

NORTH SHROPSHIRE HUNT BRANCH

Newsletter November 2025

District Commissioner's Report

Another year is almost over and, as always it's been a successful one. In my opinion, success can be measured in many ways. The obvious ways are through test passes and competition results, but we have seen many other success stories throughout the year. I always delight in seeing our members achieve their own personal goals – a first rally off the lead rein, a jumping round without a refusal, rising to the trot for the first time, a huge smile from a nervous child – all are so rewarding and remind me why I enjoy my role so much. Some of the easily measured successes are that Gregor passed his A test which is an enormous achievement shared by only a handful of others nationally. Barney and Finlay were awarded their Gold YELA at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and so impressed the 'powers that be' they were invited to speak at the PC Conference in Edinburgh (on the same stage as HRH Princess Anne) in early November. They did a great job and I felt very proud sitting in the audience! Pony Club is not just about improving your riding and learning about your horse/pony's needs etc (although these are very important aspects of what we are about), but it is also about bringing together children whose paths wouldn't generally cross but share a common interest and love of all things equestrian, friendships are made that last well into adulthood. I would like to thank the committee, parents, grandparents, older members, friends, ex parents and ex members for their help and support throughout the year and we will endeavour to ensure that 2026 is full of opportunities for continued friendship, learning and fun.



Ann

Inter-branch Show Jumping Explained

This is a competition also known as the Triangular Show Jumping which often causes confusion

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 all Pony Club members from any branch or centre, you can have a go at any of the classes jumping cross poles up to 1m. 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, a café 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 2026

The branch is also 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 2026 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.

2026 Camp, Area Qualifier and Championship Dates

18+ Camp 27th to 29th June at Berriewood

For those members aged 18 years and over.

Senior Camp 20th to 24th July at Berriewood

For those members aged 10 years and over.

Junior Camp 25th to 27th July at Berriewood

For those members aged 10 years and under.

Winter Triathlon 3rd January Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre

National Quiz 1st March

Winter Triathlon Finals 22nd March Grantham

Mounted Games 9th May Market Bosworth

Horse And Pony Care 16th May Long Itchington.

Dressage 20th June at Solihull.

Mini Tetrathlon Championships 27th/28th June Breckenborough

Eventing 5th July at Offchurch Bury.

Show Jumping 11th July at Solihull Riding Club.

Tetrathlon 18th/19th July at Berriewood Farm.

Pony Club Championships 14th - 20th August at Offchurch Bury.

Regional Championships Tbc.

Rally Attendance Awards

As in previous years, we are recognising attendance at rallies by awarding bronze, silver and gold awards for significant rally attendance throughout the year (1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025). 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, Alice Arthan, Bay Brettell, George Brettell, Megan Buckley, Tot Tot Chilton, Ruby Edwards, Emily Greenhalgh, Sophie Handley, Gregor Montgomery, Portia Rudge & Millie Williams.



Silver Katie Ainsworth, Roly Beynon-Brown, Scarlett Beynon-Brown, Beatrice Britton, Florence Chilton, Jessica Handley, Ava Hudson, Lily Hudson, Grace Ravenscroft-Jones & Lucy Wagg.



Gold Eleanor Britton, Grace Griffiths-Stalker & Maddie Nicholls.

Well done!!

2025 Tests Results

A very well done to all our members who have passed their tests this year and thank you to all our coaches for helping our members achieve their goals. Well done everyone! See the website for full details of requirements for future tests or speak to Helen or Ann who will be able to advise you.

Test Passes

A Test

Gregor Montgomery



B Test Passes (Ride—now has full test)

Daisy Bethune and Immy Spencer-Blow



B Test Passes (Care)

Barney Ing and Immy Spencer-Blow



D Test Passes

Sidney Beynon Brown, Olivia Caswell-Wedderkop, Ferdie Corbet, Ava Hudson, Lily Hudson, and Martha Jones



E Test Passes

Eliza Burton Aldersey, Harper-Mae Bryant, Gwyn Griffiths-Stalker, Emmie Harrison, Harriet Hazell, Otilie Monro, Robert Richards, Clementine Thompson, and Millie Williams





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 the highest levels in Show Jumping, Horse and Pony Care, Eventing, Dressage, Arena Eventing, Endurance, Tetrathlon and Triathlon.

