

SUFFOLK PONY CLUB

FUN • FRIENDSHIP • HORSEMANSHIP • SPORT



2024 SUFFOLK PONY CLUB MEMBER PACK

branches.pcuk.org/suffolk



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Welcome to Suffolk Pony Club (SPC)

The Suffolk Branch of the Pony Club (SPC) is based at King's Meadow within the beautiful surroundings of the National Trust's Ickworth Park Estate, near Bury St Edmunds. We have more than 100 enthusiastic, friendly and capable members, all keen to enjoy their time on horseback, learn new skills and make new friends.

Our qualified coaches mould their lessons around their group riders' capabilities, ensuring that everyone benefits from their teaching and learns in a safe and positive environment. Coaches are also available to parents/carers for feedback and ideas on developing their child's riding skills.

Branch activities include working rallies (during the summer and winter), Pony Club Camps, efficiency tests, achievement badges, team training and social events.

Those members keen to compete for the branch can put themselves forward for selection in several categories, including team showjumping, dressage, eventing, tetrathlon, mounted games and horse/pony care quizzes.

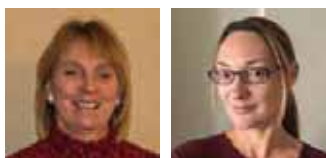
Pony Club is a wholly voluntary organisation and all branches are entirely dependent on volunteers – there are no paid members of staff at all, except the coaches. All members of Suffolk Pony Club and their families must be prepared to help look after our resources and to assist with the activities run for the branch's benefit. Your support is essential with administration and practical tasks, including running open events and maintaining our cross-country course. The more you can give back to the branch, the more we can offer our young riders.

Our activities are managed by a number of Committees made up of members' parents. Health and safety is a priority, so there are some important rules and regulations associated with equipment and venues. A measure of discipline is also applied to issues such as dress, manners and punctuality to encourage members to develop responsibility and to secure a modicum of smooth running. The objective, nevertheless, is to enjoy ourselves and to make sure that our members have fun.

Above all, it is important that you understand that Suffolk Pony Club is there for you. If you are feeling lost, then please ask for help. Every one of us has had to learn the ropes, and with so much going on we know that things can seem confusing. Simply shouting across to the people in the next trailer can solve most problems!

Suffolk Pony Club is yours for you to shape as you wish. Your District Commissioners, Committees and fellow members are all there to help you and to help each other. We hope that you will help to make it what you want it to be.

Jane Crawford & Rachel Fitton
Joint District Commissioners



Aims of The Pony Club

The Pony Club was founded in 1929 and has more than 100,000 members (aged up to 25) worldwide. Its aims are:

- to encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding
- to provide instruction in riding and horsemanship
- to instil in members the proper care of their animals
- to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline.



Membership



Children may be enrolled in the Pony Club at any time of the year if membership numbers permit it. Pony Club Branch Membership is open to **anyone up to the age of 25**. There's no minimum age, although the rider needs to be able to sit well on a pony and maintain focus for the duration of the activity/instruction. Members should have access to a horse or pony, by ownership or loan, and have the means to transport the horse or pony to and from rallies and events.

Ongoing Pony Club membership is secured by an **annual subscription** paid for each child, but families with three or more children are eligible for a family subscription. The annual subscription for 2024 is £86 for each Riding Member and £41 for each Non-Riding Member. Family Membership (where there are three or more Members in one family) is also available. NB Pony Club family membership does NOT include the adults... it is just the children aged up to 25 years.

Membership packs

On joining or membership renewal, members will receive direct from Pony Club an information pack, a membership card, insurance details and a handy folder in which to keep all Pony Club documents. You will also be emailed separately your SPC Membership Pack.



SPC windscreen stickers

If you would like a SPC windscreen sticker to give you easy access to King's Meadow, please see Susanne White. The sticker should be kept in the windscreen of your horsebox or towing vehicle to enable you to gain trouble-free access to Ickworth Park for Pony Club events ONLY. **NB If you wish to access any other part of Ickworth Park you MUST purchase admission.**

Our National Trust partner

We are grateful to the National Trust for continuing to support our activities at King's Meadow. There are a number of rules we need to abide by to ensure a continued trouble-free relationship.

1. **If you are a National Trust member, please show your National Trust membership card at the kiosk every time you enter Ickworth Park.** Each time your card is scanned, Ickworth Park receives a fee from National Trust Headquarters.
2. **Please abide by all speed restrictions** for the safety of Park visitors and animals, as well as your own safety. Special care should be taken close to parked vehicles and on approaching King's Meadow down the hill through the high hedges.
3. Please **drive carefully through the Park. Mind the hedges and take particular care when turning to avoid damaging markers and bollards.** If you cause damage, please report it immediately.
4. Please **keep dogs on short leads at all times, even around the vehicle parking areas.** If you can't comply, please leave your dog at home.
5. **Please clear up after your horse/pony in the parking areas. Take home any hay/straw and clear up droppings.** The lorry park should look clean and tidy after every rally.

Gift Aid

We are very grateful to those who sign the **Gift Aid Declaration** at the foot of Renewal Forms – it helps Pony Club to keep subscriptions down.

Subscriptions to SPC include the following additional benefits:

1. **Third party personal liability insurance.**
2. **Discretionary hunting tickets** at a cost of £10 per day.
3. **Discounted cross-country schooling** in Ickworth Park. Passes giving authorised access to the cross-country course cost £15 to SPC members. You must buy a



pass for each rider. If one rider rides two ponies, then two passes are required. Please note that the **discounted price is for the MEMBER ONLY**, not their parents,



friends, relatives, etc. Passes are available through Horse Events. They must be presented at the Park's Entry Kiosk. Vehicles must park sensibly without damage to the ground and without blocking another visiting vehicle. On no account should any vehicle be driven across the course unless in an emergency. Members must not ride in Ickworth Park itself. **If you are a National Trust member, please remember to scan your card at the kiosk on entry to Ickworth Park. The Park receives money from National Trust Headquarters for every visiting member.**

Pony Club merchandise

The Pony Club sells merchandise through <https://www.wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk>. SPC has a shop on the Wainwright website... look under Pony Clubs Clothing & Sundries.

Membership rules

The rules governing membership are as follows:

1. Members can only **belong to one branch** of the Pony Club.
2. **Pony Club insurance cover will terminate** if the subscription is not paid by the renewal date.
3. **If members show insufficient interest in their branch and do not support branch activities, they may be asked to resign.**
4. A **request for a transfer** to another branch can be made using the online transfer form. It will be sent to the Area DC, who will contact both the branches/centres involved to discuss the transfer. No member may transfer more than once in any 3-year period. This rule shall not apply where the transfer results directly from a permanent change of residence into the district of the Branch to which the member wishes to transfer. Individual Sports Committees shall have the power to establish rules in relation to the eligibility of members who have transferred to compete in that sport.

Visit the main Pony Club website and download the current Pony



Club Handbook for full details.

Joining SPC and booking events

Membership is managed through Pony Club

Headquarters. Please visit <https://pages.pcuk.org/join> for full details.

Event bookings are generally managed through Horse Events (<https://www.horse-events.co.uk>). This includes all rallies, test training, badge training, Pony Club camp, social events, etc., as well as Open events.

Pony Club and SPC

The Pony Club is an international **voluntary youth organisation** for young people and now has members in 27 countries. There are more than 300 branches in the UK, each covering a specific geographical area. Branches are grouped into 19 areas (we are in Area 8), each overseen by an Area Representative who answers to the central Pony Club Council. The central Pony Club Office is at Lowlands Equestrian Centre, Warwick. A team of permanent staff supervised by the Council manages it.

A District Commissioner(s) and a Committee, which includes a Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer, and representatives of all aspects of the Pony Club, run the SPC branch. A team of parents looks after social activities and competitive events, and updates the website. All these people give their time voluntarily.



