



Wellington Pony Club

Wellington Riding Pony Club Centre

We are now in our 10th year of being a Pony Club centre and have around 100 members. The idea of Pony Club centre is to enable children without their own ponies to join the Pony Club and enjoy rallies and competitions on our horses and ponies.

Members subscribe a fee to The Pony Club Office and this constitutes membership of the Club as a whole and includes 3rd party insurance.

Membership forms are available from the office.

Being a member means you can improve your knowledge by working towards certificates awarded by The Pony Club, of which there are eight graded standards starting with the 'D' Test and culminating with the highly regarded 'A' Test, taken when a Member is around 19 or 20 years old. A Road Safety Test is part of the C Test Certificate.

A brief history of the Pony Club (extract from a presentation made by Nikki Herbert BHSI at the 2000 Pony Club Conference)

The first Pony Club rally was recorded in 1928 which was in the form of a gymkhana and a paper chase. This was soon followed by a lecture demonstration by Major Faudel-Phillips who became the first Chairman of the Pony Club when it was founded in 1929.

It was "for the purpose of interesting young people in riding and sport and at the same time suffering the opportunity of high instruction in this direction than many of them can obtain individually."

The first camp was held in 1931 and a recorded membership of 59 branches and 4,442 members. The following year Pony Club Tests were introduced and Efficiency Certificates issued. Also at this time the famous tie was designed by the Essex Branch.

The first Instructor's Courses were held in 1934 taught by Major Faudel-Phillips and Captain Tony Collings. By this time the numbers had doubled. The Inter Branch Competition now known as Horse Trials was held first in 1949 with a Polo Tournament following 9 years later.

By 1962 membership was over 31,000 with 255 Branches and 13 Branches overseas.

The Pony Club has always maintained its close connection to the Hunts as it was mainly the local farmers' children who made up the membership. So in 1964 a Hunting and Country Lore Test was introduced to help inform and educate the members who did not come from hunting or farming families in order that they could enjoy the thrill and discipline of riding to hounds. The emphasis has always been and still is on producing riders capable of caring for their animals while riding over a variety of X-C fences and terrain.

In 1971 a Pony Club Show-Jumping Championships was held and a year later the 'H' Test Stable management test was introduced for those useful horsemasters who didn't want to ride at the very high level required for 'A' Test. With the increase of traffic on our roads and with it the increase of accidents involving horses and riders a Riding and Road Sense Certificate was introduced in 1974. With so much riding in the open it wasn't until 1977 that there was enough interest for a Pony Club Dressage Championship.

Two more popular ideas were introduced in 1981, those being Endurance Riding and the Achievement Badge Scheme. Centre Membership was introduced in 1999, and has proved to be extremely popular scheme, with membership expanding all the time.

First an Introduction for those of you who have just joined us at the Wellington Pony Club Centre

For many of you, joining the Pony Club will be a scary and daunting experience, with this being your first taste of competitive riding, but please don't worry – everybody started off feeling the same! Our Pony Club is run by Danielle Redden and Tracy Glover, and one of them is normally about to answer any questions that you may have, though please be aware that the lesson change over period at a weekend is normally a very busy time for us! Hopefully the following pages should answer any queries that you may have.

The Pony Club is the number one organisation for young people who love ponies and riding. There are 40,000 Pony Club Members in Great Britain, belonging to either one of the 357 branches or 347 centres. Membership of The Pony Club offers fun, friendship, training, events and competitions.

Internationally The Pony Club has a membership of over 137,000 across 16 countries, making it the largest association of riders in the world. Most British equestrian medal winners at the Olympics and World Championships have been Members of The Pony Club.

The Pony Club is an international voluntary youth organisation for youngsters interested in ponies and riding and was founded in England in 1929. The Pony Club was granted independent charitable status on 1st January 1997. It is the largest association of riders in the world. Children that own their own ponies may join a Branch of the Pony Club, but Centre membership is designed specifically for children who ride regularly at a linked Centre but who do not own their own pony.

The Objectives of The Pony Club are:

- to encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding
- to give instruction in riding and horsemastership and to educate Members to look after and to take proper care of their animal
- to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and
- loyalty to create strength of character and self-discipline

Membership is open to boys and girls under 25 years of age who become Ordinary Members until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21 and thereafter become Associate Members. Membership ends at the end of the year in which a Member becomes twenty-five.

The Pony Club Office is at Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, from where The Pony Club is managed by a permanent staff responsible to the governing body – The Council. Centre Membership runs alongside Branch Membership around the country. There are currently over 347 Centres linked to The Pony Club in the United Kingdom with more being enrolled across the country.

