



Welcome to the Mid-Devon Hunt Branch of the Pony Club

This Booklet is designed to give you an insight into what is expected of you as a member of our pony club and also give you an idea of the things we do and what is available for you to try.

GENERAL INFORMATION

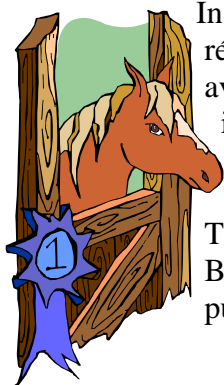
Riding Clothes– The Pony Club requires that you wear a reinforced riding hat to the correct specification (these often change, so check with the ride organiser or DC for up to date requirements.) A back protector must be worn for x-country jumping and is advised for all jumping. When attending a mounted rally the member should wear a riding jacket or Branch Sweat Shirt (most members wear sweatshirts), jodhpurs (cream) jodhpur boots black or brown with plain matching half chaps or long riding boots, a suitable long sleeved white shirt, the official Pony Club Tie or Stock, gloves and Pony Club Badge. (Spurs are only allowed to be worn with Permission of the D.C. or those holding their B Test.) If you are left unattended by parents at a rally/event we politely request that you wear a medical arm band in case of an emergency. When attending a Pony Club event a member must wear his/her hat if mounted at **all times** and have it securely fastened – Second hand clothes are available on the website.

Ponies – that are very young, or are infirm through old age, illness, thin or lame are not allowed to be ridden at Pony Club rallies or events. Ponies that are a danger to their riders or other members are also not allowed. Ponies that kick should wear red ribbons in their tails. Stallions can only be ridden at Pony Club events with the written permission of the District Commissioner.

All ponies are expected to be properly groomed and well turned out. Saddlery must fit the pony and be in good repair and be of black or brown leather. Numnahs are to be plain black, white, brown or blue.

What our Pony Club is all about

Our Pony Club is here to teach those who like and own horses/ponies how to care for them. build skills in riding and stable management, develop new friendships and enjoy the social side of Pony Club. Pony Club is here for all types of rider, for those who just hack and wish to improve their skills to the most competitive riders, who wish to take part in different aspects of riding or represent their club at Area Level or above. A Pony Club Manual is an essential part of the Pony Club Kit and is full of useful information. One can be obtained through the pony club website.



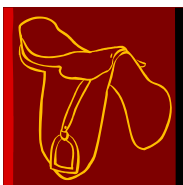
In the next few pages we are giving you a short résumé of the various types of Pony Club activities available at the present time in our Club. These include:- Rallies (Ridden and Dismounted) Team Show Jumping, Triathlon & Tetrathlon, Prince Phillip Mounted Games, Dressage, Le trec, Horse Trials, ODE (One Day Events) Camp, Achievement Badges, Pleasure Rides. Hunting and things that we put on as Social activities.

If you would like further information about anything in this booklet. Do not hesitate to speak to any committee member, who will be happy to assist you. We have a Parents Representative who will bring ideas for the well being of the club and matters of concern to committee meetings on your behalf.

Representing the Club

If you are selected to represent the club at an event you must have attended three ridden Pony Club Rallies during the present Pony Club Year. (Same Rider & Same Horse/Pony)

Ridden Rallies:- At a ridden rally you can expect to be taught by a qualified instructor in the areas of flat-work , jumping, x-country and dressage. (depending on the venue) You will be expected to attend these rallies wearing the correct clothing—**no bling!** (hat to the relevant safety standard and a back protector for x-country jumping) and presenting your pony in a clean and healthy condition and your tack in a clean and safe condition (tack must fit your horse/pony correctly and stitching must be good . Black or Brown Leather Only). We strongly recommend that children clean their own tack, younger ones with minimal help. We have a points system for you to work towards. You will be put in rides of roughly the same ability/age group, to make it easier for the instructors. But I must stress that the instructors are very capable of teaching at all levels so you will not suffer if the ride you are in is higher or lower than the level that you are at. You will always be taught to your own personal ability. **Children under the age of 11 are not allowed to be left at Rallies unsupervised.**



Dismounted Rallies:- These are sometimes held before or after a ridden rally or on a set day at someone’s stables. This is when you learn all about horse management, tack, horse care, feeding, illness, rugs, bandaging, fields, poisonous plants, shoeing/feet. Points of the horse etc...Dismounted Rallies can also include films, talks, tack cleaning and games

Tests:- as you progress through pony club you have the opportunity to take Pony Club Tests, these depend on age and ability. But the following is a rough guide.