The year started well at the **Area Barrier Health Spring Festival** competition with Bess riding her two ponies in the **Arena Eventing** qualifier winning the **70cm** and qualifying on Harry (she was also 4th on Rio). Finlay and Gregor Montgomery both qualified for the **National Triathlon Championships** where Gregor finished 18th out of 30 and Finlay finished a fabulous 6th overall. Finlay was also part of the Area 7 team that came 2nd out of 15 area teams.

Moving on to the summer Area Competitions, we started with **Horse and Pony Care** where we fielded one mini and two senior teams. Everyone did really well with our **Mini Team** (Scarlett, Jess and Olivia) coming a brilliant 4th and the **Senior Teams** being placed 2nd and 3rd. Both senior teams were given wild cards to compete at Championships.

The **Area Dressage** competition at Solihull came next where we were well represented. Our **Open Team** (Rosie, Kitty and Immy) came 2nd and qualified with Rosie winning the competition. Our **Novice Team** (Mila, Iris, Isabella & Immy) came 3rd with both Iris and Mila finishing 4th in their arena's. Mila qualified for championships. The **80cm Team** (Lucy A, Isabella & Finley) came 7th with Isabella finishing 5th in her arena and qualifying, Finley finished 7th and qualified and Lucy A got a wild card to Championships. The **70cm Team** (Isabella, Finley, Mia & Jess) came 6th and qualified with Isabella in 2nd and Mia in 5th. Lucy A came 6th in the **70+cm** and qualified.

The **Area Show Jumping** competition was next, again at Solihull. In the **1m** class Immy was part of an Area Team that came 3rd and qualified. Immy and Iris were in a **90cm** Area Team that came 6th. Bess and Alice both qualified as individuals in the **80cm** class. In the **70cm** class, we fielded two teams, the Orange Team (Freddie,

Championships



Pixie, Wilfred and Octavia) and the Yellow Team (Isabella, Maisie, Phoebe and Bess) who came 2nd and qualified, Isabella was 5th individually and Finley was part of an Area Team that came 5th and qualified. Wilfred also qualified as an individual. Lucy A came 5th and qualified in the **70+cm** class.

The **Area Eventing** competition came next at Offchurch Bury. In the **1m** class, Bella SB was 2nd individually and qualified and was also part of the winning Area Team. Our **70cm Team** (Isabella, Maisie & Phoebe) finished 2nd and qualified with Isabella in 2nd, Maisie in 5th and Phoebe in 6th place in their arena's.

Last of the Summer Area competitions was **Tetrathlon** which was held at Berriewood (hosted by our Branch). Our **Open Boys Team** (Gregor, Euan and Finlay) qualified again with Euan coming 2nd and Gregor 3rd (Finlay had qualified in Area 5).

Pony Club Championships at Offchurch Bury spans a period of some 9 days with the **Tetrathlon** starting things off. Our **Open Boys** were victors again at PC Championships which was a brilliant result with Gregor finishing in 10th and Finlay hot on his heels in 11th. Daisy competed in the intermediate girls on a borrowed horse.

On Tuesday we saw Mila finishing just outside the rosettes in 11th in her arena in the **Novice Dressage**. Moving through the week, we saw our **Open Dressage Team** (Rosie, Kitty and Immy) compete, Mila competing in the **90cm Eventing** and Bella SB finishing 10th in her section in the **1m Eventing** competition. Immy jumped two lovely clear rounds in the **1m Area Team Show Jumping** competition and finished 8th in the **Elite** competition (120cm). Our **Horse and Pony Care Teams** both competed on the last day finishing a brilliant 3rd (Gregor, Kitty and Barney) and 9th (Lucy AB, Finlay and Immy) overall.

We then had a couple of weeks before the **Regional Championships** took place at Kelsall Hill at the end of August. They altered the timetable this year with Show Jumping and



Competitions and Championships Continued

Dressage happening on both Saturday and Sunday, with the Eventing as usual on the Monday. Day 1 saw our **80 Dressage** team in action with them all riding good tests. Isabella finished 8th in her arena.

