

A YEAR WITH PUCKERIDGE WESTERN PONY CLUB

2023

Regional Grassroots SJ: Holly, Lily, Finlay, Josh, Skye and Faye



It has been a successful, fun-filled and busy year for PWPC, welcoming many new members, several of whom are following in their parents' footsteps!

Rallies were well attended with members working hard, earning badges and having fun with friends. The half day rallies proved especially popular, allowing families to juggle other commitments more easily.

The soggy start to the year led to the rescheduling of a few rallies and, sadly, a lot of cancelled competitions. It was adverse weather of the opposite kind that saw to the cancellation of Calvert Cup, with a period of hot, dry weather baking the ground, making it too hard to run the event. Disappointing for all, but rider and horse safety always at the heart of these difficult decisions.

Teams and Events:

We have been proud to present teams to regional, area and interclub competitions and even more delighted that our members' hard work and commitment has been rewarded with success.

We had seventeen members represent PWPC at area qualifiers, several of whom riding in multiple disciplines. Qualification for Regional Grassroots Champs

was a particular highlight. Eleven members headed to Gt. Witchingham, supported over the weekend by Suzanne, Sue and Rachel, and what a weekend it was, with PWPC team placings in dressage and eventing and individual placings across the board! This was a celebration for the club as well as contributing to the Area 8 prize haul!

Burghley Pony Club Team Show jumping is a prestigious event and a special opportunity for members competing at higher levels. Scarlett, Emma and Zoe flew the PWPC flag, enjoying every moment of the experience. Two weeks later, Emma went on to represent the club again, this time at Blenheim Eventer Challenge, having a blast around the new course.

The interbranch competitions in Area 8 and Area 12 were well supported with PWPC fielding teams to show-jumping events at Isleham and Bury Farm. We love to encourage our members to enter other pony club events, both for the opportunity to compete in a more relaxed setting with friends and also to achieve personal goals. Well done to you all and thank you to Kate and Maria in particular, who have organised entries and teams over the course of the year.

Regional Grassroots dressage: Lucy, Ruby, Esme and Milly



Regional Grassroots eventing: Izzy, Lily, Finlay and Josh





Reintroduced to PWPC during the latter stages of 2023 has been Tetrathlon and Pony Care and already our members have been out and about competing in both these fields.

Tet involves four phases: the ridden phase (cross-country), running, shooting and swimming. Our thanks to Annabelle Farr for taking the lead on Tet for the club. She has done an incredible job and 2024 looks to be exciting. If you want to get involved, please contact her.

Pony Care is a test of knowledge. Two teams went to the Area 8 Horse and Pony Care interbranch friendly and achieved great results for their first competitive outing. The Junior Team coming 7th and a staggering 2nd place for the Minis! Look out on FB for details of future events.

A note from your Committee:

There has been so much to celebrate this year and the committee has been very proud of everyone's dedication and commitment. Teamwork has been especially high. Seeing the older members supporting the younger ones and the teams encouraging and supporting each other during competitions and at rallies, has been a particular highlight. Everyone's pony club journey is

different and it is important to our club that we recognise this and support you all, whether you are wanting to be out competing every weekend or prefer to develop your skills without that pressure.

Our club is very reliant upon the support of volunteers. Every member of the committee give their time freely to run the club and at times it is intense and extremely time consuming! Having parents come forward to offer help is hugely appreciated and vital for our future. If anyone wants to find out about how to get more involved, please contact Sue or Emma.

This year we have been grateful to many of you. For your help at Luffenhall, painting fences, setting out SJ courses, clearing away kit, laying out dressage arenas, organising interbranch teams, supporting social media feeds, helping with Calvert set up and planning, overseeing risk assessments, leading on tetrathlon, helping at camps and so much more. PWPC simply cannot run without active support from all of its members and there are times when we really need to pull together to make things happen. THANK YOU!

Published on the back page is the core diary for 2024. Already it looks to be an action-packed year!





Summer Camps:

The highlight for most Pony Club member each year is camp and this year we had two cracking camps, catering for our junior and older members. They take a lot of work to organise and we are always appreciative of parents who are able to give some time to help.