D Test	Age. 7/8
Road Safety Achievement Badge	8/9
D+ Test	10
Road Safety Test /BHS Road Safety	12/13 to be taken before C Test
C Test	12/13
C+ Test	13/14
Road Safety Test /BHS Road Safety	13/14
B Test	14/15
Lunging Exam	must have B test to do this
A Test Stable Management part A	17
A Test Ridden part B	17

Team Show Jumping:- Teams are made up of 3 or 4 members (if you have 4 in a team you stand a better chance of being placed, as only the 3 best results are used). Teams start at Mini, Junior and Senior. Some times teams are made up of different age groups. Your pony or horse should be fairly good at jumping, but we all have to start somewhere. Teams are put together to make the strongest team. This means that we often have a 1st and 2nd team competing. If you do well in one competition then you will probably be put in a stronger team next time out. As this is a team effort we expect you to make a firm commitment to the competition, pay in advance (team jumping is expensive) and where at all possible not let others down by not turning up. There are set rules about clothing, tack and accessories and these vary from one event to another. Your Team Show Jumping Organiser will inform you about each events requirements.



Triathlon & Tetrathlon:- Is a Pony Club event with 3 or 4 sections. Triathlon (Running, Shooting & Swimming) Tetrathlon (Running, Shooting, Swimming and Riding (mainly x-country) A Triathlon takes place during one day. A Tetrathlon over 2 days. Children have to be 8 years of age to compete. An ordinary pony will do perfectly well as long as it is not under 5 years of age. For the shooting a .177 air pistol is used. The club has several if you do not wish to purchase your own. Shooting tuition is held most Tuesday Evenings. Running training is also done at the same venue, (weather permitting). Swimming – you can use what ever style you wish to swim as far as possible in 2 or 3 minutes (depending on age) Our club holds a regular swimming training session every Monday evening. Our Club is known for its strong Tet and Tri Teams, there is lots more technical information regarding this section of the Pony Club. For further information contact Patrick Bugg who have successfully undertaken the running of Tet & Tri's for a number of years. Tel. 01647 432476

Prince Phillip Mounted Games:- These games were the brain-wave of HRH Prince Phillip. The games were designed for ordinary children, on ordinary ponies and any pony with training can make a team. The games call for courage, determination and all round riding ability so both children and ponies require careful and systematic training. All ponies must have attended three rallies since the previous 1st July and one of those rallies must be in the same year as the games. i.e. after 1st January of the current year. The team consists of 5 riders and ponies. All ponies must be under 14.2 h.h. and over 4 years of age. The Prince Phillip team riders must not have had their 15th birthday by 1st January. Two riders and their ponies – providing they meet all the above conditions may compete in the Prince Phillip Team and the Junior Team. Bending is always one of the games and a set list of games arrives from headquarters each November. If you are interested ask the Committee for details.

Dressage:- All horses go through an element of dressage from the moment that they are first ridden with schooling, dressage just takes schooling or flat-work one or more steps forward. The idea of Dressage is to improve your riding ability and make your horse more responsive, obedient, balanced, co-ordinated, strong and supple. These attributes will help you in all areas of riding :- Jumping, Gymkhanas, X-Country and Hack-
ing. At most ridden rallies you will work on elements of dressage:- transition in pace, bend, balance, movements (circles, half circles, serpentine, turns on the forehand, extended stride etc...) Dressage is something that you can easily practise at home (if you have a 20m x 40m flat area) A set of Pony Club Dressage Tests is available from Headquarters – for a small fee. But if you ask other pony Club members I'm sure they will happily lend you copies of Dressage Tests to photocopy. Extra Dressage tuition is often put on in the early summer months, ask the Pony Club Ride Organiser if you are interested.