The **70cm Show Jumpers** were also in action with Bess jumping a double clear to finish 16th out of 120! Lucy A finished in 2nd place in the **70cm+ Show Jumping** which was a great result. Bess and Alice both competed well in the **80cm Show Jumping** on the Sunday along with the **70 Dressage** riders. All rode good tests with Lucy A finishing 5th in the **70+ Dressage** class. Monday saw our **70cm Eventing** team in action. Everyone rode well with Maisie finishing 5th and Phoebe 7th in their respective sections.

At the same time as Regionals, Gregor was competing in the **110cm PC Eventing Championships** at Wellington International Event. He came a brilliant 5th also winning the award for the biggest climb up the leader board from the dressage phase.

To round off the summer holiday period, Scarlett Chapple took part in the Pony Club **Endurance** Championships on her new novice horse (Tansy, her top horse, was having to rest in order to compete for England). The mixed team that she was in won and she finished 4th individually.

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.

Achieving my Silver Young Equestrian Leaders Award (YELA)

by Lucy Adney

The Young Equestrian Leaders Award (YELA) is a scheme for young people aged between 13 and 25 who are keen to volunteer in the equestrian world. I completed my Bronze Award last year and I really enjoyed it so decided to carry on and work towards Silver!

The Silver Award entails 40 hours of volunteering in an equestrian setting. I did lots of volunteering at Pony Club events like score collecting at Triathlons, helping the coaches at rallies and also at British Dressage and One Day events. I also co-ordinated the refreshments for our Friendly Horse and Pony Care Competition, making sure I sold plenty of cakes to raise funds for our club.

After months of dedication and completing the assessment work book I was so pleased to achieve my Silver Award. It has given me the opportunity to see behind the scene at events, and satisfaction helping our younger members at rallies and junior camp. I have also gained confidence when communicating with dressage judges, stewards and competitors at events. I would really recommend YELA. It is not only fun but has given me a real sense of achievement. Now on to Gold!!



Junior Camp

by Millie Williams



I had a fabulous time at Junior Camp! It was my first one and I was really looking forward to it.

We learnt lots of new things in our group and I even started cantering over jumps on my pony, Jessie. Our instructor, Alice, was great fun and she helped me to improve my riding and be brave!

The competition on the last day was exciting. I had to learn my first ever dressage test which was very tricky! The show jumping was my favourite part! I jumped a clear round and won first place (even though I fell off when my pony did a huge jump!).

I particularly enjoyed making new friends from my ride and played with them at lunch time. The tuck shop was also a highlight too!

I would like to thank the Burton family for hosting us for the final year and Ann, Helen, Jenny and the instructors for all of their hard work (and their team of supporters behind the scenes).

I can't wait for junior camp next year
Millie x



Senior Camp

First Time at Senior Camp 2025

by Bay Brettell

My name is Bay, and it was my first year at senior camp. I was one of the youngest and was feeling nervous, but everyone was really nice and helped me. I made friends quickly with people I didn't know, and everyone included me.

The weather was amazing, and the sunshine made it perfect for riding. Jenny was my coach, and she made all the lessons fun. My favourite session was the water on the big cross-country course. It took some persuasion, from Jenny, to get my pony to go through the water jump, but Jenny made sure everyone had a go. I was really proud of my pony, she was amazing and I made loads of progress with my riding.

The routine took some getting used to, especially the bells. I had a great time with my line and all the fun games we did. Every evening there was a different activity for us to do, whether that was partying to the karaoke disco, calling out for bingo or the fun team games in our lines. It was full of fun.



