



DC'S NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY

Dear All

Clear your diaries, the year ahead is going to be a busy one!

The rather daunting task of being at the helm is now firmly in my hands, but with a fantastic team around me, I am excited for the coming year. We have a few roles still to fill, so please read on to find out how you can get involved!

Apologies for the length of this email - there is a lot to cover....

1. [Camp Dates](#)
2. [Key Dates](#)
3. [Dressage Competition - Wickstead](#)
4. [Junior Show](#)
5. [Horse & Pony Care Teams](#)
6. [Teams](#)
7. [We need your help](#)
8. [How we are funded](#)
9. [Facebook & Instagram](#)
10. [Website](#)
11. [Rallies – how to use the page](#)
12. [Annual Pilgrimage to Badminton](#)
13. [Yummy Mummy – what is it & how to join in](#)
14. [2022 – What a Year!](#)

Camp Dates

Camp dates have been finalised. Please save the dates:

- Trotter and Mini Camp – 7th – 9th August 2023 ***New Venue – Lyford Stud***
- Junior Camp – 3rd – 6th August 2023 - Boomerang
- Senior Camp – 28th – 31st July 2023 – Rectory Farm

Application forms are being prepared and will be made available soon.

For more information on camps, visit the [website](#)

Key Dates – please add them to your diary - especially if you are keen to be in a team!

Key Dates	Date
A9 Quiz	05/03/2023
Areas - HPC	15/04/2023
A9 show	16/04/2023
OBHPC Junior Show	28/05/2023
Areas - SJ	04/06/2023
Regional - SJ	04/06/2023



Regional - Eventing	02/07/2023
Areas - Dr	09/07/2023
Regional - Dr	09/07/2023
Areas - Eventing	15/07/2023
Areas - Tet	22-23/7/23
Senior Camp	28-31/7/23
Junior Camp	3-6/8/23
Trotters & Mini Camp	7-9/8/23
Area Championships	11-19/8/23
Regional Championships	26-28/8/23
A9 show	10/09/2023

Dressage competition - Wickstead

Sadly we had to postpone today's friendly dressage competition due to the freezing temperatures. We have a new date – Sunday 5th March. All entries will be rolled forward. Entries will be via Horse Events and should be live again this coming week. Little jockeys can be led, and those of us that find it nearly impossible to remember a whole test can have the test called. This is a perfect, low pressure environment for younger riders or young horses to do a dressage test or two 😊.

OBHPC Junior Show – Sunday 28 May 2023

Please save the date for our annual Junior Show at Sower Hill, Nr Uffington. This is a really lovely day out, aimed at children aged 12 and under.

Horse & Pony Care (HPC) Teams – 15 April 2023

If you would like to be considered for a Horse and Pony Care team this year, please email [Emma Erskine Crum](mailto:emma.erskine@crum.co.uk).

The area competition will take place on Sunday 15 April 2023, run by the Wyre Forest branch. There are 3 sections: a mini team (2 members aged 10 or under on 1 Jan 23 and 1 aged 8 or under on 1 Jan 23); a junior competition (2 member aged 13 and 1 aged 11 or under on 1 Jan in the current year) and one for seniors (3 members aged 14-20, including 1 aged under 16 or under on 1 Jan 23, this team may also include 1 member between 20-25).

Six training sessions will be held in the run up to the area competition for minis and juniors (Sunday afternoons 4 -6pm, location to be confirmed, starting 25 February).

For more information, please visit the OBHPC branch [website](http://www.obhpc.co.uk)

Last year, the Old Berks qualified for the Pony Club Championships in all three divisions with the mini team finishing second. The children will tell you that they have had great fun and made great friends competing in Horse and Pony Care and their parents that they have



learnt an enormous amount which not only helps when they come to take their PC tests but gives them greater independence when looking after their own animals.

Teams

Would you like to represent the OBHPC in a team or as an individual? There are opportunities to join teams in Polo, Horse & Pony Care (HPC), Dressage, Tetrathlon, Show Jumping and Eventing. If you don't feel quite ready to be part of a team, with many disciplines you can enter as an individual and still be part of the OBHPC experience.

Regional team competitions take place for those competing in Dressage (Grassroots), SJ (teams at 70 & 80cm) and Eventing (teams at 70 & 80cm), with a regional championship at Rectory Farm at the end of August.

Area team competitions take place for those competing in Polo, Tet, HPC, Dressage (Novice & above), SJ (teams at 90-110cm) and Eventing (teams at 90-110cm) with PC Championships in mid-August.

Key Dates for team competitions are [here](#).

Team Training starts soon – keep an eye on the calendar. To be considered for a team, you will need to have attended 3 rallies, and team training.

Do you have any questions? Please email [Lisa Powell](#) and she will be happy to answer them!

We need your help!

Do you have IT, communication, marketing or event organisation skills? Can you spare a bit of time to help us? Pony Club branches are run entirely by volunteers, who don't get paid. Running camps, competitions, rallies, teams and tests takes a wide range of skills from lots of people, and you don't have to be horsey to help! Please help us by getting involved in any way that you can. The future of our branch depends on you. Become a part of our community and help shape it for the future.

We have the following roles that we would love to fill:

- New PC member co-ordinator
- Test co-ordinators at each level: D, D+, C, C+ & B
- Awards organiser
- Christmas Party organiser
- Summer Party organiser

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact [Lisa Smith](#), [Lisa Powell](#) or [Katherine Taylor](#)



How we are funded

As a branch, we receive just £25.50 of your £85.50 standard membership, with the rest going to run HQ. Virtually all of our share of your membership money is used to pay for our branch admin costs (software licences, bank & credit card charges, insurance, DBS checks, first aid supplies & training for volunteers).