Le Trec. The fastest growing horse sport available to all ages and abilities. Consists of three phases 1. PTV (Cross Country Obstacles) over a course of natural and simulated obstacles you might meet out hacking. 2. CP (Control of Paces) determines the riders control of fastest walk and slowest canter for up to 150 metres. 3. POR (Mounted Orienteering) following a route using a map up to a distance of 12km. Each section scores points. Compulsory equipment is BHS standard riding hat, fluorescent tabard, compass, map marking pen, torch, basic first aid kit for horse/rider, head collar and rope, medical arm band, whistle. Snack and stopwatch. If you are interested in some training or more information please contact a committee member.

O.D.E – Eventing

We hold a One Day Event during the year. This competition is usually open event. O.D.E's are set at different levels from Novice right through to Area Eventing. A One Day Event usually has three stages, firstly a fairly simple dressage test which



in most cases must be performed from memory (some novice classes allow callers) that shows the rider and the horses ability to demonstrate obedience and athleticism at different paces, secondly a show jumping phase where you must try to complete a clear round and thirdly a X-Country stage where horse and rider have to complete a course of solid jumps, ditches and water(usually in a set time). Remember that horses and ponies require much greater fitness for these events than normal hacking.

Camp:- This can be the main holiday for some children in our club so with this in mind it is not run like a regiment, but so that the children can learn and have fun in safety.



Camp counts as one Rally no matter how long it is. Ponies need to be very fit for camp as it is long and tiring for them. The Camp organiser sends out details of cost, equipment lists, rides, social events etc.. Parents of younger members need to be able to assist their children with tacking up, catching ponies etc.. As a parent/carer you might be asked to stay over night to supervise the children, cook meals, tidy up or clean etc...Most often we offer a 4 Day camp for everyone. See the Camp Organiser for details.

Achievement Badges:- There are mini badges for children aged 4-8years and higher badges designed for children who are around their D+ and C Test level. They are an enjoyable way of giving members a chance to improve their general knowledge of the horse, countryside and the environment., with a reward of a nice badge that can be sewn on to the children's Pony Club Sweat Shirt. There are Equine Badges and General knowledge/countryside/environment to aim for. Badges are often taken at Camp or at Dismounted Rallies.

Pleasure Rides:-These types of ride have varied. We have had a Christmas Mince Pie Ride through woodland. Joined the Mid Devon Hunt for Hound Exercise. Had picnic rides, X-Country rides with optional fences , Moorland Rides and Mock Hunts. Parents are always welcome on these rides as escorts or to lead younger children from their own horses. Most of these rides are fast, so children should be able to canter or gallop and their ponies should behave in a crowd. Easter Egg Hunts and Treasure Hunts have been put on for younger members and those on the lead rein.

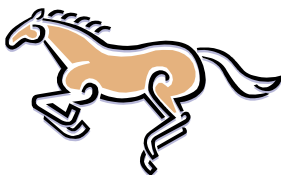
Social Events:- These are aimed to bring parents and children together without their ponies, sometimes they are held to raise money for the club and we ask that you help run and support these events. We have held Barbecue's, Silent Auctions, Sponsored Swims, Been Bowling, Organised trips to Studs, Races and Badminton. Our Main Social Event is our Annual Christmas Party, where we give out awards, certificates, badges and trophy's by the bucket full. Where the children can be kept busy with the entertainment and the Parents/Carers can have a well deserved drink at the bar!.



Hunting— We are attached to the Mid-Devon Hunt which is based at the Kennels at Chagford. We are lucky that we have a close relationship with our hunt. We are invited out on Hound Exercise and the Hunt often have a special Pony Club Meet for us during the October and February Half Term Holidays. We have also enjoyed a day looking around the kennels. The Hunt asks that **children under 16 years of age have a supervising adult keeping an eye on them.** You will appreciate the many dangers of fast riding on the road, in the fields and especially on the moors.



For up to date information regarding the Mid-Devon Hunt Branch of the Pony Club, our future programme, schedules and plans contact our web page
www.pcuk.org



Written on behalf of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Pony Club by J. Foubister. Extracts taken from Pony Club Headquarters literature. Prince Phillip information kindly supplied by Mrs. J. Millett. Updated Jan 08 by Janet Foubister and Penny Rowe.