

PCAT NEWSLETTER NO 50 – DECEMBER 2009



Sponsored by Horseland
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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.

NEW SECRETARY

You will notice a change to the secretary in the heading above. We are indeed sorry to say goodbye to Jill Viney after 5 years in the job. She has had to resign due to ill health and time constraints. Jill has just gained two new knees, but had a few problems after the operation, and this and family commitments has meant that she hasn't the time to give to the job. We thank her for her great years of service to the Pony Club movement, and have now 'promoted' her to joint patronage of the Association – a position that requires no work!

We welcome Carol Collidge to the position. Carol is well known in the southern zone as their Visiting Commissioner and is remaining in that position as well for the present at least.

RUNNING THE PCAT

Unlike every other states (NT excepted – and yes, I do know it is not a state but it does have a seat on the PCA) we do not have an office with fully paid staff. All our officials are honorary. I wonder how many of you realise and appreciate the amount of work they do and time they put in on your behalf. It would make it a whole lot easier for all concerned, and especially Judy Pitt, our president and web officer, if all clubs could appoint a web manager and come on line. Her full annual report is on the website and I urge all to read it.

The Bellevue system has been running for over two years now so it really is time that each club got into it. Judy has worked really hard to make Pony Club easy for everyone to know what is happening. Everyone means committee members, riders, coaches and volunteers. Only authorised personnel have the right to see an individual's personal details so they are not available to the general public. Club things are for club things only, unless intentionally posted for general reading, such as dates etc.

If your club is operating their own website and it is kept up to date, all dates are shown on the PCAT website calendar with their venue and contact details, and even the schedule if a competition. Your members contact details are posted automatically to the PCAT data base and email addresses go automatically to the PCAT address book, so when any info is distributed it goes straight to the correct recipients. What each web manager will need to enter is

- your club member's details – age, contact address and update it when it is changed
- their officers with their contact details. Update ASAP after each AGMs or if a change during the year;
- dates and venues of any forthcoming activities and the contacts for those;
- any news items or photos of members that would be of interest to your members.

If you would like to start your own website, or if you need any help, Judy is more than happy to run an information evening in your zone, to visit, or to coach over the phone. Please contact her on email above.

Even if there is no one on your committee could/would do it, I am sure that you would all have a very capable member who could fill the bill and insert the information that needs to be inserted. In her annual report, our president, Judy Pitt says that....*With this increased membership it is now an opportune time to consider succession planning and encourage new members to take up the challenge of considering a role in either club or zone to ensure pony club's longevity.* So younger members, how about it? You could start as the web manager for your club.

NATURE VET SPONSORSHIPS

Nature Vet is offering two sponsorships to each state for young riders under 25 for supplies valued at \$2,600. Entries close on **15th December** so be quick if you want to apply. To do so go to www.naturevet.com.au and download and print the Young & Junior Rider Sponsorship Program Application Form. Please fill out all of the information required. Sign and mail your original application to: Young & Junior Riders Sponsorship, Nature Vet Pty Ltd., P.O. Box 147, Glenorie, NSW 2157. Good luck.

They are also offering sponsorships to clubs. Details will be on the website shortly.

WARNING

One of the Tas PC office bearers has had a hacker using her email to ask for a loan to be sent to England. Don't be fooled. Watch out for fraudulent use of your particulars and always check up with someone before sending money anywhere, however legitimate it sounds. We checked with the legitimate owner who did not send it.

HORSELAND RAFFLE

Our grateful thanks to Horseland for supplying the prizes for the annual raffle, which is our major fund raiser for the year. As all the clubs get half of the money raised from the tickets they sell and the PCAT gets the other half, this goes a long way to paying for equipment for your cub and the running of the association.

Here is the result of the raffle which was drawn on Saturday at Horseland.

1st \$1000 Kelsey Bramich – 11 year old from Circular Head, 2nd \$500 Georgina Crossland – Hobart,
3rd \$250 Cheryl Roberts – DC Circular Head, 4th \$125 Sophie Roles – DDPC,
5th \$75 Sarah Miller, 6th \$50 Phill Martyn – Hobart

Booksellers Prize – Caitlin Maney – Mersey Valley Pony Club. Well done to all.

Each Zone will receive a third of the other \$1000 (in kind) to use as they wish.

GAMES NEWS

International Prince Philip Games

The IPPMG Team Selection Camp will be held in Victoria on February 13-14 2010. Tasmania is able to send 2 riders to this camp. To be eligible riders must be 13, and no older than 16 on Jan 1st 2010. Riders wishing to nominate need to fill in form 11.6.1. This should be forwarded with form 11.6.4 to the secretary no later than December 16th. If a selection day is needed it will be January 9th at a venue to be decided. No late nominations will be accepted. Funding of \$100.00 per rider is available for this camp.

