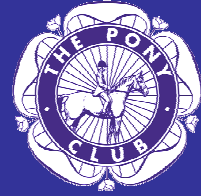


Spooners and West Dartmoor Hunt Pony Club Newsletter March 2011



Hello Everybody

I hope you have all enjoyed your half term holiday. Thank you everyone who has sent in activity reports, they were brilliant. I think we have some budding journalists in our midst! The best time to write any report is immediately afterwards whilst it is still fresh in your mind so keep them coming!

The committee and I have decided we would like to introduce two new awards at the next annual prize giving. They will be one for the Best Pony Club Event Report and The Best Photo taken at a Pony Club event in 2011. Obviously the photo has to have been taken by yourself or by a friend or member of your family not a professional photographer. More details of how to enter nearer the time.

It was great to see so many of you at the children's meet at Denham Bridge on the Thursday of half term. We are always grateful to Mr Doughty for his hospitality. I understand those who went had a great time at Braunder earlier in the week too.

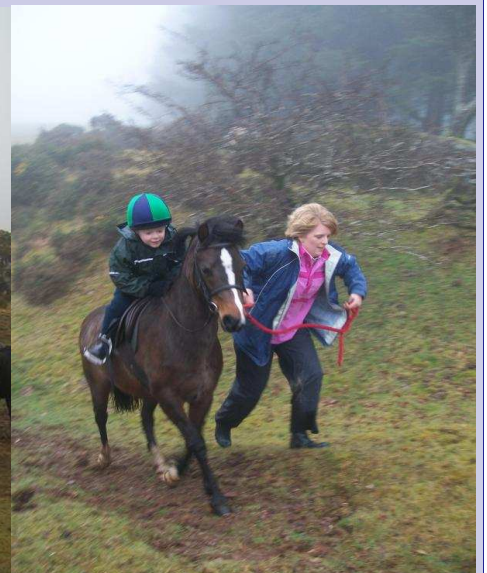
On Saturday I went to watch The Lone Rangers Jumping session at Leawood. Pat Thomas was teaching and the improvements and confidence gained by everyone in the group in that short time was incredible. Following the lesson they all took part in Clear Round jumping and were rewarded with a much prized rosette. The day ended with singing happy birthday to young Rio Jackman and everyone being treating to a piece of his delicious cake (yum, yum!)

On Sunday I was stewarding an Endurance Ride doing a checkpoint at Meldon Dam. Pony Club members are welcome to attend these rides that take place all over the South West with some super routes. Check out their website www.endurancegbsouthwest.com

One young rider came back looking quite weary I thought but when I asked her how the ride had gone she answered quite simply "I'm hooked....this is my first ever ride and now I'm hooked!"

Happy Riding!

Rebecca Townsend



Lone Rangers enjoying a moorland ride



Dates for your Diary

Sunday Mar 20

Western PC: Hunter Trials

Venue: Scorrier

Thursday Mar 24

EQUINE PASTURE MANAGEMENT TALK POSTPONED

Venue: Bere Ferrers Social Club

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: A small charge of £2 for adults, £1 for children will be made on the door, in aid of The Devon Air Ambulance.

Speakers : Mr Stephen Horn and Mr Trevor Grigg of Mole Valley Farmers.

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th Mar

Four Burrow PC: Triathlon/Tetrathlon

Sunday Mar 27

Split Rally

Venue: Duchy Time: 10am onwards

Cost: Flatwork only £12.00, Flatwork & Jumping £15.00

Sunday Apr 03

North Cornwall PC: Open Fun SJ

(Incorporating Dengie Area 16 Final)

Venue: Resparveth Farm, Grampound Rd

Time: 8.30am start

Sunday Apr 03

Dartmoor Hunt PC: Open Hunter Trials

Venue: Newnham Park, Plympton

Saturday Apr 09

Rally

Venue: Slymeford, Bere Alston

Time: 10am onwards

Cost: £8.00

Sunday Apr 10

Western PC: Hunter Trials

Sunday

Venue: Chyverton

Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th

Area 15/16: Junior Tetrathlon Camp

Venue: Pontispool

Friday Apr 15

XC Rally

Venue: Winkleigh Time: 10.30am onwards

Cost: £10.00 (mini course riders £7.00)

Rally Booking Form Feb-Mar-Apr 2011

Sunday Apr 17

South Devon Moorland PC: Hunter Trials

Sunday Apr 17

Four Burrow PC: ODE

Venue: Chyverton

Four Burrow PC: ODE schedule

Saturday May 28

North Cornwall PC: Area 16 Mounted Games

Sunday Jun 05

Spooners PC: Open Show

Venue: Meavy

Sunday Jun 12

Spooners PC: Open Clear Round Hunter Trial

Venue: Sampford Spiney, Nr Tavistock

Check out the website for the schedules and more

Rally Secretary: - Mrs R Townsend: - 2, Warleigh View, Bere Ferrers, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7JR. Tel: 01822 841871

A note about rallies

Please try and remember to cancel rallies 3 days before the date. This will allow for time to rearrange groups and cancel instructors if required. Unless there is a good reason your rally fee will not be carried over to the next if you cancel late.