Volunteer Committee for 2024

District Commissioners

Jane Crawford – 07813 281206
jcrawf62@hotmail.com

Rachel Fitton – Westley 07711 801702
rachel.fitton@tpic.org.uk

Assistant District Commissioner

Position Vacant

Secretary & Sponsorship

Leanne Livall – Hargrave 07500 055414
leanne@selwood.com

Treasurer & Horse Events Queries

Judith Esterhuizen – Bury St Edmunds 01284 723897 or 07789 711800
SPCtreasurer@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary

Fiona Cotton – Bury St Edmunds 07876 277323
fiona@happyequine.uk

Head Coach

Clare Pettitt – Rickinghall 01359 251567 or 07770



644750

clare.pettitt@btconnect.com

Dressage Team Lead

Becky Paxton – 07484 125192
becky.paxton@babraham.co.uk

Showjumping Team Lead

Sarah Monksfield – 07769 692952
samonk2012@gmail.com

Eventing Team Lead

Alison Barber – Stanton 07860 183158
alishawbarber@hotmail.com

Tetrathlon Team Lead

Christie Eaton-Evans – 07971 306454
christieeatonevans@hotmail.co.uk

Endurance Riding Team Lead

Tom Eaton-Evans – tomeatonevans@hotmail.co.uk

Gosling Cup Team Leads

Clare Pettitt – Rickinghall 01359 251567 or 07770 644750
clare.pettitt@btconnect.com
Jane Crawford – 07813 281206 jcrawf62@hotmail.com

Horse & Pony Care Quiz

Judith Esterhuizen – Bury St Edmunds 01284 723897 or 07789 711800
SPCtreasurer@hotmail.co.uk

Clare Pettitt – Rickinghall 01359 251567 or 07770 644750
clare.pettitt@btconnect.com

Tests

Rachel Fitton – Westley 07711 801702
rachel.fitton@tpic.org.uk

Mini-achievement Badges

Susanne White – Hawstead 01284 388166 or 07887 591853
susanne@pamplin.me.uk

Main Achievement Badges

Position vacant

Schooling Passes

Jane Crawford – 07813 281206
jcrawf62@hotmail.com

Susanne White – Hawstead 01284 388166 or 07887 591853
susanne@pamplin.me.uk

Health & Safety & Ickworth Park Rally Coordinator

Susanne White – Hawstead 01284 388166 or 07887 591853

susanne@pamplin.me.uk

Winter Rallies

Rachel Fitton – Westley 07711 801702
rachel.fitton@tpic.org.uk

Hunting

Tina Hutchinson – Great Welnetham 07810 030560
christinahutchinson@live.co.uk

Pony Club Camp

Susanne White – Hawstead 01284 388166 or 07887 591853
susanne@pamplin.me.uk



Child Protection Officer/Safeguarding

Alison Barber – Stanton 07860 183158
alishawbarber@hotmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Lynn Mulhern – 07817 241687
lynnmulhern123@gmail.com

SPC Merchandise

Position vacant

Website Manager

Frances Browne – 01787 280293
frances.browne3@gmail.com

Finance and income

The Pony Club is a charity and seeks only to cover its costs. Branch income is derived largely from charges for events and sponsorship, and a small proportion from membership fees.

The branch committee manages club finances to benefit all members. Fundraising ideas/help and sponsorship and donations are always very much appreciated.

At SPC we have the additional responsibility of cross-country course improvement and maintenance. We pay a course builder to ensure the safety of the course and to renovate or replace jumps, and to be available for hunter trials and one-day events. We also maintain a selection of showjumps and mounted games equipment, as well as walkie-talkies, caravans and much more besides.



Information and news sources

Many of the year's activities are regularly planned, but others range from the highly organised to the impromptu one-off. As well as regular emails, we use a **closed Facebook page** (www.facebook.com/groups/153107451706485) to inform members of upcoming events, competition results and news in general. You are most welcome to contribute any items of interest to members or to advertise tack, services or ponies for sale or sought.

Social media policy

There is no doubt that social media and the use of electronic communication can bring substantial benefit to both individuals and an organisation. The internet and utilising social media provide an opportunity to promote our activities and allow members and associates to communicate and share ideas. However, misuse of social media can damage the reputation of an organisation,

and where an organisation is involved in coaching minors, there are child protection and welfare issues to consider. Due to the potential problems caused by negative comments and/or the bullying and harassment of members, we consider it necessary to have a members and associates code of conduct.

As a member or associate, you should be mindful to **use electronic media at all times responsibly and respectfully to others**. As members' online comments and postings can impact on SPC and cause unfair upset to individuals, we have adopted the following guidelines that members must observe when participating in social networking sites and/or engaging in other forms of internet and electronic device use, including texting and email.

It shall be considered a breach of acceptable member conduct to post on any public or private website or any other electronic or print communication format (including texting and email) any of the following:

- any material that could be considered threatening, offensive, upsetting, bullying or illegal (between members or associates of SPC)
- any disparaging, discriminatory or harassing information concerning any member, coach, volunteer or other person associated with SPC (SPC's policies prohibiting harassment apply online as well as offline)
- anything that may harm the goodwill or reputation of SPC or defamatory comments about SPC and its members/associates
- any confidential information or intellectual property of SPC obtained during your membership, including information relating to finances, development, marketing, members/associates, operational methods, plans and policies
- any private information relating to a member, coach, volunteer or other person associated with SPC.

The overriding principle for members and associates should be **'do not post or send anything that you would not wish to read about or receive yourself.'** Members who violate SPC's Social Networking Policy may be subject to appropriate action from the Committee.

For any further information or advice, please contact our Child Protection Officer.

Codes of conduct

As a reminder, Pony Club publishes a series of Codes of Conduct which are summaries of the policies that apply to members and parents/guardians.

As an organisation, SPC believes in showing respect to everyone and will not tolerate bullying or any form of abuse towards another individual. If we are made aware of any such behaviour (either at Pony Club events or in other forms, such as via online Pony Club social media groups), we will investigate and take appropriate action. Use the following link (<https://pcuk.org/join/info-for-parents>) for full details of the national Pony Club policies.

- **Role of Members**
- **Role of Parents/Guardians**

Volunteering for the branch

SPC is run by volunteers. As such, we need every member's family to take their fair share of the responsibility of running the branch. **Please make yourself available on the many occasions we ask for help.**

- Help **setting up for events**, including stringing, signage, moving trailers, putting out and taking down showjumps, etc.
- Help **running events**, including jump judges, scorers, arena stewards, dressage judges, catering team, etc.
- Help **putting up the tents and gazebos** for Camp and events
- Help with **SPC Camp**, including camp mums and dads, help in the kitchens, toilet cleaning, help accompanying trips out, stable helpers, etc.
- Help **organising rallies**, including generally keeping your area tidy, putting up/taking down ride markers, putting up/taking down lead rein pens, assisting coaches with setting up/putting away, etc.
- Help **opening and closing King's Meadow**, including raking leaves, weeding water jumps, tidying the barn, moving trailers, cleaning toilets, etc.
- Help **keeping our cross-country course safe**, including weekly jump checks and general maintenance throughout the year.



If we all pull together, we can continue to offer such a wide variety of events for members.

Our rally/training venues

Wherever we meet, the same basic rules apply.

- **Respect boundaries.**
- **Close gates.**
- **Park as instructed and with consideration for others.**
- **Take home any debris...** this might include the hair shed by moulting ponies groomed outside boxes, mud/stones picked out from hooves, droppings, all traces of hay or other feed and bedding spilled around ramps.



- **Leave the grass/ground around your vehicle spotless.**
- If **dogs** are permitted, keep them on short leads at all times.

Please treat all venues with respect, as if they were your yard/field being used.

King's Meadow, Ickworth Park

Most spring, summer and autumn SPC activities take place at King's Meadow, Ickworth Park (IP29 5QE) in Horringer, outside Bury St Edmunds. It is leased from the National Trust and, like any other venue we might use, must be left in perfect condition after Pony Club events.

As a National Trust property, **dogs must be kept on short (non-extending) leads at all times.** Please also read 'Our National Trust partner' from earlier in the pack.

There is **water** available from a tap situated by the fence near the storage barn. **Lavatories** are provided too, and these can be found next to the storage barn. Please treat them with respect, leave them clean and tidy, and report any problems to a Committee member. We always have spare toilet roll, so please don't leave it to the next user to sort out more paper!