We aim to run camps & rallies so that they break even. In 2022, we spent approx. £24k on running camps, and made a small loss.

If we want to spend money on anything, we have to raise it first – usually through running competitions. Last year we raised £4.5k. We spent this money on subsidising expensive rallies, subsidising camps, free or subsidised tests and paying instructors to attend team events. Please support our competitions both in terms of entries and in helping to run them – everything we raise goes back into supporting your children's activities at the OBHPC 😊.

Some may be surprised to hear that rally and camp organisers don't get paid or get a free place for their child. Please be kind to them and help them in any way you can – they, and their families give up their precious time for your benefit!

Facebook & Instagram Links

As a large branch, we are constantly looking at better ways to communicate with you and your children. We have several Facebook accounts and you can follow us on Instagram. Do you have the skills to help us improve how we communicate? If so, please get in touch with [Katherine](#), who would be delighted to hear from you!

If you don't already follow us, you can here:

Facebook:

[OBHPC Facebook](#) (our main FB page)

[OBHPC Swap & Sell](#) (OBHPC members only)

[OBHPC Chat](#) (OBHPC members only)

[Instagram](#)

Please do WhatsApp your videos and photos to Katherine so that we can share them on FB & Instagram, or share them on the OBHPC Chat

Website

We are in the process of refreshing the pages on our [Website](#), and HQ are working on upgrading the functionality over the coming year. Please bear with us whilst we do this.



Rallies – how to use the page

Please check regularly [here](#) for what's on. We are moving to a fortnightly email which will summarise What's On.

To see the detailed rally description, tick "Show Description". Area 9 events can be searched under the "Show me events from:" drop down.

Annual Pilgrimage to Badminton

Badminton 2023 will take place from Weds 3 – Mon 8 May 2023.

We have secured a few pitches at Badminton Horse Trials for our annual pilgrimage! These prices are heavily discounted for OBHPC members, and include a camping pitch (caravan/horse box or tent), 2 daily admission passes and 1 car pass. It is a great fun long weekend together where lifelong friendships are often formed.

For more information or to reserve a place, please email [Katherine](#). Places are very limited!

Yummy Mummy – what is it & how to join in

For all those Mum's who wish they could still be PC member, why not come and join our friendly group of Yummy Mummy's. We meet regularly for lessons, be it flatwork, gridwork, SJ or XC, and ride everything from a hairy cob, a seasoned hunter, or our rather muddy child's steed. Upcoming dates are below. Please contact [Lisa Smith](#) for more information.

1. 31st Jan Yummy Mummy from 10.30am Pole work (on ground) at Malt House, Steventon, OX13 6AP
2. 21st Feb Yummy Mummy from 10.30am Show Jumping at Sower Hill Stables, Uffington, SN7 7QH
3. 8th March Yummy Mummy from 10.30am Show Jumping at Wickstead Horseplay, Highworth, SN6 7PP
4. 21st March Yummy Mummy from 10.30am Show Jumping at Alden Farm, Upton OX11 9HS
5. 18th April Yummy Mummy from 10.30am Show Jumping at Sower Hill, Uffington, SN7 7QH
6. 12th May Yummy Mummy from 10.30am Cross Country Schooling at Elmwood Equestrian, OX18 2HW
7. 6th June Yummy Mummy from 10.30am Show Jumping and Arena XC at Wickstead Horseplay, Highworth, SN6 7PP
8. 28th June Yummy Mummy from 9.30am Show Jumping and Cross Country clinic
9. 10th July Yummy Mummy from 10.30 am Show Jumping at Sower Hill, Uffington, SN7 7QH



What a Year!

Our members had a fantastic year in 2022, with fun & success across multiple disciplines. Just a handful of the many highlights included:

- 5 camps for Trotters, Minis, Juniors, Seniors & Eventers
- Multiple rallies including the new format Super Rally plus lessons with high class instructors including GB team instructors
- Test success from E to B, and 5 new Step 1 coaches
- Competitions organised by the OBHPC including dressage & arena eventing Spring Festival qualifiers, the Junior Show and show jumping at Unicorn and Malthouse
- Polo – A growing squad from 3 yrs to 16 yrs old. Selection for Young British Talent match - Marcos P
- Triathlon wins at the PC Championships – Cici H
- Racing
 - 1st place in the 148 P-t-P Championship & P-t-P Racing League – Harry V
 - 1st place in the 138 P-t-P Racing League – Lucas M
 - 3rd place in the 138 points series – Freddie F
- Shetland Grand National success - Zara N, Alice DQA, Lucas M, Finn M
- Mini Major Championship qualification (London International) - Romiley W
- Search for a Star PC Championship qualification – Emily R
- Selection for Bishop Burton BE Youth Championships – Bert S, Oscar F & Bella S
- Team & individual qualifications for the Spring Festival, Regional & Area Championships in Horse & Pony Care, Polo, Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing
 - Intermediate Eventing Team Win at the PC Championships
 - Spring Festival Dressage Championship Win – Scarlett S
 - Horse & Pony Care – Mini Team 2nd at the PC Championships, all 3 teams qualified.
- Older/past members flying the flag in 2022:
 - Qualifying for Badminton Grass Roots 100cm Championship – Bella S
 - Winning the Badminton Grass Roots 90cm Championship – Siobhan H
 - Jack Church – qualified as a vet
 - Captain Harry Sayer – Household Cavalry (Troop Leader) – Platinum Jubilee celebrations Windsor
 - Issy I and Oscar F both represented England on pony teams at Blair.

There have been so many incredible successes in 2022 – well done to all of our wonderful members for creating lifelong memories to be proud of.

For those of you that have read to the end – thank you, you have the stamina to be a true PC mum!

Katherine