



Staff College & Sandhurst Hunt Newsletter

www.sandhurstpc.co.uk

April 2011 (Issue 3)

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Welcome

Welcome to the third edition of the revamped and reintroduced newsletter for members of Staff College & Sandhurst Hunt Pony Club.

Thank you to all of you who have given us some excellent feedback from Issue 1 and 2 but we still need your input! Tell us how you have been getting on – have you been out competing? – if so let us know. Send us your pictures too.

Kelly Stevens and Alison Ward

DC's update

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine.

I have had a rather busy few days extracting the 24hr field horses from their rugs. Some just did not want me to relieve them of their heavy weight combo's [I hope they don't know something about the weather that I don't]

I have been checking the ones I could catch, under their rugs, so no nasty surprises! My weaned foal, Oak, is happily being turned out daily with his friend and Grandpa. I believe you can't start too early on their manners walking to and fro from the field. Oak has been micro chipped and had his first flu and tet jab. He has had his feet checked by the farrier, he was a good boy.

Oolite is still on box rest. He has finished his course of Irap. Hopefully after the next vet visit he will be allowed in the round pen to feel the sun on his back.

Edga, my rather leggy 4yr old has not yet gone in to work. He has had a large growth spurt [looks like a spider] so will wait another month.

Lizzie my daughter is still in this country, just can't make her mind up where to travel to. Lizzie is in the meantime working hard on Ruby's flat work. Just to make life more interesting for Ruby we are taking her to a hunter trial next week.

I don't think I told you but my children bought me a puppy. Sibyl is an English Bull Mastiff x French Mastiff. Sibyl has a penchant for my glasses! She has managed to chew three pairs, very costly! Sibyl has also eaten/chewed/dug up most of my garden! I did have a little moan about her selective hearing, I was told by Lizzie not to be so ungrateful!

I am looking forward to seeing you at the first rally of the year next week. Please have a smile ready for our new members.

Gina

Committee News

The Branch Committee has just formally co-opted Kirsten Coles and Kim Smith in the roles of Junior Organiser and Clothing Co-coordinator respectively. We welcome them both.

A Pre-Area Dressage Competition meeting was held on 8th March where the organisation has well and truly started.

A Show team has now been decided, so work on this will start soon – we already have a venue, loos, a show jumping arena, catering van, photographer and paramedic organised. An excellent start and in due course you will hear from us asking for your help to set up, clear way and assist throughout the day. We hope many of you are able to help in one way or another.

Both Mini and Senior Camp teams are hard at it to ensure everyone attending has a fantastic time.

Gina and Alison attended both the Area 13 DC Spring meeting and the Pony Club Annual Conference in March. The emphasis at both was for good quality training for all our members and instructors alike. Unfortunately because they both got carried away discussing items from the meetings they got lost on the way home in the car on both occasions. They now know Guildford's housing estates extremely well and have realised that you need to head South from Cheltenham to reach the M4 – perhaps they shouldn't be allowed out together!

Below is information on one more of the Committee members. We hope you are enjoying reading about our lives outside of Pony Club. Sorry - still no photographs !

Nicky Wilson

Fundraiser, Senior Camp Organiser, 1st Aider, Hat Tagger and MG Gofer!!!

Born and bred in Finchampstead village, youngest of 5, been married to Mark for 25 years and have 3 children, Shane 21, Hayley 19 and Michaela 14.

All animals have played a big part in my life, as my mother would always rescue them in between the many foster children she looked after. Hence home life was a very lived in, busy, friendly place to be.

In my primary years I would spend most of my time at Rycroft stables, then owned by the Ryder family. At the age of 11, I had my own loan pony 'Honey' (a mare with attitude) who would often have me off in the ridges and walk home on her own.

During 1985-89 I trained as a canine beautician and after the birth of my first child, Mark built me my own dog parlour at home, consequently with each house move, he would build me another one! Being my own boss allowed me to pursue other animal interests, Lambing, Turkey's and animal farm days. After 19 years of being at home for the kids, I now work full time for a china company within the village.

