



SOHAM AND DISTRICT

BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB

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18th March 2011

Dear Members, Parents and Instructors

Welcome to a new year with Soham and District Pony Club, we have the same team as last year, so if you have any problems please contact either Lesley Murdoch or Tina Hall and we will endeavor to help if we can, or put you in the right direction to someone who can. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members we have this year and all members who have renewed their membership. The membership cards have not yet been received from head office; these will be sent out as soon as they have.

We would like to start by congratulating all of the members who competed in our teams last year that qualified for the Show jumping championships and also Eventing. We were also placed 6th at Burghley, so had a very successful year. Also congratulations to all members who passed their C test and Road Rider Certificate. We have already been to a team event this year at Overa Farm and enjoyed a win with one of our teams. A good day was had by all, thanks to all those who took part and helped and congratulations to the members involved.

All members that have not yet done so, or are not receiving emails from me or Lesley please email me on tina17hall@btinternet.com and I will add you to the list, this includes anyone who has email, but did not put it on their application form. If you do not have this facility we will still post your information.

With reference to rallies, please make sure when rally forms are sent out they are returned promptly and you must let us know even if you are unable to make it. This can save us a lot of money in extra instructors. You can send them back by post, email or you can telephone Lesley or Tina. **If anyone arrives at a rally not having booked in we will unfortunately have to send you home!!** It is very important to us that all members attending a rally have a parent with them or someone who is responsible for them. Kathy Stringer will be running the rally rota this year and everyone is expected to set up when scheduled and all members will pack away. I am looking for more helpers to assist with the rally set up, so please contact me if you are able to help, email or telephone as above. Thanks to Sue Cameron who has been organizing winter rallies for our younger members, I believe they are a great success and also to Kathy Stringer for arranging a few clinics for the older members. Your hard work is appreciated.

This leads to a part of the newsletter that Lorraine Webster Ward our Chief Instructor wishes to add. After a rather sticky start with our rallies last year, I hope you all ended up happy with the work you did do once we were all established. As you can imagine it is incredibly difficult organizing all of our members into appropriate rides as some do an awful lot more than others through the winter months. We will therefore, this year make at least the first

couple of rallies assessments to allow the instructors to assess everyone and ensure we have them in the correct group. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask for any suggestions that any of you may have regarding our rallies and club as we are very keen to ensure we are catering for all age groups and abilities. We now have an awful lot of younger members and don't want to forget about our older members either. The opportunities are endless, but as always, it takes volunteers to offer to help. I am very happy for any of you to email me personally on l.websterward@btinternet.com if you would like to comment on anything. I will ensure that your comments are discussed at our meetings and feedback to you accordingly.

If you are interested in team competitions then please make it known to us and your details can be forwarded to the relevant people. Please find the following dates for your diary:

March 27th - Soham and District Pony Club Hunter Trial
May 8th – Soham and District Pony Club One Day Event
June 12th – Soham and District Mini Hunter Trial
September 10th – Closed Show
September 25th – Wilkinson Sword Hunter Trial

It is expected that all members' families help at at least two of these events. If you would like to let me know which you can help at please contact me Tina Hall as above.

Area Competitions as follows:

Dressage 3rd July – Blackwater Farm
Show Jumping 10th July – Poplar Park
Horse Trials 6th and 7th August – Whitehall Farm, Isleham – **WE WILL NEED LOTS OF HELPERS**
Calvert Cup 24th July - Graveley
Novice Horse Trials 23rd August – Barnham Broom

We will be holding a Parents' Meeting on April 8th at Fordham Bowls Club at 7.30pm, we would like as many there as possible. Please can you let me know by email or telephone or text if you are able to come as we have to set out the chairs on the day. We will be having a talk, but speaker is not yet confirmed. There is a bar and light refreshment will be provided. Please let me know as soon as possible on this.

We ran a Quiz on January 28th at Fordham Bowls Club, which was very well attended a great evening was had by all. Thanks to those of you who were able to come.

Finally as you know Lesley and I will not be continuing in our current roles next year, so we are looking for a Rally Co-coordinator and a Membership Secretary, I believe the jobs could be split into 3 to make life easier.

We hope you enjoy your pony club year. You will be able to download our schedules from our website www.sdpconline.co.uk or www.horsedates.co.uk we did have a problem, but it is solved now. I have enclosed a copy of our rally dates for everyone too.

All the best

Tina and Lesley