Refreshments are sometimes on sale during rallies and definitely at major events.

The National Trust owns Ickworth Park. It is open to the public and special care needs to be taken when entering and driving through.

If you and your family are National Trust members, please remember to have your NT membership card

scanned at the kiosk on the way in. Every visitor scanned into Ickworth Park means that the Park itself receives extra money from NT Headquarters.

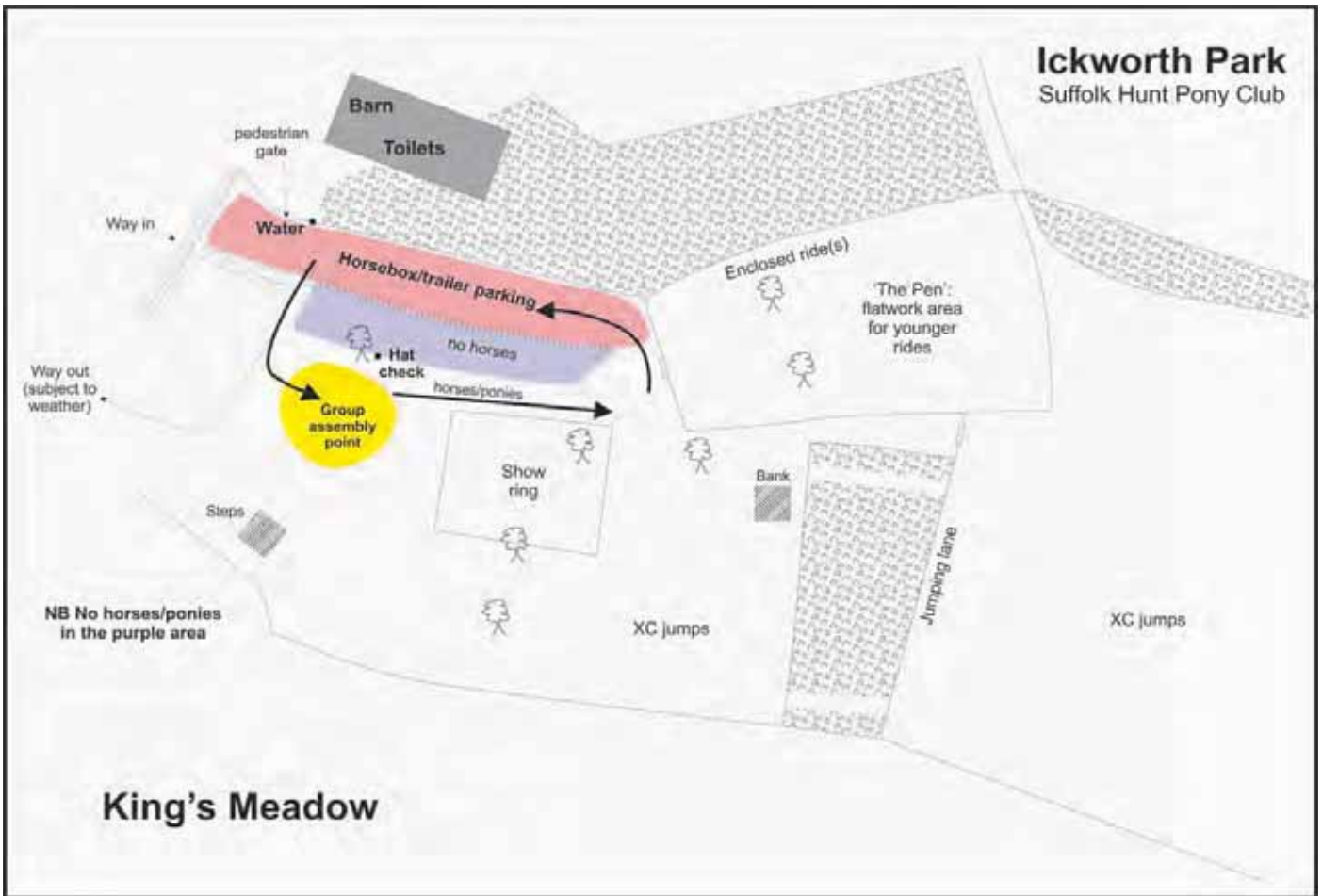
There are **speed restrictions** throughout the Park; please keep well within them. There is a hazardous section of road with **restricted visibility** on the hill between the farm turning and King's Meadow. Please take extra care.

Please **display your Pony Club branch sticker** on the vehicle windscreen to gain access to Ickworth Park for rallies. Make sure you **present yourself at the Entry Kiosk** unless the attendant spots the sticker and waves you through.

If you enter a competition held in the Park, you will receive an Entry Pass and you should have this ready to show. While we do our best to liaise with the National Trust to minimise entry waiting times, **never overtake queuing vehicles for events unless an official waves you through. If it is busy, you will simply need to wait for your turn.**

Access to King's Meadow is via the gate at the top of the hill. This gate should be used to drive **into** the field only (except for organisers needing to drive back to the barn).





All horseboxes and trailers should drive **out** of the field using the gate at the bottom of the hill (it has a much easier turn out) unless directed otherwise (it may be that on very wet days, if the hill becomes very muddy/slippery, we will use the top gate as an exit). Please follow any direction boards and keep an eye on emails ahead of rallies

Parking at King's Meadow depends on the ground conditions. On most occasions, parking is in the lorry park at the top of the field. When the grass is very wet or the ground is particularly soft, vehicles will be directed to park facing down the hill to minimise the likelihood of getting stuck. On busy event days, lorries and trailers are parked in separate areas.

Other venues

We hold occasional shows, some team training and all

the winter rallies at other local venues. Some are private and others are commercial yards. Details are given on the event booking forms. A number of information leaflets containing directions to these venues are available on our Facebook page. It is of paramount importance that you ensure you clear up around your parked vehicle(s) (remove all droppings, hay, rubbish, etc.) so that afterwards there is no sign of you ever having been there.

Pony Club activities

Regular branch activities include working rallies, camps, efficiency tests, achievement badges and team training. Inter-branch team competitions are held in eventing, tetrathlon, showjumping, dressage, mounted games and quizzes (in horse and pony care). In the winter, two Hunt Meets are held specially for Pony Club members and accompanying adults.

The correct dress for all Pony Club events and the major rules governing ponies and tack are given under Tack and turnout below. Further information is available in the Pony Club Handbook, or appropriate rulebook.

Please note that **all Pony Club activities are voluntary and no child will be pushed to do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.** Coaches and organisers are there to help





children to build their confidence and will gently encourage them to progress at their own pace.

Working rallies

Dates on which rallies will take place are advertised to members through Horse Events, email and our Facebook page. Members have plenty of opportunities to book in before the deadline.

All bookings and requests for payment are handled through our Horse Events account. Payment must be made on booking. A fee is requested for each rally to defray the cost of hiring venues and coaches, and maintaining equipment.

It's really helpful if you can book into rallies as early as possible so that our rally organiser can assess the number of groups, seek coaches and sort out paperwork.

NOTE: If you do need to withdraw from a rally after the booking deadline has passed, there will be no refund unless we have someone on a waiting list who can take your place at your ability level.

Please let the rally organiser know as soon as possible so that we can try to help you. Please do not organise your own replacement.



Assigning riders to groups

Rider/pony information is taken from member's booking in details, coach reports and observations to place riders in suitable ride groups. Equine welfare and size will be taken into consideration too.

We do try and make sure friendship groups are acknowledged, so please make these known to us. The caveat is that the ride groups must work for everyone registered for the rally. Keeping friends together is our goal, but it may not always be possible every time.

Feedback is always welcome; an organising committee member or coach will be available on the day and discussions are invited before or after rallies/training outside of session time, or by phone call/email.

Ickworth Park rally schedule

Rallies usually begin during the Easter holidays, with two half-day rallies (normally on a Thursday) at Ickworth

Park, one of which includes a fun Easter Egg Hunt for all (including non-riding siblings). Our first full-day rally is during the Whitsun half-term week (usually on the Tuesday), with the date decided well in advance according to other scheduled horse events.

