



PCAT NEWSLETTER NO 57 – APRIL 2012

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Most news items get posted directly onto our website under LATEST NEWS so look up that section regularly, especially in busy PC times and keep an eye on the Calendar for forthcoming activities.

COUNCIL AWARDS

Congratulations to two Northern Zone members who received Australia Day awards – Janet Frost who was named West Tamar Council's Citizen of the Year, and Jess Pyke named Mersey Valley Council's Young Citizen of the Year for their services to Equestrian Sport and Pony Club in particular. Well done Ladies.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Those that were present at the Trials dinner will know that Jamie Buckby was awarded Life Membership of the Northern Zone and presented with a small equestrian statue. This is in recognition of his untiring work for Pony Club, particularly as a Technical Delegate. Jamie has no children in Pony Club yet still serves frequently in this capacity at both a zone and state level. Well done Jamie. I do not know what we would do without you. Before the Trials he conducted two evening forums on Cross Country fence judging. Those that judged at the Trials attended so everyone was up to scratch.

SERVICE AWARDS

It has been decided that the nominations for Service awards should be received by the state secretary before the March/April meeting (instead of July) as this will give time for certificates to be sent out in time for clubs' presentation day/night. However, March has gone by now so any club wishing to nominate them for this year need to get their forms back to the secretary for the July one, and remember it will be for March in the future.

JUMPING EQUITATION CLINIC

Don't forget the David Quick Clinic and EA up-date course at Westbury Showgrounds on 11th & 12th August 2012. David coaches both dressage and show-jumping and is regarded as a JE specialist so every rider attending will certainly benefit from his advice. Everyone who has attended his previous clinics say they have learned so much about how to ride showjumping.

Judy Kilby and Jo McFarlane are the co-ordinators. Put the date in your diary now and keep it free for this.

We are particularly in need of more judges for this discipline and this is the main aim of the clinic, to educate judges. In order to do this we also need riders of all standards – must have C certificate on a reliable horse capable of jumping 75 cm – as demonstration riders.

There is no charge for any participants whether judges, riders, coaches or pencillers. This is a good opportunity for pencillers to practise, and is a helpful start for their progress to become a judge.

This course will count for coaches wishing to gain points for revalidating their certificates when the time comes.

JE is the basis of show jumping training because it concentrates on the correct techniques of the rider and the horse. An obedient horse going in a good rhythm and with the correct bend remains better balanced, so finds it easier to jump bigger fences. If riders have a strong seat independent of the reins, they can influence the horse so much more easily than one who has not so will come up with better results.

As judges probably know by now we have gone back to the original score sheet as adopted by the EA. These will be available at the clinic and will be given to those to insert in the manual that they purchased last time which had a different score sheet in it.

Attached is a flyer and entry form for both riders and participants. Please complete it and return to me ASAP.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This is of the utmost importance. Safety is our first priority. Risk management should be carried out regularly at all club events.

While clubs are encouraged to pay particular attention to this, not all is always foreseen so we are working with Sport and Recreation to develop a Risk Management Policy and Procedure. With this in mind we are also developing a waiver form which all members must sign when they renew their annual membership. This will cover all PC organised activities and will last for the whole year so it will not be necessary for a form to be completed for every event.

These forms need to be kept quite some time so to save on hard copies having to be stored, the PCAT is looking into buying a suitable scanner and then holding all clubs' forms on disk.

As a further Risk Management reminder it is imperative that clubs have qualified and recognised Course Designers and TDs appointed for each event. It is also very important that all safety aspects of the event are followed to the letter and that any deviation may compromise insurance cover should an accident or incident occur.

The above directives are to ensure that all club personnel and volunteers are covered.

BITS AND BITLESS BRIDLES

While the PC Rules state that a horse must have a bit in its mouth, therefore 'bitless bridles' are prohibited. Some competitions held under EA rules – Show Jumping and Cross Country for example – do allow for the use of hackamores, so we allow them for those competitions. Hackamores are not classified as 'bitless bridles' as such – they were in use long before the new type of bitless bridles were introduced.

DRESSAGE ARENAS

While we still allow rope dressage arenas we are encouraging clubs to update to the new types and remove their ropes and metal pegs. Clubs and zones may apply for grants to purchase approved arenas. Launceston has two of these now which were used at Trials along with NTEC ones. Didn't they look nice too?

LEGISLATION FOR SMOKING BY SPORT AND REC

All clubs should be aware that smoking is not allowed at sporting fixtures. This is a state law and must be observed by all who attend any PC fixture.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The government gives grants to sporting organisations for certain items, e.g. dressage arenas. Clubs can register with the Dept of Premier and Cabinet for community grant alerts so you do not miss out on the opportunity when they are being offered. Contact is cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au.