Senior Camp

By Henry Hughes

One of the highlights of the year for many Pony Club members is Senior Camp ... and this year was no exception! I attended my first Senior camp when I was 10 years old so, at the age of 14, considered myself a seasoned camper and knew exactly what luxury items (such as fairy lights and additional tuck!) to take in with me to make our tent more homely! On the Monday morning we unloaded everything (including the kitchen sink!), settled our horses in and then cheerfully waved our parents goodbye before being given a briefing on our responsibilities towards our horses, other campers and the adult volunteers. Each day consisted of being woken at 7am by a bell that could be heard in Staffordshire, looking after our horses and tack, riding and then in the evening participating in team games and entertainment. Some of the highlights being Helen's Bingo and the disco where we discovered that some of our older members could break dance and were adept at the Worm (after being taught by Dean!)! As well as giving us the chance to spend a week with our horse and friends, camp also gives older members the opportunity to develop leadership qualities by helping younger members and (hopefully!) setting a good example. Younger members have the opportunity to become more independent whilst having people on hand ready to help if needed. All this is done whilst having fun and making some lifelong friends and I would thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone! A massive thank you goes to everyone who helped make Camp such a success again this year - it is impossible to mention everyone by name but particular thanks need to go to Ann, Helen, Rachel, Jayne, Fiona, Emma, Steve and Simon as well as all the coaches and the parents who came in to help with mealtimes. Also a huge thank you to Charlotte and Sue who kept us fed so well throughout the week - mealtimes were one of the highlights of the day! Looking forward to Senior Camp 2026 already!!





18+ Camp

by Jasmine Wheeler

I attended 18+ camp this year on my horse Dermot, or we attended half of it actually..

We started the weekend by arriving Friday evening to Berriewood Farm, settling our horses into their stables and setting up our tents/lorries.

We ate a fantastic dinner made for us in the RDA hut and sat chatting together until it was time to check on our horses and go to bed.

On Saturday we woke up without the blessed loud ringing of the camp bell to our own alarms, up in time to be down to the yard for first feed and muck out before breakfast.

After breakfast we tacked up in time for our lessons. Some of us had private lessons, others flatwork/jumping others grouped jumping/cross-country. I opted for a Flatwork with Poles private lesson and Group Show Jumping lesson with lunch in between. Both lessons were really great but Dermot particularly enjoyed his jumping lesson that day.

We then untacked, sorted the yard out and after everything was done, went back to the lorries and chilled until dinner.

After dinner we had an evening of entertainment in the form of a picture and word quiz in groups which was hilarious and went on until late.

Sunday should have been similar with lessons, lunch etc, but for me personally Dermot had other ideas! He had spent the night enjoying the straw in his stable a little too much (even with a very full delicious haynet) and had an allergic reaction which meant no riding for the day. We had lots of walks and stable visits instead to make sure he was ok.

While the others rode, I accompanied the instructors and groups down to the cross-country and helped with the show jumping!

It was really interesting to listen to comments made by the instructors from the ground and watch the riders put it into practise in real time!

Sunday afternoon we finished the weekend by packing everything up and having a small awards presentation where some rosettes and small trophies were given out. Overall it was a great weekend!! Lots of delicious food, time spent with our horses and sleeping!

Dressage

by Rosie Jones



On the 21st of June a number of member's headed off to Solihull riding club to compete in the dressage area qualifier. It was a very warm day, the sun was shining. I was in the Open team with Kitty and Immy. We all warmed up in the heat and waited for our time. The competition was on grass and the ground was quite hard and slippery. We all completed our tests, all stayed in the arena and finished feeling glad we had survived!! Well done to everyone who competed that day.

The results were in! The team came second which meant we had qualified for the Championships. I won the class and was surprised with a shiny cup and horse treats.

We then had to plan for the Championships. We were all on early in the day so had an early start to get to Offchurch Bury. Today was not quite as warm thank goodness. It was quite a walk to reach the dressage arenas winding our way past stables, show jumping warm up, with horses charging around. It was quite an intense atmosphere which showed in the reactions of our horses which found it rather challenging!!

Again we all survived, thank goodness, producing good tests on the day. Helen and Ann were on hand and a great support, thank you both, Rosie



Show Jumping

by Alice Arthan

Qualifying for the Pony Club Regional Championships at Kelsall was a real highlight of my year with my pony, Tilly.

It all began at the area qualifiers held at Solihull in June. The weather was incredibly hot, with the sun beating down all day, making it a real challenge for both ponies and riders. To add to the excitement, we experienced an unexpected delay en route when we had a tyre issue with the trailer. Thanks to Dad, we were able to get back on the road and arrived in time to get Tilly ready and focused. Despite the heat and the drama Tilly performed brilliantly and we were thrilled to come away with one clear round and a qualification for Regionals.