Our first pony Ellie, arrived when Shane was 3, unfortunately after 8 years of owning her she sadly died.

We are very lucky to be able to have our horse's at home and now have a collection of 6 varying in ages; 2 of which Mark allows in the house! We also have Alison's Poppet and Pye on livery here, a Great Dane and 2 pet sheep.

We joined the girls into SC+SH PC as it held so many fond memories for Mark, (who quickly started his passion of m/g). Both Mark and I have been on the committee for a number of years, doing various jobs and as each year goes by, feel our club gets stronger and stronger, learning all the time, also trying to give and do the best, for all our children.

Less than a week to go!

Less than a week to go!

Our accommodation for each night is booked together with our pre-ordered packed lunches. The train tickets to Carlisle have arrived, the ruck sacks have been dragged out of the loft and the waterproof trousers are getting an airing.

I would like to thank everyone who has so kindly, and very generously, sponsored Mick and I for our Coast to Coast walk from St Bees to Robin Hoods Bay to raise money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. They rely totally on donations with no central Government or lottery funding.

All expenses and costs we incur are being fully funded by Mick so EVERY PENNY donated will go to the charity.

For more information on the charity link in to: <http://www.tvacaa.org/>

We have raised a fantastic **£1,205** so far. If you would like to join all the people who have donated you can do so by either:

- Visiting our Just Giving site <http://www.justgiving.com/Michael-Bodington>
If you are a tax payer please remember gift aid - it adds 20% to your donation!!!!
- Or pledge cash or cheque and pay when you see me or after the event (cheques made payable to TVACAA) and post to 47 Nash Grove Lane, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4HE. Mick will write a cheque for the total cash donated on the sponsorship form. Pledges can be made to michael.bodington@hotmail.co.uk or alison_ward@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you once again for all being so generous.

Oh yes..... and please wish us good luck! I will let you know how we get on.

Natalie

Congratulations and Good Luck

Congratulations and Good Luck

Ashley Harrison and her horse Holly have been nominated by the Branch to compete at Windsor on 15th May. All 18 branches in Area 13 were asked to nominate a member and out of those nominated only 8 were offered the opportunity to compete. What an amazing honour and very well deserved!

Congratulations Ashley, we all wish you the best of luck.

Thank you so much...

Thank you so much....

To: Andrew and Mark Wilson who have fitted out the container at the PC field so all the jumps have a proper home and to Andrew who has fitted a carpet on the wall in preparation for shooting practice and mended the toilet cistern.

To: Mark and Andrew Wilson, Stuart Geeves, Steve Armstrong, Richard Theime, Adam Day, Martin Smith and his staff for the hours they spent at the field on Saturday 25th March pulling out brambles, clearing out and tidying the garage, filling rabbit holes, cutting back dead tree branches, blocking up mouse holes and generally preparing our fantastic facilities ready to use.

To: Nicky Wilson and Alison Ward who spend 6 hours clearing, cleaning, polishing and vacuuming the hut.

Our Pony Club field and hut are now fully prepared for the summer.

To: The field owners for their continued generosity in allowing us the use for our Pony Club activities rent free. We are very fortunate to have such facilities.

To: Miranda Stamp, Tamsin's mum and Sue Hame's, Jonathans mum, who are going to bake and sell refreshments at the Working Rallies to raise funds for the club.

Equine Poem

Where in this wide world can man find nobility without pride,
 Friendship without envy,
 Or beauty without vanity?
 Here, where grace is served with muscle
 And strength by gentleness confined
 He serves without servility; he has fought without enmity.
 There is nothing so powerful, nothing less violent.
 There is nothing so quick, nothing more patient.
 England's past has been borne on his back.
 All our history is in his industry.
 We are his heirs, he our inheritance

Ronald Duncan
The Horse, 1954.

