



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

February 2016

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 roundup 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.

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 - Vacancy
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.

Mounted Games and Other Disciplines

Pony Club Headquarters have requested that we seek to revive the Mounted Games discipline. This is a great tradition with the pony club, and the final of the mounted games is for the Prince Philip Cup and is held at the Horse of the Year Show.

We are in desperate need of a volunteer to take this on for our pony club. All support would come from the committee, but it needs someone to organize training and teams and really motivate the kids to have a go and try it. If you are interested, please let Lucy Tuck know.

Likewise, if anyone is interested in leading on any of the other pony club disciplines, (e.g. polo / tetrathlon) please get in contact with Lucy.

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! There was lots to celebrate and some really good foundations to build on this year.

All the 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, it allowed the purchase of 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 Sotterly, Geldeston Hall, Peterborough (East of England Showground), Houghton International, to name a few 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 those who went to the national championships. Katie Cameron competed in the novice dressage championships and Charlotte Chapple competed in the open show jumping. Charlotte did particularly well being placed 7th. Well done!

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. 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 http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/parents_information/parents_pressure/.

All events will have a report, with photos, which gets put onto 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 or 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 are available on the Area 8 page of the Pony Club Website

<http://branches.pcuk.org/area8/area-competition-dates-2011/>

New Rules regarding hats and bodyprotectors

Please pay close attention to the information below...

Please find below links to the updated Hat and Body Protector Rules of The Pony Club for 2016. The key changes are as follows:

- As previously noted, the hat standard BS EN 1384 has been removed as an accepted hat standard from the 1st January 2016. Please remind your Members and their parents / guardians to bear this in mind when buying new riding hats.
- We are now accepting the hat standards ASTM F1163 and VG1.
- We are now accepting the new red BE hat tags, so if Members have BE red tagged hats, they will not need tagging with a white Pony Club hat tag. However, please note we can still randomly spot check tagged hats if we wish.
- We are clarifying the position regarding peaks in cross-country riding including Eventing, Tetrathlon, Horse Trials and also Pony Racing and Mounted Games. Please note that a jockey skull cap must be worn, with no fixed peak, peak type extensions or noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front and should have an even round or elliptical shape with a smooth or slightly abrasive surface.
- Body protectors used in Cross Country or Pony Racing must be BETA Level 3 standard. These have a purple BETA tag on them.

To download the full hat rule for 2016, please click [here](#).

To download the full body protector rule for 2016, please click [here](#).

Note: Any changes or additions to the rules are shown in **bold text**.

Clinics

In the meantime, whilst we have no formal rallies through the winter, there have been and will be more clinics running, which have been subsidised, 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 have been sent out and should have been returned by now.

A big welcome to all our new members – we hope you have lots of fun!

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