Senior & NPPG These will be held in Queensland at a date to be decided. Nominations on form 11.6.1 close on 13th February and the selection day will be 20th February at venue to be decided. Nominations are also needed for a chaperone for this team. Anyone interested must nominate on form 11.6.3 on or before 13th Feb. Mick Cotton (Senior) and Barry Harper (Junior) remain the coaches.

New Zealand Games Sarah Henley has been selected to represent Tassie as a member of the Australian team and Anne Cotton will be the chaperone. Well done and good luck Sarah!

State Games for this season in alpha, not running order, are: Bending, Ball and Racquet, Canadian, Daily Mail, Egg and Spoon, Fishing, Five Mug, Hurdles, Litter, Pony Express, Pyramid, Rope, Stepping Stones, Sword, Tack Shop, Three Mug, Two Flag and Windsor Castle

EVENTING

I recently updated Annex 5 to incorporate any new measurements, but the one I sent around is incorrect. It has been corrected on our website. The EA website has the incorrect drop into water for Grade 2, so CDs and TDs need to be aware of that the PCAT Annex 5 is correct.. Andrew Gibson sent the correction around so I did not re-send it. I hope that all have altered that dimension on their copy.

It is not limited to 45cm but is the same as before, i.e. it may be up to the maximum drop size providing it is the only one. However, I do suggest that course designers use discretion and do make it no more than 80cm so it fits about halfway between the Gr 2 and gr 3 dimensions. What is listed is a maximum, not a recommended drop, so it can of course be lower.

There was another error in it too, that has been there for a number of years. No double is allowed in the show jumping for grade 5 so the number of efforts is the same as the number of obstacles. You may have 8 or 9 only. Refer to the last NLs for other rule changes.

These are just reminders as some riders are not complying. For full cover of these rules refer to Eventing Addendum rule 15.

Riding down is the act of competing at a lower level than that of which a combination is graded.

- Once a combination has been graded or has been upgraded (had two wins in the lower grade) they may compete in the lower grade but must carry a 10 point penalty added to the total of faults for all three phases.
- Riding down two grades will incur a 20 point penalty.
- It is the responsibility of the competitor to inform the organisers at the time of entry if they are riding down one or two grades.

Some Grade 1 riders seem unaware of this rule.

- No rider who has taken part in a Grade 1 State Trials may compete in grade 4, but may take part HC (hors concours).

TD Accreditation All TDs will need to keep themselves updated by attending clinics and forums that are held so we are sure that they are up with the current rules. A form will be going around to all on the list to keep them informed of the new regulation.

XC Course Designers/Builders

We are in need of some new XC course designers so need to encourage anyone with an interest in this field. The PCAT are prepared to conduct a clinic, or two in different zones, during the off season so if you have anyone interested please let your zone know so we can work out where to arrange them.

PLAY BE THE RULES.

The Australian Government is supporting a drive to do this and posters about it were distributed to zone reps at the council meeting. It is suggested that one of these posters be displayed in your club rooms.

Briefly, it means

I will

- Act within the rules and spirit of the game
- Give positive comments to encourage players
- Respect official' and coaches' decisions
- Keep my emotions in check
- Thank players, coaches and officials

I won't

- Use bad language or harass anyone
- Criticise or ridicule anyone's performance.

More information can be found on the website www.playbytherules.net.au.

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT REMINDER

A reminder to parents that if they are concerned with any ruling or incident that happens at a PC activity they should discuss it with their DC. They **must not** take out their aggression on any official that is doing their job to the best of their ability, e.g. gear checkers, fence judges, coaches, etc. PC finds it very hard to find volunteers to take on these jobs and this sort of behaviour makes a person feel 'why bother' so we lose them. We are all human so can all make mistakes, so if you think a mistake has occurred take it up with your DC who will then investigate it further if thought necessary. If you have a query at an ODE the same applies.

Would all clubs please put this note in their club NL and if a parent or onlooker behaves badly then chastise them and point out the PC Code of Conduct of which this forms a part and the 'Play by the Rules' directives as above. If you have a club room I suggest it would be a good idea to have these pasted on the wall. See handbook pages 1.17 -.18. Place them near one of the new **Play by the Rules** posters.

Fence Judges An ongoing problem at ODEs is that of finding enough fence judges. It was pointed out to us at a zone meeting that it took sixty-five (65) people to run an ODE so it is not just a case of finding 18 or so fence judges. Most of the club's personnel are occupied doing other things, so it is up to you, the competitors to do your bit by supplying one. Most entry forms ask you to name one at the time of entry. We all know that there can be exceptional circumstances that may prevent that person going to the event at the last minute. In that case you should find someone else, or if you cannot, consult your DC to see if they could suggest a replacement, and phone the organiser and tell them if you cannot. Do not leave them in the lurch.

If you don't have a parent – and we do realise that some of the older riders who drive themselves do not have a parent to assist – then ask a friend to come along, or state on the entry form that you cannot provide one, but offer to do something else to help. Even if you are riding you could probably attend to a fence for another grade for part of the day.

