

## South Trent Branch of the Pony Club

### Summer Maxi Camp (11 -18 years on 31/8/26)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026

at Derby College Equestrian Centre, Morley DE7 6DN

Maxi camp has three sections

- 5 day Maxi camp for 11 – 18 year olds,
- 5 day Maxi Junior Staff for 18 – 25yr olds
- 2 day attendance for members aged 16+ with specialist themes if requested

**Junior Staff** have a normal camp but are expected to help out e.g. assisting with activities, helping members particularly new maxi campers, marking stables, etc.

The venue provides all the basic needs of a pony club camp. There are large indoor stables, indoor and outdoor schools, cross country course up to 75cm, kitchen, and a classroom for use as a base room. There is a short farm hack. There are a finite number of stables available so applications with full fees paid will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Some riding will be in the open on grass although the outdoor and indoor schools will be used especially if the ground is hard. Riding sessions will include a selection from flatwork, show jumping, speed riding, dressage, drill ride to music, mounted games, XC, pole, lungeing and grid work. Our usual popular instructors will be there and they will decide with the ride (group) the detail of each riding session and ensure that both the competitive and non-competitive member is catered for. Daily dismounted sessions, quiz, football or other sport, swimming, whacky races (very popular on Thursday evening) and other social activities will be on offer. There will be demonstrations or talks as well. The troop (team) competition runs throughout camp. All activities are optional although everyone is expected to contribute to all aspects of the team competition in some way e.g. supporting the football team rather than playing. There could be some changes to the activities according to local conditions during camp. Time to chill with friends will not be forgotten either. The week will be intense with safe enjoyment the top priority along with pony welfare.

Thus, there are plenty of enjoyable and varied riding and non-riding activities available without the pressure of tests or competitions although some of the training is ideal preparation for both of these.

All supervisors, junior staff and coaches are DBS checked and have received safeguarding training. Coaches are qualified and first aid trained. First aiders are present all the time.

Members can be residential or non-residential. If non-residential they need to arrive by 9.30am and leave by 4pm. It is unlikely that day stables will be available but if they are the cost is £30/day to include straw bedding and hay. For working parents the earliest drop off is 8am and latest collection is 6pm.

Members can bring 2 ponies to camp, one at a time.

Four year old ponies /horses can attend any 3 days only. With prior notification by June 30<sup>th</sup>, the fees will be reduced accordingly.

Members from other branches and PC Centres are welcome by arrangement with their DC/CP.

Attendance options

1. Full residential – member and horse/pony stay
2. Residential horse/pony – member sleeps at home each night, no reduction in cost
3. Non-residential – member and horse/pony attend daily, reduced cost.

If your pony/horse has particular habits or requirements detail them on the application form. You will still be welcome! Examples could include

- never done XC
- Dressage pony that never jumps/MGA pony that only does games
- pulls back when tied up

- gets excited in company
- bites

for the rider

- not used to mucking out
- gets homesick
- lacks confidence
- feels ill in hot weather
- used to private lessons in a menage (not a group in a big field)

The following is some explanation on how camp will run and what members can expect. Please contact Jane Foster, the South Trent DC, if you have any queries ([dc.southtrent@pcuk.org](mailto:dc.southtrent@pcuk.org) 07761881303) or Tony Rollings ([treasurer.southtrent@pcuk.org](mailto:treasurer.southtrent@pcuk.org) 07773379259).

### **Stabling**

Ponies will be stabled. There is no grazing, therefore, ponies/horses living out must be content to be stabled.

Members usually make A4 stable door plaques (no bigger than A3) sometimes laminated. These say a bit about the rider, the horse and their troop (team) including some drawings or photographs. Obviously they cannot be fully completed until the troop details are published about 2 weeks before camp. Troop points are awarded for all plaques. It is very interesting to look at the plaques and read about the member/horse. Plaques will have to hang or stick as they cannot be stapled to the stable door.

