



PCAT NEWSLETTER NO 60 – APRIL 2013

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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. Will clubs please keep the Calendar updated as new activities are arranged.

CLOSING DATES AND INCOMPLETE FORMS – A TIMELY WARNING

Riders and Clubs must be diligent in supplying all the information that is requested on forms and notices that go out. The PCAT itself, and many organisers of competitions, have endeavoured in the past to be as flexible as possible to accommodate everyone, but the amount of time it takes to chase up incomplete information is unfortunately wearing many of our volunteers out. Often entry forms are late and incomplete and while we appreciate that everyone is busy it was an extremely difficult time this year, particularly for our championship secretaries to be able to meet the tight deadline for programmes, draws and other important tasks because they needed to follow up with clubs and riders before they could proceed. It has a snowball effect, which meant that draws could not be completed, programmes could not be printed and clubs could not be notified of their riders' times. Not to mention the stress and countless phone calls and emails!!

In future, all forms, whether they are entry, nomination or expression of interest forms need to be complete and duly signed with fees and references etc all attached, to reach the secretary by the nominated closing date or they will not be accepted.

NATIONAL GAMES to be held at the National Equestrian Centre at Brigadoon, in WA 2013 25- 29th Sep 2013.

Unfortunately there were some misunderstandings about the selection of the games teams for the Nationals, some relating to the above and some to the malfunction of the secretary's email service so the Council have decided to re-open up the nominations for rider, coaches & team managers until 19th April. At this point in time there are insufficient nominations to warrant a selection. Please read the Handbook Section 5 Australian & International Representation to ensure you comply with all requirements.

Sue deKaste is now the coordinator for these so all info must go to her. She has sent an email around to all clubs so I am not repeating it all here. It would be beneficial if riders were in the zone games to allow zone selectors perusal of team skills and sportsmanship.

STATE GAMES

The Games finals will be on May 26th at the Pontville Equestrian Centre. They will be run in accordance with the new February 2013 Games Rules as published on the PCAT website. Check them out there.

15 games will be conducted. They are:

Set 1 – Bending, Rope, Sword, Set 2 – Stepping Stone, 3 Mug, Spillers. Set 3 – Bottle, 2 Flag, Tyre.

Set 4 – Wizards Castle, Ball and Con, Ball and Bucket. Set 5 – Stick Pegging, Pony Club, Five Flag.

There will be a senior and junior division of 5 members in a team with seniors under 25 and juniors under 16 years on the 1st January. Clubs may enter any number of teams at zone level. If clubs have an odd number of riders they may be able to combine with other clubs. Junior riders may 'up-age' to form a club team and any rider under 16 may use any bit but we do recommend and encourage snaffles. Bit abuse will be strictly monitored and may incur elimination or even disqualification of the whole team if repeated.

In order to compete at the finals, horses and riders must be qualified in time for the zone games – a rally between then and the finals does not allow you to count that to qualify.

Enquiries to Maureen Reece brianreece@bigpond.com or 0419 358 028 if you need any more information.

KELLIE SHEPHERD

I am sure that most of you would have heard that the day before the Dressage Championships, Kellie, who is the DC of the Midlands club, received a severe kick in the head and was put into an induced coma. I understand that she has undergone two operations to relieve the pressure to the brain and at this stage they have been unable to remove her from the induced coma due to unstable brain pressures. She is in the RHH. All PC members wish her and her family well, and hope that she will eventually make a complete recovery.

TESTS

Remember that there are two Test nomination dates now on 31st January and 31st July. No nominations were received in January so do not forget to nominate any for this year by the end of July. Make sure they are all completed correctly

The new syllabus is also on the website. There is new test – E – added now for the very young.

PC SECRETARY

Carol Collidge has notified us that she will not continue as the secretary after the AGM due to family commitments. It has been suggested we employ a part time secretary working from home to work an average of 10 hours a week – sometimes more, sometimes less – and will pay them an hourly rate plus expenses.

Wanted: a person with computer skills and time, preferably one who has gone through PC, so has knowledge of its workings.

A position description will be prepared and the position advertised in due course but expressions of Interest are welcome at any time.

2013 PONY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

All the detailed results are on the PCAT website.

TRIALS

The weather was excellent so it was a great weekend at Wynyard when the Trials were hosted by Inglis. Deloraine won the Fairlands trophy for the most successful club, winning the grade 1 teams and ranking 2nd in grades 2 and 3. A Northern zone team won Grade 2 and a Hobart and Districts trio grade 3, unbeatable as all their riders won their age division – A group Rachael Deal, B Cassie Richardson on Santa Gold and C Georgia Sly on Benstock Happy Feet. Chloe Berry from Leven was best grade 2 associate and Jess Price from Huntingfield was best member. Alice Hirst on Bandman was leading grade 1 associate, with no member taking part. That was very disappointing as in the past the members have often beaten the associates!