Summer evening rallies (6-7.30pm) at Ickworth Park start on Thursday evenings soon after Whitsun half term. These extend to full-day Thursday rallies (10.45-4) during the summer holidays.

We also stage a Halloween (October half term) rally at Ickworth subject to the ground conditions. This rally includes a fancy dress competition for horse and rider!



Winter rallies and workshops are also held at a variety of local venues, and we run an indoor fun and games Christmas rally for all mini-riders.

Summer rallies

Some 40–50 members and ponies/horses attend each SPC summer rally at Ickworth Park, giving us 7–9 group rides. Approximate timetable for the full-day summer rallies:

On arrival	Report to the passport/hat checker for the rally for a (i) passport check (usually vaccination within the past 12 months, unless there is an equine influenza outbreak) and (ii) hat check (all hats must comply with current Pony Club regulations). You will also find out the name of your ride your coach.
10.45am	Present yourself at your ride marker for a tack and turnout inspection by your coach. There is usually a small rosette for the best turned out pair in each ride group (at full-day rallies only).
11am–12pm	Mounted flatwork session
12pm–1pm	Stable management. Walk your pony back to your box/trailer, untack and tie up. Make sure there's a 'weak link' made of string to tie up to. Do not tie direct to wire tree guards or metal hoops. Remember to water and feed your pony.
1-2pm	LUNCH! After lunch, meet at your marker board, tacked up and mounted, at 2pm or the time given by your coach.
2–4pm	Two 1-hour sessions focusing on showjumping, mounted games, polework, cross-country or similar.

4pm	Instruction ends. Help clear up the equipment used by your ride. Bid your coach 'Good Night' and thank him or her. Ride in walk back to the lorry park.
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No riding, schooling or lungeing is permitted before or after a rally without permission of the rally organiser or Head Coach.

Any members who hack to rallies should be accompanied by an adult and allow plenty of time to walk there and back. Always observe the Highway Code, wear a reflective tabard and use other reflective accessories on your horse/pony. Do not ride on any land other than a recognised bridleway without the prior permission of the landowner. On arrival, dismount, loosen the girth and let your pony have a rest before the rally starts.

Please **bring your own picnic lunch**. Hot water is available in the Barn.



Site layout

Check the map of Ickworth Park for important site layout information (see earlier in this pack). There are clear ways in and out of the field to minimise the risks of meeting an oncoming vehicle and to minimise the wear on the tracks. It's also **important to keep the area around the hat check/coaches' desk clear of horses/ponies... riders on foot without mounts only please.**

There are clear mounted rider pathways to and from the parking area and to the main flatwork and jumping areas. Please keep to them.

Important rally rules

What follows is a briefing for parents attending rallies containing a few 'rules' we all need to observe to make life a bit easier/safer and to ensure that the workload is shared rather than left to one or two individuals. These apply to every rally.

1. Please **help your coach to set up your flatwork area**, if required. Eight lettered cones are provided, and each coach has a diagram of the layout if you are uncertain.
2. Please **clear up after your flatwork ride by collecting the cones into a pile**. If you are schooling in the Pen (the fenced field at the end of the lorry parking area), place the cones back in the trailer under the tree; elsewhere on the course, please leave them in obvious piles for collection.
3. If your ride uses poles and blocks from the trailer in the Pen, **please help your coach to set up the jumps**. More importantly, **please make sure that everything is returned to the trailer afterwards and stacked neatly away**.

4. If your ride uses jumps from the large showjump trailers on the cross-country course (these are not always out), **please help your coach to set up the jumps**. More importantly, **please make sure that everything is returned to the trailer afterwards and stacked neatly away**. Please use gloves when handling the wooden jump stands and poles to avoid injury.



5. The **taped fenced areas in the Pen also need dismantling** after each rally. The tape needs rolling onto the dispensers and the white posts need stacking neatly in their boxes. All goes into the trailer. Ideally this should be done by parents using the Pen. If you see it needs doing, please grab a friend and go over and do it, regardless of whether your child has been in the beginner groups.
6. Please **clear up after your horses/ponies in the trailer park**, i.e. take home their **droppings**, remove all fallen **hay/straw**, etc.
7. Keep **dogs on secure leads at all times**. If this is a problem, please leave your dog at home. **Please take home all dog waste**.
8. In the lorry park, please try to get into the habit of **closing horsebox/trailer ramps** so that if a loose horse returns to the park at speed it cannot self-load or trip over a ramp.
9. All **loose headcollars should be tied back up onto rings** on lorries/trailers and not left dangling dangerously.
10. **Picnic arrangements** - Please position yourselves with care in the parking areas when eating lunch, etc. Make sure you are safe/can move quickly if a horse gets loose.

None of the above is particularly onerous or time consuming if it is done by many everyone. If left to one or two people, it takes hours.



Special word for parents/carers

Parents/carers must accompany their children to a rally or make agreed arrangements to leave them in the care of a **designated adult** whose details are made known to the rally organisers. **Parents/carers who delegate responsibility for their child should nevertheless leave with the rally organiser a telephone number where they can be contacted in an emergency.**

Parents/carers are asked **not to interfere while their child is having instruction** or to distract them in any way. Any complaints or questions should be made to the Head Coach or rally organiser.

Special information, requests or problems should be stated clearly on the Horse Events rally booking form or in writing to the rally organiser.

If you are bringing non-riding children to an event, please keep a very close eye on them at all times. Furthermore, please **do not leave children unattended in vehicles.**

Please don't assume that your unlocked horsebox is a safe environment in which to leave unattended children while you go and watch another child riding.



Visitors

Anyone (adult and/or child) attending the rally must be registered on the original booking form. If you have friends or family arriving during the day, please make sure we know to expect them through the booking form. We need to know who is on site at all times.

Photography and video

Please take care to **photograph and/or video only your child**, and then only after asking the permission of your child's coach. If other members are likely to appear in your recording/image, you must seek the permission of their parents before taking the images. We do have members who have refused permission for images to be taken of them, so please be sensitive to their wishes.

Lungeing

If you need to lunge your pony before a rally, please arrive in plenty of time and **ask permission of the rally organiser before you start.** Lungeing should only be performed **by an adult or a member with their B test and their lungeing certificate.** You will be asked to lunge in a designated area away from the horseboxes and trailers. Please wear a riding hat and gloves and keep all children well away.

If your lungeing causes any agitation amongst the other horses, you will be asked to stop. **No lungeing during the 10 minutes before members are due to meet at their ride markers.**



Guest riders/trial rallies

Anyone contemplating joining SPC, or a friend or family member, may come along to one trial rally with their horse/pony to see what it's like. They simply need to contact the rally organiser and ask. They will be required to pay the usual rally fee but do not need to be a Pony Club member (it is hoped they will join after their rally experience!).

Rider clothing for rallies

There's a slightly more relaxed approach to rider clothing at SPC rallies (winter and summer). New clothing is not expected, but what is worn must be clean, neat and tidy. Jeans should not be worn when mounted except when specifically allowed by certain sports.

- Official burgundy SPC sweatshirt (or hacking jacket), plain long or short-sleeved shirt (must cover the shoulders), official Pony Club tie, plain-coloured jodhpurs.
- For jumping sessions there is the option to wear the SPC burgundy base layer (see SPC clothing below) with a correctly tied Pony Club stock and a back protector. You may wear SPC colours or your own colours for cross-country sessions.
- Riding gloves (dark colour or white/cream).
- Short boots and matching chaps (black or brown but no tassels) or long boots (black or brown).
- Protective hat conforming to the current Pony Club regulations with navy or black cover for flatwork and showjumping. Coloured hat silks may be worn for cross-country.
- **Long hair should be tied and secured and kept above the collar for safety reasons.** This applies equally to boys and girls.
- A **wristwatch** is permitted. Remove **bracelets** (except medical bracelets) and **necklaces**. Any **body piercings** should ideally be removed before going near your horse or pony. **The wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not recommended.** If done at any Pony Club activity, is done **at the risk of the member/their parent/guardian.**
- Medical armband (if there's a medical issue).

