



Strathearn

December 2012

Strathearn Branch of the Pony Club Newsletter

From Jane Cepok - DC of Strathearn Pony Club

"Once again members of Strathearn Branch have covered themselves in glory taking part in Area Competitions in Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing, Tetrathlon and Polo. They are all to be congratulated on being great ambassadors for their Pony Club Branch and the results of their efforts are written elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Branch Games Teams had a very successful year, the Senior A team (Josh Ryder, Phoebe Arnot, Sophie O'Neil, Sam Ryder and Iona Wilson) in particular was the team to beat all Summer and they surpassed themselves by winning at the Area Competition and at the Zones which is the first time Strathearn has won both these events in the same year. This qualified the team to go to the Horse of the Year Show direct without having to go to the championships to qualify. At HOYS the team (including Hamish D'ath as the 6th member) came a very gallant second and made the whole of Scotland very proud.

We ran a very happy Grass Roots and Combined Training weekend for the younger members of the Branch and we were lucky to have two nice days weather-wise and a lot of fun was had by all who took part and those who helped to make the events go well.

Now that the clocks have changed and the nights are really dark and you are only able to ride at the weekends, your thoughts should be turning to taking part in training for Riding and Road Safety, C Tests, C+ Tests and B Tests. Training for all these tests are taking place now so check the website for details and come and join in. There are Rallies and Show Jumping Shows taking place at Gleneagles each month so make the most of these events to get your ponies out indoors while the ground conditions are so difficult. Attending rallies during these months gives you the opportunity to attend at least the three rallies that are needed for you to be considered for Area Teams in 2013.

Wishing you and your families and ponies a very happy Christmas."

Jane Cepok

Membership 2013

Enclosed with this newsletter are the membership forms for 2013. Please complete and return to Morag Brewster ASAP. Remember to include your instructor's fee and complete the gift aid section. It is VERY important that your membership is paid by the 31st January to be able to compete for the club at Interbranch competitions.

Interbranch Competitions and Championships

A Novice Competitor's View

Being in any team at Pony Club Interbranch is something I would strongly advise for any member, old or new. There's something about having three days in your summer calendar dedicated purely to competing with your friends that not only makes you excited about the prospect of competing successfully, but also makes you feel like you're at a big three day competition where you might bump into Zara Phillips or Mary King... or maybe that's just me. Yes, the relentless hours of clipping, grooming, brushing, preparing, last-minute-jodhpur-shopping, and of course training may seem daunting to any mere mortal, but I think that pony clubbers (the mums maybe the most) are born with a certain resolution that allows them to get up every morning before the sun, donning the skin tight trousers and strangling stocks before shuffling to the stables to meet equally bleary eyed ponies and begin the day. But enough of the negatives, for there are only few. Predominantly, Interbranch is a team competition, where you and your PC pals saddle up together to fight off Angus, Fife, West Perth and any other competitors who might threaten to steal your highly coveted place at Championships.

Show Jumping, Dressage and the One day Event. They all have their place at Interbranch. This year, Strathearn pulled out all the stops and presented two teams for each discipline in the Novice section. Show Jumping kicked the competition off with ponies of all heights taking part inc Ella England's petite grey (who still managed to leap over the jumps, even at National championships!) Strathearn did exceptionally well, concluding the first day with both **A and B Novice** teams qualifying for the championships! Next came dressage. This is slightly more refined, but our gallant girls went forward with the usual gusto and came back after day 2 with the **A-Team** going to Championships, and an individual qualification from Izzy O'Bryen in the B team. Finally, the last day of interbranch. Most of us were very tired, but there was still one element left to compete. The one day event. The show jumping was now in the main ring, the day was hot, and all the competitors were looking at the Auchlishie hill with hatred or defiance. Another nerve wracking day was done, and with it Interbranch 2012 was also completed. That day ended with the **A-Team**, coming 1st (yet again!) and lots of individual placings! Looking back on the events, I have reasoned that the only thing keeping us all from dropping down from tiredness were our team mates, (I'll be forever thankful!) and the elation we felt from doing so well. In fact, Strathearn competed so brilliantly, that during the awards ceremony an Angus official said it was unheard of for one team to win all three events!

