

NOTES FOR MEMBERS AND BAFFLED PARENTS

This is all about our rallies, events and competitions, so that you know what we do, and which ones to go to.

Pony Club insurance covers all our members and their horses/ponies + any ponies belonging to anyone else that they ride (obviously with the owner's permission!) as well as all helpers at our events. Full insurance details are available on the main PC website. All Western PC instructors are fully accredited/or supervised and insured.

Rallies

Generally, unless stated, all rallies are open to all ages and abilities, and we will endeavour to organise groups to suit.

Rallies, for flatwork, and show jumping are usually for 1 hour with a maximum group number of 4 riders. XC and Arena Eventing rallies are usually for 1.5 hours, with maximum of 5/6 riders, depending on venue.

Day rally: in groups of up to about 4/5 children of similar ability per instructor. Various activities for 2 hours in the morning; break for lunch for about an hour; then usually 2 hours of jumping and games in the afternoon. Fully qualified and experienced instructors.

Evening rally: same as above for about one hour, usually specific rallies for cross country, dressage or show jumping.

Training Clinic: a rally for specialist instruction; sometimes targeted at specific events. Even if you perhaps don't want to compete in the event, you can usually still take part in the training.

Dismounted rally: usually held through the winter; for instruction in Horse and Pony Care; members can take progressive tests (if they want to) for different coloured felts to wear under their badges; also Achievement Badges in many different things from Bandaging to Points of the Horse and Poisonous Plants. These are then sewn on the sleeves of their Pony Club sweatshirt (available to order online, link is on the Western website)

Tests

There are a series of optional progressive tests. E, D and D+, C and C+, B, B+ and higher. These tests are made up of Riding and Stable Management. Training is available throughout the year. Please speak to Christina for more details. Coloured felts are awarded to go under the PC badge which can help an instructor identify levels of achievement.

Other activities:

Coach trips (Badminton Horse Trials, Horse of the Year Show, etc.), Easter Egg Hunt and picnic rides and activities organised by the Junior Committee. Open to all, including family and friends.

Tetrathlon training:

The Tetrathlon is an exciting competition for all Pony Club members over 8, and even their Mums and Dads and friends (any age: over 50s get extra points!). It consists of 4 phases: 1. Shooting (Beanbag throwing for under 8s); 2. Swimming; 3. Running; 4. Cross Country Riding. Phase 4 can be left out, if competitors want to compete in the Triathlon instead.

We train all through the winter at the Heamoor Gun Club (which has a proper range with fully qualified instructors). Training starts in November and carries on once a

week until March. Cross country training starts in February. Our own Triathlon competition is held during the February half term, usually at Carn Brea Leisure Centre. There are others held all over our Area at different times, with triathlons through the winter as the ground is usually unsuitable for the cross country phase until spring.

CAMP

This is the highlight of many members' year. Depending on age groups, there are usually 2 Camps of 3 to 4 days. There is sometimes an extra Mini Camp for children aged 8 and under. Children and ponies/horses stay on a farm/riding establishment and are supervised at all times. There is a Stable Manager for the horses and ponies. Everyone has meals together. There are various activities on and off ponies; evening entertainment and play/relaxation time. The emphasis is on having fun while learning about ponies and riding, in a safe environment with fully qualified, experienced Instructors and plenty of Helpers (a rota of Mums and Dads). Meals are cooked by volunteer helpers and a rota of 2/3 parents sleep at Camp each night to make sure everyone is safe. There is usually a barbeque mid-way through Camp to which all family and friends are invited. Camp is SUBSIDISED and is excellent value. The cost includes all meals, stabling etc. There is usually a competition/ODE on the last day, involving things learnt while at Camp. Everyone is awarded rosettes at the Prizegiving on the last day: there are rosettes for the tidiest stable, the tidiest bed, Tack and Turnout in each Ride, trophies for the most improved in each Ride and prizes for the competition.

COMPETITIONS

One Day Event (ODE) and D-Day

These events are the same, but D-Day is for the younger or less experienced members who have not passed their Pony Club "C" test.

There are 3 phases: 1. Dressage, and 2, Show Jumping, 3. Cross Country: riders tackle a cross country course which is graded according to ability.

D-Day (or Novice One Day Event) also has a lead-rein class with a shortened, simple cross country course with low jumps (so that the leaders can jump them too!).

Show Jumping/Cross Country (SJ/XC)

This competition involves jumping a round of show jumps and riding straight out of the arena and onto the cross country course without stopping. We organise a 12 and under class, but this is not suitable for inexperienced riders or those on the lead-rein. We also hold a novice event for novice and young riders.

Peter Hoblyn Cup Competition

This is a special competition for Cornish Pony Clubs. It is an exciting team event with 4 riders, who must be capable of jumping up to 2' 9" cross country and have not competed in Inter-Branch competitions.

Zena Hosking Trophy

This is a new event organized in memory of a local lady who was devoted to the Pony Club, with the inaugural competition hosted by the Western in 2013. It is run along similar lines to the Peter Hoblyn, and is aimed at younger or less experienced riders.

Pony Club insurance provides excellent cover for our members and their horses and ponies, whether they are at rallies/shows or not; it also covers all helpers at events.

The District Commissioner and Committee of your branch of the Pony Club are all VOLUNTEERS – we all have families, jobs and busy lives, so any help from parents/friends/family is very welcome.

Should you have any queries or would like to have further information regarding Pony Club activities, please ring or email Diana Hardy, District Commissioner, on 01736 810801 – diana.hardy@priddenfarm.co.uk, or Christina Carson, Assistant District Commissioner, on 07756 525190 – christinacarson@hotmail.co.uk