Campers will be able to use Derby College mucking out equipment. It is a good idea to have a clean, easy to carry, smaller bucket for topping up the stable water bucket. If your horse is known to knock its water bucket over have a plan! Hay/haylage and straw bedding will be provided. If you use another type of bedding please bring your own. You will need to bring your own hard feed and feed bucket. Tack will be stored in your accommodation but bring a saddle stand and chest/trolley to keep all other items in. Chests/Trolleys/grooming boxes with lids can be stored outside each stable which also has a rug rail.

At the end of camp leave only clean bedding, banked up, in the stables with the floor swept.

### **Horse Arrival**

When your pony/horse arrives on Monday between 8.15 and 9am please present before going to your stable to the designated person. Have the pony's passport ready so that flu vaccinations (annual boosters) can be checked. The pony will also be checked for contagious disease. Soundness will be checked later.

Check that shoes will last camp easily and that tack fits well and is in good order as we have no farrier or saddler (to do repairs) in camp. Check ponies do not have parasitic, intestinal worms before coming to camp and ensure they are in good health and **fit enough** to cope with 3 hours work each day.

Tack will be checked for fitting and safety on the first ride by coaches.

Please take all trailers and horse boxes home if not being used to sleep in as parking is limited. Members' cars and visitors are asked to park in front of the indoor school.

### **Riding**

All ponies/horses should be at least 5yrs old due to the amount of work. Four year old ponies are accepted but should attend for 3 days only (any 3 days). Those new to camp often do not realise how fit they and their horses need to be to get the most out of the instruction. **The last few years have seen a significant decline in the level of fitness of ponies and riders. If your pony is not fit it will soon tire** and make camp much less enjoyable for both of you. A more experienced pony/horse can sometimes lead to a more enjoyable camp although inexperienced ponies/horses and riders learn a lot.

Groups will have a variety of coaches over the camp week.

If someone cannot do one of the activities, e.g. pony too strong for XC, rider doesn't jump, an alternative activity will be provided. Everyone should have a balanced programme over the week. Rides consist of approximately 6 riders who will do 14 hours of riding under instruction. There will be no riding on Wednesday afternoon.

If there is sufficient demand from those jumping over 80cm XC a session at a recognised XC venue will be arranged for Tuesday morning. Parents will be expected to provide transport.

If it rains heavily, the ground is very hard or there are other unexpected circumstances then suitable alterations will be made to the programme.

There is also one hour of dismounted instruction each day and other demonstrations/talks.

### **Catering**

All those preparing food will hold the level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate. Vegetarians can be catered for but other special diets need to be discussed with Sally Rollings, camp matron. Drinks (squash or water), fruit and biscuits will be available at all times. Drinks will be taken out to the rides in the morning. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by camp staff but the evening meal will be bought in.

### **Camping**

Members will sleep in their own caravans, horse boxes/trailers, camper vans or tents. Do ensure that outdoor accommodation is storm proof. It is prudent to share but not to overcrowd so do ask around who is going.

A list of who is sleeping where must be declared at the start of camp **after approval by the relevant parents**, to Sally Rollings. Do not move accommodation without informing Sally who will then follow up with parents to see if the move is approved.

If you are under 18 and need to go off site then you must go with a parent and inform camp staff beforehand. It is polite if 18+ members inform camp staff they are going off site and are asked to return by 9.30pm. It is quite a distraction for campers to leave camp so please try to not book dental appointments, etc, during camp. These guidelines are for everyone's safety, enjoyment and well-being.

**Bed time for 11-12yrs is 9pm, 13-14yrs it is 9.30pm and 15yrs+ it is 10pm.**

Members need to sleep although they dispute this fact, and so after 9pm there must be total quiet. Accidents are far more likely to happen with tired members who also miss out on the fun. It is particularly unpleasant if a member becomes bad tempered through being tired.

Please note that no dogs or alcohol are allowed on site and the whole area is non-smoking/vaping.

The farm including equipment, the livery stable yard, farm buildings and the main college site are out of bounds.

