



Kingdom Branch of the Irish Pony Club

Newsletter May 2017

Dear Members,

Please find details of upcoming activities below:

1. Summer Camp
2. HT championships
3. Championship qualifiers
4. Exams and preparation
5. Minimus and Tetrathlon
6. Eventing
7. Expression of interest form

1. Summer Camp - 3rd, 4th & 5th July

The camp will cater for all levels and will take place on Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th of July in Banna, by kind permission of Bernie O'Mahony. Some stabling is available on site and in fields nearby for those who live too far to bring ponies back and forth every day. This is not a residential camp but we can all help each other if logistics are difficult. More info will follow soon, but in the meanwhile you can book and pay your deposit on www.itsplainsailing.com/tkpc. I need to book enough instructors to make it a great camp, so the sooner I have numbers, the better!

2. Hunter trial Championships

After some trial outings, thanks to Laura Collins and her horses, we set off to the Pony Club Hunter Trial Championships in Annaharvey, Co Offaly very early on 22nd April in a convoy of 3 jeeps pulling two horseboxes. Brid, Aoife, Becky and Aisling were our riders, with Laura as chef d'équipe and Helen and Una as cheerleaders, chief cheerleader however, was Amy O'Sullivan who wrapped herself in the flag and was wherever she was needed to help, thank you Amy! It was an amazing spectacle to see pony clubs decked out in their team colours from all over Ireland, there was a wonderful atmosphere and apart from some very close start times between the pairs and the individuals, everybody managed to get to the start on time. The pairs flew around a very technical and challenging course, and all four had really good individual times. It wasn't until we arrived home well and truly tired out, having put away four exhausted horses that we discovered our pair of Brid

and Aoife brought home 3rd place out of all the Novice Intermediate Pairs. All four riders placed middle of the field in the singles. We all had a great time and enjoyed the whole day immensely. We met other pony clubbers who attended our Christmas Show and can't wait for the next one !!!

We decided that for next years Hunter Trial Championships, we will go the night before and make a little holiday out of it. So be prepared because we are going in larger numbers next year. Well done again to Brid, Aoife, Becky and Aisling, all girls well and truly bitten by the bug.

3. Qualifiers to the championship at the festival

The Pony Club Festival is held in Mullingar Equestrian centre on 28, 29 and 30th July 2017. See <http://irishponyclub.ie/index.php/activites-events/events-calendar/eventdetail/15/-/festival>

Last year we sent 2 teams at the last minute to the qualifiers in Tipperary and didn't do too bad! This year let's prepare better and book a place to the festival! The qualifiers will be held on Saturday 15th of July, in Ennis Showgrounds. That's for team Show jumping, Combined Training and pure dressage. See <http://irishponyclub.ie/index.php/activites-events/qualifiers>. There is also Mounted games and Musical ride at the festival. If there is interest in these activities, we will try them as well.

All activities are presented here <http://irishponyclub.ie/index.php/activites-events/national-events>

We have a head start with Bill Maguire who is in charge of preparations for Show jumping and Combined Training. Team selection will be decided later in July.

The three main team SJ competitions are:

The Alice Mernagh Cup for Under 12 riders. Must be over 8yrs and be of D+ standard (but doesn't need to hold the D+). Jumps are a max of 80cm.

The Robbie Bailey for riders Under 14 on 01/01/16, of C standard (but doesn't need to have C test passed) with max heights of 90cm.

The John Leddingham is for under 21 riders, with C test and max heights 1m.

Teams must have at least 3 riders, ideally 4, and a reserve can be named.

To be considered for team selection you must:

- Be available for qualifier and finals at the festival
- Be an active member of our branch and a team player.
- Have participated in at least 3 training sessions
- Be nice about it. Only joking!

There are also many other team events, Combined Training, games, musical rides, eventing, so we should all be able to have a go at something, whether competitively or not.

4. Exams

The branch plans to hold a C test on Thursday 6th of July, straight after camp. Attendance at camp is a must. We will also organise prep rallies in June and a mock test at the end of June. Please attend as many C prep rallies as possible, camp alone won't be sufficient. To be eligible you must be 12 years old in 2017, have your D+ and be deemed ready by our instructors and DC. There is XC at the C test and a fair amount of stable management!

C+ test: date to be confirmed but probably end of July with another branch.

May I remind riders aiming at C+ that they must hold their Riding and Road Safety Test before presenting for their C+

B Test : Is organised regionally, so everyone from Area 9 will take the test together. It will be mid to late August.

Finally, if you need more info on the exams, their curriculum, dress code, learning resources etc... first refer to <http://irishponyclub.ie/pony-club-tests/> and look in your Pony Club Manual (available to purchase from Una). There is also a more condensed booklet available to buy "notes on C test and notes on C+ test".

5. Minimus and Tetrathlon

Laura Collins took charge of these activities and has organised regular training since our fun Minimus in February. It sure paid off with a very successful outing on Saturday the 20th of May in Kilguilkey for the Area 5 minimus competition. Our 3 Under 10 competitors came back with Rosettes; 3rd for U10 boys for Colin, 5th for Ellie in the U10 girls and 2nd for Yvonne. Lucy won the Minimus HC (for 13yo) and Becky, Sadbh, Saoirse and Aisling had great spins XC in their respective classes.