At the **National Novice Championships** which were held in Cheshire the story was even more impressive with several successes. The **A team** was placed 3rd in SJ against **43 teams** who had qualified at Area competitions from all over Great Britain and Northern Ireland! We were also a very credible 7th in Eventing from same number.... I was even fortunate enough to be placed joint 3rd as an individual in Eventing. We all had a fabulous time...exhausting but truly memorable!

Phoebe Reilly

Below are listed all those who competed for Strathearn at Interbranch:

Area DRESSAGE:

Novice A: Jessica Zajda (3rd ind), Jessica England (1st ind), Phoebe Reilly (1st ind), Amy Kemp (3rd ind) **Team Finished 1st. Team Finished 14th at Champs**

Novice B: Issy O'Bryen (1st ind), Grace Reilly, Laura Landale, Lisa Garret

Intermediate: Nancy Rowan Hamilton (5th ind), Molly Crookshank, Alicia Mathieson, Tara Barge

Open: Annie Ramsay Stagg (6th ind), Sienna Elles (3rd ind), Hermione Drummond Moray, **Team finished 3rd**

Area Eventing

Novice A: Jessica England, Jessica Zajda (3rd ind), Phoebe Reilly (1st ind) and qualifies and Rachel Menzies (5th ind), **Team finished 1st, Team finished 7th at Champs**

Novice B: Amy Macaskill, Amber Flowerdew, Isabelle O'Bryen (6th ind) and Isabella England. **Team finished 5th**

Novice Individuals: Angus Rowan Hamilton (4th ind), Annie Ramsay Stagg and Catherine Allan

Intermediate: Hermione Drummond Moray, Alicia Mathieson (2nd ind.) **and qualifies**, Tara Barge and Anna Sloan. **Team finished 4th**

At **Championships** Alicia although not placed went clear round the enormous course and set her up for the Tetrathlon championship in Hartbury (see Tetrathlon section).

Open Individual: Sienna Elles

Area Show Jumping

Novice A: Jessica Zajda (1st ind), Angus Rowan-Hamilton (2nd ind), Jessica England and Phoebe Reilly. **Team finished 1st. Team finished 3rd at Champs**

Novice B: Rachel Menzies, Isabella England, Isabelle O'Bryen, Amber Flowerdew. **Team finished 2nd. Team not placed at champs.**

Intermediate: Nancy Rowan-Hamilton, Alicia Mathieson, Hermione Drummond Moray and Anna Sloan. **Team finished 6th.**

Intermediate Individual: Molly Crookshank

Open Individual: Sienna Elles

If you are interested in finding out more about competing at Interbranch, then please give Georgina a call. She will be more than happy to explain all about it, including the training sessions organised in the run up to the competition.



XMAS PARTY

The Xmas party will now be just for children and not ponies. We hope to have some fun games and party food with hopefully a visit from Santa! For the older ones...it's a chance to catch up with pals...but still bring a pressie wrapped because Santa will still want to see you too!!

**PLEASE BOOK IN IMMEDIATELY WITH LORNA ON
07740 986170**

It will only go ahead if sufficient numbers book in.

If everyone can bring some party food to lay on the table we will have quite a spread to enjoy! When you book in tell me what you plan to bring so we don't have 2000 sausage rolls! Also wrap a small (less than £5) gift labelled with your child's name for Santa to hand out.

Date: Friday 21st December

Time: 6pm-8pm

Place: Gleneagles upstairs

Cost: The cost of the present and some food!



Tetrathlon...What's it all about!

Pony Club Tetrathlon is one of the most challenging disciplines in Pony club as it does not only depend on horse riding skills, but athleticism in three other disciplines - Shooting, Swimming and Running.

Started initially to encourage boys to ride, it is now open to anyone in Pony Club. The only requirement by law is that you have to be 8 on the day of a competition to shoot. (You can train as early as you like!) Some clubs offer fun shooting skills competitions for under 8's - bean bag throws, soft targets etc.