Patrols take place by approved, DBS checked security staff throughout the night.

### **Evening Entertainment**

There will be an opportunity to go fun swimming (or for a shower as there are no on-site showers) at Ilkeston Victoria Park Leisure Centre if there are enough parents willing to come into camp to act as taxis. Games and Whacky Races are popular but there will be other evening entertainment such as tack cleaning!! The Quiz will be on horsey and non-horsey topics. More details will be available nearer the time.

### **Visiting**

When visiting please help the camp staff with their many tasks e.g. take juice to rides, poo pick the riding areas, wash up etc. Always inform a member of the camp staff that you are on site. Family and friends are particularly welcome on Thursday 7 – 8.30pm and Friday afternoon from 2pm to watch the final ride of the week and the presentation. Visitors are asked

- not to interfere with the activities taking place
- to park in the designated area by the indoor school
- to take care with young children brought into camp
- to observe any safety and safeguarding rules
- not to smoke, vape, bring alcohol or dogs

**For many members camp is better with minimal parental attendance.**

Do not disturb the ponies in their stables unnecessarily as they need to rest. No-one is to be in the stable area after 6.30pm except troop leaders and camp staff.

## Troop Competition

The troop (team) competition includes stable care, tack and turnout, use of initiative and non-horse activities but does not include riding or pony ability. It does not start in earnest until Tuesday morning to give campers chance to get to grips with what is expected but the first chance to earn points will be on Monday evening at the Quiz. To be a troop leader a member needs to be aged 16, 17 or 18 and have attended at least 2 maxi camps in the last 3 years.

## Maxi Camp Daily Routine

7.00 am	Drinks, fruit, biscuits in base room
7.05	Roll call and meeting
7.15	Feed
8.15	Hay, water, muck out, groom
8.30	Breakfast, change for riding
9.30	Tack up
9.45	Inspection then ride - includes a 15 minute break
12.15pm	Brush down, check hay and water, skip-out
12.30	Lunch
1.15	Stable Management
2.15	Tack up and ride
3.30	Brush down
4.00	Clean tack, skip out, set fair, full haynet plus spare if necessary for later, water
6.00	Feed
6.30	Evening meal – time may vary according to evening entertainment
8.30	Troop Leaders and Junior staff <b>only</b> check stables
9.00	Lights out for 11-12yr olds and start of quiet time
9.30	Lights out 13-14yr olds+
10.00	Lights out 15+

Day members with residential ponies need to arrive at 7.30am and leave between 6 and 8pm. They can eat all their meals in camp.

Day members with **non**-residential ponies need to arrive by 9.30am and leave by 4pm (extended day 8am to 6pm with a day stable). Lunch is provided. Bring enough clothes for all weathers, a grooming kit, water bucket and haynet and a trailer or box for the pony during breaks from riding.

## Maxi Camp Weekly Routine

Sunday 3-5pm or Monday morning (optional)	Set up accommodation, prepare stable
Monday 8.15-9.15am	Ponies/Horses arrive and check in
Monday 9.30am	Welcome -downstairs classroom
Monday 9.45am	Tack up and follow daily routine
Monday evening	Quiz -first part of the troop competition,
Tuesday	Follow daily routine,
Tuesday evening	In house entertainment
Wednesday	Follow daily routine , no riding in the afternoon
Wednesday evening	Swimming
Thursday	Follow daily routine
Thursday evening	Whacky Races - Family and friends welcome 7 – 8.30pm
Friday	Follow daily routine – family and friends welcome from 2pm. Presentation 4.30pm

Caravans and tents can be removed early on Saturday morning if preferred

**Leave the site in as perfect condition as possible. In particular leave no rubbish and the stable clean.**

Details of rides, stable numbers, ride programme and any other information will be sent out in July along with medical form.

Make sure your friends have an emergency number for you as well as giving it on the forms.

**Bring as few valuables into camp as possible, look after your stuff and come determined to enjoy yourself!**

Costs, Kit List and Application form – see separate documents