads and gallop. My heart beating through my chest in anticipation, I was called forward 1st place! I couldn't believe it, I got my ticket! I was going to Your Horse Live in November.

I am writing this in October, its 4 weeks to go till the big day. I am back at school and normally would scale down the riding as the nights draw in. But this year I have kept a training plan to keep Annie in peak fitness, this includes hacking and lunging at least 4 times per week along with flat work practice and a lesson. We also need to try and keep her coat looking immaculate, although she will need to be fully clipped out for the show. I am so excited for YHL!

So far my experience in showing has been great, the competitors are friendly and supportive, I am really enjoying developing my riding skills in my flatwork and I love pampering Annie (I think she loves it too!).

# Dressage

*by Isabella Rogers*



This year in July I did my Area dressage competition on my pony Ari and it was such good fun! I woke up early that morning and when we got to the venue we began to warm up before the first test. Even though I was nervous at the start I felt a lot better as I was doing the test and Ari was really good and helped gain my confidence back. Not long after my first test I had my second one and it went really well and Ari was amazing with his flickey toes! After that I went to the prize giving and I couldn't believe it when they said that I had gotten first place! I am so happy with Ari

because he got me to the championships and a beautiful sash too! It was such a good experience and will definitely go again next year!



# Show Jumping

By Harriet Cameron



“The strength of the team is each member. The strength of each member is the team”

My first show jumping competition for the NSHPC was at the Christmas Show in 2021. I had only just joined having moved from another Pony Club and wanting to make a good impression I landed on my backside at Ann’s feet! I am glad to say that from that humble start things could only get better! I have been very lucky to represent this Pony Club at Areas for the past three years, going from 90cm to jumping at 110cm this year. I love jumping as part of a team, the camaraderie is second to none. It has been a great way to get to know other members of the branch as well as getting the chance to jump all sorts of jumps, different courses and visiting different venues. It doesn’t matter how good you are, every member who joins a team will help increase the chances of getting to Champs. This is something I get reminded of many times, as not everything will go how you want it to, but that’s the joy of horses.

No matter how the day goes the support from Helen and Ann is amazing, they always have an encouraging word and will help you no end to get ready for your class, or in my case make sure I’ve looked at the course. And this is very important I highly recommend that you get into the habit of arriving on time and walking the course and not do what I frequently do, which is arrive at the collecting ring with 3 horses before you go, as it doesn’t really give you enough time to look at the course or anything else, but at least I don’t frighten myself over the height! No matter what, I highly recommend that everyone has a go at the area showjumping as it does make a fun day out and no matter what happens on the day you get to represent the North Shropshire, and who knows you may get the opportunity to compete at regional or national championships whether it be as an individual or in a team.

# Triathlons

My name is Charlotte and I'm 8 years old. I've been in the NSHPC since I was 4 and have been competing in triathlons since I was 5.

## **What is a Triathlon?**

A triathlon has three phases; running, swimming and shooting (or bean bag throwing for those who are my age or younger). My age group is called 'The Beanies' and I have to run 500m as fast as I can, swim for as far as I can in 2 minutes and throw 10 bean bags onto a target on the floor. Although this doesn't happen all at once and there is lots of time for playing and having fun with my friends in between the phases. Triathlons tend to happen in the autumn and winter months. In the summer there are Tetrathlons which is 4 phase and involves XC riding too.

## **Which is your favourite phase?**

This is a hard question as I enjoy all three but I think probably swimming as this is what I'm best at. When I first started doing triathlons my Mummy entered me in the biathlon (run and bean bag only) as I was worried about swimming in a strange pool but some triathlons you are allowed to swim widths when you are younger and you can use a buoyancy aid. Now I love swimming lengths. I'm just learning to do tumble turns so hopefully I can use these at my next triathlon! I also like the running, some courses are quite flat and others are a bit more hilly and muddy!

## **How are triathlons scored?**

You get points out of 1000 for each phase and then they add up the total at the end and the person with the most points wins the class.

