

New Structure of Pony Club Re launch 2010!

Whether you have your own pony or not, The Pony Club is the best starting point for all children who want to learn how to ride and learn all about ponies.

Membership is open to boys and girls under the age of 21 and offers some great benefits. In addition to learning how to ride, Members can compete against each other and take part in a wide range of activities. Nearly all Britain's most successful riders were once a Member of The Pony Club.

Lessons and competitions for Centre Members are organised by the riding school they attend. You ride the riding school ponies and so do not need access to one of your own. Activities might include rallies, stable management sessions, own a pony days, camps, show jumping, dressage, mounted games or social events like treasure hunts, barbeques or trips to watch equestrian events.

You can also work towards certificates. There are twelve progressive tests, starting with Bronze level 3. The progressive tests fit in between the efficiency tests (D, D+, C, etc) and break the learning into smaller manageable chunks, while allowing members to feel they are continuing to achieve their riding and horse care goals.

There are 29 achievement badges available to test the children's knowledge of equine and non equine subjects ranging from native breeds and saddlery to farming and poisonous plants. Any member passing 20 achievement badges will be awarded the Gold Achievement Badge as recognition of their hard work.

Starting from 7th February, Pony club will have a new format. This is to improve learning for our Pony club members and help them to gain the Pony Club Badges with a more structured format.

We will follow a programme each week, spending a total of 4 weeks on the specific badge with testing being held on the 5th week. If the child is not ready to take the badge on this week then they can take it next time round. Attached is a programme showing which badge will be covered on which date. For some of the other badges a project will be set which is optional.

Pony Club will still be held on a Sunday at 12pm for an hour and will be stable management only. The riding can be done in usual group lessons. We are lowering the cost of this session to £10 to make it more accessible to everyone however there must be at least 6 in a group for it to run. As the group grows then we will split them into age/ability level groups to keep them moving onto the next badges and test.

In each school holiday we will hold a Pony Club rally which will be both riding and care. In these sessions we will work towards the Pony Club tests which will be held at the end of the Summer 6 week holidays.

Each child will have there own file kept at the centre to track there badges and achievements.

We will also be holding special Pony Club events throughout the year for our Pony Club members to take part in.

Each child will need to become a Pony Club member –forms alf you are interested then book in at reception or come and see me to find out more.

Gemma Hartley BHSII