Competing at Kelsall was an amazing experience. Unfortunately, things didn't go to plan on the day and we were eliminated - which was disappointing but all part of the learning curve. Even though the result wasn't what we had hoped for, I am really proud of how far Tilly and I have come this season following her injury. The experience taught me a lot about resilience and staying positive no matter what happens.

I am really looking forward to next season and hope to come back even stronger!





Eventing

JCB EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

It had been a dream of mine since joining Pony Club to qualify for the JCB Eventing National Championships. So, after three years of fun and success at the PC Regional Champs, I was beyond excited to be heading down to Offchurch for the most exciting two days of eventing!

I've had my first season doing British Eventing this year, which has been brilliant, but the Pony Club atmosphere is unmatched and always enjoyable—no matter the result.

We travelled down on the Thursday afternoon, got Roe settled in, and set up camp before heading to the famous Champs party. It definitely did not disappoint! Penny (who was the most amazing support all week) and I had so much fun and partied the night away... almost forgetting that I was riding in the morning and should probably try to get some sleep!

We had to get up fairly early—especially to wash off all the stains that, you could bet your life, Roe had acquired on his hocks and knees overnight—before heading down to the dressage. After a great warm-up from Helen and a pep talk from Mummy, we were dancing down the centre line. Roe was foot-perfect, and I was very happy with our test, which left us in a respectable 5th place after dressage.

The great thing about eventing is that it's not just one round, one movement, or one minute. Every competition is filled with highs and lows—on board or on the ground. The accuracy and elegance of dressage, the power and athleticism of showjumping, and the speed and exhilaration of cross-country—mixed with the support and positive atmosphere—are what make Pony Club so amazing. It means you always have an enjoyable time, no matter the result.

The final two phases brought a true test of resilience and determination, which is what Pony Club is all about. It certainly tested mine, as things didn't quite go to plan—but they very rarely do with ponies! I don't know what I would have done without the support and wise words of Helen, Ann, and many amazing friends.

by Mila Wagner

Although it wasn't the outcome I wanted, many lessons were learned, and I had so many positives to take away. My first experience of the Pony Club Championships changed my mindset and riding for the better. I took away so many new skills and memories that boosted the remainder of my 2025 eventing season. I would like to say a huge thank you to Ann, Penny, and Helen + family. I'm so grateful for your ongoing support, passion, and dedication to creating memories that will last a lifetime.

If you're thinking of trying eventing, I urge you to have a go—you won't regret it!



Triathlons

A Triathlon has three phases.

Shoot/Beanbag

Running

Swimming

If you are under 8 years of age you throw a beanbag to target.

When you are 8 and over you shoot to target.

We love the triathlons and regularly take part. It's a very fun day!

Triathlons are open to ages from 3 years & even your parents can take part in the wrinkly class.

Preparing for the triathlons we would attend regular shoot practice with Rachel Montgomery. Rachel explains safety, commands how to get the sight right so you hit the target. Rachel also has the best selection of biscuits.

We are always running around at home. Sid and Roly will chase me with a worm or spider, so I've learnt to run away fast!

Swimming this is not our strongest phase, but we are working on it.

North Shropshire Triathlon
Sun 15th Feb '25

By Scarlett, Sid and Roly Beynon Brown

Our favourite phases....

Scarlett "I like the run it's my strongest phase. My motivation when I come out of the start is to catch the person ahead of me".

Sid "I like the raffle, cakes and Mum's picnic".

Roly " Beanbags this is my last year. Next year I'll be old enough to shoot".

Triathlons are fun, friendly, and great way to meet children from other branches. We all cheer each other on especially when legs have gone to jelly on the run and it's nice to see friends collecting a rosette when they are placed at prize giving.

We are looking forward to more triathlons and seeing lots of our friends taking part.



Tetrathlon

by Tom Greenhalgh

Hi, I'm Tom and I'm 8 years old. Although I haven't done much riding so far I have been doing the North Shropshire triathlons since I was 6 starting off as a non riding member of Pony Club.

