



THE WYNNSTAY BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB
INFORMATION BOOKLET

CONSIDERING JOINING THE PONY CLUB?

The “Wynnstay” Pony Club welcomes children from the age of 3 years, who think they might like to join the Pony Club, to come to a taster day. If you check the calendar on the website, you will see a list of rallies for different abilities, which are split into a variety of disciplines – Prince Phillip Cup (mounted games), eventing, show jumping, dressage and tetrathlon. Each discipline has its own organiser, whose contact details are on the front page of the Branch Calendar. All it requires is for you to call the organiser of the rally you would like to attend and book a place. If in doubt, please call one of the District Commissioners (either Belinda Hutchinson Smith or Jo Adams), who would be delighted to advise you.

Every activity is open to all. **They are divided by the level of ability of the rider and pony, rather than by age.**

Jumping For All Rallies.

These rallies are open to all ages of riders and abilities, from lead-reiners learning to jump a course of cross poles and very small fences, up to those jumping 80-90cm.

Show Jumping Rallies.

If you can confidently jump 70cm and over, then you can attend the Show Jumping Rallies.

Central Rally and Flatwork/Polework Rallies.

These are open to all abilities and ages.

Junior Camp and Senior Camp.

Junior Camp is for children who are 10 years and under, but you may attend Senior Cam from the age of 10 years if you feel sufficiently confident. The DCs do have the discretion to allow 11 year olds to attend Junior Camp, should they and their ponies not feel sufficiently comfortable to be away from home and in charge of their pony. Please contact the organisers for Junior Camp and Senior Camp and/or the DCs if you have any questions about this.

Note: ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AT LEAST THREE RALLIES BEFOREHAND ON THE PONY YOU WISH TO BRING TO CAMP. This is so that you can be put in the correct rides and the DCs are happy that the pony is suitable in all respects.

Eventing Rallies.

These are open to all, but they are divided according to your and your pony's ability/experience.

Prince Phillip Cup/Mounted Games.

Practices are held on a weekly basis during most of the year. The Wynnstay Pony Club has an excellent record in mounted games and anyone who would like to attend the practices and be part of a team (whatever your age and games experience) will be most welcome. It is a great way for the younger members to learn their riding skills and is good fun too.

Tetrathlon.

This involves four disciplines: pistol shooting, swimming, running and cross-country riding. In the autumn and spring there are several triathlon competitions (which exclude the riding phase). It is not necessary to excel in any of the phases to take part in a triathlon or tetrathlon. Practices are generally held on Friday evenings during a large part of the year at The Greaves. Everyone welcome.

Contact: Emily Gilruth 07932625509

TEAM REPRESENTATION

If you wish to be considered to represent your Branch in any of the above disciplines as part of a team or as an individual, you must have attended at least three rallies on the pony you intend to compete on. Ideally, you should bring your membership certificate to each rally and the organiser will sign it for you.

Members of all ages who are interested in being considered for teams in competitive Pony Club activities should contact the appropriate Team Trainer. The eligibility for competing in Pony Club events is:

Area Competitions: Teams for Area are selected by the DC's. Members must have attended at least 3 rallies open to all members (not team practices) on the competing pony since 1st July of the previous year (1st May for PPC). Camp counts as 1 rally. During the pandemic, the DCs may relax this rule. Only paid-up members at the closing date for entries, are eligible to compete.

If you ask to be considered for a team, **then you must be available to compete on the dates of the both the Area and the Championships. The final decision on eligibility lies with the DCs.**

The Wynnstay Pony Club is very proud of the teams it puts together for the various disciplines and there are openings for team members at every level. Please don't be shy about putting your name forward, or simply asking the question. If a competition is too much for you in one year, then there will be something to aim for in the future. Do ask the rally organiser or the DCs for information regarding the competitions which may suit you.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

These are updated by Vanessa Brodie on a regular basis. Vanessa would be really pleased to receive any news, results, or photographs on v.brodie@btinternet.com. The Wynnstay Pony Club has a group Facebook page, and we encourage members to share their news to this.