Potential Members join at their local linked Riding Centre. The Proprietor administers the activities of each Centre. Centre Membership is open to anyone under 21 years of age who does not own a pony. Members pay an annual subscription and receive instruction at a linked Riding Centre; this subscription constitutes Membership of the Club and includes 3rd party insurance.

Centre Membership allows the opportunity for a Member to learn more about riding and horse and pony care. Members are encouraged to take an interest in their work and improve their knowledge by working towards and gaining Achievement Badges (there are over 20 covering a range of subjects) and Pony Club Tests.

WELLINGTON PONY CLUB CENTRE

Children are encouraged to join our Pony Club once they have independent control of their pony. This is normally at about New Forest level, though a stronger Exmoor level rider may join. Tracy and Danielle are in charge of allocating the League in which the rider will start off. As a rule it is best for the younger children to start off in the Novice League as they will be allowed a lot more help here than in the other Leagues, and riding in an arena on their own to complete a dressage test or a show-jumping round, however small, is a lot different from riding in a group lesson! Older children will start off in one of the higher leagues, depending on the level at which they are riding.

We run approximately 2 competitions a month throughout most of the year, the summer holidays being a closed period for the Pony Club. All information about the Pony Club, including forthcoming competitions, results and any additional information on Pony Club activities can be found on The Pony Club Notice Board which is situated just inside the door of the Nosebag. Please keep a close eye on this board so that you know what is going on and when! You can also find details of forthcoming Pony Club events on this site.

So now you've joined the Pony Club what next?

- Have a word with Tracy or Danielle as to which league you will be starting off in;
- Read carefully through this package so that you know what to expect at each type of competition, and what you should be wearing (Pony Club sweatshirts are available from Wellington's shop);
- Have a look at the calendar and choose a competition that you would like to take part in (if its dressage make sure you take a copy of the relevant dressage test);
- Fill in an entry form (please state if this is your first competition, and give us an idea which horses/ponies you are used to riding);
- Book in at the office and hand in your entry form;
- Arrive on the night and have fun! Competitions usually start at 5.30, but please try to get to Wellington by 5pm so we have time to make sure that you know what you're doing!

Guidelines for Pony Club Events and Tests

Throughout the year we run a series of competitions as well as some gymkhanas. In the gymkhanas you can try some mounted games for fun. The competitions will give you a chance to practice what you have learned in your ordinary lessons, learn what its like to compete in show-jumping, dressage and cross-country in a friendly atmosphere and, of course, to see if you can win a rosette!

There is a calendar on the Pony Club notice board in the club house and on this website, setting out all the competition and gymkhana dates. If you want to take part you have to book at the office and it will cost the same as your usual group lesson. Make sure you book well in advance as places are limited. You also need to fill in an entry form and hand it in at the office when you book your place.

The competitions are run in 7 Leagues: the Novice, Upper Novice, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate and 3 Owner/Rider Leagues – Mini, Intermediate and Major. We run show-jumping and dressage competitions for all the Leagues and Cross Country competitions and rallies as well for the 2 Intermediate Leagues and the OR Leagues. Tracy or Danielle will decide which League you should join. At the end of every year your Pony Club Organisers will decide who can move up to a new League.

Please be aware that we are unable to tell competitors who they are riding before the event as circumstances may well change on the actual night – i.e. ponies deciding not to be caught!

Dressage Competitions

For these events each competitor will have a set time allocated to them for their dressage test. This will depend on number of entries, time of year and sometimes also weather. To obtain these times you should phone Tracy on 07738 872 053 between 7 and 9 the night before the event, and we will tell you your time and any additional information about the event itself. Please note that if this line is engaged please call back rather than leaving a message. Notification of the test that you will be riding is advertised on the Pony Club Notice Board and this website, and a copy of the test is available from Wellington from below the Pony Club board in the clubhouse and from the Pony Club website.

Warming up will take approx' 20 minutes before your time and Novice and Upper Novice members should have a chance to run through the test with an Instructor before they go in to iron out any last minute problems. Intermediate/Upper Intermediate and OR riders should be of the level where a practice test is not necessary, though they can practice the necessary movements as they warm up. Novice, Upper Novice, Intermediate and Mini and Intermediate Owner Rider members may have the test read to them by one of the parents if they so wish. Upper Intermediate and OR level riders MUST learn the test.

Show Jumping Competitions

For these events each competitor will be in a set group corresponding to their League. Each group will have a starting time for their class: e.g. 5.30 pm. You will need to walk the course before you mount on your ponies. An Instructor will walk the course with you explaining the rules and the course. You will then have approx' 20 minutes to warm up before you jump. If you are late for any reason this is not the end of the world. You will need to come to the Indoor School and speak to the Instructor in charge. You can then watch a few rounds so you get an idea of the course.

