



Dear All,

As 2023 comes to a close, I wanted to say thank you to all our Volunteers, Officials and Coaches for providing a wonderful calendar of events and training. We hope our Members have enjoyed a great year being part of The Pony Club and experienced, Fun, Friendship, Horsemanship and Sport!

We approach 2024 with exciting pace to continue moving The Pony Club forward. A new website is just around the corner and we will continue to build on the [Horses for All strategy](#) and deliver against [our pledge](#). We are committed to focusing on how The Pony Club plays its part as a Youth Equestrian Charity in the industry. It is important to create a sustainable future playing an active role at the wider environment, as well as looking internally at how we can continue to improve our membership offering to support new and existing Members. We have exciting things to come, so stay tuned for 2024, I am looking forward to it!

The Pony Club office will have skeleton staff available to help with membership enquiries between Christmas and New Year. Please email [membership@pcuk.org](mailto:membership@pcuk.org) and they will come back to you as quickly as they can.

Enjoy wonderful celebrations over the festive period.

Marcus Capel (CEO)

# Congratulations

## Centre Equitation Winners

Well done to:

- Hill Farm Equestrian Centre (Team Yogi) and Throstlenest (Purples) who won the Centre Members competition.
- Beaumont Grange who won the Centre Plus section.

The judges would like to recognise that the standard of riding was absolutely incredible this year and they can't wait to see what 2024 brings.



Centre Equitation Competition  
Sponsored by

**HOWDEN**

Thank you so much to Howden for sponsoring the event and providing goody bags to all competitors. Feedback is already being taken onboard to ensure improvements are in place ready for next year.



## Pony Racing Winners

The race season has now ended, bringing the Points Series to a close.

Well done to India Rigg, Eliza McPherson, and Freddie Keighley for winning the 128cm, 138cm and 148cm sections. We look forward to presenting their prizes at Ascot Racecourse.

If you and your pony want to have a go at Pony Racing, click the button below and please note the vaccinations rules issued by the BHA at the bottom of this newsletter.

[Confirmed Fixtures for 2024](#)

## PCIA Virtual Show Jumping Winners

We were pleased to be a part of an exciting opportunity for members to take part in an International Virtual Show Jumping Competition alongside other members from Pony Club International Alliance (PCIA) countries.

Congratulations to the members who represented the United Kingdom at this year's competition. You can see the selected members and results below.



## Results



### The PCIA Quiz

What an experience to hold an online event connecting Members from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Hong Kong. The Quiz started at 10pm and the winners were crowned at 3am UK time.

It was a hard-fought contest, but congratulations go to the UK team, Josie Mair, Kathy Williams, Amy Veitch and Georgia Stanton, they were victorious taking 1st place.

Well done to every Member around the world who took part. **Next year the PCIA Quiz is taking place live in Kentucky!**

# Barrier Spring Festival



Have you qualified for the 2024 Barrier Spring Festival? Split into England/Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland there is a competition venue for everyone!

Entries are now open for qualified Members to enter the England/Wales Final.

**The England/Wales Barrier Spring Festival is taking place at  
Arena UK on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February**

## Saturday 24th February

- PC70 and PC80 Arena Eventing
- PC80 and PC110 Show Jumping
- Grassroots and Open Dressage
- Open and Pairs Dressage to Music

## Sunday 25th February

- PC90 and PC100 Arena Eventing
- PC90 and PC100 Show Jumping
- Novice and Intermediate Dressage
- Novice and Intermediate Dressage to Music

**NEW FOR 2024:** There are now warm-up classes for both Dressage and Show Jumping classes. Qualified riders, please ensure you also enter your Spring Festival Championship class.

**Enter Now For England/Wales - Entries Close 11th February**

**Good luck to all those qualifying for Northern Ireland and Scotland!**

[23rd - 25th March 2024 at Castle Irvine](#)

[30th March - 1st April 2024 at Morris Equestrian Centre](#)

## Training

### A Test Information Evening

Looking to discover more about The Pony Club A Test?

Join A test Assessor Catherine Cawdron, on January 24th 2024, at 6.00pm for an informative online event.

If you would like to attend click the button below to book your place.

[Book Today](#)

**'Confidence is Crucial'**  
**The Pony Club Online Coaching**  
**Conference**

**Thursday 8th February 2024**  
**6.30pm - 9.00pm**



It is crucial for both the rider and the pony to have confidence in themselves to enable them to help each other. The conference this year is based around coaches developing confidence in their riders and creating a stronger partnership with their ponies. It will be a very full and interesting evening that will have plenty of coaching skills to take away and use.