- Pony Club badge and felt.
- Back protectors – compulsory for cross-country sessions at all levels.
- Air jackets may be worn (but please see the main Pony Club website for additional guidance).
- A suitable jacket (no hood) may be worn if the weather is cold or wet.

Booking and cancellation policy

All rally bookings should be made via **Horse Events**. When booking in for rallies, both winter and summer, you are making a declaration to the rally organiser that you wish to be included in the rally. From these bookings, the organiser then secures the venue and/or coaches for the appropriate number of sessions.

The rallies are organised on behalf of SPC members and are budgeted at as low a cost per member as is possible for finances to break even. We do not aim to make any profit when organising these sessions, and indeed often make a loss.

It is SPC policy that **NO LATE BOOKINGS** will be accepted but we will hold a **waiting list**.

Once the venue and coaches are booked, we are then committed to cover the level of expenditure required.

Therefore a **full refund will only be given for withdrawals before the closing date** for booking into a rally. Once the rally rides have been organised and the venue and/or coaches booked, refunds will only be given if there is a waiting list and your place can be filled by another member at the same ability level.



Tack and turnout in detail

Hats

When mounted, it is **compulsory to wear protective headgear** which has been checked and tagged to comply with the current standard for all Pony Club rallies and activities, with **chin straps fastened at all times**. Riders must wear hats with **navy or black covers** for rallies and when out hunting, but coloured silks may be worn for cross-country competitions. See <https://pcuk.org/media/giybtuw/hat-rule-2024.pdf> for details.

Note that for cross-country riding (at all levels), a jockey skull cap must be worn with no fixed peak, peak type extensions or noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front.



Remember that our rallies at Ickworth Park will almost always include time on the cross-country course. If the rider's hat does not comply with the above rule, they will not be able to ride on the cross-country course.

Hair

Long hair should be tied and secured and kept above the collar for safety reasons. This applies equally to boys and girls. Hair nets are used by many members for maximum tidiness, and are required for long hair in the competition environment.

Medical armbands

Medical armbands are no longer compulsory but are permitted. Medical armbands should be worn at all times when mounted if the rider has a medical condition that may impact on any urgent medical treatment. They can be secured to the rider's body protector, upper arm or riding boot.

Body protectors

Effective body protectors must be worn at all Pony Club events when jumping cross-country fences. They are optional for other disciplines. When worn, they **must comply with the current Pony Club regulations**. See <https://pcuk.org/media/3c3hiisf/body-protector-rule-2024.pdf> for full details.



Rider clothing

Plain-coloured **jodhpurs** may be worn for rallies, but there are additional rules for competitions (see the Pony Club rulebooks online or ask your team manager). **Jodhpur boots, half chaps** (without tassels) the same colour as the jodhpur boots or **long boots** (with garter straps if appropriate) may be worn. **Shirts** should be plain with a collar, and **sleeves should cover the shoulders as a minimum**. A **Pony Club tie** should be worn with a **tiepin**. A **tweed jacket** or SPC **sweatshirt** (see below) should go on top with a **Pony Club badge** displayed, together with the appropriate felt if the member has acquired it by passing a Pony Club test. Plain-coloured **gloves** should complete the outfit. Muckers and full chaps are not allowed to be worn for any Pony Club activity.

Clothes need not be new but must be clean, tidy and in good repair.

Jewellery

The wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not recommended. If done at any Pony Club activity, it is done at the risk of the member/their parent/guardian. However, to stop any risk of injury, necklaces and bracelets (other than medical bracelets) must be removed, as must larger and more pendulous pieces of jewellery (including those attached to piercings) which create a risk of injury to the body part through which they are secured. For the avoidance of doubt, a wristwatch, wedding ring, stock pin worn horizontally and/or a tieclip are permitted. It is recommended that stock pins are removed for cross country.

Tack

Tack need not be new but it must be clean, supple, well-fitting and safe. The saddle must fit correctly and be well clear of the withers. Girths and numnahs (if worn) should be a plain colour. Girths may be leather. Boots and bandages, if worn, must be a plain colour.

Humane girths are not permitted in any sport, whether during training or competition.

A humane girth is described as having non-independent straps that will loosen if one of the straps was to break.

Bitless bridles may not be used without permission from the Chief Instructor.

If your coach considers your pony's/horse's tack to be ill fitting or damaged/unsafe, we'll work with you to try to remedy the situation there and then. However, if the tack cannot be made safe, you may not be able to ride for safety reasons.



Grooming

Your pony should be well groomed with a tidy mane and tail. Your coach will ask if it is kept on grass or in a stable.

Plaiting is not necessary at ordinary rallies.

Your pony's hooves should be **well shod or well trimmed**, with **hooves picked out and oiled**. If your coach considers your pony to be lame or unfit, you may not be allowed to take part in the rally for that day.

Other considerations

Ponies must be aged 4 years old or more. Stallions are only allowed at rallies with prior permission of the Chief Instructor.

Ponies who kick must wear a red ribbon on their tails. It is the rider's responsibility to see that their pony does not kick another pony or rider. The Committee reserves the right to exclude any pony from rallies and events if it thinks it is a danger to other ponies and riders.

Criteria for the tack and turnout inspection

Horse/Pony

- Cleanliness of coat – ask if grass or stable-kept
- Mane and tail brushed out, hogged manes tidy and short
- Eyes, nose and dock sponged
- Mouth clean, no green saliva
- Feet picked out, hooves clean and shoes in good condition, unshod feet well trimmed

Tack: Bridle

- Clean and in good serviceable condition
- Correctly fitted
- Bit the right size
- Plain browbands

- Noseband correctly adjusted for the purpose
- Stitching safe
- Everything in keepers
- Pelham bits must be fitted with two reins or roundings
- Martingales correctly adjusted
- NB **Bitless bridles** are permitted after a rider/pony assessment by a coach. If the coach feels the rider has insufficient control, the pairing will not be able to continue. However, please bear in mind that horses/ponies cannot compete in bitless bridles for Pony Club mounted games or dressage competitions.

Tack: Saddle

- Clean and in good serviceable condition
- Correctly fitted, not made to fit by the use of extra numnahs
- **STITCHING SAFE**, particularly stirrup leathers and girth straps
- Buckle guards in place
- Girth through straps on numnah, and numnah held securely in place
- Numnah and girth clean and of a plain colour

Tack: Other

- Boots and bandages should be clean, correctly fitted and plain.

Rider

- Clean and tidy clothes in good condition
- Hats must comply with current Pony Club standards and be tagged; covers black or navy (unless cross-country)
- Jodhpurs a plain colour
- Boots clean (check underneath as well)
- Hair tied up above the collar, unless hair is very short
- Clean badge and felt
- Shirt with a collar, Pony Club tie and tiepin
- Hacking jacket or SPC sweatshirt, clean and not creased
- Gloves a plain colour
- No dangerous jewellery
- Rider sitting up with a good position

If you are not sure how to check and fit your tack before a rally, you will find everything explained in The Manual



of Horsemanship, which can be bought direct from Amazon or from any good saddlery.

Stirrups

Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots. They must have 7 mm (¼") clearance on either side of the boot.

There are now many types of stirrup marketed as 'safety stirrups'. All riders must ensure that their stirrups are suitable for the type of footwear they are wearing and the activities in which they are taking part. The stirrup leathers must be in good condition.



There are no prescribed weight limits on metal stirrups. However, with the advent of stirrups made from other materials, weight limits are being given by manufacturers. Anyone using these stirrups should take particular notice of weight limits on the box or attached information leaflets. Neither the feet nor the stirrup leathers or irons may be attached to the girth, nor the feet attached to the stirrup irons.

It is strongly recommended that the design of the stirrup chosen allows the foot to be released easily in the event of a rider fall. Specific rules for individual sports can be found in the respective sports rulebooks.

Particular focus should be on ensuring that the boot and stirrup are the correct size for the rider taking part, and are used in line with the manufacturer's guidance.

For the avoidance of doubt, at Pony Club events:

- stirrups that connect the boot and the stirrup magnetically are not allowed
- interlocking boot soles and stirrup treads are not allowed.