# By Charlotte Ratcliffe

You also get a medal if you have the highest number of points in a phase. However, you usually get a rosette at my age even if you don't come anywhere! I like seeing if I can improve my times and scores at each triathlon.

## What are you most looking forward to in the triathlons coming up?

Now that I am 8, I'm allowed to start shooting instead of throwing bean bags. I've been to Rachel's house a few times to practice. She's really friendly and has shown me how to use the pistol safely and how to improve my accuracy. The shoot practices are good fun, all the equipment and guns are provided and there are loads of biscuits to eat! I can borrow a pony club gun at competitions so my parents don't have to buy one.

## Why do you like doing Triathlons?

There are lots of reasons but mostly I like seeing and playing with my friends, that's why our triathlons are the best as I have more friends there! Other reasons are, I like representing my pony club, I like competing without the pressure of taking my pony along, I like winning rosettes and medals and of course there are always lots of yummy cakes to buy and eat!



# Tetrathlon

Hi my name is Grace Evans, I'm 10.

My Tetrathlon career started off when I did Triathlon. I got encouraged by a member of the pony club Rachel Montgomery; she started me off on my adventure. I can tell you now I am amazed at how much I can now do. I started my journey at a place I love doing cross county, Berriewood and then got selected to represent Central England at JCB pony club champs. With not much notice I trained super hard and with the help of special friends I set off on Thursday all loaded up. We arrived at JCB pony club champs and I was literally flabbergasted at how big the champs were but with Rachel it was not too hard to find our way. We had dinner and then we went to shoot practise. The next day I woke up ready for a busy day with the first thing in the competition, shooting which was great, I got a score of 800 and then up next it was swimming and running then I had my dinner which was BBQ yum and then bed. Third day I got out of bed and then got my stuff ready for the day. That day my pony jimmy was in and I went into the warm up and then they called me in to the ring and I only had 2 poles but I was so proud of him. That night we had pizza and the party, it was brill. Then I went to watch Gregor Montgomery go round the 100, it was total amazing to watch him and his brothers go around, it was amazing to watch I can tell you now. That night I went to bed and then got up and went for the rosettes, we came 10th as a brill team and I had the time of my life and then we saw Gregor go on a horse called blue that they had to ride because it was a part of the competition to ride different horses and he went clear on him.



# by Grace Evans

We then all got loaded up and put jimmy on the lorry and then had a long drive back home. I had the best time and I hope I can go next year because I love it! I want to say a big thank you to Rachel Montgomery and her boys, I don't know how I would do it without you and the boys, I am so happy and so glad I got to come. Thank you also for putting my name forward to be selected for JCB pony club champs, thank you so so much everybody that was there to encourage me. I am so glad so say thank you to all the people that were there because I am so happy to have come this far.

THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING



# BOLESWORTH INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

*By Lucy Arrowsmith-Brown*

In June North Shropshire was lucky enough to be invited to enter a team in a new Pony Club Show Jumping competition at Bolesworth International horse show. A team of four were entered consisting of Bella Timmis, Iris Burton, Imogen Spencer-Blow and myself

The first round was 95cm/1m and was held in the Castle Arena with this round being a qualifier for a second round held in the Main Arena. We tried hard but unfortunately, we didn't quite make it through as there was a large number of teams from many other clubs who travelled from all over the country to compete. We finished on a creditable 4 faults overall as a team. The experience was really enjoyable with a big atmosphere. Everyone had a lovely day and hopefully they run this competition again next year so that we can try to make it to the Main Arena!





# Horse and Pony Care at Championships

by Immy Spencer-Blow



I was really happy to join the Horse and Pony care team for the first time this year. Luckily, on my team, I had Gregor and Kitty who are experienced!