I cannot recommend this competition enough, the excitement, the sense of occasion, the thrill, the challenge are incredible. We have one competitor again this year travelling to Punchestown and we wish her the best of time. Next year we might have a team! Keep up the good work!

6. Eventing

You will find all the qualifiers dates here.

<http://irishponyclub.ie/index.php/eventing?layout=edit&id=191>

Susan O'Neill and Laura are our coordinators for Eventing and organise training, home and away on a regular basis. But nothing beats competition experience and the Pony Club events are very well run and adapted to young riders starting off. The U12 competitions are a great way to start and can also be entered HC (Out of Competition) if you are over 12.

7. Dressage

Anyone interested in Dressage, please let us know in the feed back form. We would like to organise pure Dressage rallies to aim at the qualifiers and possibly the Silver Spurs, as well as developing all round riding ability!

8. Expression of interest/ feed back form

We have attached an expression of interest form, if you could fill it out and return it to Gaelle or Una by email or snail mail as soon as possible, we would appreciate it.

9. Booking rallies

Please use our [online facility](#) to book places in rallies. All upcoming rallies will be listed there and we will also announce them on [our Facebook page](#) as and when they are organised. We endeavour to update our website as well but sometimes things happen so fast, that I can't keep up! If you have trouble with the online system or are not a facebook user, please contact Una. Texting as proved very unreliable, with messages randomly not being delivered or delivered late. We find using facebook as a message board where we post information, news and photos and itsplainsailing as a booking facility the fastest and most efficient way to communicate as well as emailing for longer documents and targeted information. I hope this is satisfactory to you all as, for us organisers, this is so much easier and less stressful!

Reminder!!!

When you travel with your horse/pony, you must have his passport in the car.

When you compete with Pony Club (and other equestrian associations) you can and will be asked to show the passport and **the vaccination status** must be up to date. It can lead to disqualification if vaccinations are not up to date. So check now before the season starts... The organisers make no exceptions. **NONE.**

When you compete with Pony Club you will be asked to present your membership card on the day.

You must also follow the discipline tack sheets to the letter. Prepare and double check! You can find the 2017 tack sheets here <http://irishponyclub.ie/index.php/downloads>

All the best,

Gaelle Daly

DC

The Kingdom Branch of IPC



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of the Irish Pony Club

Feedback form

Please complete and return to help us plan activities that suit everyone!

1. Area qualifiers are on 15th July in Ennis. If you would like to take part and be considered for a team you must also be available to go to the finals held in Mullingar on 28th, 29th and 30th July. Do you want to compete in:
 - ☐ Combined training (Dressage and Show jumping)
 - ☐ Dressage
 - ☐ Show jumping
2. Minimus Championships are on 17 and 18th June in Punchestown. We have one rider going this year and we wish her the very best of luck. However, the HC section is open to riders

over age, typically 13yrs, new to the competition, who don't feel quite ready for the step up to tetrathlon. Entries close very soon and stabling is nearly full. See [here for details](#)
Do you want to compete in:

- Minimus
- Minimus HC

3. Tetrathlon championships will take place from 25 to 27th August in Grove. Are you interested in taking part? You must have your C test. [details here](#)

- I am interested in training
- I am interested in competing and available to go to Championships
- I have a parent/ family member with shooting experience willing to help with training
- I have a suitable venue to host shooting training

4. Eventing season is about to start for Pony Club with Eventing championships in Tattersalls on 19th & 20th August. [Qualifiers dates](#) . Eventing cater from U12 all the way to senior.

- I want to train and I will compete locally but can't / don't want to go to Championships
- I want to train and intend and am available to go to the Championships if I qualify

(these questions are only meant to get an idea of numbers involved and to plan for the possibility of common transport to championships not to discriminate on competitiveness or commitment!)

5. Venues. We are looking for more outdoor venues to hold rallies, gymkhanas, etc. The Pony Club has a very good insurance policy and offers full indemnity to landowners.

- I have a suitable venue available during the summer months
- I have a suitable venue all year round

6. If you are 12 years old and have your D+ you are eligible to sit your C Test.

- Would you like to sit it this year
- Or sit it next year

7. A little bird asked me to organise a long hack during the summer. The Beara peninsula has opened a bridle way. This could be a possibility.

- I would like to participate in a day of hacking with my own pony
 - I would like to hire a pony for this activity
 - I would like an overnight stay camping.
 - I would like an overnight stay but not camping
 - I would NOT like an overnight stay.
 - My parents are willing to help with the supervision and catering.
 - My parent(s) could accompany the ride on horseback.
 - I have a suggestion for another venue (quiet roads and tracks, camping/ overnight accommodation and stabling for the ponies) :
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8. Would you be interested in attending pure Dressage rallies in June and July?

- Yes
- No

9. Any other suggestions for activities/comments/ feedback? Please write them down here

(PS: beware of great ideas! You have to be ready to help to put them in place!)