Main Camp was held at MKEC, just north of Milton Keynes. The excellent facilities were worth the journey and our eighteen members and their ponies had exclusive use of it all! During the four-day camp, they enjoyed eight ridden sessions with four different coaches, as well as stable management instruction and visits from external speakers. Huge thanks go to Andy Fisk-Jackson (RVC) for his lecture about equine dentistry and to Jodie Young who taught the members about the importance of muscle maintenance and how to do useful stretches with their ponies. Kirsty Short drilled everyone on rider fitness, so they could ride stronger for longer! The Committee was grateful to those parents

who came for a day to help with the rides and for taking photos to keep the camp Facebook feed up to date. It was a great camp, with a brilliant group of young riders, who worked hard, achieved goals and encouraged each other.



Junior Camp, held the following week, was attended by twenty-two of our younger members at Bramfield. Although non-residential, Junior Camp is no less intense, with a packed-full programme of riding, learning and games. The weather was not always on side, but our wonderful group of younger members were full of grit and were not deterred by wet weather. Watching how much they learnt and developed over just three days was very rewarding. Thank you to all our coaches, older members who came to help and the parents involved in the setting up and taking down. A special thank you to Nick Fox for the brilliant bug hunt held in the garden and to the Buckles for the ice-cream treat on the final day!



Rallies and tests:

Our busy schedule of rallies and care sessions have been very well attended and we have been very lucky with the weather. We have enjoyed using a wider range of facilities, with the addition of Shuttleworth's super indoor school and The Node, by kind permission of the Thornton family. Bramfield and Luffenhall remain firm favourites for the summer and thanks go to the Underhills and Peter Natt respectively for use of these fantastic venues.



PWPC CALENDAR 2024

Dec 28th: Dressage Spring Qualifier, Boynton Hall

Dec 28th: Christmas rally, Chesfield

January

20th: SJ rally, Chesfield

20th: Arena Eventing Spring Qualifier, Easton College

26th: PWPC Presentation Evening, Graveley Village Hall

28th: SJ Spring Qualifier, Easton College

February

3rd: Polework rally, Shuttleworth

21st: Tina Ure XC training, Little Downham

22nd: Unmounted horse & pony care rally, Ion Bridge Farm

24 - 25th: Barrier Spring Festival Championships, Arena UK

March

2nd: Arena eventing rally any height, Gravenhurst

3rd: Teams quiz, Suffolk PC

9th: 12 & under rally, Gravenhurst

16th: SJ rally 60cm and up, The Node

17th: Winter Triathlon Qualifier, Bottisham Village College

24th: Winter Triathlon Championships, Grantham

April

2nd: Easter rally, Shuttleworth

3rd- 4th: Horse & Pony Care Area Qualifier, Bury St Edmunds

13th: XC and SJ rally, Bramfield

TBC Easter holidays D+ Test.

TBC Easter holidays C+ Horse & Pony Care Test, Ion Bridge Farm

May

11th: XC rally, Luffenhall

12th: Open XC schooling, Luffenhall

29th: SJ & dressage team training, Bramfield

31st: All day rally, Bramfield

June

TBC subject to venues, but to include team training and rallies

9th: Open XC schooling, Luffenhall

16th: Gosling Cup & 70cm Area Regional Qualifier, Ickworth

29/30th: Area SJ Qualifier, Frenches Farm

July

TBC subject to venues, but to include rallies and team training

7th: Area Eventing Qualifier, Isleham

13th - 14th: Area Tet, Haverhill Leisure Centre and Horseheath

21st: Area Dressage Qualifier, Ickworth

21st - 25th: Main Camp, Milton Keynes Equestrian Centre

27th: Junior Camp set up, Bramfield

29th - 31st: Junior Camp, Bramfield

August

7th: Half day rally, Luffenhall

9th - 17th: Pony Club National Championships, Offchurch Bury

13th: Half day rally, Luffenhall

19th: Full day rally, Bramfield

24th - 25th: Eastern Regional Championships, Aston le Walls

29th: Half day rally, Luffenhall

September

5th: Burghley Team SJ

14th: Half day rally, Luffenhall

19th - 22nd: Blenheim Arena Eventing Teams

October

29th: Half term rally, venue TBC

November

TBC Show jumping Rally

December

8th: Mounted Games Christmas Party, venue TBC

30th: Christmas rally, venue TBC



Burghley team: Scarlett, Emma and Zoe



Keep up to date on events by checking online:

<https://branches.pcuk.org/puckeridgewestern/bookings>

For Area 8 competitions, go to:

<https://branches.pcuk.org/area8/area-competition-dates/>