APPLY NOW FOR A LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS GRANT

Do you know a Local Sporting Champion?

Are you, or do you know, a dedicated young athlete, coach or official participating in a state or national sporting championships?

Are you aged 12-18 years old travelling further than 250 km return for a state or national championships? If yes, then you or your team could be eligible for a Local Sporting Champions grant to help meet costs such as uniforms, travel, accommodation and equipment.

Grants of \$500 per individual and \$3,000 per team are available for young people participating in a nominated National Sporting Organisation endorsed state or national sporting championships or a School Sport Australia national championship.

This program is an Australian Government initiative managed by the Australian Sports Commission and supports 8,000 young people each year.

The grants are designed to help athletes, coaches and officials achieve their sporting goals and are distributed across all 150 federal electorates of the national parliament.

Applications are open, so apply now! They must be submitted prior to the commencement of the nominated championships. For further information, including application forms and eligibility criteria, go to:

http://www.ausport.gov.au/participating/schools_and_juniors/local_sporting_champions

TRAVELLING ON AN OVERSEAS TOUR

Each year a number of members are selected to represent Pony Club Australia in friendly exchanges with other countries. To help prepare for these tours, which are often spread over 2 weeks, some check lists and presentations have been prepared by Business Risks International. The PowerPoint presentations can be found under the International Exchanges section of the PCA website. A useful resource, even for teams travelling from one state to another.

AFFILIATION FEES

The affiliation fees have had to be raised for next year. As of July 1st it will be \$65.00 which is made up the following components. Insurance 30.00, Affiliation 35.00 including levies to the various funds – Representative 10.00, T.G.Johnston 4.00, Instruction 3.00. Adult Riding members will have to pay the full \$65.00 too.

GAMES 2012

South Australia will host the Junior Mounted Games in September 2012. Only seven nominations have been received so it was decided not to have a selection day, but to include all seven in a squad and have a couple of training sessions at least before the selection of the team of five.

The International Mounted Games in 2013 will be held in Canada. Tasmania will be selecting a rider to be part of the Australian Team. Riders who are interested would be advised to try out for the National Prince Philip Games Team. They must be under 16 on the 1st January 2013 and preferably be near the limit.

Games in General

Discussion at the Council meeting inferred that games are now on the decline and games in general need to be looked at. To go back to CC panel but clubs and zones asked to discuss and forward any suggestions.

THE TRIALS

This proved to be a very successful weekend with everyone complimenting the Northern Zone for their conduct. West Tamar PC were the main contributors to the organisation but Launceston, Lilydale and Tasmanian clubs played a major role and most other clubs a minor one so it all ran smoothly. The weather played its part too which certainly helped.

We were very fortunate to have the services of a mainland TD, Hunter Doughty to assist our own Jamie Buckby in this exacting role. They made sure that everything was done correctly.

The new type of dressage arenas really looked good for the dressage day which ran smoothly under the guidance of Helen van der Vlist and the Launceston club. Richard Ireland's cross country course, well built by him, Sven Johnson and their WT helpers, proved to have the right amount of influence with not too many eliminations, while Judy Kilby's show jumping course looked really attractive and again had the correct influence on the final result.

Deloraine took the major honour of the Fairlands Trophy for the best result over all three grades, their three riders – Laura Johnson, Sophie Roles and Jessica Cowan - all being placed second. Grade 1 teams went to Deloraine, Gr 2 to a Northern Zone team and Gr 3 to a southern Zone team.

The Individual winners were Mykaela Briggs of H&D on The investigator in Grade 1, Tia Adams of Lilydale on Bo-Diddley in Grade 2 with the Grade 3s being A - Ashleigh McSherry of Derwent on Scrubmaster, B - Chelsea Roberts of Launceston on Monjestic and C – Olivia Brennan of Huon on Barrelyn Warlord.

DRESSAGE and JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

Dressage The results are on the website so I won't repeat all here, but well done to our winners and to all others for a valiant effort.

Congratulations to Launceston for winning the Dressage teams, followed by one from the Northern zone, Deloraine and then the North West zone team. Individual winners were for A Deloraine's Laura Johnson on Copperfield Gold, B Lilydale's Tia Adams on Bo-Diddley and C H&D's Olivia Lawson on Roseagle Earl.

Unfortunately an error was made in the calculations of the team scores. Somehow the formula got changed when copying from one doc to another, so though the right people were included in the teams, the scores of two clubs only included two of the participants resulting in the sashes being presented to the wrong clubs. These are being recalled and new ones ordered to present to the rightful owners. So well done to Launceston, who won from a Northern Zone, Deloraine and the North West Zone teams.