It is certainly one of the most sociable of disciplines as it does encourage great support from family and friends, and the competitors are fiercely competitive - but only against themselves! Tetrathlon is all about Personal Bests - you cannot be the best at all disciplines, all of the time, and if you work at improving each discipline steadily you will soon achieve. Starting out by hitting the target with 1 shot out of 10, then hitting it with 2 shots the next time is a PB! Swimming 1 more metre in your allocated time is a PB! Completing your second run 2 seconds quicker than your first one is a PB! Competitors are wonderful at encouraging each other, and lifelong friendships are made at the training courses, team competitions, and winter triathlons.

At the moment we have only a handful of Strathearn competitors, but a training day on 24th November in the three non-riding disciplines will hopefully see this number rise.

This year Callum Fletcher and Alicia Mathieson both attended the 4 day residential Easter Training camp, and had instruction in shooting, fencing, swimming, running and fitness. Callum Fletcher, Alicia Mathieson, Fiona and Rebecca Thomson and Sarah Coutts represented the club very well at Area Interbranch Tetrathlon. All had great success, and a particular well done to Sarah who had literally just started tetrathlon when she came along and competed for Strathearn.

Callum and Alicia qualified for the Open Tetrathlon championships at Hartpury in August. Both did extremely well in all of the disciplines, and particularly riding clear over the 1 and 2 star XC course- quite an achievement for both. - parents have now mastered holding their breath for 8 mins 49 seconds (optimum time)!

Other competitions throughout the year are the four Winter Series Triathlons run by Scottish Tetrathlon, individual club competitions, Junior Regional Team competitions, Open Regional competitions, and a winter postal shoot. Arena XC training is also offered by Scottish Tetrathlon as well as shooting organised by the SPA (Scottish Pistol Association). There is a UK training course for Open competitors every Easter for top 20 ranked in UK. Callum attended this year, and hopes to do so again in 2013. Two training courses are run by Scottish Tetrathlon - a four day residential course for 12 yr and above at Easter, and a two day residential course for 8-12 yrs in October. Three of Strathearn children - Daisy Foniciello, Sarah Coutts and Poppy Baird attended the Oct 2012 course and had a ball!

Tetrathlon training can be done by attending local swimming clubs, shooting supervised at home (a target stuck onto a straw bale was good enough for us), running at school or in a

club, and of course, the riding training is available within the pony club. Strathearn occasionally organise some shooting training, and may do more in the future if there is enough interest.

If you wish any more information on any aspect of Tetrathlon from swim hints and guns, to running spikes and XC courses to train on, please contact Karen Fletcher on 07703167744 , or fletcherfamily@sol.co.uk. The website www.tetrathlon.org also gives a comprehensive guide to the heights, distances and times for the different age groups, and also details of any training and competitions.

Karen Fletcher

Grassroots Competition and Combined Training

Grassroots competition is a team competition for less experienced members of pony club. It gives the flavour of an "Interbranch" competition but in a very friendly low key environment. Teams of four compete in three disciplines.

Tack and turn out

Riding a Quadrille (all riding a dressage test together!)

Handy Pony

This year we had Poppy Baird, Daisy Foniciello, Rhona Crawford and Heather Halley representing Strathearn. The team was placed fourth by the end of the day!

Combined Training

"On a rare sunny day in July (well it did not rain), a team of four Strathearn girls, Laura and Iona Landale, Heather Halley, Rhona Crawford took part in the Combined Training competition. Organised kindly by Jane Cepok and Strathearn PC, we were in Randal Wilson's Field for the day. The competition consists of each rider competing in 2 disciplines, dressage and show jumping, with your dressage score being added to any show jumping faults. The excellent thing about the team competition is that there are 4 different heights, one for each team member so everyone can be involved.

Despite one rider falling off and one rider being eliminated, we still managed a fifth place result! As is the relaxed nature of the day, many teams suffered the same fate, but everyone came out smiling and with a new experience. The day was a very relaxed and friendly one, giving us all a good reason to have something to work towards during the holidays and also experience our first multi discipline event. The most important thing about the day is that it was fun with great teamanship and friendship."

