



## Kingdom Branch of the Irish Pony Club

# Newsletter Spring 2017

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Dear Members,

We are coming out of hibernation with a bang!

## Easter Pony Camp

Will be held in Woodlands EC on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10 am to 5pm and costs €60 for the 2 days or €35 for day 1 only. Great opportunity for our more senior riders (Preparing B test and C+ tests this year) to have Mary O'Connor for 2 full days. Alannah Bradley will take the D+ and Laura Collins the D riders. We will hold exams for D and D+ on the second day. If anyone new to Pony Club and its stable management aspect wants an extra session before camp, in the shape of an unmounted rally going over the D and D+ syllabus, we can organise one on Friday evening 31<sup>st</sup> March or Saturday afternoon 1<sup>st</sup> April. Express your interest in an unmounted rally by texting Gaelle on 0871176807 ASAP.

Bring packed lunches and if our lovely parents want to bring some baking and goodies... no one will stop them! We will have hot drinks and soft drinks for all.

Book online before the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Please don't book or cancel at the last minute as it makes the organisation so much more difficult.

## Minimus and Tetrathlon

### Training

Every Saturday in Banna with Laura Collins. Run and Swim training starting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Cost €5. Contact Laura directly to book in on 0871274708. <http://kingdompony.club/event/tetrathlon-minimus-training/>

Practise for XC at every opportunity offered and try to attend as many Hunter Trials as possible as there is nothing better than actual competition experience.

Practise for the shooting phase will probably take place jointly with another neighbouring branch. Details tba.

## Competing

Dates for Minimus competitions and championship can be found here.

<http://irishponyclub.ie/activities/minimus/>.

Note the nearest fun Minimus is in Kilguilkey ( Mallow) on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dates for tetrathlon are here. <http://irishponyclub.ie/activities/minimus/>

## Hunter Trials and All Ireland Pony Club Championship

Please refer to our own website for dates and details. <http://kingdompony.club/events/>

- The [Championships](#) are in Annaharvey on Saturday 22nd April. Familiarise yourselves with the rules and tack sheets and remember you must have your C test to take part.
- There are a lot of Hunter Trials on at the moment. I have added them to our calendar of events. Note that they are not all suitable for first timers. For first timers I would recommend Aghabullogue, Templemartin, Kilguilkey and Ballycahane as they have nice enclosed first timers courses.
- If you want a bit of help at these non- Pony Club events, Laura Collins will be in Clonshire HT on Holy Thursday and Aghabullogue on Easter Sunday. Gaelle will be at Ballycahane on 2nd April.

## Under 12 Intro and Novice Hunter trial and training day

We are planning a schooling and mini Hunter Trial for our youngest members during the Easter break, weather permitting, in Tralee at Joe Arthurs. Provisionally earmarked for the second week of break.

## XC schooling in Ballygriffin

With Susan Arthurs on Sat 29/04 from 1pm. XC for Minimus, Tetrathlon and Eventing open to all riders with D+ or D+ level. Official B training XC session.

## Aiming to the area qualifiers

The area qualifiers are the door way to the Pony Club festival. They take place Saturday the 15th of July in Ennis Showgrounds, the week after our summer camp. We had great fun going to the Area Qualifiers last year, this year we will be better prepared and hopefully book a place to the Nationals! See <http://irishponyclub.ie/activities/pony-club-festival/>  
Below is a brief outline of the competitions. The full rules are available to download from the IPC website, <http://irishponyclub.ie/downloads/downloads-competition-rules-tack-sheets-and-guides/>

Make sure you familiarise yourselves with the tack sheets and the rules for your chosen disciplines to avoid stress on show day.

- Team SJ

Teams of 4 for Alice Mernagh Cup Under 12, Robbie Bailey over 12 under 14, and John Leddingham for Seniors. Coached by Bill Maguire. Training will commence after Easter outdoors in Joe Arthurs either Friday evenings or Saturday mornings.

- Individual SJ

Dates of qualifiers for our region are not announced yet. Starts at 90cm. See <http://irishponyclub.ie/show-jumping-classic-qualifier-dates/>

- Combined training

Is an individual competition consisting of Dressage and Show Jumping. Juniors (over 12) and up need to qualify to go to the Nationals but U10 and U12 can go straight

- Pure dressage

For team and Individual competition, same criteria as combined training.

- Training and team selection

Training will take place most weeks after Easter, mainly in Joe Arthurs in Tralee or other outdoor venues with one instructor in charge of each discipline acting as a chef d'equipe. The selection process will be decided at the next committee meeting. We are a small branch and we will probably struggle to field many teams. However, team selection is often when things get contentious! The process will be stated well in advance for clarity and will be based on several criteria such as eligibility of pony/horse and rider, results in competition, commitment to the qualifiers and possibly the Nationals (and the travelling that this entails), also, a very important thing to note is that attendance at the training sessions is vital !

If you have suggestions or ideas for a good selection policy, please attend the meeting or send your ideas to Una by email. (unahayes@gmail.com)

## Musical ride

This is a great activity and highly entertaining. We did put together a routine at Halloween camp and it was such fun to watch! We are thinking of stepping it up and if I can find volunteer parents and instructor to spear head it, why don't we try to take it to the Nationals?

## Kingdom County Fair/ Showing Workshop

The date is announced as the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. We will try to organise a showing workshop before then. Suggestions welcome!

## Online system / Communication

We hope you are happy with the new system. There wasn't too many teething issues and Una and myself are absolutely delighted with it. It has made organisation so much easier. Check it regularly for rallies and activities. <https://www.itsplainsailing.com/club/tkpc>

Despite many attempts at resolving the problem, texting, especially group texting, keeps on letting us down. Some people in the group get the text instantly, some a few days later and some not at all. Completely randomly, and without the sender (me!) being aware. Frustrating in the extreme!

I won't use SMS as a mode of communication anymore.

We are using our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KingdomPonyClub/> as a notice board, the onus is on you to check it regularly to see what is going on. We update our website regularly with news and events are entered on the calendar. You can share events on the website's calendar to your own calendar app by clicking the "export month events" button below it on the right. And we now also have the Plainsailing page where you can book all the activities online. All direct communications will now be by email or feel free to call Una, our secretary, on 0872755431 or myself, Gaelle on 0871176807.

## Into the future...

This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as DC to our branch, and the last one on my term. I have enjoyed every minute of it (nearly!) and look forward to handing over the reins to someone else in the Autumn. I plan to go back teaching and training ponies and horses again and this precludes me from fulfilling the position of DC as I will be vying for your business.

Parents! You need to get stuck in the running of your branch. There has been such progress made the last few years it would be a shame to lose momentum. I would be delighted to show the ropes to anyone interested in taking over my role. I am saying this now so that it isn't a surprise at the AGM and for us to have time to find a replacement and to introduce him/her to the running of the branch. Remember, a dressage test is only as good as its transitions...

Gaelle Daly