Jumping

Huntingfield (or should we call it Huntingdale?!) won the teams from a Southern zone team, Tasmanian and Deloraine. Individual winners were Huntingfield's Josh Dales on JP Party Time in Gr 1 and Caleb Dales on Starday in Gr 2 with Tasmanian's Jessica Pyke and Gossip Girl stopping a Dales whitewash. Again well done to all the placegetters and other participants.

The wrong team dressage placings also affected the result of the Barwidgee Snowdon Trophy for overall performance of the weekend. The two clubs declared joint winners were both demoted to equal second, with Deloraine beating them by 1 point.

Tia Adams and Bo-Diddley took out both the overall individual trophies, the Judy Kilby one for the best performance over both JE and SJ, and also the Bonn View Roger one for the best performance over all the disciplines – Trials, Dressage, JE and SJ with a score of 54 out of a possible 60.

EVENTING NEWS

The new EA Rules for Eventing 2012 have been added to the EA Website. PC Eventing runs under EA rules so most of these will be included for next season. Any that are not included will be noted in the PCAT Addendum for Eventing, which is being updated now and will be published on the PCAT website before the start of the season. All event riders should be familiar with both of these documents.

Our visiting TD, Hunter Doughty, made a few points that our riders need to be aware of. As safety is of the utmost importance there is more emphasis these days on dangerous riding.

- Jumping an unflagged effort can be considered as dangerous riding, especially if it is of a higher standard than that of the competition, and you may be eliminated.
- Riders must maintain control of their horses at all times, and not drop their reins and hug the horse as it crosses the finish line or anywhere else for that matter. There was nearly a bad accident at Trials when one rider did this and the horse veered off course, so RIDERS BE AWARE.
- Some riders were jumping the last fence and then 'gunning it'. We need to let riders know that that could be classified as dangerous riding. Coaches need to educate riders in safe riding.
- Excessive Use of the Whip. There were many riders who were bordering on excessive use of the whip. Riders must be educated that the whip must not be used as a punishment and will this not be tolerated. If the rider is old enough to compete then they are old enough to be responsible.
- Some riders did not leave the course after being eliminated. This rule has always been in for Trials and is now in for all ODEs. As this may compromise insurance cover any riders who do not leave the course will be punished in future.

Another point that was brought to our notice by an experienced eventing rider is the trouble that unshod horses have in holding their footing. Especially at the higher competition levels, it is usually necessary for horses to be studded when doing dressage in grass arenas and when jumping, both XC and SJ. This not only stops them slipping but gives them more confidence. It is up to riders to choose whatever they want, but it is sound advice.

TECHNICAL DELEGATES

We are badly in need of more TDs. The same few are being overworked. The best way to become one is to be mentored by the official TD at an event. They have to do this in order to become official. Richard Ireland will only TD from now on if there is an assistant or trainee TD appointed with him. To become a TD you must assist with 3 events and do an open book paper. Present TDs should attend TD Clinics so that they are kept up with current rules and safety practices.

SHOW JUMPING

There are some new rules that have been introduced by the EA this year. Riders and organisers need to be aware of them.

ARENA – *The arena must be enclosed.* The EA has added to that rule in order to slow horses trying to exit at fast pace, because it will not always be manageable to have a gate with an attendant: *It is recommended that an obstacle be placed a few metres inside the arena in front of the entry/exit gate so that the gate may be left open. It should be placed so that the horse must make two turns (a serpentine) in order to enter/exit the arena.* One gateway into/out of an arena will make it easier too.

Diagrams of examples of placement of a fence inset from entry/exit will be added to the EA rule book.

HORSE BOOTS – specifically the section which relates to *‘the fixations must be non elastic Velcro; no hooks or straps may be used’*, *‘no additional elements may be used in conjunction with the protection’*

Clarification Please be assured this ruling was implemented due to a new range of boot available in Europe (internet!) which has a tension system on the strap/clip. It does not apply to boots with an elastic/Velcro system, or those that use a pin/stud to fasten e.g. Veredus Boots. So yes the wording of the ruling is ambiguous and is under consultation/review and hopefully the inclusion of the boot which is in judgment should clarify this ruling.

STARTS – *No horse may have more than 2 starts per day. Organising committee can allow more than 2 starts by clearly stating this in the schedule.*

This rule was brought in to protect horse from being over jumped. At one day shows, when horse are not expected to front up to further competition the next day, it is likely that a horse will be allowed to have three starts. So, at most PC competitions we may allow 3 starts if the organisers so wish.

DRESSAGE AND JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS - FUTURE

New Qualifying Rule for Dressage.

As from next year one of the qualifying tests must be from a specific dressage competition, i.e. only one eventing test will be allowed as a qualifier. When the dressage championships were first introduced PC did not hold any specific dressage days and we did not want to force members to join the DAT in order to obtain them. However, nowadays all the zones hold two or three special dressage days so we have decided to bring this into line with our Jumping ones which also allow only one eventing round to count as a qualifier.