In triathlon there is running (I run 1000 metres), swimming (as far as I can for 2 minutes) and bean bag throwing or pistol shooting if you are over 8 years. I thought the idea of shooting sounded great so I have just started and really like it and have been practising at Rachel Montgomery's and borrow the Pony Club's gun.

This year, I joined Pony Club as a riding member and in the Summer I rode my pony Jinny in my first tetrathlon and first cross country which was organised by our Pony Club at Berriewood. I enjoyed going round the cross country course and jumping over the jumps, even though I hurt my hand and had to ride one handed!

Everyone is put into a team at triathlons and tetrathlons so it isn't just about how well you do as an individual, your points all add up towards your team and you can win team prizes.

Triathlons and tetrathlons are fun action-packed day but there is still lots of time to play with your friends in between each phase and eat cakes from the Pony Club cake stand!



Rallies

by Ava and Lily Hudson



This was our first year of pony club rallies and we have loved them all. From flatwork, show jumping and riding position, we have learnt so much. It's been really hard for us to choose just one but overall, our favourite rally was the all day rally at Millenheath with the two coaches Jenny Wall and Jane Palmer. It was held at Millenhall Farm - in a beautiful field.

We were split in to two groups and we were with Jane. We started off warming up, riding in a large circle, changing directions and practising trot circles. Then we moved onto jumping. As we got more confident with the course, we added some more jumps. Before lunch we also did half an hour of pony care on equine behaviour. We all had a picnic lunch together.

After lunch we moved onto cross country, and, as the ponies were nice and warmed up, we started straight off in a box of poles on the floor followed by a canter around the big tree, coming back to the group as fast as we could go. We then had to jump some blocks before the next person could go. We did this like a relay race. Sally (my pony) and I went very fast as did my sister and Brandy. We loved it! We then moved onto a challenge of jumping blocks. Each time we then took away a block until only 2 blocks were left. This exercise taught us straightness and how to keep your leg on.

Lily and I are so thankful for such a great rally. We loved spending time with the other riders. Thank you Jane, Jenny and Pony club.

Pony Racing

by Octavia Jones



I started pony racing rallies at the start of the year after I watched my friend pony race at Haydock and decided to give it a try. I began to get very excited for my first race at Bangor-On-Dee Racecourse in September. It was fun doing the rallies with my South Shropshire Pony Club friends, we did one at Mick Mullineux's gallops under the watchful eye of Carrie Ford and then on to Bow House for more training around their canter track. At the rallies we taught some fitness exercises and then onto the ponies in our racing positions around the trotting rings. Then Carrie paired us up and sent us up the gallops for 4 furlongs and it was very fast, but I loved it.

I rode my new pony Fizzy McLeary who is an Irish Mare, 13h and grey roan. We bought her 3 months ago and she was very slow at first, but we managed to get her fit by cantering her up all the hills we could find and she definitely lived up to her name at Bangor-On-Dee as we came 2nd.

Wilfred Budgen rode Skye and came fourth. Our South Shropshire friends did really well as well, they had two wins, one 4th and one 5th. When the parents were leading our ponies around the paddock and we were standing in the middle, it was nerve wracking but as soon as we were on the track, the adults led us down to the start and the nerves went away.

We were all really looking forward to the next raceday at Warwick Racecourse, but it was cancelled because of the bad weather. In the Pony Club racing series you don't need a proper racing pony to race, so normally when you turn up there are lots of fluffy ponies and children having a go. It is really fun and easy to enter, so hope to see some of you there next time. We have had such a great year and many thanks to Ruth Hurley and Carrie Ford and the rest of the team for all the rallies and racedays that they have organised this year.



From NSH Pony Club to Aintree Foxhunter

by Huw Edwards



I joined the pony club when I was 5 and had a great time and made some good friends. I represented the PC in area teams, Games, Eventing, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon and even Dressage(I used to forget the test just before I went in}. It was all great experience. I rode lots of different sorts of ponies and did a lot of hunting.

The Foxhunter is run over the Grand National Fences but is only 2m 5f, shorter than the National. The 18 fences are between 1.37m(4ft 6") and 1.52m(5ft 6") some of the fences have a 1.83m (6ft)ditch in front and some have a ditch on the landing side and a drop. The horses can be either trained by Amateurs or Professionals but must be ridden by Amateurs, it is a very competitive race. The race is run around 30 mph and there are 29 to 30 runners.