If we cancel the rally due to bad weather your fee will roll over to the next rally.

Please may we also ask that all parents of children below their D+ level remain present when the rally is ongoing or nominate

RALLIES - LET THE TEACHER TEACH!

2011 is going to see zero tolerance of parents who insist on teaching from the sidelines! I recently witnessed a child totally confused and unable to hear the instructor because of the noise the parent was making! This has got to stop. We need your help to put out jumps, we welcome you staying to watch and taking an interest in your child's lesson but we don't need your help to teach it! If you cannot refrain from calling out GO AWAY out of earshot. If you have a genuine issue of any kind please discuss it with the instructor before or after the rally not during it.

Don't forget whilst learning your child is also coming to Pony Club to have FUN!

There are some parents who seem to have forgotten that bit!



Pony Club news and reports

South West Endurance Ride – Okehampton

It was lovely and sunny as we set off from home but unfortunately as we pulled into Okehampton training camp the rain was hammering down! Fortunately by the time we had unloaded, tacked up and registered for the event the rain had stopped. The event was a 22km endurance ride over Dartmoor organised by South West Endurance. Most of the ride was across open moorland but the route was well marked with fluorescent flags so there was no chance of going the wrong way. There were lots of people doing the ride and many looked like they were experienced endurance riders with specialist endurance saddles and bridles but we were fine in our normal tack and riding clothes.

When we first set off we went down a really steep hill, then through a river. Then we had our first canter up a steep hill and across the moor. After that the ride took us over a dam, where we had to dismount to lead our horses across. We then had lots more open moorland and tracks to ride along. Throughout the ride there were lots of areas where we could canter or gallop across soft although quite rough ground and the scenery was very beautiful. The ride took us 3 hours although we could have done it a bit quicker if I hadn't been feeling sick for much of the ride. Despite not feeling very well I really enjoyed the ride and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys riding across the moors, particularly as this area of Dartmoor is often closed to the public.

By Maddy Cinnamon

Curry and quiz night

Thank you to everybody that came to our FIRST un-mounted Junior Committee run evening! We would like to thank everybody that turned up to our curry and quiz night, it was a very fun and exciting night and fun was had by everyone! We are pleased to let you know that the money raised from the raffle was sufficient enough to give to Rachel for her trip to America and the Junior Committee decided to put in some money to raise the total for Rachel to £50! We will be running more events throughout the year so keep an eye on your email, we also have a facebook page named 'junior committee spooners pc'

Also, the Junior Committee is running low on members and we would like to invite people who are 14 years old or above now, or 14 this calendar year. If at all interested please speak to Jon Cox on 01822 852953, please only call if you are serious about joining, we need people that are willing to attend regular meetings and events throughout the year.

Once again, thank you for your support for this event and all of our previous ones. Hope to see everyone during the year,

Junior Committee

Denham Bridge Pony Club Meet

The pony club meet was held Mr and Mrs Doughty's house, Denham Bridge. As usual Mr and Mrs Doughty took very good care of us with plenty of food and drink which gave us energy for our days trail hunting. There was quite a big field out and many of them were Pony Club members. Claire Bellamy was hunting the hounds as usual and her daughter Shannon was out on her sweet little pony which was nice to see. We were very lucky to have good weather with all the rain we have had which made the day even better. When we left the meet our field master for the day Helen Silcock, hunt chairman, led us around the cross country course. The field had a good gallop over the jumps which settled some of the excited ponies down. Two unlucky people did meet the ground but jumped back on to their steeds safe and sound. We carried on through the woods to follow the hounds as they spoke onto the trail. Helen did a very good job to keep us all up with the hounds. By 2:30pm there were only a handful of us left out. We carried on galloping through the woodland tracks the hounds still keenly following the trails scent. Then we followed Claire as we hunted the last trail of the day. With only a few of us left Claire blew for home. Thank you Claire for a great days trail hunting.