Whip

For dressage at rallies, a whip of any length may be carried. Note there are special rules for whips in competition. Please consult the relevant Rulebook or check with the Head Coach or team lead.



In showjumping and cross-country, a whip, if carried, must be held in the hand by the handle with the handle at the top. The whip must be 'padded'. The maximum

length of the 'whip' is 70cm and must be no less than 45cm. The 'contact area' is considered to be two-fifths of the overall length of the whip and must be covered with a smooth 'pad' made of shock-absorbing material. Again, there are strict rules for whips in competition. Please consult the relevant Rulebook or check with the Head Coach or team lead.

Spurs

Blunt spurs may be worn at rallies and other Pony Club events. Any misuse of spurs will be reported to the District Commissioner, Area Representative and Training Chairman. Any reported riders will be recorded and monitored.

Sharp spurs are not permitted. Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, and spurs that have a smooth rotating ball on the shank may be worn. If the spurs are curved, the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 4 cm in length. The measurement is taken from the heel of the boot to the end of the shank.

At SPC we hope that all members will seek a professional opinion before deciding to ride in spurs. If a coach feels that there is an inappropriate use of spurs for either safety or welfare reasons, the rider may be asked to remove them.

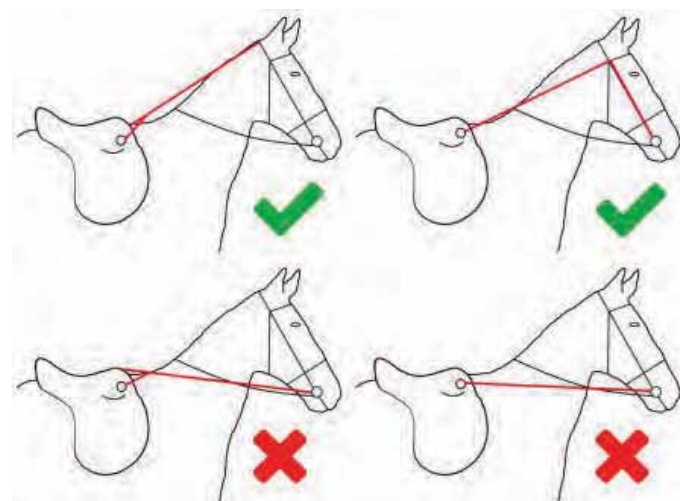


Ultimately spurs should not be used to make a lazy horse move faster or to help a weak rider gain a faster pace, but to achieve high levels of performance in an advanced rider/horse combination. Please bear all this in mind before using spurs.

Reins

Split reins, Ernest Dillon reins, Market Harboroughs and balancing, running, draw, check or bridge reins of any kind are forbidden.

Grass reins and balance support reins are permitted to be used at rallies and general Pony Club activities. Such



reins must be loosely fitted and clipped on from the bit to the 'd' ring. The height limit for jumping with any support rein is 50 cm.

Grass reins

There are Pony Club rules relating to grass reins for dressage, eventing, show jumping, mounted games and tetrathlon only.

- Grass reins are permitted at Pony Club rallies and competitions jumping up to 50 cm or in Walk & Trot Tests.
- Only those grass reins shown in the diagram below with a green tick are permitted. **Grass reins MUST NOT go from the saddle straight to the pony's mouth!**
- Grass reins must be fitted to allow and not restrict the normal head position of the pony. The rein length must be sufficient to allow the pony to stretch over a small fence.
- Grass reins may be leather or synthetic material. If synthetic, then a break point of leather or other suitable material must be included.

SPC clothing

A range of SPC clothing (including our Branch sweatshirt, polo shirt, baselayer and fleece) can be bought through our shop at <https://www.wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk>.

Official burgundy sweatshirt

Order our SPC burgundy sweatshirt online at the SPC shop (see above) or keep an eye on our Facebook page for secondhand clothing items for sale.



Pony Club stock

Available to buy from <https://www.wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk> or local tack shops.

SPC cross-country clothing

Visit <https://www.wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk> for details of the burgundy base layer which can be worn at rallies (with a Pony Club stock) or cross-country competitions.

Summer camp

Annual residential and non-residential Pony Club camps are held for different age groups and abilities.

For 2024 we are planning a 1-day mini-camp during Whitsun half term and a 2-day mini-camp during July/August for our youngest members (aged 8 and under) and those older members who are very novice riders (on lead



rein or just off) or who don't feel that summer camp is for them. Our mini-camp will include riding and mini-badgework. More details will be emailed to all members nearer the time.

Our main summer camp takes place at the beginning of the summer holidays and lasts for 5 days/4 nights. For many children, our summer residential camp is the highlight of the year. A special Camp Pack will be available after Easter containing lots of useful information.

A mix of horse-related and other activities is offered. The children all sleep in tents, with parent helpers in tents, horseboxes or caravans.

Almost all the horses/ponies are stabled on site in temporary stabling. There is no option for field pens. There is the option for parents to bring ponies in daily, but this is rarely used. All the horses/ponies settle in really well at camp, and they enjoy the close proximity of lots of other equines. As yet, we have never had to send a horse home because it would not settle.

The children must bring hard feed/forage for their animals, but food and drink for the humans is supplied.



We do hire a shower block for camp, so every child can have a hot shower daily, if they choose to find their way to it!

Summer camp dates are published by email to members and through our closed Facebook page. Notification is sent out in early spring. Details of the venue and a list of equipment and suggested clothing are supplied to those who wish to attend, together with a timetable of events. For 2014–23 we have held successful camps at the Ickworth Park site, ensuring we have ready access to the superb cross-country course.

There is a lot of intensive work associated with



camp, and help from older members and parents is always very welcome, from serving breakfast, lunch and evening meals, to managing the temporary stables and generally corralling the members to the right place at the right time!



We have a Camp Pack containing lots of information about Pony Club Camp at Ickworth Park. It is updated annually and is available to all booked members well before camp starts.

Efficiency tests



The curriculum for efficiency tests covers horse and pony care and stablecraft, as well as riding skills. The following tests are offered:

Test	Felt colour	Recommended minimum age
E (optional)	Pale yellow	4+ years
Road Rider Mini Achievement Badge	Special Cloth Badge	Any age
D	Yellow	8 or 9 years
D+	White	10 years
Road Rider Achievement Badge / BHS Ride Safe Test	Special Cloth Badge	Any age
C	Green	11 or 12 years
C+	Pink	14 years
B Riding (can be taken before or after B Care)	Beige	15 or 16 years
B Horse and Pony Care (can be taken before or after B Riding)	Brown	15 or 16 years
B Riding + Care (can be taken together)	Red	15 or 16 years
Lungeing	Light blue	15 years+

B+	Pale purple	16 years+
A Horse and Pony Care	Orange	17 years
A Riding	Blue (Purple if Honours awarded)	17+ years (You must have obtained your A Care Certificate first)

All test applications must be made through the test coordinator, who will arrange practices and book examiners. Coaches within our own branch examine the E, D, D+ and C tests, but examiners from outside examine the C+, B, B+, A Care and A Riding tests.

Riding and stable management practices are organised throughout the year. Test dates are publicised by email and on our closed Facebook page. Syllabuses and comprehensive information packs detailing the requirements of each test are available for download from the main Pony Club website at www.pcuk.org. However, SPC members are responsible for their own attendance at practices and must learn in detail what is required. **Members who do not attend practices will find it difficult to assess whether they have reached the required standard and will not know how the test is run. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the member is ready for the test.** Please review the test syllabuses and work with your child to ensure the full syllabus is covered. Make time well before the test date to work through the topics. If additional help is required, please contact the SPC test coordinator in the first instance.

Dress for tests is as for Pony Club competitions, with a hacking jacket or Pony Club sweatshirt and beige jodhpurs. Ponies must be clean and well groomed. Manes need to be plaited for the C+ and higher tests, and tails as well, if they are not pulled. Tack must be clean, well fitted and in good repair.