The water jump had quite an influence in the Cross country. What's new! But this was not expected as the fence was in the water so the horses already had wet feet. It did not require them to jump in to it. Having watched quite a number of the riders approaching the preceding fence it was not surprising. There were naturally quite a few theories being considered, but it did seem that riders were pulling back after going thorough the gateway prior to it instead of riding forward in a positive way as such a group of fences required. Most of those that did had no trouble there.

Have our riders lost the art of using their whip? Do they get instructed in such nowadays? After all it is a legitimate aid providing it is used properly. At the right moment in the approach it can change the mind of a hesitant horse. A timely couple just behind the leg or, even a slap down the shoulder, can be very effective. And once a horse has stopped, why not give it one quick reminder in front of the fence before taking it away, and then one or two on the second approach? I am not telling you to beat the horse – more than 3 slaps at a time is considered abuse as it is if used on the neck or across on the other side.

The President is not in favour of me giving a lesson on whip use in here – she would prefer it could be referenced to a manual – but I have looked in both the British and New Zealand manuals and it does not say how to use a whip effectively when a horse refuses, so I have left it in. It was one of the first lessons that John Shedden taught me when I went to work at the Cotswold Equitation School, where he was often sent refusing horses to retrain. This could be a reminder for clubs to ask their coaches to instruct on the Do's and Don'ts of using a whip correctly. Discuss within your club the correct use of a whip, when and how it should be used, and what is deemed as whip and bit abuse and that neither will be tolerated.

The question has since been raised 'Are our qualification requirements too easy and/or are the pre-trials courses up to standard?' You will see there are quite a few changes to the rules that will be in place next year. Handbook changes are listed at the end of this document.

DRESSAGE AND JUMPING

These were held at Westbury Showgrounds on 23 & 24th March.

The **Dressage** day went off well. The weather was mostly fine except for the Musical ride when some riders got soaked in a very heavy downpour. It was gratifying to see so many entered in the Elementary test and that 33% of them got over 60%. With many riders entering 4 or 5 tests, the day was a little late finishing as we could not start the Quad and Musical ride until they were finished. PCAT have now limited to 3 the number of tests a rider may ride in, to try to make the day run a little more efficiently.

Congratulations to West Tamar for taking out the club teams – their DC tells me it is the first time they have won a major championships – and to the individual winners – A Nicole Elliott, B Sophie Gibson, C Meg Archer and Elem Laura Johnstone. Mersey Valley won the Quadrille and Midlands the Musical Ride. Well done all.

Show Jumping day dawned wet and miserable. The early rounds were ridden in the rain but it cleared later in the day and the ground held up well. All was finished in plenty of time.

Unfortunately, there was a scoring error in the teams when the team winners Huntingfield did not show up on the scorer's computer. This has now been corrected on the website and sashes ordered for them. Inglis and Leven have now been relegated to 2nd, Deloraine 3rd and West Tamar 4th. We congratulate Huntingfield and apologise to them as they did not receive their glory on the day.

Monmouth's Ashley Steele won Grade 1 and Celeste Meincke grade 2 (they had no Gr 3 rider) with West Tamar's Teegan Voorham winning grade 3.

Overall, West Tamar won the Barwidgee Snowdon Trophy for the best club over these two championships. The Bonn View Roger trophy for the best performance over all three PC championships – Trials as well – was won by Georgia Pearce and Oceana Fine from Leven. Frances Velnaar of Huon was awarded the Judy Kilby trophy for the best performance in Jumping Equitation and Show Jumping having ranked second in both in Grade 3.

Congratulations to Hobart & District's rider Mykaela Briggs and Starstruck Juliet, who have been selected into the **2013 National Show Jumping Elite Youth Squad**. Mykaela did very well in our SJ championships placing with both Starstruck Juliet (2nd Gr. 1 SJ) and Diamonds on Ice (1st Gr. 2 JE) – whom she also rode in the Trials.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES and QUALIFICATIONS

After a number of years of debate and trial as to when we hold these championships it had been decided to split them over two weekends. They are a really big weekend for the organisers and mistakes are made due to the pressure put upon them.

