



LHPC NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the first issue of the LHPC newsletter!

The aim for the newsletter is to keep members and parents/guardians up to date with what is and has been going on within Ledbury Hunt Pony Club. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to place an advert please e-mail knowles.grace03@yahoo.com.

Thank you, Grace

Show Jumping

Our SJ teams have continued to have lots of success over the Christmas period with many of our members qualifying for 2nd rounds in the Winter League competition. Please keep me posted with qualifications as and when they happen. We have had some great squad training with Bryan Smith please remember this is open to all who are confident jumping 40-50cm and upwards, our team events often commence at 50cm so please get in contact if you would like to know more. Remember 2nd rounds for winter league take place on **22nd March** at Hartpury and entry is via horse events. For all those jumping 1.10m this is also your chance to qualify for the Winter championship in the open class.

Show Jumping Manager- Charlie Ogden-Metherell



Mounted Games

We've been having fortnightly mounted games rallies since Christmas and we're starting to learn the brand-new games that the Pony Club has brought out for 2020. This season we have more lead rein children taking part than ever. They are doing really well and getting ready for our first competition of the year: we are sending two full lead rein teams to the Atherstone Hunt PC friendly competition at Solihull Riding Centre on **14th March**. Our senior team will be competing there too.

We're struggling to put together a junior team so far this year so we'll probably end up with any keen juniors making up a mixed team with another club or riding up into the senior team when it comes to the Area competition. This will take place on **2nd May** and there will also be a friendly competition for all levels at the same venue the following day.

We'll continue having rallies that everyone can attend, and welcome new faces. There's still time to get involved in teams for the Area competition! Increasingly we will start running team practices too as we get ready for specific competitions.

People often think that ponies need to be really fast for mounted games, but at the level we're competing at a cool head and stoppability is more important! It's also easier to manage with a pony that's getting a bit small for you, particularly for senior riders who have to get on and off for various games. Seniors and juniors often end up borrowing ponies from their younger siblings - it's a great way to keep having fun on the pony you've officially grown out of.

Mounted Games Manager- Helen Williams

Pony Racing

Many members attended the PRA training day at Cradoc in October ready for the season ahead. The first pony club race day will take place at Ascot racecourse on the **6th April** and the Area 9 Pony club race day will take place on the **10th April** at Cheltenham racecourse. Julie Mansell has also organised two un-mounted fitness sessions at Hartpury college with Mark Wall and Emma Davies to help with rider fitness and technique, these have been very beneficial to all members that have attended. These sessions are open to all members not just those interested in pony racing, the next session will take place on the **4th March**, please book in via our pony club system.

Faye Knowles

Hunting

On Christmas Eve Ledbury Hunt met at Pigeon House, they then hunted a trail towards Gadbury following onto Birth Hill where they then went out across the marsh towards Forthampton, from here they hunted the woods for a few hours. Great fun was had by all even in the adverse ground conditions. It was great to see some of the younger members jump their first hedge and squeal with delight. There were many members out, to name just a few; Molly M, Lily M, Georgie H, Lucy D, Freddie P-S, Katie W, Henny P, Stella, Tilly D, Lottie W, Cameron, Arthur W, Ollie W and many others. There have also been many children's meets throughout the season, again with many youngsters jumping their first hedges.

Lottie Warner



Hattie S, hedge hopping at Pigeon House. Photo courtesy of Angie Lock.

Tetrathlon

The LHPC Tetrathletes have had a busy start to the year with the first of the Area 10 Winter Triathlon series and The VWH Triathlon both taking place in January. It has been great to welcome some new members and keen athletes to these Winter events. There were numerous successful performances at these competitions, in particular for Beanie competitor Lexi Williams who added to her ever growing collection of 'best run' medals by continuing her outstanding form in this phase.

The first Tetrathlon of 2020 ran across two weekends at the beginning of February, with the riding phase at Leyland Court on 2nd February, and the shoot, run and swim at Westonbirt School on 9th February.

The Mini class riding phase, which was strong and challenging, was expertly executed by Felix Westgate, Sophie Chichester, and Holly Baker, whilst the Beanie and Tadpole courses were successfully tackled by the other competitors. The 9th February brought with it the beginnings of the unpredictable stormy weather, making it even more impressive to see everyone out and running with such determination despite the awful conditions; a huge well done to Jess Baker and Seren Williams who both managed to gain a PB in this phase! Felix also continued his great form with a PB in the shoot phase to secure an individual placing and qualification for the Winter Triathlon Championships. Overall, a successful start to the year. Well done everyone!

Lucy Middlecote

Photo Competition

This month we will be running a photo competition. To enter;

- Choose your favourite photo of yourself and your pony, or just your pony from December-February. It can be from competing, a hack, training, hunting etc- show us the fun you've been having!
- Add a short caption
- Send it to knowles.grace03@yahoo.com by the **10th April**
- The winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

Members and Saturday Morning Lessons

I would like to welcome a good number of new members to our club this year and hope they all enjoy our activities. We held several rallies and lessons in December all well attended. The Saturday lessons started again in January and have been well supported this year and continue into March. Wendy Grimsby and I are working on the spring and summer programme and, if it ever stops raining, hope to start activities at Gadbury early April.