Guest Speakers & Presenters:

- Corrine Bracken - "Exercises for Confidence at Pony Club Rallies throughout the levels"
- David Hamer - "The value of not specialising too soon"
- Jason Webb - "Confidence Boost Your Pony & Make Ponies Spook Proof"
- Grainne Flavin - "Starter Games - unconscious learning through games"
- Q&A Session with all Guest Speakers and webinar participants.

[Book Your Seat Now](#)

**Mounted Games**

Nominations are now open for both Royal Windsor Horse Show and the International Mounted Games exchange.

Please submit nominations online and read the conditions carefully. Members are reminded that they must hold their C test for RWHS, and their C+ test for IMGE, and these must have been attained by time of nomination.



**RWHS Details and Nomination Entry  
(Closing Date 1st Feb 2024)  
[Click Here](#)**

**International Mounted Games Exchange Details and Nomination Entry  
(Closing date 31st Jan 2024)  
[Click Here](#)**

### **Mounted Games National Study Day**

The Mounted Games National Study Day will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> February at Bury Farm, Buckinghamshire. This event is suitable for anyone wanting to find out more about Mounted Games and keep up to date with all the new rules and races, with the Mounted Games Committee on hand to answer all your questions. [Teams and coaches can find their entry links here.](#)

## **Horse and Pony Care**

Horse and Pony Care Trainers, Parents and Members Webinar

Open to everyone, this webinar is a great opportunity for everyone to find out what Horse and Pony Care is about. Linked to the Achievement Badges and Pony Club Efficiency Tests, the Horse and Pony Care Competition is a great way to supplement training and learning, whilst also having a great time doing it!

Webinar booking form can be found on the Horse and Pony Care website page [here](#), as well as other key information, such as Area Competition Dates, and previous question sheets, great for revision.

Please get in contact with [horseandponycare@pcuk.org](mailto:horseandponycare@pcuk.org) if you have any questions.

# Rule Changes - January 2024

## Body Protector Rule Change

A body protector is compulsory for **all** Pony Club **Cross Country** riding and **Pony Racing** activities whether it be training or competition. A body protector for these activities must meet BETA 2018 Level 3 Standard (blue and black label). BETA 2009 Level will not be accepted moving forward.



BETA recommends body protectors are replaced at least every three to five years, after which the impact absorption properties of the foam may have started to decline.

Hat Standard	Safety Mark
Snell E2016 & 2021 with the official Snell label and number	
PAS 015: 2011 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
(BS) EN 1384:2023 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
VG1 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
ASTM-F1163 2015 & 2023 with the SEI mark	
AS/NZS 3838, 2006 with SAI Global Mark	

## Approved Hat Standards - New Additions

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet at all times when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall. Individual sports also have additional requirements with regard to colour and type, please consult specific rule books or speak with your trainer.

## Equine Influenza Vaccination Update

No horse / pony may attend an activity, compete or be present as a companion unless it has a Record of Vaccination against equine influenza completed by the veterinary surgeon who gave the vaccination, signed and stamped line by line, which complies with the Minimum Vaccination Requirements set out in the Equine Influenza Vaccination Schedule below.

All horses and ponies receiving a new primary course of vaccinations from **1 January 2024** must be vaccinated according to this schedule:

- initial primary course of two vaccinations (V1 and V2) must be given: the second vaccination (V2) must be administered within **21-60** days of the first initial vaccination (V1)
- Horses may attend activities 7 full days after receiving the second vaccination of the primary course (V2).

- A first booster vaccination (V3) must be administered within **120 – 180 days** of the administration of the second vaccination of the primary course.
- Thereafter booster vaccinations must be administered at a maximum of **12 months** intervals.

Horses and ponies must not attend activities within 7 days of receiving any vaccination. For clarity: no horse or pony may compete on the same day as a relevant injection is given or on any of the 6 days following such an injection.

NB: This is the ***minimally appropriate*** booster schedule; it is highly recommended that horses and ponies competing regularly and travelling around the UK and abroad follow an ***optimal schedule*** and receive a booster within 6 months +21 days prior to arrival at the event or activity, in line with the FEI protocol.

### **BHA (British Horseracing Authority) / Racecourse Requirements**

**Please note the BHA requirements are different to the above.** If taking part in Pony Racing all equines visiting a racecourse on race day must conform with the current BHA vaccination rules, regardless of where they will be sited.

For clarity, the BHA does **not** recognise the vaccination amnesty that was granted at the end of 2022 allowing ponies to have 2 vaccinations within 24 month period (i.e. one after 15 months followed by a 9 month booster).

***BHA rule requires booster vaccinations every 6 months; the FEI rule requires booster vaccinations within 6 months +21 days of attending the event.***