The Jumping Championships will now be held on the Sunday following the Stanley Show (Dec 8th 2013) and the Dressage ones on the first Sunday in April. Both Championships will be hosted by the NW Zone next year. This means that there will actually be two SJ champs held in this calendar year because our PC year runs from August to July.

Two qualification rule changes that riders need to be aware of are that they may only be gained in pure Dressage and Jumping competitions, NOT at ODEs in future, and that the dressage standard is now raised to 60%. When these championships were first introduced we allowed ODEs to count because PCs did not run specific dressage days but nowadays each zone holds one or two days devoted to these disciplines. Riders may gain qualifications at shows or gymkhanas as long as they are of the right standard.

Clubs may put on special sessions for riders to use as qualifiers but they must have normal competition conditions such as entry fees and ribbons, etc. They must also be advertised as open to any club and approved and minuted by the zone. In other words, they are not allowed to organise last minute ones to allow their club riders to qualify.

Eventing

Horses and riders will have to qualify at three ODEs from now on.

Grade 3 Trials will be held in two age groups only – members and associates – and clubs are to select and nominate teams like they do for grades 1 & 2.

The speed for Grade 5 XC has been raised to 300 mpm so all are the same as the equivalent EA grades – 300, 350, 400, 450 & 500.

The Eventing Addendum is to be revised due to many changes in the EA Eventing rule book.

PONY CLUB OFFICIALS PANEL

The Chief Coaches are at Present updating the panel. They feel there are a number on it that are no longer participating and are therefore out of date with current trends and rules. Some that are known to have not been active for a while will be contacted to see if they wish to remain on it. If you know of anyone on it that is no longer interested or able – they may have left the state – please let your zone sec or me know.

We are always looking for new people who are interested in any discipline / subject to be included. To be put on the panel we need to have your personal CV of qualifications (if any) and experience so we can evaluate your level of expertise. We do not expect people to be super efficient when first included so they will be entered as Probationary at first, however they do need to have some knowledge of the rules of competitions. Open book exams are being prepared in all disciplines for all new applicants to undertake in their own time to submit with their CVs.

The Sports commission have allocated funding for the Training of officials. It is planned to hold an **Assessors update clinic on Saturday, June 15th** at the Westbury Community Centre at 10.00am (BYO lunch or buy from nearby). This is to bring Assessors (known previously as Examiners) up to date with the way of assessing candidates using the new Workbooks. We know a few of those listed as such have not used these as yet. It is recommended that all Assessors and Coaches attend this and anyone who is interested in becoming one. Carol Hobson is the coordinator for the day and more information will be sent out in due course.

Another in the planning stage is to have Bernadette Gibson conduct a **Dressage Judging Clinic** in each zone. They will probably take the form of an evening lecture with videos for illustration rather than live daytime ones. Watch the website for announcement of these.

Funds are also available for each zone to conduct clinics or designated workshops for all disciplines. Show Jump judging and course designing and building, the latter for XC too, are areas to be considered. Zones are asked to advertise that this accreditation is available. The EA often hold these so anyone interested should try to attend them. They are usually free to participants as funded by Sport and Rec too. Candidates also need practical experience by assisting experienced officials on at least four occasions.

Once accredited names to go to the PCAT president, secretary and myself as I try to keep the panel up to date.

New Coaches are being catered for under the NCAS scheme by having their own workbooks to complete. It is found that some coaches prefer to work on these with mentors and get them signed off as they fulfil the requirements, while others prefer a hands-on day or two with a coach. It is up to the zone to organise such days if this is the preferred method.

They do need to do 10 hours coaching for accreditation and have to undergo practical assessment too once the workbooks are completed. Riders who have completed the higher tests will have their RCCs recognised.

Once these are accredited their names must be sent to Phyliss Pyke as well as those listed above.

BATES WINTEC SADDLE RAFFLE

The Northern Zone donated \$200 to the Tasmanian Horseland Fire Appeal and was lucky to win the prize of a Wintec saddle of your choice worth up to \$1849 in the draw for those who donated to the cause. We do thank Bates and Wintec for supporting the fire appeal in this way.

The Zone decided to raffle it as it is much too valuable a prize to give away for one event. We sold some tickets at the championships but have asked all clubs to sell these on our behalf as we want to give every rider a chance to win it. If they don't need a saddle they can always sell it on so we hope that you will all support it. It will be drawn at the Northern Zone Games on 11th May so make sure you get your ticket butts back to Phyliss Pyke well before that day.

EVENTING RULES The new EA rule book has all the FEI and EA rules in it so it is long and confusing. I have done a version with all the extra bits taken out but the CCs did not adopt it. They think it more confusing to have a separate rule book so the Addendum is to be revised to exclude them.