The first area competition is fast approaching with the Quiz next week (22nd February) and training is starting for the other competitions. It is important that all members and parents interested in representing the branch in competitions try to attend the meeting at Hartpury Village on **26th February**, 6.45pm.

If anyone has any questions about pony club or suggestions for future activities please do ask and finally do try to book into activities on line and before the closing date so that we can organize the instructors.

Sue Clements scllemelm@aol.com

New Senior Manager

I have recently been asked to take over as Senior Manager for LHPC, a role which I am really looking forward to. Key to the role will be understanding what you as the members want from the club and so hopefully you will have received an email recently regarding a questionnaire. This will really help us identify what our members want so please do try to make the time to fill it in. We're really keen to ensure we provide something for all our members regardless of whether they are regularly out competing or hate competing, love having lessons, enjoy being with like-minded people or want to learn more about how to care for these wonderful creatures.

Personally, I'd also really like to know what you as Senior members want your club to provide:

- Is there something we currently run that you enjoy and want more of?
- Is there something that we run that you don't particularly enjoy or think we could do better?
- Is there something you would like me to look at organising?
- Are there any venues or instructors you would like us to investigate using?
- I am also very keen to get more dismounted sessions organised, whether this be training for your next PC test or talks/visits that would be of interest. If you have any recommendations or connections that you think would be useful then please let me know.

The questionnaire is vital to help us shape the future of our Pony Club but please also feel free to let me have specific ideas, recommendations and feedback if you have time. Myself and Sue Clements have already started to plan lots of training/activities for you over the coming months but your input is crucial in ensuring this meets your needs.

The link to the questionnaire is below, and in addition, if you would like to send me any thoughts by email or would like to talk to me my contact details are:

wendy.grimsby@btinternet.com

07825 888760



Fun at Christmas – Moore's Farm

Future Dates within LHPC and Area 9

- **28th February** – Arena craft @ Moore’s Farm
- **29th February** – Saturday lessons @ Moore’s Farm
- **1st March** – Open and individual SJ, Croome PC @ Hartpury College
- **4th March** – Un-mounted jockey fitness @ Hartpury College
- **13th March** – Gymnastic jumping @ Moore’s Farm
- **14th March** – Mounted games friendly competition @ Solihull Riding Centre
- **14th March** – Wyre Forest SJ @ King’s Equestrian Centre
- **15th March** – Area 9 PC Winter Dressage Series (area final) @ Burrow’s Court Farm
- **22nd March** – Second rounds SJ for winter league @ Hartpury College
- **28th March** – Gymnastic jumping @ Moore’s Farm
- **6th April** – PC eventer’s challenge, Minchinhampton PC @ Summerhouse
- **6th April** – PC race day @ Ascot Racecourse
- **8th April** – Area 9 XC training @ Lyneham Heath
- **9th April** – Team and individual SJ, Croome PC @ Allenshill
- **10th April** – Area 9 PC race day @ Cheltenham Racecourse
- **13th April** – Eventing rally @ Ace XC
- **15th April** – PC one day event (70 & 80cm), Beaufort Hunt PC @ Shipton Moyne – anyone interested in being in a team please contact the eventing manager Sue Woodward sue_woody@hotmail.com
- **18th April** – Area 9 horse and pony care @ Cotswold Kennels, Andoversford
- **18th and 19th April** – Tetrathlon, Cotswold Vale Farmers Hunt PC @ Ace XC and Cheltenham Ladies College
- **2nd May** – Area 9 mounted games @ Salter’s Hill

For more dates please see the area 9 pony club website;

<https://branches.pcuk.org/area9/disciplines-and-dates/> or the LHPC website;

<https://www.ledburyponyclub.org.uk/members/branch-calendar/future-event-list> .

Reminders

Please ensure that ALL vaccinations are up to date, they must now be done every 6 months if you are wanting to compete/train etc. See the area 9 website

(<https://branches.pcuk.org/area9/bef-guidance-on-equine-flu/>) for more information on the flu and vaccination guidelines.

18th April- Area Horse and Pony Care @ Andoversford, we please need members for the following categories; mini, junior and senior. There will be an e-mail sent out soon regarding more information.

Our Branch Tetrathlon is on **17th May**, Ledbury Summer Show is taking place on the **7th June** and the Regional Eventing (being held at Gadbury) is taking place on the **25th July**, we will need as many volunteers as possible to ensure that these events run smoothly, so please sign up if you are able to

Welcoming new members

Greta Baimbridge
Archie Blowers
Charlotte Bookham
Catrin Bowman
Sophie Casey
Isaac Challens
Lucinda Farr
Jessica Farr
Mary Ann Gooney
Henry Hellyar
Amelia Harper
Lily Hart
Amber Horton Smith
Ella James
Isla Milliken
Toby Milliken
Izabella Warren