Good luck

To all our members who are representing the branch either as an individual or team member at the forthcoming events in April.

If you are out and about let us know and we will tell everyone.

Shoeing Achievement Badge

Congratulations to
 Rachel Chambers - Amy Curtis – Jonathan Hames – Tamsin Stamp – Gemma Thieme
 – Jessica Stephens - Nicole Wilson
 For passing their Shoeing Achievement Badge

Happy Birthday



The following members are celebrating their birthdays during April:

Ross Bee
 Rebecca Brennan
 Lewis Francis
 Dan Magee
 Jessie Sheffield

Horsey Jokes

- Q: A man rode his horse to town on Friday. The next day he rode back on Friday. How is this possible? A: The horse's name was Friday
- Q: When does a horse talk? A: Whinney wants to!

Send us your horsey jokes to be included in the newsletter

April Events

Bold denotes competitions/visits

Blue denotes Committee/Instructor events

Sat 2 nd	1 st Working Rally of the Year at the PC field for all Members	2pm
Sat 2nd	MG at Eashing	All day
Sun 3rd	Bisley SJ at Dunstall Green	All day
Mon 4 th	MG at PC field Juniors / Seniors	5.30pm / 6.30pm
Mon 4 th	SJ training at Bearwood for Minis / Juniors	5.30pm / 6.30pm
Tues 5 th	Lungeing test training at Fleethill Farm	6pm
Thurs 7 th	SJ at Brooklands for Seniors (week 3)	7pm
Sat 9th	Vine Team SJ	All day
Sun 10th	Petersfield MG competition	All day
Mon 11th	Pony Racing at Ascot	All day
Mon 11 th	XC training for seniors at Tweseldown	5pm
Thurs 14 th	MG at PC field Juniors / seniors	5.30pm / 6.30pm
Mon 18 th	MG at PC field Juniors / Seniors	5.30pm / 6.30pm
Mon 18th	Visit to Kings Troop in London	All day
Tues 19 th	Lungeing test training at Fleethill Farm	6pm
Tues 19 th	Polocrosse for all at the PC field	6pm
Wed 20 th	Interval Training at Bramshill for Juniors/Seniors	2pm
Fri 22 nd	Training for Chiddingfold Farmers Dressage competition	
Sat 23 rd	Training for Chiddingfold Farmers Dressage competition	
Sat 23rd/Sun 24th	Weekend MG competition at Mendip Farmers	
Sun 24 th	Easter Rally for Minis / Juniors	TBC
Mon 25 th	Chiddingfold Farmers Dressage competition	All day
Mon 25 th	MG at PC field Juniors / Seniors	5.30pm / 6.30pm
Tues 26 th	Lungeing test training at Fleethill Farm	6pm
Tues 26th	Committee Meeting - TBC	7.30pm
Wed 27 th	Senior eventing/fitness review evening	TBC
Wed 27th	Show committee meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 28 th	Rally at field open to all	6.30pm
Sat 30th	Petersfield SJ/XC competition	All day
And into May		
Mon 2nd	Bisley ODE	All day
Tues 3 rd	Lungeing test training at Fleethill Farm	6pm
Wed 4 th	Interval training at Bramshill	TBC
Wed 4 th	E & D theory training at the PC hut	TBC
Thurs 5 th	MG training at the PC field Juniors/Seniors	5.30pm / 6.30pm
Sat 7 th	Working Rally at the PC field to include E & D testing	2pm

Please look out for the emails for all of the above.

Safety Bits & Pieces

Riders Hair

Long hair must be neat and tidy in a hairnet under your riding hat.

Plaits are not permitted for any discipline.

Pony tails must not be tied tightly at the base of your neck.

Pony tails must not be tied up into a bun at the base of your neck.

Jewellery

No jewellery is permitted at any mounted or un-mounted events (except social events) with the exception of a wrist watch, wedding ring, a stock pin worn horizontally or a tie clip. It is recommended that stock pins are removed for cross country.