HANDBOOK

All the sections of the handbook are now up on the website.

The **Games Rules** have been finalised and put on the website since the last Newsletter.

Section 7 Inter-Club Championships and Competitions

This section has undergone quite a lot of changes since our recent championships. The updated edition of this section will be posted on the website shortly.

The major changes to those on the new 2012 Handbook are listed below on a separate page so you can just print it off and keep as is or cut it up to stick over the old parts if you wish, but it may be a lot easier to print out the whole section again.

The footer dates in this section should be changed to April 2013 as well as the items listed below.

Not listed below are: a change of number or letter because of the insertion or deletion of some lines; and clauses which have been moved to different positions or re-worded but are basically the same are.

HANDBOOK CHANGES

Section 7 Inter-Club Championships and Competitions.

- 7.1 d. The Dressage Championships will be held on the first Sunday in April (unless Easter)
e. The Jumping Championships will be held on the Sunday in early December following the Stanley Show. These two will be organised within the same zone in the PC year (August – July)
- 7.2.2 add
c. iii. Dressage tests and show jumping rounds at ODEs do NOT count.
- 7.2.3 d. The request must be lodged with all members of their zone's CC panel through their club DC or their representative, not later than 24 hours after the last qualifying event.
- 7.2.8 d. A State Technical Delegate shall be appointed by the PCAT to assist the Zone TD at PCAT Championships. Their approved expenses will be paid by the PCAT.
- 7.3.2 Teams**
a. Teams will consist of one rider from each dressage group / show jumping grade. For Trials see Eventing Addendum.
b. The score of the club best rider in each age group/grade count towards their first team score.
c. Clubs may have multiple team placings. *(Moved here from both dressage and Jumping sections)*
- 7.3.6** a. A club representative SHALL check their team scores....
b. given time near the score board with the official results.
- 7.3.7** b. More details, including past winners, and history of the trophies awarded at the PCAT championships can be found in the PCAT Honour Roll Section of the Handbook.
- 7.4.2** e. Competitors may take part in three tests only – the two team tests and one other.
g. The organisers shall be notified of any substitutions and scratchings ASAP
- 7.4.4 a. Both rider and horse must have gained at least 60% in two dressage tests of equivalent or higher standard at dressage competitions, under approved judges. ~~only one of which may be gained at an ODE.~~
- 7.4.7** g. The organisers shall be notified of any substitutions and scratchings ASAP
- 7.5.2 Format and Teams**
a. The championships will consist of classes for grades 1-3. Grade 3 will be divided as follows:
.i Members under 17 years who may count for the team and compete for the trophy.
.ii Associates under 25 who may count for the team but compete for sashes only.
The better score from either age group will count for the club's team.
k. A rider may be included in one team only, with the following two exceptions:
i. If a rider has two qualified horses and their inclusion in a team does not displace another qualified rider they may be part of a second team.
ii. Should a club or zone be unable to field a full team, but have one rider with two qualified horses, they may form a team with that rider. *(moved position)*
- 7.5.3** *(last line)* - grade heights – see clause 7.7.2 – in pure Table A show jumping competitions.
- 7.5.5** a. To be judged under Table A over two rounds – EA Article 373.3.5 & 4.4. The faults, then the draw in the first round, decides the starting order for the second round.
- 7.5.6** e. In the case of a tie, the jumping penalties (excluding any incurred in a jump-off) of those riders will be added together. If still equal the penalties incurred in a jump-off will be considered and if still equal the winning team is the one whose rider has the higher placing in the highest grade.
f. See 7.5.2 regarding riders with two horses.
- 7.5.7** e. Highest placed rider in Grade 1 SJ and JE awarded the Judy Kilby Trophy – no sash.
- 7.5.8** h. **The Judy Kilby Combined Jumping Trophy:** awarded to the best overall performance by a Grade 1 rider counting both Showjumping and Equitation scores donated by Judy Kilby. If equal the placing in the show jumping will decide the winner
i. **Best Club overall:** The Homevale "Barwidgee Snowdon" Perpetual Trophy Last line to read: If there is equality of placings, the club whose total points of their counting riders is the better, will prevail.
- 7.7.4** 350mpm for classes of 80cm and over, i.e. grades 1, 2 and 3. 325mpm for those under 80cm.

Section 7 Appendix 2 COMPETITION CHECKLIST

The positions of some sections have been moved but not altered. The maroon bits below are additions.

Schedules and Programme (for championships) to be approved by TDs and PCAT
Knowledgeable PC official to check team scores & ranking