Achievement badges

The Pony Club offers mini-achievement badges for younger members, as well as higher level equine and non-equine achievement badges. All types of achievement badge will help riders to learn a wide range of skills like





first aid, farming, map reading, saddlery, road safety and grooming. For lots more detail, go to <https://pcuk.org/members/training>.

Riders work on Pony Club achievement badges at the mini-camp, summer camp and during half- and full-day rallies. We also run special training sessions focusing on one badge, particularly during the winter months.

Team training and team competitions

Team training is available for SPC members who wish to specialise in a particular riding discipline or to compete on behalf of SPC against other Pony Club branches.

All SPC competitors entered must be **active members of SPC** and must have genuinely participated at a **minimum of three working rallies** at SPC or their previous Branch or Centre since 1 July in the previous year.

The District Commissioner has **discretion**, in the case of **competitors who are working or in further education**, to exempt a member or horse/pony from having to comply with this rule.

Members who agree to ride in a team must be available on the date of the championship competition and be prepared to travel to it, wherever it is held.

There is a **team selection process** which takes into account competition experience and records at the appropriate competition level, as well as attendance at training and selection sessions. For full details, see our website.

It is now **compulsory** for all ponies and horses entering any competitions at Area level and above to produce a **valid equine passport and vaccination record**, which must:

- accompany the horse to all events
- be available for inspection
- be produced on request at any other time during the event

See the **Pony Club Vaccination Rule** (<https://pcuk.org/officials/health-and-safety/equine-welfare-and-veterinary>) for full details.

TOP TIP! Use your phone to photograph the passport(s) so you always have the image to hand, if not the paper original. Take sufficient photographs to be able to identify the horse/pony too... the vaccination page is not enough. You will need to update the pictures after each vaccination. However, this approach will likely not be sufficient for competition. Regardless, **always travel your horse/pony with the original passport** in case you are stopped by the police for an inspection.

No horse may take part in a Pony Club event (which includes entering competition stables) unless it has a current vaccination against equine influenza.

Details of team training opportunities are sent out by email and via Facebook, with information about the organiser and venue.

There is usually a charge to cover costs for tuition and venue hire, and a contribution towards entry fees may be requested.

Members are advised not to over-commit, as they will be required to attend for training in each discipline.

NB Members may be asked to show their membership cards as proof of membership when taking part in Pony Club competitions in or out of Suffolk, so always carry your card with you.

Team training is available for the following competitions and disciplines:



Team	Height/level
Area 8 Eventing: PC70, PC80, PC90, PC100, PC100+, PC110	Fences 0.70m, 0.80m, 0.90m, 1.00m and over 1.00m
Calvert Cup Horse Trials	Fences 0.90m and 1.00m
Novice Horse Trials (Bloom Cup)	Fences 0.90m
Novice Horse Trials (Junior Bloom Cup)	Fences 0.70m and 0.80m
Gosling Cup	Fences 0.80-0.85m
Cygnets Cup	Fences: 0.70m
Area 8 Tetrathlon	Senior Fences 1.10m Junior Fences 0.90m
Area 8 Showjumping: Grassroots, Novice, Intermediate, Open	Open Fences 1.10m Intermediate 1.00m Novice Fences 0.90m Grassroots Fences 0.80m
Hickstead Qualifier	Fences 1.15m
Burghley Showjumping	Fences 1.10m
Sotterley Team Showjumping	Fences 0.30m–1.10m
Area 8 Dressage	Open Teams Intermediate Teams Novice Teams Grassroots Teams PC Prelim
PC70 Competitions Dressage Showjumping Eventing	PC70 dressage test Fences 0.70m Fences 0.70m
Mounted Games	

Quiz	
Horse & Pony Care	

In all event disciplines, rallies are also held throughout the year to improve the technique and ability of the horses and riders.

Eligibility rules

Eligibility rules can be found in the rulebooks, all of which are published on the main Pony Club website (<https://pcuk.org>). In consultation with the main Committee, team leads will ensure that all team members are eligible before team selection.

Representing SPC

At SPC we are keen to promote a positive team spirit amongst our members. This carries through to team and individual competitions where the main aim should always be to be supportive of one another and have fun. Some of the members of SPC are very competitive in various disciplines. They proudly wear the branch colours when representing SPC either as a team member or individual.

The **PC codes of conduct** for parents and members (see <https://pcuk.org/join/info-for-parents>) should be followed at all times, especially when members are out and about at PC activities.

Our team spirit extends to all family members and helpers. We all help each other in times of need.



Dress

Dress for team training is as for rallies. However, there are special requirements for the different team competitions and you must check them carefully. Detailed information on the correct dress

for specific competitions will be circulated by the team lead to those taking part or can be found in the relevant Pony Club Rulebook (<https://pcuk.org/officials/rulebooks>).

Competition tack and turnout

For team competitions there can be a marked tack and turnout section.

- Horses/ponies need to be extra clean, trimmed, bathed and plaited (if specified by the team lead).
- Saddle cloths and numnahs should be plain (no sponsorship logos), unless SPC team ones are provided.

Team leads will notify competitors of any specific additional requirements.

Team selections

Team member selection is dependent on the event.

Some events require the most experienced members who compete regularly and have a proven record of success. Such events will include Area competitions (leading to the Pony Club Championships), Burghley and Houghton International Horse Trials.



Other events are much more 'friendly' and are opportunities for everyone to have a go. While we will try to create a team or two with the scope to be placed in the rosettes, we will also support inexperienced teams with members competing for the first time or riding a 'new' pony/horse.

Decisions on team members are made according to our team selection policy, which can be found on our website. The ultimate decision is made by our District Commissioner(s).

Trail hunting

Two trail hunting meets are held annually by the Suffolk Hounds specially for SPC members and accompanying adults. Details are advertised by email and through our Facebook page.



Members should aim to arrive in good time. Start times and venues will be confirmed in advance. Note that the time advertised is the time the hunt will move off. Members are, of course, free to retire from the hunt at any time. Motorised followers are welcome. Children may not hunt unless accompanied by an adult or with an adult following in a car.

What is trail hunting?

The sport of trail hunting is where a scent trail is laid, either with a runner on foot, a rider on a horse or a member of the hunt staff driven around on a quad bike. Hounds are then tasked to follow the trails by the huntsmen. A Field Master will then follow, with the rest of the riders behind.

Dress

Dress is as for competitions, with hacking jackets and beige jodhpurs. Tweed jackets and jodhpur boots are correct wear for children under 16 years of age. Body protectors are highly recommended, and it would be wise to check your tack for safety before you go. If necessary, do consider using a stronger bit in your

pony's mouth, as even the calmest schoolmaster may get carried away with the excitement! Ponies should be clean, neat and tidy, and manes should be plaited.

Cross-country schooling

There are a number of local venues open for hire to practise your cross-country schooling.

Ickworth Park

Home to SPC, members can hire the course for £15 per horse (see map). Non-members are charged £30 per horse. Ickworth is open for course hire from April through to October, depending on ground conditions and other course events (we close the course to hire for Pony Club rallies and approaching competitions). All bookings are made through Horse Events. **You must buy a schooling pass before arriving at Ickworth Park.**

- All droppings should be removed from the car park area, as well as litter, hay and straw.
- Dogs must be kept on leads at all times.
- Control closely all visitors on foot or those riding bikes. You may not be the only course hirers on course. Horses may appear at speed at any moment.
- Please report any damage to the course immediately so that we can close jumps and schedule them for repair.
- **Report all accidents immediately**, whether to horse or rider, or both.
- Remember to take your own first aid kit and a mobile

phone.

- Sheep graze the course and may be present at any time. Please check jumps before jumping them to ensure there are no sheep sleeping around them. Take particular care when riding through woods since sheep may panic and run as a herd when confronted by a horse.
- Move sheep away from jump areas quietly and with care. Do not herd them into the path of other riders.



Other venues

There are a number of other fairly easy to reach cross-country courses for hire. If you are interested in competing in one-day events or hunter trials, the more different experiences you can give your horse/pony, the better.