It was my fourth ride in the race, I had been 11th, 7th and 5th previously, which was good experience going into the race. 10 am we have a course walk with a Jockey Coach who reminds us of the need for a steady start and offers advice on the course and rules. Then it is a long wait until 3pm when it is time to get into the owners colours and weigh out, lead is used to adjust my weight to 12 st. Gracchus de Balme is an outsider 33-1, Wille Mullins and Gordon Elliot trained horses are the favourites. My instructions from Joe the trainer are to jump out and go, to avoid trouble, and win. We were soon in front, the horse got in a good rhythm and enjoyed jumping the fences he had a high cruising speed, it was not until after the last that we were headed, but he is tough and still had petrol in the tank and ran onto win by 2 lengths, going away. It is every Amateur riders dream to win this race and I had done it. I punched the air as I passed the winning post. I couldn't speak when Alice Blunkett wanted to interview me for ITV Racing .

The new season is about to start, roll on 2026.



Young Equestrian Leaders Award

Well done to Finlay Montgomery and Barney Ing for achieving their YELA Gold Awards. Both boys had to volunteer for over 60 hours of with three Member Body Approved establishments over a minimum of 32 weeks. The Award culminates with a final project that can be anything as long as it benefits other people or members and showcases a wide range of skills !

If you are a member and 13 yrs or over you can register for the Bronze award for free, have a look at the Main Pony Club website.



A trip to the Royal Windsor Horse Show where Helen Elston was presented with the 30 Years Cubitt Bar Award and Jo Grandfield was awarded the 20 year Cubitt Award. Finlay Montgomery and Barney Ing were awarded their Gold YELA's.



After RWHS Finlay and Barney were invited to the Pony Club Conference to speak about their Gold experience.



Presenting HRH Princess Anne with a copy of the new The Manual of Horsemanship.



Gregor was 5th in the PC110 Eventing Championships at Wellington International Horse Trials.



Scarlett at the PC Endurance Champs, she came 4th on her new horse Azzy.



Sometimes it rained...



Easter Show Easter Bonnets



...sometimes it was sunny!



Making friends at Junior Camp.



Senior Camp!



Area Horse and Pony Care Competition

The Mini Team

by Olivia Caswell-Wedderkop

In January Scarlett Beynon Brown, Jessica Handley and I began our training with Jenny Wall. This was my third time competing in that competition. We went to Jenny's regularly and covered subjects such as Poisonous Plants, Hoof care, Tack, Rugs, Feeding and lots more. All the things that we have learned have been really helpful for looking after my pony and increasing my knowledge.

In preparation Jenny did lots of questions, also a few from last year's competition. The first time we competed as a team was at North Shropshire's friendly HP&C competition and we won! We worked together well as a team and had really positive comments made by the examiners.

We continued our training and at the end of every session we got given some homework to help with our progress.



On the day of the competition we all made our way to Long Itchington because North Warwickshire were hosting. It was a very hot day and there was a lot of discussion about whether or not to take our jumpers off because we were worried about

losing marks for our turnout! We got told what station we were going to go to and every ten minutes we changed round. We had different questions to answer like If you have a new pony how would you teach him where the water bucket is? And how do you measure a rug? (We found that one hard!) Once we had been to each station we finished and went back. Then it was the prize giving and we got fourth out of ten teams! It was a huge achievement! We scored 462 out of 500 and were 10 points behind the winners but 10 points ahead of the fifth place team.



Our team had such a good time doing the training and at the

competitions. We really appreciate the time and effort of the people who run the competitions and would also like to give a special mention to Jenny for everything she has done. Huge thank you to Jenny for giving up lots of her time to help us train and be so well prepared for both competitions. I'm so excited for next year's competition. It will be my last time competing in the mini section, over the last three years we have improved our scores and placing and I have my fingers crossed that we will qualify for the Championships.