RALLY INFORMATION

- Please remember to book in for a rally at least a week in advance to give the organiser a chance to plan the correct instructors and put the rides together. Rallies are booked and paid for online, via the Branch website. Bookings are made from the EVENT BOOKINGS tab at: <https://branches.pcuk.org/sirwww/> Payment is by Paypal
We shall be moving to the new HQ Entry Master booking system, when it is ready.
- Bookings cancelled by members before the closing date are refundable less 50p for paypal fees which we can't recover
- Bookings cancelled by members after the closing date are not refundable, because rides have been decided and the instructor confirmed.
- Cancellation of rallies by the Branch, owing to weather etc, will be refunded in full.
- The name of each rally organiser is always given in the Branch Calendar and the contact telephone numbers are given on the front of the notice.
- Times will usually be available online or by email.
- Please respect the facilities which you are using and do not trespass onto other areas.
- Siblings are welcome, but please ensure that they are always supervised.
- The Branch reserves the right to charge for those members who do not turn up to rallies, having booked.
- Please pick up all droppings and please do not feed hay outside your trailer or horsebox.
- Please always take all litter home.
- Do always thank your host, instructor and rally organiser.
- Permission is needed for your dog to be taken out of your vehicle and it must be kept on a lead.
- If you need directions to any rally, please ring the named rally organiser or the DCs.
- Please remember, if you are leaving your children at a Rally, make sure that you ask a friend to be responsible for them, and let the Rally Organiser know.

WHAT TO WEAR FOR RALLIES

General Rallies.

A tweed jacket is the correct dress code. However, you may wear your Pony Club sweatshirt (or polo shirt in the warmer weather), gloves, hairnets (where appropriate), beige or cream jodhpurs, riding boots (either black or brown) and gaiters or half chaps. You should always have your Pony Club badge on your jacket or sweatshirt, with ideally a white or cream long-sleeved shirt, plus Pony Club tie. A body protector is recommended for all jumping activities.

Cross-country Rallies.

You may wear your Pony Club sweatshirt or your cross-country colours, but otherwise the dress code is as above. You must also wear a body protector. A medical armband is strongly advised. Hats for cross-country must not have a fixed peak.

Show Jumping Rallies.

You will not need a tweed jacket, but should wear your Pony Club sweatshirt (or polo shirt) and a body protector.

NOTE:

- You are strongly advised to wear long sleeve shirts in all rallies involving jumping.
- All hats, hat covers and accessories (pony's boots, etc.) should be in plain black, brown or dark blue.
- It is not necessary to plait for rallies unless you would like to. Most members do plait for Central Rallies and for Camp.
- For safety reasons, NO jewellery (particularly earrings) should be worn. A wrist watch and a stock pin (worn horizontally) are permitted.
- Horses and ponies should be clean and tidy, with recently trimmed/shod feet. Tack must be clean, in good repair and correctly fitted.

HAT TAGGING

PLEASE NOTE: If you have a new hat or a hat without a tag, please remember that it will need to be tagged before you can wear it at any Pony Club event or rally. ALL HATS MUST BE TAGGED. It is your responsibility to arrange when and where your hat can be tagged and checked to ensure that it fits. All hats should be replaced every three to five years and if there has been a fall or the hat has been dropped, then it will probably need replacing sooner.

Please check the main Pony Club website for current permitted hat standards.

Hats can be tagged by: Mrs Emily Gilruth, Mrs Teresa Gregory, Mrs Belinda Hutchinson Smith and Mrs Jo Adams.

HELP FROM PARENTS

The Pony Club is a voluntary organisation and as a Branch we rely on parents to help before, during and after events. All parents are expected to help at least twice a year for shows, one day events, fun days, fund raising, etc. If a child attends either Junior or Senior Camp, then again parents are expected to help for this as well. Parents will be contacted by a committee member to ask for help or, better still, they can volunteer. Parents need not worry if they are asked to do something they have not done before, eg. fence judging. It can be a great opportunity to learn new skills and guidance will be on hand.

The committee asks parents during rallies **NOT** to offer advice from the side-lines. The rally organiser will have booked an experienced instructor and it is muddling for the child and pony to receive two sets of instructions. Parents are, of course, welcome to watch but interference is not helpful. Please do not video from inside the riding area, unless given permission by the instructor.

Particularly at Central Rallies and at Camps, the organisers will have tried their best to put each child in the correct ride for his/her capabilities. Should you feel that your child is in the wrong ride, do please raise this with the organiser and all attempts will be made to make any changes felt to be appropriate. It may not, however, always be possible to accommodate every request.

A Code of Conduct is published on the Pony Club website and all parents are expected to adhere to it.

PONY CLUB TESTS

There are a number of tests that Pony Club members may take. If you are interested in taking any of these at any time, please contact Emily Gilruth, or either of the DCs. Full details are set out on the main Pony Club website.