Basic Show-Jumping Rules

Always wait for the bell before you begin to jump your course.

Whilst jumping between fences never cross your tracks by circling.

If you have a stop/refusal at a fence you must return back to that fence and not jump another fence on the way. For example if you jump fences 1, 2, 3 and stop at 4 you must not jump fences 1,2,3, just present your pony back to fence 4 and then continue with the rest of the course.

If you stop during a double, you then must start from the first part of the double, jumping both fences.

Elimination occurs if you: a) Jump the wrong fence b) fall off c) Have 3 refusals during your round.

Make sure you arrive at the competition in enough time to walk the course before the class begins. Also find out under which rules the competition is being run under. For example: Table A5 rules involves you jumping your jump off course straight after your first round, not leaving the arena, where as A3 involves a separate jump off course. Always find out your jump off course and walk it.

Check the dress code and make sure that you are turned out appropriately.

Gymkhana

These are fun events in which all the children ride together at a set time for a set period.

For each event it is your responsibility to phone Wellington on 01189 326308 the day before to check the running times for the events, as these will be subject to change. Pony Club events are designed to get the children riding more independently as they would if they had their own ponies. We are always available to help but it is to your advantage to prepare yourself for each event.

Efficiency Tests

The Pony Club nationally has a series of 'Efficiency' tests which examine both your riding skills and how much you know about ponies and how to look after them. They have to be taken in order, starting with the D Test, whatever age you are when you join, although you can skip the D+ Test if you are 11 years or over and are already beyond that standard.

For the D Test you must be 5 years old and able to walk and trot off the lead rein, and mount and dismount unaided. You will have to answer a few questions about parts of the pony and its tack and show that you know how to lead a pony properly. When you have passed you can wear a yellow felt behind your Pony Club badge.

The next test is the D+ Test. You must be at least 9 years old to take your D+. You will need to be able to canter and go over a small jump. There are stable management questions to answer and a fair amount of practical tasks. When you pass it you have a white felt to wear under your badge.

For the C Test you need to be a confident rider who knows how to look after a pony and you will be asked to show that you can do things like putting a tail bandage or rug on a pony. In order to take the C Test you also have to have passed the Pony Club Road Safety Certificate.

Once you are 14 years or over you can study towards your C+ Test, this is the highest test that you can achieve at a centre, so you need to be fairly accomplished in stable management, theory and riding. To take the C+ Test you must have passed the BHS Riding and Road Safety Test.

Further Tests can be taken up to the A Test, but these must be taken within a branch.

You will learn the riding skills for your tests in your ordinary lessons. Members may also want to buy the 'Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship' (available from Wellington's shop), which has all the information you will need to pass these tests. A full syllabus of the efficiency tests can be found on the Pony Club website at www.pony-club.org.uk.

The Tests themselves are taken at Wellington Riding and again the times and costs for these will be advertised on the board and on this website.

Achievement Badges

These are for those too young to take the Efficiency Tests (or to fill in the years between Tests), but who want to learn more about caring for a pony. There are 20 badges in all, and on completion of each you earn a badge that can be sewn on to your Pony Club sweatshirt.

Candidates will be charged a fee by the Centre to cover the cost of normal hire charges and other costs for Training Sessions and Tests run by Wellington Riding.

How we are organised

Wellington Riding organise all the competitions, tests and special lessons. The Instructors/Organisers of our Pony Club are Tracy Glover and Danielle Redden.

WELLINGTON PONY CLUB CENTRE RULES

FROM 01.01.03 ALL WELLINGTON PONY CLUB MEMBERS (AND BRANCH MEMBERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN THE OR LEAGUE), PLUS THEIR PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS MUST READ AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES. MEMBERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE UNTIL THE COMPLIANCE FORM AT THE END OF THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE OFFICE.

COMPETITIONS

The organisers of Pony Club events have taken reasonable precautions to ensure the Health and Safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of organisers/officials and stewards. Horse riding is a risk sport and therefore Wellington Riding and its staff cannot accept responsibility for any accident/damage or injury to horse/rider/owners or other persons or property.

There will be a maximum of 30 competitors per event (including OR's).

All events will be run from 5.30pm – 9pm (ish) except the Hunter Trials which will be a 2pm start. Where possible later starts MAY be available for those competing later in the evening. Please phone the office to confirm starting times THE DAY BEFORE the event (between 9am and 1pm).

