



# SOHAM AND DISTRICT

## BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB

District Commissioner	Assistant District Commissioner	Secretary	Membership Secretary
Mr Clem Tompsett Willow Farm Hasse Road Soham Ely CB7 5UN 01353 720219	Mr Peter Jonason Westfield Farm Northfield Road Soham Ely CB7 5UF 01353 720348	Mrs Lucy Tuck 5 Croft Road Isleham, Ely CB7 5QR 01638 781024 07724 241598	Mrs Tina Hall 4 Frowd Close Fordham, Ely CB7 5NE 01638 720989 07751 597623

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### Nov 2014

Dear Members, Parents and Instructors

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Soham and District Pony Club.  
We hope this will be useful, with relevant information and a round up of a very busy year with our pony club.

Many of you know this already, but just a reminder of who is who, and don't forget all this information is contained on our website  
[www.sohamponyclub.co.uk](http://www.sohamponyclub.co.uk)

#### Committee Members are :

Clem Tompsett (District Commissioner)  
Peter Jonason (Assistant DC)  
Mary Tompsett  
Bryan Housden (Treasurer)  
Lucy Tuck (Secretary)  
Tina Hall (Membership Secretary)  
Sue Cameron  
Sue McGuinness  
Kathy Stringer  
Alison Irvine

Within the committee, and beyond there are specific areas of responsibility, and they include  
Training and clinics – Sue Cameron and Kathy Stringer  
Rally set up – Sue Cameron and Kathy Stringer  
Rallies and instructors – Lucy Tuck  
Membership queries and kit - Tina Hall  
Pony Club Tests – Laura Whitehouse  
Events secretaries – every event will have a secretary designated, and this can be found on the schedule  
Website / PR / Newsletters – Sue Cameron  
Tetrathlon – Sue Cameron  
Teams (Non Areas) – Sue Cameron  
Area Teams – Peter Jonason and Lucy Tuck

Mounted Games – Alison Irvine  
Achievement Badges – Sam Huggan

If you are in any doubt as to who to contact, then please contact Lucy Tuck in the first instance and she can point you in the right direction.  
All contact details for those individuals can be found on the website.

### **Website**

We are fortunate enough to have someone who manages our website for us, so if there is anything you think you'd like to see that isn't there, please contact Sue Cameron .

### **Review of the last year**

What a great year we had! Lots to celebrate and some really good foundations to build on this year.

All of our events we held were a great success and all of them made a profit. This is good news for our members , as we are one of the very few pony clubs, where members do not have to pay for rallies. The money to cover the cost of these comes from the events we run, so we depend on them being successful. Because they were ,this also allowed us to purchase new jumps, both for the cross country course (which is the envy of many pony clubs) and for showjumping. They were a success , largely from the organization and the volunteers who did everything from making tea , to jump judging , through to scoring...without you all helping, these events could not be run, so please do keep that support coming this year, as it is vital.

A big well done to all our teams who represented Soham this past year. We have been very fortunate to be able to send some of the very smallest of members to junior novice events, right through to the team who competed at Burghley in September. There are too many to mention by name, but we sent teams to Houghton Hall Equestrian Centre, Milton (CWA), Peterborough (East of England Showground),Houghton International, and we fared pretty well, with some good placings in many of the classes.

A big well done to the novice, intermediate and open teams who represented us at area level, in all 3 disciplines. We are investing well this year , with the areas in mind, to really be a force to be reckoned with in area competitions ! A special mention goes to the novice dressage team who qualified and went to the national championships – well done Lauren Price, Nicki Hart, Rebecca Chapple and Emma Greenwood. The first team from Soham to get to the championships in this discipline. They had a very respectable results at the championship too.  
And another well done to Jessica McIlwraith who qualified and went to the national championships at open level eventing.

### **Help to set up rallies and at events**

Everyone is expected to help set up at least twice, and there is no rota for putting away, in the expectation that EVERYONE helps clear away. We do appreciate those parents with tiny tots at an evening rally need to get the little ones to bed, so helping more at the end of a day rally is much appreciated.

Set up is designated by a rota, and swapping got very complicated this year, so if you cannot make the date given on the rota, can you let Sue Cameron know as soon as the rota comes out, and then let her know what date you can do (all dates will be on the rota). A couple of people did not help at set up at all this year, and therefore will not be sent renewal forms for their membership. If you do not communicate and don't turn up, unfortunately you will not be able to book in for future rallies.

It is also expected that members will help at events, again a minimum of twice during our calendar. (The BE event doesn't count as this is not a pony club event). For those who have not had a go at jump judging, it's great fun and you get to see all the action , and instruction on what to do is readily available..so have a go....

### **Teams**

We have been fortunate this year to provide opportunities for many of our members to compete in team competitions. Sometimes, however we aren't always able to offer places to all that express an interest, but please do let us know if you are keen, so we can give consideration to all those interested. Teams are selected according to

latest competition results, and teams are put together of those who are considered most likely to go clear at a particular height, where they are confident and competent at that level. It is not appropriate to put children under pressure to do a team competition at a level where they may not be confident. We are also very clear to point out the pony club guidance on parental support in these situations.

Please see link below :

[http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/parents\\_information/parents\\_pressure/](http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/parents_information/parents_pressure/)

All events will have a report , with photos, put on the website.

If anyone has any photos from any of these events, please send to Sue Cameron. They need to be full size and of good picture quality.

If anyone has any photos of the children at rallies, or camp, we can put these on the website too.

Any ideas for the website are always welcome, we want to keep it “live” and well used.

There is also a facebook page for our members, though this is an open group, membership does have to be approved by the admin team – this way we can filter out spammers and inappropriate posts.

### **Important diary dates – events at Isleham**

These are put on the website once they are confirmed.

Schedules can be downloaded from [www.sohamponyclub.co.uk](http://www.sohamponyclub.co.uk) or [www.horsedates.co.uk](http://www.horsedates.co.uk) .

It is expected that all members’ families help at a minimum of two of these events. Please let Tina Hall know which event you are able to help at.

Rally dates will also go up on the website, once they have been finalized.

### **Area Dates**

For those that need advance notice, they will be sent out in the New Year.

In the meantime, whilst we have no formal rallies through the winter, there are clinics running, which have been subsidized , to help give everyone the opportunity to keep ticking over through the winter. Kathy Stringer is organizing these.

For the smaller members there are some self funding rallies being run by Sam Huggan one of our instructors.

We hope you’ve all had a good year at our pony club. Membership renewals will come out in the near future, so we hope to see many of you back again.

Best wishes  
Sue Cameron  
(On behalf of the SDPC Committee)