

PROFILE ON PAST PETERSFIELD PONY CLUB MEMBER

. LOTTIE BULLICK

My time with Petersfield Pony Club

I joined the Pony Club when I was 8 years old. My next door neighbour was the Petersfield Secretary so there was no question as to which Pony Club I would be joining! I'd just started riding and had inherited the family pony, Blossom. She was a speed machine and there weren't many Gymbkhana races she couldn't win!



I quickly outgrew Blossom, who went on loan to another Petersfield Pony Club family. It was then that I was chosen as the extremely lucky recipient of treasured Pony Club hero, Trusty. He'd been jumping at Pony Club Open level but needed a slower pace of life. Taking on a Pony Club megastar is not always as easy as it sounds. Everywhere we went, everyone knew Trusty! We started out in Mini Showjumping, but being used to serious jump-offs, Trusty would throw in some amazing turns and I would just fall off the side



We eventually got the hang of it (well, he worked out not to turn so sharply) and we joined the Mini Eventing team. This is where my Pony Club 'career' really started and I felt so proud to wear the team colours! I couldn't get Trusty in an outline but we always finished on our dressage score. Our Mini Eventing team were very successful!

One of my favourite memories of Trusty was attending our first Senior Camp at Tweseldown. I was in the same group as classmate Harry Haynes (now Jump Jockey) and we spent all week nagging our instructor to let us out on the gallops. She eventually gave in and we were let loose! Beating Harry on his pony in a straight line is probably one of my biggest Pony Club achievements and not something I let him forget in a hurry!

After finishing our time in Minis, Trusty went on loan to the same family who had Blossom and I got the ride on the lovely Langshott Talisman. 'Tally' had been based with Sarah Millis as one of her top ponies so knew a thing or two about dressage! He was so cheeky and could be impossible to tack up but his flying changes were incredible! At the time, Petersfield Pony Club were training with Andrew Gould so we had a lot of fun getting Tally to show off his tricks. This really cemented my love of dressage which I still have today. Tally and I competed at Open Area Dressage until he retired and I moved onto horses.

My first horse came in the form of Exfold Chuckles, swiftly followed by my second horse, Exfold Memories - 'Rio'. I was actually really lucky to have both mares at the same time but both were very green and I really had to work for results! They both hated dressage but thanks to my grounding with Tally, eventually accepted that it would be part of their education! I was quite busy with school but managed to take a few of my Pony Club Tests and spent many happy years at Pony Club Intermediate level. We were by no means Pony Club highflyers but we had lots of fun! Chuckles even won the Open Showjumping at the Petersfield Pony Club Show with Rio in third place!



Cont.d/



Past PPC members: Jessie Dane,
Lottie Bullick, Harry Dzenis,
Laura Gordon

Towards the end of my time in the Pony Club we were lured back onto the Open Dressage team by Veronica Morris. I borrowed my mum's horse Jazz, who hated dressage marginally less than my two mares. With Laura Gordon, Harry Dzenis and Jessie Dane we made it all the way to the Championships! I never told Veronica that I was only there for the amazing picnics she used to put on; mum and I were always put on 'bringing the cheese' duty which I think basically meant we couldn't be trusted with anything else

After finishing University, horses are still a huge part of my life. I now work as a Marketing Manager at BMW which means lots of flying back and forth to Munich to fund my horse hobby. I have been lucky enough to ride at the British Eventing National Championships at Gatcombe and even secure sponsorship.

It's really nice when I'm out competing that I always manage to see Laura Gordon or Harry Dzenis who were both a big part of my time in Petersfield Pony Club. I'm so glad that my time in the Pony Club was more about having fun and making friends than it was about winning. Something I'm sure is still alive and well at the Petersfield branch today.