From 01.01.03 members will be required to complete an entry form and hand it in at the office when booking their place for an event. A name and payment will not guarantee a place at an event if an entry form does not accompany it. Entry forms are available from the office. Please Note that booking for Pony Club competitions can only be made at the office, i.e. we do not accept phone or fax bookings.

DRESS CODE: Pony Club Sweatshirts or Jackets MUST be worn. Gloves are compulsory. Waterproof riding coats (done up) may be worn whilst warming up but must be removed before competing.

Cream/Beige jodhpurs or breeches. A suitable plain-coloured shirt with a collar. CLEAN boots (jodhpur or long), half chaps or gaiters may be worn (but no tassles!) and must match boots. A visible Pony Club Badge and either a Pony Club tie or a correctly fastened stock (white stock with black/navy show jacket or coloured stock with a hacking jacket).

Approved standard hats (PAS 015 or EN1384) with plain dark silks must be worn with the chinstrap correctly fastened at all times when mounted. Long hair must be kept tidy in a hair net. Whips must be short when jumping and either short or long for dressage. Body Protectors are compulsory for Cross-Country and advisable for Show-Jumping. For all Cross-Country a long sleeved shirt is compulsory, which may be coloured. Spurs may only be worn by OR's with permission of the organiser. For Safety reasons, no jewellery (including sleepers) may be worn, other than a watch, stock pin, tie pin or Pony Club badge. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DRESS CODE WILL RESULT IN ELIMINATION.**

All competitors AND parents to meet with Tracy & Danielle in the clubhouse at 5.30pm for the evenings briefing (unless allocated later starts). Jobs will be allocated at the briefing, and a lack of volunteers will result in cancellation of the event. Please Note: Parents don't need to be 'horsey' to help at events. Please don't leave all the work to the same few volunteers every time.

As in all competitions the judges decision is final – any issues/objections or concerns should be put in writing to Tracy Glover or Danielle Redden and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.

All events are run under Pony Club Rules – a copy of these rules can be obtained through the Pony Club.

The horse/pony allocation is final, but Wellington Riding reserves the right to make a substitution without giving notice.

If weather conditions are extreme please ring and check in case of cancellation.

Please note that from 01.01.09 the Novice, Upper Novice and Novice Owner Rider Leagues will compete on one night and the Intermediate, Int OR, Upper Intermediates and Major Owner Riders will compete on a different night.

To compete at any competition, members must ensure that their Pony Club membership is kept up to date.

If you enter any competition you agree to abide by the above rules.

LEAGUES AND MEMBERSHIP

Centre Membership is intended for those children who do not have their own pony, either owned, hired or on loan, and who ride at a Pony Club Linked Riding Centre, and it is open for all such children to apply for Centre Membership. To remain a member of Wellington Pony Club Centre you must be a regular rider at Wellington Riding i.e. participate in at least 2 lessons a month. A child who owns a pony, keeps it at a Pony Club Linked Riding Centre, and has no means of transporting it, may apply for Centre Membership. A Centre Member who subsequently acquires a pony, and has transport should join a BRANCH.

If a Wellington Pony Club Centre member acquires their own pony, either owned, hired or on loan, they must let either Danielle or Tracy know immediately – failure to do so will result in disqualification from the League.

All OR's with available transport **MUST** be a member of a Pony Club BRANCH. Branch members must have permission from their DC's to compete in our OR League. It is up to you to seek this permission and failure to do so will result in Elimination (we will be checking this with your Branch DC's).

If a member obtains their horse during the year they must switch to the OR League, and points earned on Wellington Riding ponies will be carried across.

In 2009 there will be 3 OR Leagues – The Mini League for younger riders, an Intermediate League and the Major League for the older more experienced riders.

If a Novice or Intermediate level rider wishes to switch leagues (either up or down), or an OR rider wishes to compete on the Novice night, they may do so with appropriate notice, but must compete HC (i.e. no points, placings or prizes will be awarded).

PLEASE PRINT AND KEEP A COPY OF THE RULES IN A SAFE PLACE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Please print out, complete and return the following declaration to Wellington:

I (print) name.....(Please tick as applicable):

.....Do not own, loan, borrow or hire a horse or pony.

.....Have a horse or pony of my own, loaned or leased, but do not have any transport.

.....Own, loan, lease a horse or pony and am able to transport my horse to competitions.

I (rider/competitor) confirm that the above statement is true at this time and have read and agree to abide by The Rules as set out by the Wellington Riding Pony Club Centre.

I (parent/guardian).....

Confirm that the above statement is true at this time and have read and agree to abide by The Rules as set out by the Wellington Riding Pony Club Centre.

Date: