

Newsletter September 2016

Dear members,

I hope you’ve enjoyed a lovely summer and packed it full of equestrian activities!

Looking back on June and July, our branch achieved quite a lot!

# Tests

* Five members; Saoirse, Lucy, Sarah, Aoife and Amy passed their C test at the end of June.
* Seven members; passed their C+ test in July; Roan, Katie, Emily, Jessey, Amy, Aishling and Becky.

The examiners were very complementary of each group of riders so keep up the good work! A big thank you to all our brilliant instructors for getting them to this level and to their parents bringing ponies and riders here there and everywhere in between!

I would hope the group who passed their C+ are considering presenting for their B test next year. If enough riders are interested, we could organise training close to home. Let me know of your intentions.

* Two members; Caoimhinn and Sarah Jane passed their D test at camp
* Five members ;April, Hassia, Ellie, Gwynn and Yvonne passed their D+ as well.

A huge well done to them all!!!

# Camp

We held our summer pony camp over 3 days the first week of July (note to parents: the summer Camp will always be held on the first week of July, so postpone your sun holiday by a week if you want happy children…). We had 21 riders taking part in 3 groups and we had a whale of a time! Immense thank you to Bernie O’Mahony and her lovely family for having us on their beautiful land, in their stables, in their garden and thru their house! What a fantastic time we had and riders and ponies progressed so much. It was lovely to get to know everyone and I think friendships were cemented for life. Thank you to our instructors for their skill and enthusiasm, and hat’s off to Annie who travelled from Castletownbere each day!

We are definitely doing this again!

# Competitions

After much oohing and aahing we send 2 teams to the SJ qualifiers at the last minute. We were all glad we went in the end despite the distance and lateness of the day. We didn’t bring home any rosettes but were glad of the experience and this leaves us hungry for more next year! PS not last minute this time!

We all met up at various shows during the rest of the summer, ODE with the Pony Club, local Shows in Kerry and I can’t wait to hear of your stories of the summer (competitives or not). To this end we’ve created a competition on our website: send us your story and photos and the most entertaining will get a prize. See details on [www.kingdompony.club](http://www.kingdompony.club)

# Now looking forward to our autumn activities…

# 1 Meeting of Parents

**Wednesday 19th October 8.30pm River Island Hotel Castleisland. All parents are expected to attend.**

This is not an AGM, and you won’t get a job if you do not want one but it is in our constitution that we hold one each autumn. As we are all scattered over a vast area it is one great opportunity to meet and exchange our views on what is going on in the club and your chance to have your say. Last year so few people showed up, we barely had enough to form a committee. We cannot let this happen again if the club is to keep going. It would be a terrible shame as we’ve achieved so much this year! So come on! Get stuck in!

# 2 Schedule of events

From now on there will be no texts to remind you to book! Check website [www.kingdompony.club](http://www.kingdompony.club) and facebook page for changes and additions please.

In chronological order. All these dates are available on our website. You can copy those easily to your own digital calendar by using the export button in the right hand corner below the calendar month.

Quick reminder of booking procedures:

1. Check who is the nominated organiser of the event and book by text only to the advised phone number. Verbal bookings are tricky to remember when on the go and emails can go unread… Ditto with Facebook.
2. First come first served basis when numbers are limited
3. If you need to cancel, do so asap. If in the 24h preceding the event, you will be expected to pay regardless of attendance. This is to avoid having to cancel events.
4. Please feel free to block book events way in advance, you do not have to prepay and it makes organising so much easier.
5. Deadline for Saturday rallies/events is the preceding Wednesday evening (7pm)
6. If you need any help deciding whether an event is suitable for your child, feel free to contact me or the instructor concerned.

# September

* Saturday 10th 3pm Clyda ( Mallow) XC schooling with Susan Arthurs cost €25 to €30 depending on numbers.
* Saturday 24th 3.30 to 5.30pm C test training/ evaluation with Mary Bradley at Eagle Lodge cost €25

# October

* Saturday 1st October 10.30am to 5pm Fun day in Banna. XC and mounted games in the morning followed by hack to the beach ( 2 groups) cost €17. We need plenty of volunteers on the day to walk with the youngest riders down to the beach and help with the BBQ. This is also a Riding and Road Safety training cession.
* Saturday 8th October Riding Road safety, rally followed by test with Jill Moran cost €20 ( €15 without the test) Woodlands
* Saturday October 15th SJ Training with Bill Maguire venue tba \*
* Saturday oct 15th C training EL with Mary Bradley
* Wednesday 19th October Meeting of Parents
* Saturday Oct 22nd SJ training
* Saturday Oct 22nd C training
* Saturday 29th Oct C training (XC in Banna)

# November

* Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd 10 am to 5pm of November Mini Camp in Woodlands
* Thursday 3rd or Friday 4th social outing to Kenmare Halloween Howl festival. No horses or ponies on that one. Dress up for Halloween and be prepared to be scared… to be very scared! More details close to the date. It’s about time we had some fun!
* Friday 4th or Saturday 5th provisional date for C test. Venue Banna.
* Saturday 12th November SJ training
* Saturday 19th November SJ training

# December

* Pony Club Show Jumping Day during Christmas break (hoping to host an inter branch show and invite other branches and fund -raise for B training next year.)

**\* Show Jumping Training with Bill Maguire**

After last year success of these sessions we have decided to expand on them. Each session will last 1 &1/2h and cost €25pp. Group sizes will be limited but all levels catered for. Special deal: book all 4 and pay only €80! Remember, first come first served…

**Mini Camp**

All levels catered for. Cost €75 for both days or €40 one day (siblings’ discounts will apply). Stabling extra at €10 per night. Senior group will have a guest instructor with view of B test prep next year. C candidates are strongly advised to attend this camp as their exam will be at the end of that week. Lots of fun, games and guests to spice it up! Camps are a great way to progress and always a lot of fun, don’t miss this opportunity! Bookings taken now. Application deadline 15th October. Please register your interest now, by return of post/email/text in order for me to book enough instructors. As you must realise I cannot expect them to be free if I only contact them in the week preceding camp.

# Minis and D rallies

These young riders can take part in the fun Day, the camp and we will also try and fit some rallies for them if the show jumping is too advanced for them. Dates and venues to be announced.

# Non Pony Club events

The more you take your pony or horse out, the more experience you will gain. Why not try some of these?

# Show jumping leagues

Kennedys started last Sunday after a 15 years break and offers a great deal for newcomers with €10 entry fee and 2 heights available at 40 cm and 60cm. A great way to get started in a small indoor arena. Warm up outside. Great welcome to all. Other pony classes are €12 and horses €15. On for the next 5 Sunday mornings for ponies afternoons for horses.

Woodlands winter league starts in mid October with horses on Friday evenings and ponies on Sundays for 10 weeks. All entries are €15. Great facilities with large indoor arena and indoor warm-up.

We are very lucky to have these venues in Kerry, make sure to use the opportunity to support them!

# Hunter trials and One Day Events

There usually are a few on in October and as dates are announced I will post them on Face book and our website.

Note there are 2 near-by Eventing Ireland fixtures left on the calendar, Kilguilkey and Clyda. Those can be entered on a day ticket basis without affiliation. See [www.eventingireland.ie](http://www.eventingireland.ie) for info.

This program of events should keep us busy this autumn! If you have any suggestions, feel free to let me know, even better, volunteer your help to organise activities!

Best regards,

Gaelle Daly

DC Kingdom branch of Irish Pony Club

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