

Annual Parents' Meeting

28th May 2025

Welcome

We took over from Rosie and Gemma in Sept 2024 and have been enjoying our first few months as the Flamstead PC Committee:

DC Katy Reid

Joint Secretaries Karen Latham and Vikki Batizovszky

Treasurer Emily Spry

Health & Safety Emilie Morton

Safeguarding Natalie Hubble

Rising Stars Rosie Hamilton

Head Coach Georgie Dalton

Discipline Heads: Juliet Laing, Juliet Hooper, Sarah Hudgell, Kate Rainbow

One of the first things we did as a new committee was set out our mission statement:

“At Flamstead, we strive to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive Pony Club community where individuals of all ages can experience the joy of horsemanship, forge lasting friendships, and engage in quality education centred around horse welfare. Our goal is to create unforgettable experiences through engaging non-ridden activities as well as memorable ridden rallies that inspire friendships that last a lifetime. We strive to make competition fun and accessible, ensuring every child feels supported in their pursuit of achievement while cultivating laughter, companionship, and unity among all members.”

We also set out our goals, so every decision we make as a committee we ensure aligns.

Goals:

- Increase membership
- Drive Participation at rallies and events both ridden and non-ridden:
- Improve Test participation and success rate
- Maintain a healthy bank account balance
- Drive PC revenue through external field hire and events

A massive thank you to our committee and also those in vital working groups; Camp Committee, Field Working Group and the Flamstead Fun Society for all the do for our club. A special thanks to those that came along and helped on the field last night getting us ready for the upcoming season.

Treasurer's Speech - Emily Spry

Hello everyone,

I'm pleased to report that our Branch finances are in good shape, and our systems are running smoothly.

Each year, we create a Branch budget and our expected turnover for 2025 is around **£65,000**.

Our income comes from three main sources: **your membership fees, hiring out our field to non-members and fundraising activities**.

This money allows us to do some really important things:

- Rent, insure and maintain our brilliant field and facilities
- Train our Committee, members and volunteers
- Support our riders at competitions

One of the great benefits for all our members is **free use of the Field**—something that not many Pony Club branches can offer.

All of our training events, including **rallies and Camp**, are designed to **break even**—that means we don't make a profit on them and give you **the best value possible**.

We also keep a strong financial reserve in case of unexpected challenges, like bad weather affecting events. Right now, we have about **£28,000 in reserves**, plus **£16,000** in Camp deposits and payments.

Speaking of Camp—you might be surprised to know that it costs around **£25,000** to run! It would cost even more without the amazing support of all of you who volunteer your time. So thank you—truly.

Looking ahead, we hope to **gradually build our reserves** so we can invest in exciting new resources—like the **five new 1m Cross Country jumps** now in place.

Finally, a big **thank you** to all the parents who give their time and expertise. Our Branch is such a special community, and that's all down to us all working together.

If you ever have questions about the finances, please reach out to me. I'll also be the **Camp Medic this year**, so I'll see many of you there!

Membership – Karen L

Hi everyone,

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Karen Latham your Pony club secretary. I'm an ex Flamstead member and my eldest daughter has been a member for 20 years, so I have lots of pony club experience.

Please save my number in your phones and call me with any questions, If I don't know the answers then I will certainly find them out for you.

I am responsible for membership: on boarding & approving new members, transferring members from other pony clubs and chasing up expired memberships, please don't forget your membership gives you third party insurance and FREE use of our wonderful field for lessons with approved coaches.

I keep all the Coaches, Committee and key parent volunteers up to date with their DBD, Safeguarding and First aid

And I help to organise events - your help is also needed, we cannot run our events without parent/family/friends volunteering, and we need to run these events not only to have lots of fun but also to bring in revenue to enable us to keep our club going.

Please come and see me for any help

Rallies – Vikki B

When Rosie H and I took over the rallies back in September our aim was to provide a wide selection of rallies with a variety of coaches and venues that would appeal to the whole membership.

Since then, we have organised over 90 rallies, including unmounted training for tet and pony club tests - around 75 mounted rallies including Rising Stars, showjumping, cross country, dressage mounted games and just recently we ran a mounted tet rally focusing on gates and slip rails.

A large proportion of the rallies this year have been open to all levels, these rallies have been really well subscribed but the most popular rally this year was definitely the Easter Eggstravaganza with a whooping 46 members booked on....thank you to the Grimstons for hosting such a lovely fun event and to Emilie Morton for keeping everyone safe!

This coming year we plan to organise lots more rallies and aim to provide a varied and exciting calendar of events.

Disciplines

DC Highlights:

Firstly, from the Showjumping report, it was super to be reminded that at the Spring Festival Championships we had riders in every single class.

Secondly, In Eventing we had winners at both the Regional Champs with Sienna S and the National Champs with Erin N.

I also wanted to say a massive congrats to Izzy M, who not only placed 6th at Royal Windsor Horse Show but has also yesterday passed her B plus test = an incredible achievement

And hot off the press – today the following passed all or part of their C+: Jess R, Penny R, Jemima M, Chloe I, Zoe H and Nicole I

SJ – Jules & Rosie H

The 70 and under SJ goes from strength to strength, we are regularly able to enter multiple teams at each level with a lot of team and individual successes.