A photograph of a smartphone screen showing a competition results app. The app displays a list of teams and their scores for various categories. The team 'North Warwickshire Blue' is highlighted in red, showing a total score of 462 and a place of 4th. Other teams listed include North Warwickshire Gold, Atherstone Fells, Area 7 Green, and Atherstone Dartmoors. The app also shows a 'Pony Care Competition' section with categories like Safety, Tack, Pony Handling, etc.

Team	Score	Place
31 North Warwickshire Blue	462	4th
32 North Warwickshire Gold	452	5th
38 Atherstone Fells	438	6th
37 Area 7 Green	417	7th
39 Atherstone Dartmoors	407	8th

Category	Score
Pony's Needs and Happiness	60
Safety	48
Tack	41
Pony Handling	40
Points of the Pony	45
Colours and markings	60
Disinfecting	47
Paddock	47
Rugs and Equipment	46
Total	462
Place	4th

H&P Care Competition
Feb 2025



Completing my B Test

By Immy Spencer-Blow

This summer I was fortunate enough to complete my Pony Club 'B Test'. The experience was both challenging and rewarding, and I came away with not only the badge but also a much deeper understanding of care and an awareness of public perception. This is a new section in the test which highlights the social responsibility which we all share as part of equestrianism.

The theory section was the part I had the least notice for- my coach Jenny told mummy to enter a coaching day but mummy accidentally entered the test day- and told me to get on with it! I only had a few weeks to prepare!



Revision had to be very focused and structured and covered everything from stable management and feeding to anatomy and shoeing. Although I had already picked up a lot of knowledge from my years in Pony Club, I realised how much more detail the B Test requires. At times the workload felt intense, but I found that the more I revised, the more confident I became.

For the ridden section, I borrowed my sister's horse, Jumble. Jumble went exceptionally well, which meant I could focus on demonstrating my riding and horsemanship including a lot of no stirrups work.

I had swap horses as part of the test, so

another lucky girl got Jumble whilst I rode her very uptight horse, but it gave me lots to talk to the examiner about. It's not just about how you ride it's also about how much you can understand about the horse you are sat on.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and although it was demanding at times, the sense of achievement at the end made it all worthwhile. The support I received from Jenny was also a reminder of how important good teaching and mentorship are.

For anyone considering working towards their B Test, I would strongly recommend it. It requires commitment and preparation, but the knowledge and confidence you gain make it an incredibly worthwhile step in your Pony Club journey.



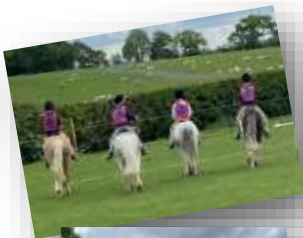
Mounted Games

by Issy and Grace Richards



Our first competition of the year was at Malpas and we had a junior and junior novice teams. It was our first time camping over with the ponies and my favourite bit was when it was dark we had hot chocolate and marshmallows. We loved doing the Karaoke before we went to bed. The next competition was at the three counties show where we did really well in our heat and made it into the B final. We camped over again and just before we went to bed the ponies escaped and it made our evening! There was also funny races where teams of adults did things like running in builders bags and couldn't get to the end. Our parents should have a go next year. Our last competition was in Worcestershire and we came second in our heat which pushed us into the A final where we came 3rd.

There was a clear round show jumping too so the ponies had a busy day. We had lots of fun with our friends this year and a big thanks to Steve who gave up so much of his time.



Badge Rallies

by Jenny Wall



Horse and pony care sessions are a fantastic way to enjoy Pony Club beyond the riding. They give you the chance to learn all about how to keep ponies healthy, comfortable, and happy, from grooming and feeding to spotting when something isn't quite right. These sessions are fun, hands-on, and give you the confidence to become a knowledgeable and responsible pony carer. Best of all, they're also a brilliant social opportunity – you get to spend time with your friends, work as a team, and make new friendships while learning together.

Next Spring/ Summer we are planning on putting on badge rallies to work towards the Blue Cross Equine Welfare achievement badges. This special badge shows that you have learned important skills in pony welfare and that you understand how to look after ponies to the highest standard. Earning it is a real achievement and something to be proud of, as it marks you out as a caring, committed rider who looks after their pony both in and out of the saddle. It's a wonderful way to celebrate your hard work and dedication to pony care.



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 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
14th Dec '25