Championships dates

We have been asked again to reconsider dates for the championships. Some felt the Trials and these were held too close together, especially with the eventing first so giving a horse little time to recover if injured at those. Though we agree it is not a good thing to have them so close together, it is hard to find another suitable date.

PCAT need to have a set date each year so that organisers, officials and riders who need to qualify know when they will be held.

PCAT used to hold these championships in April, but this date was not considered suitable because of the change back from day light saving. That extra hour of daylight gives organisers some extra time to build the SJ course after the dressage had finished and means less travelling home in the dark.

We tried the champs in January, but this date was not suitable because it was difficult to get entries in. Judges would not commit, grounds are very hard and the date clashes with pony club camps, practical tests and some family holidays, so after much deliberation it was decided to move the Champs to the last weekend in March.

Things against having them so close together are the stress on horses, parent commitments and cost of travel, judges not willing to do two weekends, to name a few.

2013 date will need to stand as it is too difficult to change at this late stage. The Council put some positives and negatives on a few dates and now ask that zones consider fully the ramifications of all dates for 2014 on.

For example:

One consideration is to split them, but against this are the following:

- it means that many of our members who do both would have to travel twice so adding extra expense;
- many of our riders are busy with school or uni exams during the spring so horses not in work;
- it takes up another weekend, and there are few enough of them for us to accommodate all we want to hold;

December: This may be a suitable time of the year for the Jumping Championships if split but it was not really a good time for dressage because many of our riders have school or uni exams before then so do not have their horses in work. Leading up to Christmas is a busy time of year and it will also clash with qualifying ODEs.

A possible date for the SJ champs would be the 1st weekend, but that would clash with Stanley show. The next weekend is the SJT's championship so not a possibility. A positive for holding them then would be the SJ season is coming to a close. Competitive Show jumpers would be fit and competition hardened, but if not taking part in the shows the same exam argument may be applicable to others.

Another date for the Dressage Champs would need to be found. Many riders do not do Show jumping at shows and many of our members would not have their horses in full work due to school commitments.

February has most dates taken with other things, like the first weekend is a no-no because of the Mountain Cattlemen's Get-together. A Sunday may be free if no ODE but most taken up by them, and then if we go to the end of the month they are within two weeks of the Trials.

Remember when working out the calendar that there will be four terms next year.

Jumping Equitation

The CCP are to work out a way of making the JE faster. A suggestion is to divide the groups into two classes with a single judge for each group, possibly with a jump-off of each's placegetters judged by both.

HANDBOOK

The Handbook revision is well on the way to completion.

These new sections have already been posted on the Website under Handbook 2012 so everyone should look for them there now. Sections:- 1 Constitution; 2 Administrative Rules and By-Laws; 3 Guidelines for Club Officials; 4 Efficiency Tests, Coaches and Assessors; 5 Australian and Tasmanian Representation; 6 Gear Rules, including the Quick Reference Guide; 7 Interclub Competitions; 10 Forms. These are numbered according to the section to which they apply.

The Trophies are now on their own separate doc. There are still a few gaps in this but I noticed Lex McIndoe was taking photos at the Trials so hopefully that will be completed shortly.

We are still working on the Eventing and Games sections and hope to have them up by the end of July.

There are quite a few different policies that the Sports Commission has published, which we are bound to abide by. These will all be included in the new Section 1 in due course.

Club Uniforms – Requests for Information

You will notice that there are still some gaps in the clubs' uniform photos. We have been asking for these for over a year now so I am naming the clubs who have not responded to his request. Brighton, Derwent, Flinders Island, Huntingfield, Huon, Inglis, King Island, Lilydale, Midlands, North Eastern (wrong format), Suncoast **and** West Tamar. **Please will you attend to this urgently.** Please check the descriptions in the present section of the handbook too and make a note of any changes to them.

Riders should be dismounted, modelling the various tops and holding the saddle cloth so any badges or writing on them is clearly visible. Make sure all different colours and bands on tops and caps are showing.

Though the secretary says only photos of the approved official uniforms are required if all items such as rugby tops, polo shirts, jackets, cap covers or whatever you have in your club colours are included it helps repetition so please take them too. Many clubs have similar colours, and some have rally uniforms, so they do not have to wear their jumpers, so if included in your photo other clubs can then be sure that they do not get the same as those items.

If you cannot get three people together to model everything, you can take a photo of each part and then cut and paste them into one picture. We have done this with one club who sent in three separate photos.

Trophy histories We are also searching for photos and further information on all donated trophies. Could all zones please endeavour to contact donors for the trophies in their zones.