Miranda Landale

Andrew Drummond Moray Cup

The Andrew Drummond Moray cup is an event in Strathearn Pony Club's calendar which began in the 1950s!!

So what is it and what who can join in?

It is a Cross Country competition open only to members of our club. It's intended to be a low key fun competition aimed at ALL members. This could be your first experience of XC jumping and the benefit of starting with this event is there is a conducted course walk (ie instructors talks you through the best way to jump each fence before you compete).

Classes are for small children on ponies, bigger children on ponies, small children on horses or bigger children on horses! Something for everyone! And if you would rather jump smaller than the height that is on the schedule for your age...then no problem with that too!

This year Flora Wilson won the Andrew Drummond Moray Cup, Nancy Rowan Hamilton won the Tsar cup, and Miles Westwood won the McKinnon Cup. Miles also won a new trophy for Best Boy kindly donated by Hazel England. Congratulations to them!

Next year when you see it on the forthcoming events....don't be shy....join in or call for more information.

Cup Day

Disappointingly Cup Day was cancelled for the second year in a row. This year was due to lack of entries. We think it may have been due to awful weather in run up or maybe members are not sure what is involved? So here is a brief description:

Cup day is an end of season competition (again only with Strathearn Club members) with lots of classes for you and your pony to enjoy. Show jumping, working hunter, handy pony, dressage and games are all catered for in this super day. There should be something for everybody! (Or better still it's a chance for you to have a bash at **all** the different classes for your age). We usually try to finish the competitions of the day with team jumping when you can gather up your friends for a last whirl round the jumps! At the end of the day (which should have been fun and a great chance to catch up with pony club pals) prizes are distributed, including the Tack and Turn out whose marks have been gathered in from previous rallies. Some of the trophies handed out date back to the early years of Strathearn Pony club (1960s!) and it's a thrill to get your name on a trophy that will be seen by member for years to come! So next year, try to book it into your diary and we can make it something to look forward to.

Strathearn Pony Club Branded Clothing

Nicky McDiarmid has a quantity of Strathearn pony club sweat shirts and jackets in all sizes. They make great Christmas presents, she is happy to post them out for £3 or drop them off in Crieff.

Senior Camp

Senior Camp was held at Scone Palace racecourse again this year and the sun shone throughout! During the hottest week of the year, 22 enthusiastic campers enjoyed a full programme of training, grooming, tack cleaning and other fun activities throughout the week. We had an Olympic theme this year and even found time to watch Usain Bolt win the 100m, and the British Showjumping team to win gold, just before we set off to Blue Sky for an evening of ropes and team tangles so kindly arranged for us by the Englands. The instructors were full of fun ideas for the lessons, and each day the ponies and campers learnt new skills - show jumping, cross country and some natty dressage moves. Each day began with "The Pyjama Patrol" where we tumbled out of bed, put on our wellies and went out to feed our ever-starving ponies in our pyjamas! Then it was full speed all day: sorting, cleaning, polishing, sweeping, and riding.... oh, and lots of chatting! When not hard at it in the saddle or in the stable yard, there were many other activities going on. We tried and failed to map read around Scone Castle ending up in standing in the Tay! We were slightly more successful with the Worming Badge, and we had some brilliant talks. Jenny, the Vet came and taught us how to bandage, and Kay told us all about her Gold medals in the Sydney 2000 Olympics. On the last night everyone hugely enjoyed a memorable late night campfire of jokes, marshmallows and *schmorrs* courtesy of Vall!

And then it was the end of another year at camp. Ponies were pleased to go home for a rest, and all the campers were looking forward to a lie-in on Friday morning!

We look forward to seeing everyone at camp again next year.

Kim Allan

Junior Camp

Despite the weather we all had a great time at junior camp at Millhills. I think I can honestly say that all the children tried something new and learnt many new skills. Thank-you very much to Guy and Georgina Rowan Hamilton for letting us use all their great facilities.