By Emily Harland

Lone Rangers

Once again in the holidays we met for our annual hack out on the moors. We all had our fingers crossed that the weather would be kind to us so we had a prompt start and leaving time off 11 (as rain forecast at 12). We headed up on to the soggy muddy moor for our ride collecting people as we went as people had been caught up in the traffic and escaping ponies meant people running behind. This time we decided to practice our balance going up and down hills (sliding down at times). By popular demand we headed towards the good old ponds making parents have a good run up the hill. All children did well and ponies too having a splash in the water, is nice to see everyone getting braver and parents getting into it too!!!!!!!!!!!!. This time as we had nearly a full house we split off to meet at the top with a slow and fast ride. We sent the slow ones off up the hill to the woods (hoping they would get through the mist). The faster ones had a few good canters to the top was nice having Jade and Ida to act as a stop barrier as us parents got left behind. Once we found the others in the mist we headed into the woods for a few jumps and over the creepy troll bridge. Luckily we were heading home as bang on 12 the mist came down thicker and the rain too. This did not dampen anyone’s spirits, finally back to the car park for some nibbles and kids had good old slide around. By request off a Child I some of us ended up at the pub for some cheesy chips!!!!

By Tracey Coupland

Horse & Hound

Spooners and West Dartmoor excelled at the pony club horse and hound challenge. Judged and commentated by Graham and Tina Fletcher, it was held at the Game & Equine Festival at the Bath & West show ground. The team of George Scott, Sam Underwood, Frankie McKechnie and Henry Ware rode the show jumping course brilliantly. This left all to play for for the runners and dogs. George Scott with Wrango, Frankie’s Labrador, Henry Ware with Atlas, Anne Furse’s springer spaniel and Alice Kodritsch with Neon the collie and Patch the terrier-x. Alice got the fastest time with Neon. The team finished 2nd pipped to the post by the Cotley. It was a fantastic day. Thank you to Rebecca Townsend for her support. Roll on next year!



By Lucy Scott and Sam Underwood

Pony for sale

Scooby

Welsh Section A 11.2 grey gelding. 10yrs old. Current home for 3 and a 1/2yrs and now sadly outgrown. Has done all pony club disciplines including Mounted Games and Camp 3 times, frequently hacks out on Dartmoor. Not shod, lives in/out .Up to date with vaccinations and dentist. Easy to catch and load. Tack and rugs included. £1100 ono

SWEATSHIRTS, POLO SHIRTS & JACKETS

Email: spooners@pcuk.org or call 01822 841871.

Sweatshirts £12.50. Polo shirts £11.50. Jackets: Child £28.00 Adult £32.00

Newsletter ideas

Got an idea for the next newsletter or a horsey topic you want more information on—send your requests via email in to the Editor—Jan Corboy.

Visit the website today!

www.spoonersponyclub.co.uk

Email: spooners@pcuk.org

For diary dates, contact details, classified ads,

And the latest information updated on a daily basis.

Got something to sell/exchange or wanted? Email your adverts for the next edition!

May 2011 Newsletter

To ensure your news, reviews, photos and ads get included in the next newsletter please email by April 24th.



The following article arrived before the tragic events of Wednesday 16th March. We wanted to include the report as a tribute to Kieran.

East Cornwall Triathlon and Winter League Final.

Saturday 5 March was the date of the East Cornwall Pony Club Triathlon and final competition of the triathlon winter league. The Spooners stalwarts of Lily, Megan, Kieran and Henry together with newcomers Frankie McKechnie and William Searle started the day with some very respectable shooting, with William shooting a very impressive 720 in his first ever competition. Conditions for the running were drier and warmer than they have been at recent competitions and some good run times were achieved.

With very close scores going into the final phase some good swims were needed. Megan and Lily produced their best swims and were in the third placed team narrowly missing the individual placings in a very hot junior girls competition. Frankie and Henry also swam personal bests and Henry won joint best swim. The Spooners mini boys team of Henry, Kieran, Frankie and William came third overall with Frankie and William also being placed 4th in a mixed 8/9 year old team. Individually Kieran was 9th and Henry saw off his rivals to win the class.

The winter league competition, where the best four scores from a possible six are added together was decided by the results of the East Cornwall Triathlon. In the Junior Girls class, the competition was fierce with some athletes accumulating well over 11000 points! Our two girls - Lily and Megan were consistent throughout the winter and were placed a very creditable 5th and 6th respectively. Henry concluded the league with a double win taking first place in the minimus boys league.

We now look forward to the tetrathlon season and the next competition which will include the riding phase.

If anyone would like to have a go at any tetrathlons or triathlons or would like to know more – please get in touch.

Sue Ware—01822 854214



Victorious Spooners Mini Boys 5th March 2011