Last year at Interbranch we had team wins at 40 & 70 and I'm really looking forward to seeing a lot of those riders progressing on to compete at 50&60 and 80 at Interbranch and Regional qualifiers in a couple of weeks' time. It looks like we will have a record number of entries at those levels.

The 80-1.10 Show Jumpers are bouncing on nicely with Flamstead riders' placings ranging from 1st -6th in the established Area 12 SJ Winter league.

We were also thrilled to get Flamstead riders through to Champs in every class at the Spring Festival Showjumping Comp with a notable team 2nd placing for our 1.10 riders.

In addition to the above, we were delighted to see our very own Isobel Morton represent Flamstead Showjumping and ride at Royal Windsor this year.

Showjumping at Flamstead remains very popular with a healthy number of entries for both Regional and Area Competitions later this year. Join me in wishing them tons of love and luck as they continue to compete for their club

Eventing – Sarah H

We saw an excellent year of eventing last year with Sienna taking a win at the regional championships and Erin a sensational win at the nationals. We also had, for the first time ever, a full team qualify for the 100 and get placed at champs.

We are looking forward to the Area competition this year, seeing a team competing in the Chairman's Cup for the first time ever! And many others competing at the range of heights and definitely have the potential to see Flamstead at both championships again!

Tetrathlon – Kate R

Tetrathlon is made up from 4 disciplines, shooting / running / swimming & riding XC.

Triathlon is 3 disciplines Shooting / running and swimming.

You can either enter as individuals or as a team of 3 or 4 (top 3 scores count)

The ride element of the tetrathlon is technical, but the joy of the tetrathlon XC is there are always L options on tricky jumps, you can jump down a level, also you can keep going if you get a stop!! As long as you do not get 3 stops at one fence you can carry on! Come and give it a go, were a friendly and social squad, the fun, camaraderie amongst the Tet families is legendary!

Successes:

In our last Tetrathlon / Triathlon at Whaddon Chase, everyone in our 12 strong Tet /Tri squad got 1 or 2 PBs in competition

X3 qualified for the JCB national Championships in the summer 2024.

X4 qualified for Winter Tri Champs 2025

X2 representing Central England at the Junior Home international at Morton Morrell

X1 representing Central England at the Mini Home international at Oxstall

X2 nominated for Central England at the Senior home international in Scotland

Quiz – Juliet H

We had 4 teams for the Area Blue Cross Pony Care Quiz. Our minis narrowly missed qualifying for national champs in 2nd place. Our junior team of Chloe, Zoe and Sienna have qualified as juniors for the second year in a row.

We are keen to get as many members as possible involved.

Dressage – Juliet H

Our dressage is going from strength to strength. We have strong teams going forward to areas this year from grassroots level all the way up to intermediate.

Last year we had record success with Sienna winning overall regional champs in PC 70 & PC 80. Rory also won his arena in PC80 to get through to the overall final.

At National Champs in August, we had Erin qualifying as an individual which is just amazing.

We are very lucky to have Laragh Osman supporting us on the day at areas to help warm the kids up.

Mounted Games – Juliet H

We put forward a junior team of 5 members and one pair at area games this year.

We had a great time training together and competing.

We have some super keen members, but we would love more lead rein riders for a novice team.

Next weekend we have our Hunter Trials and Area Tetrathlon here at the field. We've got super entries so really looking forward to seeing you all here – a massive thank you to everyone who came and helped at the field painting, strimming and fixing – it looks amazing!!

FFS – Jules L

The Flamstead Fun Society was set up by PC mums whose aim was to get us all together drinking wine and having FUN whilst also raising funds for the Club. 🍷

Since its inception, we've managed to get a record number of our kids together from minis to teens for a pizza and pumpkin carving session aswell as holding a successful Halloween Awards Night complete with themed outfits, scary platters, a creepy cake competition and an interactive Graveyard walk courtesy of our friends at our local Flamstead Church.

Our next event is the 'Flamstead Dog Show and Family Day' held at our field on Sunday 13th July.

We have planned some really fun dog classes, a gun dog demo, as well as a doggy steeplechase arena and a have a go 'Agility ring'.

We've got a bouncy castle, an ice cream van, PC dads cooking and serving Hot Dogs, a PC Pimm's stand, a huge cake stall, a fabulous tombola and a few other stalls.

- We're also planning some fun 'young farmer style' races including a hobby horse Grand National and are looking for a couple of families to get stuck in helping organise that!

If you've always wondered who we are and what we do- now you know! We're always looking for members who want to help and enjoy meeting new people. If that's you, then welcome to the FFS and we'd love to have you at our next gathering.

And now, the bit you are all really here for...CAMP!

Camp 2025

Congratulations and thank you to our 2025 Tack Room Leaders!

Our Camp theme is Musicals. Tack rooms were announced, and leaders drew their theme from a hat. All details on [this link](#).

Your tack room leaders will be in touch to arrange a get together so you can sort décor and fancy dress!

Thanks to everyone for coming!