There were 20 children at the full camp and 5 at the 2 day minicamp. These numbers were only confirmed 12hrs before camp started, next year I recommend you all book in earlier. This helps the organisers ensure the children are in the correct groups to enable them to maximize their time at camp, being making new friends as well as discovering new things that they and their ponies can do.

This year's instructors were:-

Moira Beautyman, Annette Dick, Kirsty Mathieson, Curstaidh Robertson and Mandy Chin, a big thank-you to all of them!

Badges worked on were, "perfect paddock", "Flags of the equine nations", "poisonous plants", "riding road safety", "loading" and "mucking out". A helpful start to good horsemanship! Whereas the younger children at Mini camp achieved badges in "mini

road sense" and "mini poisonous plants". I don't think the plants were mini...just maybe the volume of information they were expected to retain!

Annabel and Iona Wilson and Jessica England ran a very fun lunchtime activity of pony club games on foot, which all the children loved. Also Heather Baker and Pru Kenard ran a working hunter competition on the last day of camp which was a great experience for all the children and hopefully prepared them well for future competition, especially wet ones!! A huge thank-you to them.

The following children worked exceptionally hard and achieved their C test. Isabella England, Gemma D'Ath, Daisy Cross, Flora Wilson, Lucy Fairbrother, Heather Halley, Matthew McDiarmid and Rob Alexander. The rest of the children were doing D+ or D test with the minicamp kids doing E test

Camp awards went to:-

Most improved rider:	Louisa Leckie
Kindness cup:	Flora Wilson
Sheila McGregor Dressage trophy:	Miles Westwood

I would like to thank my camp helpers Louise Westwood, Sally-Anne D'Ath and Gill Wilson, the dressage judges Pam McDiarmid and Shelia McGregor and Morna for all her help and patience for taking some of the children out on a lovely hack. Thanks also to Susie England and Scotbeef for providing the fabulous BBQ on the last day, a perfect end to the week.

Nicky McDiarmid

Test Training and Exams/Test Training Dates

There has been a continuous programme of training running throughout autumn for C+ and B test candidates organised by Kathryn Crookshank. If you are interested in future training then please do not hesitate to contact Kathryn by emailing kathyrncrookshank@hotmail.com or call 07770 946632.

The Strathearn Facebook Page

Starting up the Strathearn Facebook page was a little bit daunting to say the least! The plan was for the page to be somewhere where current members, ex-members and general horsey people could come and share stories. I was never expecting it to be as big a success as it has turned out to be.

The day we reached 20 friends was a big milestone, as was having our first set of photos up. We have now reached over 400 friends and the page is a hive of activity with people from all across the horsey world coming to it to share adverts, events and stories. When the games team were at HOYS in both 2011 and 2012 the page came alive! We were tagged in photos and statuses from the official pages of The Courier newspaper and HOYS themselves. People were visiting our page to keep up to date and also to send their congratulations to everyone involved. I even had a woman from Yorkshire get in touch via

Facebook to ask if any of the Strathearn games ponies were for sale as our team were famous!

Although it will never take over from the main website, our aim is for the Facebook page to let people know when the website has been updated. I think it's safe to say that anyone who has Facebook probably checks it more than they check the main Strathearn website; however, by providing links to our main website, and to other horsey pages, I'm hoping that people are finding it easier to navigate their way around all the information that is available.

As ever, please get in touch if you would like anything advertised/mentioned/posted on Facebook or the website (having a father and daughter combination between the two seems to work quite well!). Posting on either is completely free, and both Gary and I check our emails most days and are more than happy to help.

My aim for the next year or so is to expand the Facebook page further and to reach more people and organisations. I'd also love to have more photos up so please send me photos or tag our page in photos on your own page. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions or comments and I look forward to seeing you in the world of Facebook!

Steph Lyon

POLO

Despite the terrible weather and the fact that there was a lake in the middle of the Scone Polo Ground for most of the summer, there were many members who managed to have plenty of fun this year.