The Area qualifier was held at Berriewood in June. It consisted of 10 stations of questions. Each station was a different topic covering subjects like confirmation and pasture, all the way through to saddle fitting and was worth up to 50 marks. Halfway through, we had biscuits and drinks (Gregor's favourite part). At the area qualifier our team came second, which meant that we unluckily missed out of qualifying for champs by one place, however, we later on received the exciting news that Ann had managed to get us a wildcard through the Pony Club Championships.

At Championships, it was run very similarly and we were asked about everything possible from trailer servicing to feeding! We also had to bandage a fake horse! A highlight of this was when Kitty dropped all the pony nuts on the floor which left Gregor, the examiner and me in stitches!

As a team, we did very well (thanks to Gregor and Kitty!) and we ended up coming 3rd, and Gregor also came home with an impressive individual 3rd.

I discovered that Horse and Pony Care is extremely competitive with teams from all over the country. And Pony Club send a team to compete Internationally.

I really enjoyed being in the team and I learnt lots! and I'm looking forward to doing it again next year 🥰. I would recommend it to any other members because it's great fun ...and in what other discipline do you get food half way through?!



# My Favourite Rally

by Madeline Nicholls



## **Show Jumping Rally – Instructor Dean Price Oct 2024 at Walford**

I chose this rally as I love Show jumping. It's something that I am planning on doing more of in the future as I really love it.

Dean is a great fun but tough instructor who always sets great challenges and get the most out me and Simon.

I never leave his rallies feeling disappointed as he always helps me reach my goals!

This rally consisted of a relatively small course of fences (6 fences)

It started off warming up in open order, walk/trot and then sent out to canter individually.

Once warmed up we started to jump the fences each rider at a time.

The fence heights started at 70/80cm and slowly went up to 80/90cm as we became more confident with the course.

Slowly but steadily we built up the course, not just in height but length as well. Once we were all feeling confident we moved onto the "Deano Challenge"!!!!

The challenge consisted of all the fences put together, backwards, forwards and all sorts of twists and turns that we were not expecting.

This rally was also very technical, Dean constantly made sure we were on the right canter lead, on the right diagonal and thinking about our timing and positions. If we made mistakes we had to repeat, he made me feel super confident before moving onto harder things.

I came away feeling mega confident about the up and coming Branch Show at Rodbaston. It was a really great Rally thanks Dean and Pony Club!!!

# Blenheim Palace Eventers Challenge

by Bella Timmis



This was my 2nd Blenheim Palace Pony Club Eventers Challenge. It is such a fantastic venue and a privilege to ride there and it was very exciting to be surrounded by top-class Eventers.

I did the 90cm team event alongside Daisy Bethune, Iris Burton and Mila Wagner which consisted of doing 7 show jumps then 9 XC jumps with a joker fence as the last fence. You could choose whether you took a tighter line to get a quicker time (Mila took an interesting line through the trees!)

Our team did brilliantly with some really lovely, quick rounds ending up in 7th place out of over 50 teams. I couldn't recommend doing this competition more as it is such a great experience and always fun competing as a team.



# THE INTERNATIONAL

Finlay and I were selected to represent the UK Pony Club on an International Tetrathlon exchange to Ireland. The selection process was based on performance at tetrathlon in 2023, and attendance at a selection camp in February where we were put through our paces in the various disciplines and had to jump 2 horses we hadn't ridden before over a 1m track. Once the international squad was selected, the planning for the trip began, with Coggins tests for the horses, lorries being brought up to spec for the ferry crossing and lots of paperwork to be done to enable us to compete. The summer consisted of a week in Ireland, a week in Northern Ireland and then a week in Warwickshire, with it all done and dusted in time for main UK pony club championships.



We spent the first week at Punchestown racecourse, with one of the most testing tracks I've ever seen, and certainly the biggest. The 1.10m course designed and built by the Irish team manager John Flood was testing and caused plenty of problems. Fortunately tetrathlon is all about partying really and the racecourse provided an excellent venue for 3 nights of this.