ODEs are a lot of work, not only on the day, but preparing the XC course for many weeks beforehand, as well as the day before setting up the dressage arenas and the SJ course. As one very frustrated and worn out DC said, if riders and their parents don't pull their weight there won't be any ODEs. It is much easier for them to run something else like a gymkhana or the Chukka Champs. Before the event they had sufficient, but come XC start time they were 8 short as named helpers did not front up.

It is noticed that it is always the same parents and helpers that do this job at every ODE while others just hide away and never offer to do anything. It is not fair that some do and some do not, so riders, if you want to be able to compete in Eventing give your parents a lecture on their responsibilities. The Northern Zone are going to keep a database of helpers at ODEs this season, and if a rider has no helper or does not do something themselves for more than three consecutive ODEs their entry will not be accepted for future events.

COACHING NEWS

I am happy to announce that quite a few of our ex-PC level 1 coaches have come back into the fold while a few have declined, but there are still some that I have not heard from/about one way or another. We are not being too strict on the number of points that they have earned providing they are still active and up to date and have attended the odd clinic during the past three years. So even if they have not got a log book or not obtained the full quota of points we are willing to reinstate them this time, but in future they will have to fulfil all the updating requirements.

Those ex-coaches need to reactivate themselves by the end of the month or fulfil all the requirements listed below. So if you know of any that are considering it, but not yet done so, tell them to do so immediately. If they have not got the necessary paperwork – not much – they can contact me.

PC Level 1 syllabus has been revised and accreditation is along the same lines of the Preliminary Coach so that coaches wishing to upgrade from the Prelim level will need to complete the Level 1 Workbook and Practice log at their leisure, and get them signed off by official Mentors and Assessors. They are available from the treasurer Sue deKaste for \$20.00.

The new course is designed to be flexible in delivery and can be implemented in a number of ways. This may involve but is not limited to:

- mentors for candidates to work with (mentors and assessors will be approved by the PCAT). Mentoring can be part of a normal club Rally;
- independent study;
- courses either on a specific topic or longer courses that cover a range or all of the topics.

It is recommended that coaches attend as many clinics relevant to coaching as possible. These include Dressage and Show Jump judging, SJ and XC course building, TD and any kind of coaching clinics, which all add up to points that are necessary for you to maintain or to upgrade your status. No more specific courses will be held for this purpose as in the past.

Remember to enter any coaching experience in the Activity sheet which can be downloaded from our website. All qualifications remain current for four years but you have to obtain a set amount of points by fulfilling certain requirements to reactivate your registration. So keep a record of all your participation on the Activity sheet.

Preliminary PC Coach The same principles apply to these as above, only you use a different Syllabus, Workbook and Practice log. Those wishing to become a coach should apply to Sue deKaste too.

NEW MANUAL

The Old New Zealand Pony Club Manual 1 has been revised and reprinted under the new title **Pony Club Manual 1** (omits New Zealand). It is now the official PCA manual for lower tests and is available for \$35.00. Some old NZ ones are still available and will be sold for \$10.00. Apply to treasurer – Sue deKaste.

CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES

Riders do NOT send your entries directly to the championship entry secretary. Read what it says on the top of your forms. They must be given to your club DC who will send them in with all the other of their club's entries. I have received one rider's entries which has prompted this message so have had to return them to the club.

RULES – CHANGES and REMINDERS

The PCAT has made a slight adjustment to the rule regarding dressage qualifications for the champs, removing the phrase about tests under two different judges.

The reason for this was that some person might go along to a competition to use as a qualifier, only to find that unbeknown to them, they have the same person judging them. It was felt that this was unfair so now if this happens riders can still count it, however, they cannot count two tests under the same judge on the same day.

We have also changed the word recognised to approved, which means they must be either from the EA or PCAT panel for judging dressage at the required standard, e.g. PC 3 judge would not qualify a PC 1 horse at the Novice level..

HANDBOOK CHANGES December 2009

I suggest that you print these on separate pages so they can be cut and pasted into printed handbooks. I have printed them so they are in complete lines so you can cut out and paste over the existing print. If you have them on file on your computer, you can insert these, or download fresh docs from the website. They will have the latest date in the footer. The italics are directions only, and not to be inserted into the handbook.

Change/Add in yellow highlighted parts and delete those struck-through.

8.4 Qualifications (Nov 09)

2nd line delete ~~different~~ change ~~recognised~~ to **approved** and add last sentence.

Both rider and horse must have gained at least 55% in two dressage tests of suitable standard, i.e. Grade 3 or 4 ODE test for the younger age group, under **approved** judges, i.e. those accepted for the PCAT Panel for their relevant age group/grade. **Riders may do tests under the same judge on different days but if on the same day they must be under different judges.**

Eventing Annex 5

An error that has been there for a number of years. Thanks to Jamie Buckby for spotting it today.

No double is allowed in the show jumping for grade 5 so the number of efforts is the same as the number of obstacles. You may have 8 or 9 only.

*For grade 5 change 8 / 9 or 9 / 10 to **8 - 9.***