We started off in the Easter holidays with a mini two-day camp where some children had their first chance to have a go at polo. All ages took part from 7 to 17, and there were plenty of pony club ponies who had never seen a ball or stick before who were quite happily playing by the end of the camp. We were lucky enough to have some very experienced instructors, including Maggs Coward who has recently moved to our area and who will be available to coach and introduce younger members to the sport next year.

During the summer holidays we had a five day camp at St Andrews which was run by a committee made up of several clubs throughout Scotland including Strathearn. Despite the rain and wet ground we managed to get in a lot of training and even to play a few matches using mini-footballs rather than polo balls. During the rest of the summer we had several training days and a camp at Snaigow (with thanks to the Chelseas) on their wonderful new ground and another camp in Inverness which seemed to avoid nearly all the rain throughout the holidays. Although we didn't have any members travelling south to the qualifying Tournaments for the Championships this year, we are hoping to have a very competitive team for next year.

We hope to hold several rallies in the Easter holidays, so do look out on the website for dates/news. Polo is great fun and suitable for all ages and abilities and most ordinary ponies adapt really well to playing, so do come and give it a go!

Who's Who at Strathearn Pony Club Committee

Job Description	Name of Contact	Phone
District Commissioner	Jane Cepok	01764 681267 07860457119
Secretary	Morag Brewster	01350 727682
Treasurer	Louise Westwood	07803456310 01764 660342
New Member contact	Kim Allan	01259 781305
Eventing Interbranch Teams Polo	Georgina Rowan-Hamilton	07976633325
Show Jumping	TBC	
Tetrathlon	Fiona Mathieson Karen Fletcher	01383 851866 07703 167744
Mounted Games	Alistair Brewster	01350 727682
Website Co-ordinator	Gary Lyon	01382 562625 07743 308027
Newsletter	Lorna Reilly	07740986170
Exams/Tests	Kathryn Crookshank	07770946632
Pony Club Branded Clothes	Nicky McDiarmid	07734486960
Senior Camp	Kim Allan	01259 781305
Facebook co-ordinator	Stephanie Lyon	07525856436
Committee members	Amanda Barge Iona Drummond Moray Katie Cepok Janice Sloan James England Val Smith	

Dates for your diary

****Xmas Party 21st December - see inside for details****

Winter Rallies:

We have been running Friday Night Winter Rallies at Gleneagles this year and they will continue with the same format into next year - one hour riding and one hour stable management, with lots to eat and drink in between! We will be working towards the different tests, D, D+, C, C+ and B, so please come along and have fun learning whilst it's cold and dark outside! Please book in with Kim Allan (phone or text) 07760352178 and tell me which test you are working towards. The rallies will cost £15.00 each.

- **Friday January 11th 2013; Friday February 8th 2013; Friday March 15th 2013**

Rally for under 10s

At Westerton on **December 30th** with Diana Zajda from 10.30 am.
Please book in with Louise Westwood

Friday Night Show Jumping:

Run by our branch so if you can't compete why don't you pop along to help?
At Gleneagles and starts at 6pm with Clear Round and then four competitive Classes
No need to book...just turn up and pay for classes you want. See website for schedule

- **Friday 28th December; Friday 22nd February; Friday 22nd March**

The competition on the 28th December will also have a **Dengie Qualifier** which will be the last class of the evening

Sprot Cup...pony club Show jumping competition run by Fife Hunt.

This competition is mainly for individuals (although there is a pairs class) jumping for points for their club. The more Strathearn members enter the better chance we have of winning the cup! Have a look at the schedule on Fife Hunt website for more info.

- **Saturday 5th Jan 2013**- Starting at 9.00am
- At Scottish National Equestrian Centre (Oatridge)
- ENTRIES CLOSE :3RD JAN
- Open to all Pony Club members and associates,

Team Show Jumping: please keep eye on web for whom to contact re team Showjumping.

- **Saturday February 9th 2013**
- Linlithgow and Stirlingshire pony club
- At Scottish National Equestrian Centre (Oatridge)

Please remember to check web page and facebook for updates.