Quick Branch Quiz

1. What 2 roles does Mark Wilson hold in the Branch?
2. Who is the Branch Secretary?
3. Who organises the Mini and Junior activities?
4. Where was the hack on Saturday 19th March held?
5. What date is our Branch Annual Show this year?
6. What is the minimum recommended age to do your C+ test and what colour felt would you be awarded if you passed?
7. Who lives at Fleethill Farm?
8. Who were the members of the Area Quiz team who won the Junior Section?
9. What 4 disciplines make up the Tetrathlon?
10. What colour shirts can you wear to a Working Rally?

Answers next time

Answers from issue 2: 1 – 16 years. 2 – Green. 3 – Carol-Anne Harrison. 4 – Sunday 14th August at Three Maids Chasers. 5 – 1953. 6 – Pale Blue/Gold/Purple. 7 – Kelly Hart. 8 – Black or Dark Brown. 9 – Road Rider. 10 – See the list of Achievement Badges below. 11 – Fox Lane, Eversley. 12 – www.pcuk.org

How many did you get right? We hope you all did well.

Achievement Badges

Here is a full list of all the current Pony Club Achievement Badges

Mini Badges	Achievement Badges	
	Equine	Non-Equine
Birds	Access to Endurance	Bird Watching
Care of the Foot	Bandaging and Rugs	Blue Cross Equine Merit
Farming	British Native Breeds	Butterflies & Moths
Feed your Pony	Care of the Horses Foot	Countryside Access
Fire Safety	Dressage Arena	Farming
Grooming	Equine Behaviour	Fire Marshall
Horse Clothing	Equipment Safety	First Aid (Human)
Mucking Out	Feeding	Flags of the Equestrian Nations
Points of the Pony	First Aid (Equine)	Flowers
Points of Tack	Fitness	Fundraising
Poisonous Plants	Handling & Grooming	Knots
Pony Behaviour	How to be Lunged	Map Reading
Road Rider	Loading	Poisonous Plants
Working Dogs	Lorinery	Public Speaking
	Mucking Out	RDA Volunteering
	Perfect Paddock	Security Awareness
	Plaiting	Star Gazer
	Points of the Horse	Trees
	Road Rider	Wildlife
	Saddlery	Working Dogs
	Shoeing	
	Tack Cleaning	
	Turnout of Pony & Rider	

Anne-Marie Peries and Sarah Magee are our Achievement Badge organisers. Look out for emails from them inviting you to train towards some of the above badges.

Details on all the achievement badges can be found at www.pcuk.org

Royal Windsor Horse Show England Mounted Games Team Trials - 6th March 2011

Every year one member from each Pony Club in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales is invited to try out for a position on an international team to compete all week at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

This year Michaela Wilson was nominated to represent SC&SH. Michaela and her pony Sasha had a very successful season in Mounted Games last year and we felt she was good enough to represent the England team.

On the 6th of March we headed off to Western Lawns Equestrian Centre in Coventry, we stabled Sasha overnight and spent a very cold, damp night in our lorry.

Early the next morning we prepared Sasha ready for the day. Michaela, 23 other Riders and parents all appeared to be very nervous; you could feel the tension in the air.



After a tack safety check the trials began, they were all split into teams of five and had about three minutes to make friends with their new team members.

The races started and they had to ride every race three times, changing position within the team each time. Judges were watching their every move and after 36 races, 3 hours constant riding, they had made their selection for the England Team.



Michaela had only made three mistakes in 36 races which is quite amazing really, but still was not selected in the final five; we were later told she came very close to being selected though.

The judges take many things into consideration when selecting, not just how accurate you are, the pony is looked at for stamina, rider's appearance and determination to win each race etc.

Michaela had a brilliant day and although was not picked she really enjoyed the whole experience, Sasha had been fantastic too, she is 27 years old now and after 3 hard hours work, still looked fresh.

Well done Michaela & Sasha.