Euan joined us for the next week in Northern Ireland which was lovely, with delightful weather for the first half of the week and then the apparently more common torrential downpours for the back half. This made the run and ride challenging but enjoyable



# TETRATHLON EXCHANGE

BY GREGOR MONTGOMERY



and we all had a lovely time. We also took part in a parade through the local town, who's residents came out in their droves to see all the international athletes. We also did some showjumping this weekend as part of the international exchange, which Winnie excelled at for both Finlay and I, and Euan's horse was borrowed by an Australian athlete and also jumped a lovely clear for her. The trip culminated in a week at Offchurch and this was enjoyed by all, with the best track produced at Offchurch since I've been there. It had a true championship feel, and, as anyone who attended main champs might have got the gist, it caused problems, so Euan and I were pleased to have both achieved 1400 rides. The international part again involved showjumping, although this time the UK as well as the international competitors all rode different horses. I was loaned a horse by a Southwest competitor and it jumped a lovely clear for me, and Euan's horse was again ridden by the Australian competitor for another clear.

At the main championships, Finlay, Euan and I won the UK Team trophy as well, beating the Quorn Hunt team to it, making us the most successful tetrathlon open boys team ever, with no branch having more consecutive wins in a row. We had an enjoyable time over the 3 weeks and can highly recommend all the time and effort that sometimes tetrathlon takes. Tetrathlon embodies the core principles of the pony club; Having fun, Team spirit and most importantly making friends, and I can certainly say we have all done that this summer.



# Mounted Games

Since I first joined North Shropshire Hunt Pony Club 3 years ago, I have attended a few mounted games rallies, but it wasn't until we bought my new pony, Valley, at the beginning of this year that I really started to love mounted games.

Valley is 16 and has had a lot of experience with other Pony Club children, so she really knows what she is doing and she has taught me so much.

This was really good for me, as I was such a novice, and after a few rallies with Steve and Simon, I was ready to enter my first competition on 12 May, hosted by Wynnstay Pony Club at Malpas. I was really chuffed when my team (me, Otilie Budgen, Grace and Izzy Richards) managed to beat South Shropshire Hunt and came in First. It was super coming away with my first ever blue rosette.

The next competition on 23 June was hosted by Berwyn & Dee Pony Club at Crickheath, near Oswestry on a really boiling hot day. We had to keep the horses under the trees in the shade in between races because it was so hot.

The final event that I attended was the Weston under Redcastle Village Show, which we attended as a demonstration team, showing the visitors all the different races that we do, like two mugs, bending



# by Grace Griffiths-Stalker



around poles and everyone's favourite - the caterpillar racing for sweets at the end! The Weston Show is a really fun day out, with lots of lovely food, helicopters, fire engines, assault courses and dog shows. But the highlight this year, on top of doing our demonstration, was the Olympic Games Procession and races. My little brother, Gwyn, was really chuffed winning the egg and spoon race, especially because our Taid is an egg farmer.



I am really loving mounted games and I hope to do a lot more competitions next year. I think my brother, Gwyn, might be wanting to join in also, as he has just started riding lessons and loves going fast.



I love all the friends I have made and my mum and I are especially grateful to all the mums and dads that have shown us the ropes and helped us out, when we really didn't have a clue what we were doing, especially Alex Baddeley, Lara Budgen, Sarah Ravenscroft-Jones and Rebecca Jones. Between them, they have advised us, supplied us with things we were missing, fed us and encouraged and supported me when I wasn't feeling very confident.



Finally a huge thank you to Steve and Simon for all the training and confidence boosting. We really couldn't do it without you.