- Ely Eventing Centre, Little Downham, Ely, CB6 2TY – www.elyeventing.co.uk
- Poplar Park, Hollesley, Suffolk, IP12 3NA – www.poplarpark.co.uk
- Stratford Hills Equine Centre, Stratford St Mary, Colchester, CO7 6PA – www.stratfordhills.co.uk

Ickworth Park

Suffolk Hunt Pony Club
King's Meadow

The map shows the layout of the Ickworth Park cross-country course. Key features include:

- Facilities:** Barn, Toilets, Water, Trailer/horsebox parking (if DRY), Trailer/horsebox parking (if WET), Show ring (no spectators), Assembly point, Bank, Sheep, and a Curfew notice.
- Jump Areas:**
 - Mixed jump heights 80-110 (top right)
 - Mixed jump heights 30-110 (middle left)
 - Jump heights 60+ (middle right)
 - Mixed jump heights 80-110 (bottom middle)
 - Mixed jump heights 80-110 (bottom right)
- Other:** A 'The Pen' area and a 'Water' feature near the bottom middle jump area.

KEY RULES

1. Wear body protector and riding hat
2. If using a whip, make sure it's short and padded as required for cross-country
3. If jumping at 80 and above, no fixed peak on riding hats
4. Horse/pony should wear protective boots
5. Mind the sheep

stratfordhillsequestriancentre.co.uk

- Blackwater Farm, Great Witchingham, Norwich, NR9 5PH – www.blackwaterfarm.co.uk
- Burnham Market Eventing Centre, Sussex Farm, Burnham Market, PE31 8JY – www.bm-ec.com
- Keysoe, Bedford, MK44 2JP – www.keysoe.com
- Forest Edge Arena, Drymere, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 8AS – www.forestedgearena.com
- Wix Equestrian Centre, near Manningtree, Essex, CO11 2RU – www.wixec.co.uk

Sometimes a private course (e.g. Horseheath, Trumpington) is open soon after it holds a hunter trial. Keep an eye out for these opportunities.

Local showing/showjumping venues

The following venues offer regular opportunities for showing, showjumping, dressage and other activities.

- Tophorn Arena, Grove Farm, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket, IP14 6BX – www.tophornarena.co.uk
- Boyton Hall Equestrian Centre, Monks Eleigh, IP7 7BB – www.boytonhall.me
- Suffolk Equestrian Centre (formerly The Jays), Sicklesmere, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 OBS – www.suffolkec.co.uk
- Forest Edge Arena, Drymere, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 8AS – www.forestedgearena.com
- Anvil Park Stud, Larling, Norwich, NR16 2QU – www.anvil-park-stud.co.uk
- Easton & Otley College, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5DX – www.easton.ac.uk/facility-hire-and-services/equestrian-events
- Wix Equestrian Centre, near Manningtree, Essex, CO11 2RU – www.wixec.co.uk
- Fenning Farm Equestrian Centre, Soham Fen, Ely, CB7 5UL – www.fenningfarm.co.uk
- College of West Anglia, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6DB – cwa.ac.uk/about/cambridge

Prizegiving

Our branch prizegiving ceremony is held annually at a local venue, usually during the Easter holidays, in



combination with a social event. During prizegiving we recognise the special achievements of particular members and horses/ponies and the tremendous voluntary contributions of some of our most dedicated SPC families.

Our coaches



Our active Pony Club coaches have to work hard to maintain the qualifications and skills required by the organisation to enable them to teach at our branch events. Each coach:

- is **fully accredited** and **registered** on the main Pony Club national database
- has a minimum of a 1-day **first aid** qualification
- has undergone **safeguarding** training within the past 3 years
- has a current **DBS check** in place, and
- must undergo **CPD** (continuous professional development) annually.

Many of our SPC coaches also offer private tuition. If you are interested, talk to them after a rally or email our Head Coach for contact details.

Our Head Coach is paid only for coaching time. All work relating to the branch is voluntary. This includes Committee work, preparing for rallies, team selection, etc.

Our website

Our website can be found at <http://branches.pcuk.org/suffolk>. Through our website you can:

- find out what we're doing

- read about opportunities for joining our competitive SPC teams and other training events
- download event schedules and check event results
- view many of the Ickworth Park cross-country course jumps
- find details of current SPC Committee members.

Frances Browne manages the website. Please contact her on frances.browne3@gmail.com if you would like to advertise anything horse related.

Biosecurity

'Biosecurity' is the action we take around animals and at home to help stop pests and disease from occurring, or, if there is an outbreak, the measures we take to stop them spreading. As horse owners and Pony Club members we need to take biosecurity measures to keep our horses healthy and our properties free from disease. Please do not panic though! Pony Club is a friendly sharing environment, and members are encouraged to socialise and help each other out. Indeed the benefits to be gained from, for example, the riders swapping mounts far outweigh the likelihood of infection transmission. Nevertheless, please be aware of the risks, take sensible precautions and act quickly if you suspect your horse/pony may have a problem.

As a horse owner, signs to query include your horse/pony:

- **not eating normally**
- with an **abnormally runny nose or abnormal cough**
- with **unusual neurological (nervous) signs**
- with a **temperature above 38.5°C** (more than 2 hours after unloading from transport).



Biosecurity advice

While it is impossible to keep horses/ponies separate at Pony Club events, please make sure your animal is in full health before leaving home. Events are prime places for your horse/pony to catch an infectious disease.

When attending Pony Club events you are expected:

- **not to bring sick horses/ponies to the event** – sick animals may get worse during transport and infect other horses.
- to **provide truthful, accurate information** as required
- to **monitor your horse's health** throughout the event and notify an official if you see any signs of illness. If you do notice strange behaviour or signs of disease in your horse, or in any other horse, you should report it immediately to the event organiser so they can determine the risk to other horses. Do not move the horse.



- ideally **not to share tack and equipment** between horses
- to **ensure each horse has its own water and feed bucket**
- to **understand that contact between horses and between other people and your horse(s)** is a key way for disease to spread from horse to horse
- **not to allow horses to eat any other horse's feed**
- to **take home any leftover feed**
- to **take home all droppings**.

After the event, you should:

- **continue to monitor the health of your horse/pony**
- **report any unusual signs of disease to SPC** as soon as is practicable
- **isolate returning horses/ponies** from other horses as much as is practical.

Contagious diseases

The following are contagious diseases of particular concern to horse owners. If you suspect a horse/pony that has attended an SPC event of contracting any of these diseases, we must be told immediately so that we can inform all SPC members to be vigilant.

- **Equine influenza** – respiratory disease
- **Equine herpes virus** – respiratory disease
- **Ringworm** – fungal skin disease
- **Strangles** – highly contagious infectious disease.

Worm control

We have a shared responsibility to take proper action on worm control in our horses and ponies. Please ensure that your worm control measures are thoroughly in place.



To help prevent the spread of worms, please take all horse/pony droppings home with you.

Vaccinations

Pony Club has a Vaccination Policy (<https://pcuk.org/officials/health-and-safety/equine-welfare-and-veterinary>). It has particular relevance to any member wishing to take part in Area competitions.

In brief, an **annual booster is required for all Pony Club events. No horse or pony may compete on the same day as a relevant injection is given or on any of the 6 days following such an injection**

Events that are held at some venues may be subject to additional rules, e.g. **any horse/pony entering a licensed racecourse property must comply with the vaccination requirements as set by the British Horseracing Authority. Similar restrictions apply in the cases of polo venues.**

In addition, if you are intending to compete under FEI, British Eventing, British Show Jumping or British Dressage rules, you will need to ensure you are compliant with their rules.

Note that we also expect all horses or ponies coming to camp to have up to date vaccinations. You will be required to bring along the passport for each animal for a veterinary inspection on arrival at camp.

TOP TIP! Use your phone to photograph the passport(s) so you always have the image to hand, if not the paper original. Take sufficient photographs to be able to identify the horse/pony too... the vaccination page is not enough. You will need to update the pictures after each vaccination. However, this approach will likely not be sufficient for competition. Regardless, you should **always travel your horse/pony with the original passport** in case you are stopped by the police for an inspection.

Any changes?

If you notice any inaccuracies in this pack or have suggestions for additional useful information that could be included, please contact Susanne White on susanne@pamplin.me.uk.

