

Hi All

As you all hopefully are aware I took over the role as DC on the 1st January 2024.

First, a bit about me. My name is Rebecca but please call me Becky! I have been associated with the United Pack Pony Club for quite a while, too many years to count. I am a past member joining the club when I was about 7, during which time I competed in many of the teams, mounted games, polocrosse, showjumping and eventing. I worked through the Tests and Badges up to C+ leaving the Pony Club around the age of 16. I've since leaving always had a hand in ponies with my mother showing and bringing on youngsters. I have now been back and an active parent of a member in the branch for about 9 years.

I think I've got on ok through the first three months, but please continue bear with me as I go on settling in and finding my way through the next three! All help will be gratefully received. If anybody has any suggestions or concerns please do contact me. I am always at the end of the phone (after 2pm because of work!!).

One of the things I would like to try and do is to keep going with the fundraising to help keep the costs of activities down (mainly Camp), so please put your thinking caps on and let's get fundraising!

Some of the great fundraisers we have already had up and running through the winter are the monthly show jumping and dressage competitions. We shall always need your help to keep them going. They are a great way to get our members out in the competition atmosphere. Our last Show Jumping of the season is on 14th April, so please come and support it by competing or volunteering.

Our Club Nights finish on 20th March, but instead our summer programme of evening rallies at Bow House take their place. On 27th March we have a half day rally at Bow House with an Easter theme. There will be a competition for the best Easter decorated Pony and Rider as well as an Easter Egg Hunt, so come and have fun. We have started a series of monthly Sunday afternoon rallies at Broadway House, Churchstoke by kind permission of Charlotte Pattinson's parents. The arena is super and very quiet being away from the road. There are two sessions, the first for our mini members, and the second for the rest of you. We are also starting some monthly fun & games rallies at Lodge Farm, Bishop's Castle. Again these are for mini members as well as everyone who wants a bit of fun, and not a circle in sight! We're restarting our Dressage Practices at Lodge Farm, and our Cake & Care practical sessions at Marked Ash. Do come and put into practice what you've been learning at Club Nights. And there will be cake too at the end – could even be brownies!

We already have an Arena Cross Country rally at Ashwood arranged for 5th April. The booking for that is open on Horse Monkey, but closes NEXT SUNDAY so don't forget to book in soon if you intend to come. The whole of the April programme is on Horse Monkey already, and May/June will be up shortly.

The big thing coming up in the summer of course is Camp. You've all had the Camp letter so you know the details and the cost. Booking for it is open on Horse Monkey. If you can't find it any other way, search UPPC Camp which will bring up two booking pages. The links are below as well. You can either pay the deposit and three further installments, OR you can pay the deposit, and then the whole balance in one go. Please don't try to mix and match the two bookings pages, it won't work!

https://horsemonkey.com/equestrian_event/57499/August+UPPC+Camp+2024+Installment+payments

https://horsemonkey.com/equestrian_event/57501/UPPC+Camp+5th-9th+August.+Deposit+%26+Single+Payment+ONLY

Don't forget that we are hosting the Horse and Pony Care competition at Berriewood again this year. It is on 8th & 9th June, and like last year we shall be asking for a lot of volunteers, members to make up teams, and borrowing ponies for the practical parts of the competition.

Thank you to all that attended the Parents Meeting. To those who did not make it, the minutes for the meeting have been sent out for you all to have a look at.

As I look forward to the rest of my first year as DC, no doubt there will be bumps in the road as I get used to the ins and outs of it all. Please bear with me. As you see, we have lots more to look forward to in 2024.

Wishing you all a continuing healthy and happy 2024

Becky