**Xmas  
Competition**

**Sun 1st Dec  
Come and Have Fun!**

# YELA



## BY FINLAY MONTGOMERY

The young equestrian leaders award (YELA) is something I have been doing since I was 13 years old, and had completed both my bronze and silver awards so last summer I started my Gold award. This required me to do 60 hours of volunteering for 3 different organisations and organising an event for the pony club. To achieve the required hours I have helped out the pony club Christmas show, triathlons, camp (for both our branch and United Pack) and jump judged at the Junior International Tetrathlon. I also helped with riding club at their Hunter trials and attended Kelsall British Eventing, helping in the dressage section collecting score sheets. The variety of roles I have undertaken during the 60 hours of volunteering have given me a greater insight into the work that goes in to organising events.

It has also helped me improve my leadership and teamworking skills.

Barney was also working towards his Gold Yela so we jointly organised the junior Horse and Pony Care competition this February. We split the roles with Barney in charge of catering, volunteers and organising others who were working towards bronze and silver yela awards, whilst I set the questions and ran the competition element, as well as being an assessor for the competition. I found the process to be challenging as there was a lot to organise and I had to ensure the questions were at the right level for our competitors, who's ages ranged from 3 to 10. Overall it was enjoyable and it has taught me valuable lessons about organising events and the work that goes in to even a smaller event like that one. It has also helped me improve my leadership and teamworking skills.



In my opinion it is a valuable opportunity that I am glad to have taken as I have learnt a lot from the process all the way from bronze up to gold YELA and I believe it has given me valuable experience that I can carry into the rest of my life, at university and beyond. I would therefore encourage everyone who is old enough to give it a go.

Register for the bronze level and come and help at the mounted games or showjumping competitions.



Lexi Everington and Kodala representing North Shropshire at the Area 7 Raceday which was held at Warwick Racecourse.

# Endurance

Hello all, in 2021 I won the Pony Club Open Endurance Championships on Tansy my PB Arab. I've looked forward to repeating this since however, 2022 Tansy was lame so 12'2 hh RSPCA pony Bunny carried to 3rd place in the PC Intermediate champs. 2023 the Champs clashed with our first 80km Race Ride where Tansy came 1st.



2024 began with one main aim, which was to compete at FEI level. Our first ride this year was a 100km FEI 1\* at Kings Forest, we came 2nd. Next was Royal Windsor! Tansy was 'wild' and we had quite an experience. Moving on she returned to quieter rides and enjoyed much success.

Until our 2nd FEI Race at where she was back to her spirited self, and we came first!! Two weeks later, was Cirencester. We were once again delighted to be competing for the North West Team, this time as a wildcard. And so we raced. My competitive edge took over and Tansy was pushed to her limits, but we won!! This was a really special win, as my Great Aunty Janine crewed me and had just recently lost her gorgeous pony who'd won the same class 11 years previously. Also due to an individual elimination, my points for the race counted and the North West Team flew into first place.

Then came Pony Club Champs. This year Pony Club Opened a

by Scarlett Chapple



new, advanced ride Elite Class of 80km, it's first PC Race. Obviously I wanted North Shropshire to be the first Club engraved on the Cup. But a huge ask on Tansy only 2 weeks after Cirencester. We was rested, massaged, fed and on the ride day, trotted up to the huge task sound. It was a gorgeous race, incredible scenery and fantastic people. It was totally honoured to have North Shropshire win the first ever Pony Club elite championships! Plans are already being made to run this class again in 2025 so fingers crossed.

In 2025 I hope to move up a group and achieve Fei 2sY and possibly compete abroad. I will also be bringing on a new horse, through the novice levels so allowing anyone who'd like to give endurance a go, to come along and ride with me. **If this is something you'd be interested in please email me on [oakdeneendurance@gmail.com](mailto:oakdeneendurance@gmail.com).** It's a fabulous sport and it's a wonderful fitter for horses. Anyone can compete and you do not need to have an elite athletic horse at the beginning. I have been endurance riding since I was 8 yrs old, it is my favourite discipline due to how fun it is and the camaraderie everybody displays. A sport I would love for more people to experience. Many thanks for reading, Scarlett Chapple XxX



## 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.

If anyone has facilities that they would be willing 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***

15<sup>th</sup> Dec '24